

Highlights of TOUCH 7 Delegation's Trip to Ukraine in October 2007

Eighteen members of the TOUCH 7 Delegation traveled to Ukraine in early October including:

Nancy Boom	Judy Juntunen	Cathy Leishman	Carol Sweeney	Els Lofgren
Mike Boom	Sabra Killen	Judy Norman	Charlie Tomlinson	Alice Rampton
Crystal Cox	Paul Kline	Pat Norman	Maria Tomlinson	Mark Rampton
Peggy Giles	Mercedes Kline	Aleita Hass-Holcombe		

The delegation included a librarian, a medical doctor, professional photographer, nurses, retired teachers, homemakers, a university professor, business owners, social workers, physical therapist, retired historian, and the Mayor of Corvallis. The majority of the delegation was from Oregon, but Washington, Maryland, and Utah were represented, as well. Everyone paid for their own food, airfare, and lodging.

TOUCH delegation members carried over 1000 pounds of humanitarian supplies in their suitcases including 30 quilts, 40 pairs of socks, 130 hats, 75 pairs of gloves, 60 soft balls, 65 Nu Skin school kits (pencil, colored pencils, sharpener, eraser, ruler, scissor), sponsor letters, jewelry, 300 bracelets, otoscopes, ostomy supplies, glucometers, a small ultra sound, jump ropes, board and card games, acupuncture needles, and baby blankets.

Highlights of the activities by Delegation members include:

1. Shopping with 80 children from the Chaslivtsi Orphanage.
2. Attending a concert performed by singers from the orphanage.
3. Having dinner with New Family Program children and enjoying their dance performance.
4. Attending a meeting between Corvallis Mayor Charlie Tomlinson and Uzhgorod Mayor Sergei Ratushnyak.
5. Marching down the streets of Uzhgorod with families from the Rehabilitation Center to promote awareness of children with disabilities and options available to them.
6. Viewing the new classrooms in Uzhgorod Public School 14, one of the oldest Roma schools in Europe. The remodeling of the classrooms was paid by a \$20,000 donation from Nu Skin Force For Good Foundation.
7. Attending a concert of the Transcarpathian Folk Choir, Dancers and Orchestra at the Philharmonia with children from the New Family Program, Pavlovo Farm Home, Chaslivtsi Orphanage and our teen volunteer interpreters. The concert was a wonderful gift from Uzhgorod's City Hall.
8. Visiting a public orphanage and castle in nearby Mukachevo.
9. Meeting with the Uzhgorod Sister Cities Association.
10. Attending the 8th birthday celebration of the Rehabilitation Center and enjoying an integrated music concert (young performers with and without disabilities) and roller coaster and pony rides with children from the center.
11. Participating in a Social Work Conference sponsored by Uzhgorod National University where the future of children at risk was discussed. We were also able to view the wonderful DVD of the Petrovo Summer Camp which was coordinated during the 2007 summer by Bonnie Jackson (Corvallis, OR), Zita Batori-Tartsi (Uzhgorod) and Pat Fahlbusch (Darmstadt, Germany).
12. Visiting Pavlovo Farm Home and celebrating our partnership. They have recently expanded their facility and it is now the home for 16 young women who have graduated from nearby orphanages.
13. Enjoying the presence of Washington, D.C. photographer, Paul Kline, and his wife, Mercedes. They quickly became an integral part of the delegation. Paul took hundreds of photos for a project entitled "The Invisible Children", regarding children who live in orphanages around the world. He is generously sharing his photos with us for use in our presentations, etc.
14. Treating our teen interpreters to pizza and ice cream in appreciation for their volunteer work on our behalf.
15. Feeling gratitude for a caring and hardworking TOUCH Coordinator in Ukraine- Zita Batori-Tartsi!

Delegation members met with their sponsor child and participated in individual activities while in Uzhgorod. Mike and Nancy Boom, both Corvallis RNs, meet with Uzhgorod citizens with ostomy needs and presented them with hundreds of supplies. Dr. Mark Rampton presented a lecture to Family Practice Residents at the Medical School. Dr. Judy Norman, BYU Social Work professor, and Pat Norman, MSW State of Oregon Adoption Services, presented at the Social Work Conference at the University. Dr. Norman and Dr. Zita Batori-Tartsi will publish a scientific study on children living in orphanages in the January 2008 issue of International Social Work. Corvallis Asst. Librarian, Peggy Giles, Mayor and Maria Tomlinson met with library officials in Uzhgorod. Els Lofgren taught a health class to high school students. Alice Rampton and Sabra Killen met with the Regional Superintendent of all schools (including orphanages) in the Transcarpathian Region to discuss the vocational training options in the future for graduates of local orphanages.

Thank you to everyone who supports The TOUCH Project. Without your support, none of this would exist. **(OVER)**