

# Families For Children

Program Newsletter

September 2006

## OVERVIEW OF THE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN GRANT PROGRAM

**The primary goal of the Families for Children (FCP) Grant Program is to provide support in the development and implementation of a system of services targeted at children and families in crisis/at risk through creation of models of family preservation, foster care, family-type homes and domestic adoption, as well as enhancement and strengthening of the organizational capacity of organizations and initiative groups providing these services.**

The majority of grants are directed at supporting projects identified and outlined in Local Action Plans developed in the FCP pilot sites and communities.

The FCP Grant Program involves a broad variety of social services groups, organizations and institutions, both in the public and non-governmental sectors, who work to develop and implement sustainable family care models that can be replicated in other regions throughout Ukraine.

Through the FCP Grant Program grant recipients may also benefit from training support, opportunities for co-operation and exchange, and informational support. Eligible grant recipients include local public agencies, as well as local and international NGOs. The Grant Program aims to support the most professional and creative projects that bring about the greatest long-term results and impacts.

### Grant Types

Grants are awarded through three differing procedures. The three (3) types of grants available are: open competition grants, special purpose grants, and quick start partnership grants. Applications and proposals are evaluated based on guidelines and criteria defined by the **Grant Committee** and **FCP Program Committee**.

#### Type One: Open Competition

Open Competition Grants are awarded on a competitive basis following a Request for Applications specifically designed for each

grant competition (RFA). The RFAs specify objectives and priority themes of the competition and establish eligibility criteria and requirements for the applicants (i.e. organizational status, existing experience, etc.)

Funding decisions are made by the Grant Committee. The Grant Committee will evaluate and score each qualified applicant's ability to implement the project based on defined criteria. Those applications with the highest scores are considered for funding.

The duration of grants varies between three and twelve month period, depending on the proposed activities.

Maximum amount of the grant award is established for each competition and included in the RFA.

#### Application and Award Process for Open Competition Grants

1. Open Grant competitions are announced through a wide range of communication methods, including but not limited to, web sites of partner organizations, electronic listings, resource centers, NGO networks and mass media.
2. Prior to grant competition deadlines, grant orientation seminars or meetings of FCP partners may be conducted on project design and proposal writing. Time schedules for grant orientation seminars will be based on the grant competition cycles.
3. Grant application forms, including guidelines, criteria and necessary attachments, are placed on the FCP website.
4. All applications must be submitted to the FCP office by the deadline stated in the Request for Applications (RFA). Applications, including necessary attachments, can be either delivered by hand to the FCP office or sent by registered post. Applications submitted by e-mail are not accepted. Three copies of the application must be submitted in Ukrainian and include all requested attachments (a full list of

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attachments is provided below). The length of the application may not exceed 15 pages plus attachments.

5. Each application should be accompanied by the following attachments:

- Photocopy of the registration certificate and Charter of the applicant organization;
- Certificate of tax exempt status;
- Resumes of the key project personnel;
- References and letters of support from other donors and/or organizations;
- Letters of partnership support from partner organizations where applicable;
- Electronic copy of the application with attachments on a floppy disk or CD.

6. Applications received by the FCP office are registered in the data base. A time receipt confirmation is sent via email or post to those applications received by registered mail. Applications submitted in person directly to the FCP office will receive a time confirmation receipt at the time the application is submitted.

7. Preliminary screening of applications is conducted by the FCP Program Committee consisting of the FCP program and financial staff. ►►

Families For Children Program in Ukraine is a USAID-funded program implemented by Holt International Children's Services

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► Each application is evaluated for consistency with FCP goals and objectives, as well as the organizational and financial capacity of the applicant to implement the program. Applications that do not fit the program criteria or do not contain necessary attachments are not considered.

8. Qualified applications are then submitted to the Grant Committee. Final decisions are made upon the recommendations of the Grant Committee.

9. Applications recommended by the Grant Committee enter next level of the review process. At this stage FCP staff may contact the applicant's project director or accountant for clarifications on expected program activities and/or budgets. Site visits to potential grantees may also be conducted at this stage.

10. Applicants not selected for grant funding are notified within one month of the application submission deadline. Applications and accompanying documents submitted to the FCP are not returned to applicants. The FCP does not provide any comments or references regarding the rejected applications.

### Type Two: Special Purpose Grants

Special Purpose Grants provide a mechanism for conducting grant competitions that address specific needs arising in FCP program implementation. Special Purpose Grants include, but are not limited to, funding for trainings, creating information materials, implementing public awareness campaigns, organizing conferences and seminars, providing specific direct services etc.

Special Purpose Grants are distributed based on a competition among pre-selected, qualified organizations that have the ability, experiences and proven record in implementing tasks that are consistent with the goals and objectives of the FCP. Guidelines for Special Purposes Grants, technical / task assignments and proposal formats are distributed among identified qualified agencies/organizations.

Funding decisions for the Special Purpose Grant competitions are made by the FCP Program Committee. The FCP Program Committee evaluates and scores each applicant's ability to implement the project and/or task based on the specific defined criteria. Those proposals with the highest scores are considered for funding.

The duration of grants varies between three and twelve month period, depending on the proposed activities.

## GRANTS AWARDED IN 2006

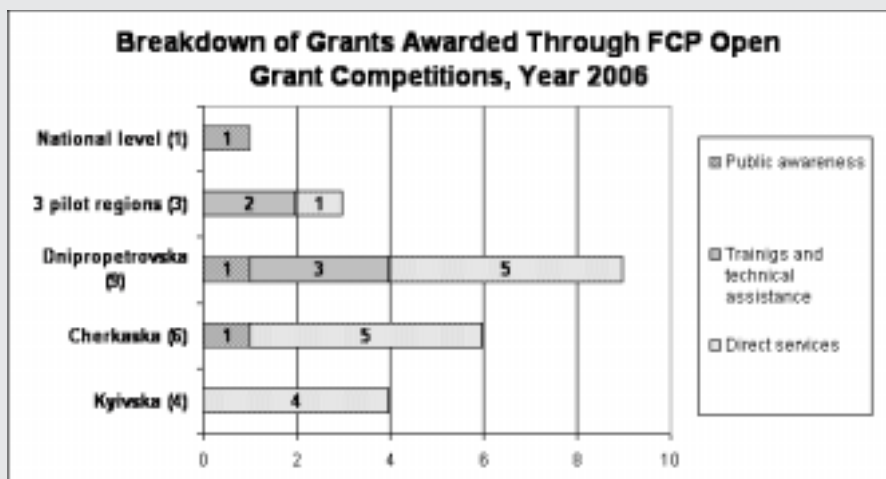
FCP has used the grant program's flexible mechanisms to maximize the benefits to the pilot communities. On one hand, FCP continued to use open competitions to stimulate innovative programs and services that address the pilot communities' needs. On the other hand, it used special purpose and quick start partnership grants to build up and strengthen vital existing programs.

Two **open grant competitions** were conducted in October-November 2005 and April-May 2006. The goal of the first competition was to solicit applications that supported the implementation of the local action plans developed by the communities in the first program year. The goal of the second was to promote deinstitutionalization of orphans, children deprived of parental care and children with special needs and support their reintegration into society. Of 50 received applications 23 (19 FCP, 4 FCP-HIV) were

supported, of them 19 projects focused on general FCP objectives and 4 projects serving HIV-affected children and families. The chart below demonstrates the break-down of these grants by region and category.

Additionally, FCP held a **special purpose grant competition** in March 2006 that was specifically aimed at improving access of HIV affected families and children to social, educational and medical services, reducing stigma and discrimination against these families and children and developing tolerant attitude in the society. Of 14 applications 8 were selected for funding. Six projects focus on providing direct services, two deliver trainings and technical assistance.

Moreover, FCP has awarded 10 **partnership grants**, of them 5 to conduct trainings, 4 to hold public awareness campaigns and 1 to support provision of direct services.



Maximum amount of the grant award is established for each competition and included in the Requests for Proposals (RFP).

### Application and Award Process for Special Purpose Grants

1. Specific Requests for Proposals (RFP) are developed for this type of grants and distributed to organizations that have the experience and capacity to implement identified tasks.
2. Proposal formats are individually designed for each RFP.
3. Three copies of the proposal must be submitted in Ukrainian and include all the requested attachments. The length of the proposal may not exceed 15 pages plus attachments.

4. All proposals must be submitted to the FCP office by the deadline stated in the RFP. Proposals, including the necessary attachments, can be either delivered in person to the FCP office or sent by registered post. Proposals submitted by e-mail will not be accepted.

5. Each proposal should be accompanied by the same set of attachments as required for open competition grants (see article 5 under "Application and Award Process for Open Competition Grants").

6. Proposals are reviewed and scored by the FCP Program Committee and evaluated for consistency with goals and objectives outlined in the RFP, as well as the organizational and financial capacity of the applicant to implement the program. ►►

► 7. Successful applicants may be contacted by the FCP staff for clarifications on expected program activities and/or budgets. Site visits to potential grantees may also be conducted at this stage.

8. Applicants not selected for grant funding are notified within two weeks of the application submission deadline. Applications and accompanying documents submitted to the FCP are not returned to applicants. The FCP does not provide any comments or references regarding the rejected applications.

### **Type Three: Quick Start Partnership Grants**

Quick Start Partnership Grants are unsolicited grants awarded on an on-going basis to organizations/institutions with immediate need for funding, whose project implementation schedule does not coincide with the regular open grants competition timetable.

Applicants must provide a minimum of 50% cost share, with a maximum of \$5,500 in funding provided by FCP. Project duration should not exceed six (6) months.

### **Application and Award Procedure for Quick Start Partnership Grants**

1. Quick Start proposals are accepted on an on-going basis, with no set deadlines.
2. Applicants are required to submit proposals using the standardized application format used

in the open grant competitions. Application forms can be downloaded from the FCP website.

3. Three copies of the proposal must be submitted in Ukrainian and include all requested attachments (a full list of attachments is provided below). The length of the proposal may not exceed 15 pages plus attachments.

4. Each proposal should be accompanied by the same set of attachments as required for open competition grants (see article 5 under “Application and Award Process for Open Competition Grants”).

5. Proposals are reviewed and evaluated by the FCP Program Committee within 10 working days of submission to FCP. Proposals are evaluated for consistency with FCP goals and objectives, as well as the organizational and financial capacity of the applicant to implement the program.

6. Successful applicants may be contacted by the FCP staff for clarifications on expected program activities and/or budgets. Site visits to potential grantees may also be conducted at this stage.

7. Applicants not selected for grant funding are informed within two weeks of submitting a proposal to FCP. Proposals and accompanying documents submitted to the FCP will not be returned to applicants. The FCP does not

provide any comments or references regarding the rejected applications.

### **Grant Awards, Financial and Progress Reporting**

1. Organizations that have successfully completed the selection and qualification process are invited to sign a **Grant Agreement**. All necessary information about the project, including description of project activities, expected results and approved budget, are attached to the Grant Agreement. The Grant Agreement is drawn in accordance with Ukrainian law and USAID regulations on grant program management and reporting.

2. The Grant Agreement is signed by an authorized representative of the grantee, as well as the FCP Country Director. Original copies of the Grant Agreement are kept by the grantee and the FCP Grant Manager.

3. Workshops on grant management, including administrative and financial reporting requirements, are held for the grantees on the day the Grant Agreement is signed. Grantees receive the **Grant Agreement** that includes financial and reporting forms required for submission throughout the duration of the grant funding period.

During the project implementation period, financial and program activity reports are submitted to the FCP according to time schedules specified in each Grant Agreement. ♦

## **CURRENT FCP GRANTEES: BRIEF PROJECT SUMMARIES**

### **Direct Services**

**Uman rayon hospital**, Cherkasy oblast, received a grant from Families for Children Program (FCP) to set up a psycho-social support center for the growing numbers of families who raise children with oncology diseases. The center provides additional medical services of oncologist, hematologist and psychologist. In addition, project leaders enrolled and trained 30 volunteers among Uman medical college students who conduct home visits and provide “hands on” assistance to parents.

“**Sunshine**” International Charitable Fund located in Trebukhiv village, Brovary rayon, Kyiv oblast, works with street children and offers them a broad range of psycho-social rehabilitation services. “Sunshine” is currently implementing two FCP grants, both aimed at placing children deprived of parental care into family-based models. Project activities include foster parent recruitment and training, development of foster parent support groups, post placement support and services to the established foster families, as well as setting up a family type home and professional development programs for foster parents. Both projects

are implemented in close collaboration with the rayon center for social services.

**Uman rayon center for social services** together with **Uman city boarding school**, Cherkasy oblast, will set up a life skills training program for graduates of the boarding school. The grant funding will be used to renovate, furnish and equip a one bedroom apartment located within the boarding school premises, where graduates can practice independent living. The apartment will be also used as accommodation for visiting parents to encourage them to spend more time with the children. The children will stay with their parents for the duration of the visit. Psychologist and social worker will work with parents and children to promote re-unification.

“**Maale**” **Charitable Foundation**, Dnipropetrovsk, works with families who have children with disabilities. The Foundation was awarded a grant to purchase additional equipment to stimulate the development of children’s cognitive and physical skills. This equipment, also known as “sensor room”, will be set up at the Educational and Resource Centre (ERC) established by “Maale”. ERC’s clients include

wheel-chair-bound children with cerebral palsy who do not have access to quality developmental and learning opportunities outside the ERC. The objects in the sensor room will help enhance their physical, intellectual, emotional and psychological development and improve their social integration.

“**Dzherela**” is a prominent Ukrainian charity based in Kyiv that provides assistance and services to families raising children with mental disabilities. The objective of the current FCP grant is to adapt and replicate the model of social integration of disabled youth developed by “Dzherela” in the city of Dnipropetrovsk. The project’s target group is graduates of “Nadiya” rehabilitation centre for disabled children and youth. Project activities will include trainings for parents and Centre staff, a study tour to Kyiv where the social integration program is already successfully implemented, development of a tailor-made program “Graduate” for the “Nadiya” Centre, setting up a Parents’ Committee to encourage parents’ involvement in programs of post-school social adaptation. ►►



**Children at the comprehensive support center for HIV-affected children and families set up by "With Hope" NGO, Kryvyi Rih**

**Pereschepyne Boarding School**, Novomoskovsk rayon, Dnipropetrovsk oblast, is implementing an FCP grant aimed at family reunification. Boarding school staff will work with children whose parents are serving term in penitentiary. They will arrange the children's regular visits to see their parents and, upon the parents' completion of the term, help families adapt socially and psychologically, assist the parents in finding jobs and providing care for their children.

**Cherkasy and Kyiv branches of the All-Ukrainian Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA)**, "**Peremoha**" NGO based in Brovary rayon, Kyiv oblast, and "**Z Nadiyeyu**" ("**With Hope**") NGO based in Kryvyi Rih, Dnipropetrovsk oblast work with HIV-affected families and children offering a broad range of social, educational, psychological and other services. Read more about "**Peremoha**" and "**With Hope**" in the "**Highlights and Success Stories**" section on page 7.

**"ANTI-AIDS"**, an NGO from Dnipropetrovsk, will work with **Dnipropetrovsk city Center for social services** to set up a Center of comprehensive services for HIV-affected families and children. The awarded grant will fund the "start up phase" that includes facility renovation and furnishing, training Center staff and conducting initial information and assessment campaign to enroll clients.

**Kyiv city Center for social services** jointly with the **Kyiv Branch of the Network of PLWHA** received an FCP grant to conduct a recreational camp for 30 HIV-affected children and their families. The project includes such activities as cognitive and developing games for children; social, medical and pedagogical classes for parents. Parents will also receive recommendations on how to better care for their children. It is anticipated that after the end of the camp participating families will become regular clients of the Center.

## Training/Technical Assistance

**"Association of Discussion Clubs"**, an NGO based in Dnipropetrovsk, implements a project designed to form responsible attitude to family and parenting among graduates of boarding schools of Dnipropetrovsk. The project activities include trainings covering effective communication and conflict prevention, responsible parenting and prevention of domestic violence; public debates among 100 students of the city; 2 children's poster contests entitled "**My Family**" and "**Say No to Violence**".

**"Father's House"** charitable foundation was awarded and FCP grant to promote national adoption in Ukraine by providing trainings for trainers, social workers and adoptive parents, developing training guidelines and setting up a hot line on adoption. One of the project's anticipated outcomes is the "**Adoption in Ukraine: Step by Step**" manual, which will serve as a comprehensive tool for prospective adoptive parents.

**"Novomoskovsk Family Support Centre"** in Dnipropetrovsk oblast is working to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS among the youth of Novomoskovsk rayon and promote tolerance towards HIV positive people. A mobile training and advisory unit will be set up to deliver information sessions to children and youth in summer camps and other places of their recreation (e.g. discos). Project activities are age-appropriate and designed as "education through entertainment". In addition, the project team will conduct trainings on HIV/AIDS awareness for senior administrators and teaching staff of local secondary and vocational schools and present project activities in a series of radio broadcasts.

The city of Kryvyi Rih in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast has one of the highest HIV prevalence rates in Ukraine, including the number of HIV+ children. A local NGO "**Public Health**" in part-

nership with an NGO "**Volunteer**" and local authorities are working to promote equal opportunities for HIV/AIDS affected children through forming tolerance and positive attitude, to decrease the number of instances of discrimination and violation of HIV-positive children's rights. "**Public Health**" has formally agreed with the Municipal Department for Education to conduct a series of trainings on HIV awareness for administration and staff of kindergartens and schools to improve attendance opportunities and reduce stigmatization of HIV-positive children. Besides, an HIV/AIDS awareness campaign will be held in the city of Kryvyi Rih, consisting of press coverage, public events and social advertising.

## Public Awareness

**"Zahyst"** is a Cherkasy-based NGO implementing a public awareness campaign on family-based care in Cherkasy region, particularly in FCP pilot sites of Uman and Uman rayon. The project team travels to the villages and conducts meetings with members of the local communities, describing the benefits of family-based care for orphaned children and explaining how families can become prospective adoptive or foster parents. In addition, project staff in Uman has produced a series of TV programs entitled "**A Step Towards the Child**" and published some printed materials (bulletins, calendars featuring photos of the children from a local orphanage) that are distributed during the meetings in the communities.

**"International Society for Human Rights Protection"**, a Dnipropetrovsk-based NGO received a grant to conduct an awareness campaign and trainings among students of vocational schools in Dnipropetrovsk and Novomoskovsk rayon. Project activities include meetings, public debates and trainings on topics of responsible parenting, family values and conflict resolution. ♦



**Boarding school students participate in a conflict resolution training led by staff of the "Association of Discussion Clubs" NGO, Dnipropetrovsk**

## CONSOLIDATED GRANTEES' PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (AS OF JUNE 30, 2006)

### TRAININGS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

	TOTAL:	Cherkaska	Dnipropetrovska	Kyivksa	Pilot regions
Total no. of trainings	171	37	63	64	7
Total no. of people trained	1480	407	263	711	99
Of them service providers	977	161	102	633	81
Decision makers	32	13	4	6	9
Parents	220	41	98	72	9
Children	245	186	59	0	0
Media	6	6	0	0	0
Number of guidelines/tools developed	9	3	2	0	4

### PUBLIC AWARENESS

	TOTAL:	Cherkaska	Dnipropetrovska	Kyivksa	National
No. of media appearances (publications, radio/TV programs)	356	113	63	3	177
No. of products developed	142	30	3	3	106
No. of community events	114	50	38	26	0
No. of community groups established	9	8	1	0	0

### SERVICES TO FAMILIES

No. of families receiving:	TOTAL:	Cherkaska	Dnipropetrovska	Kyivksa	Pilot regions
Psychosocial support, total:	474	168	135	164	7
Of them, legal support	179	68	41	65	5
medical support	272	62	105	105	0
educational support	152	20	96	36	0
early intervention	123	88	3	27	5

### SERVICES TO CHILDREN

No. of children receiving:	TOTAL:	Cherkaska	Dnipropetrovska	Kyivksa
Psychosocial support, total:	596	442	91	63
Of them, legal support	59	21	5	33
medical support	449	299	105	45
educational support	257	110	91	56
early intervention	203	82	3	118

### PLACEMENT OUTCOMES

	TOTAL:	Cherkaska	Dnipropetrovska	Kyivksa
Children returned to birth families	1	1	0	0
Children remaining in birth families	150	33	95	22
TOTAL PLACEMENTS	151	34	95	22

## MODEL PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT IN THE FCP PILOT COMMUNITIES

### Prevention programs. Working with families at risk/in crisis.

In the past program year decision makers and services providers from the FCP pilot sites had an opportunity to see and learn Relief Nursery model program on family preservation that was developed in Eugene, Oregon in 1976 and since then has been recognized and replicated throughout USA.

The Relief Nursery's mission is to prevent the cycle of child abuse and neglect by means of early intervention that focuses on nurturing

successful and resilient children, strengthening parents and preserving families.

The Relief Nursery works with low-income families with children between birth and six years of age, who are at risk of child abuse and neglect.

The Relief Nursery provides a blend of services with the development of specific goals for each family, and is accessible for respite care and crisis intervention. The Nursery attempts to address the needs of the entire family instead of focusing solely on either the chil-

dren or the parents. Staff interventionists work to address risk factors for abuse, including substance abuse.

The Relief Nursery programs are an effective model of child protection and family preservation services that build on the belief that most children are best served when they remain with their families.

This year, Relief Nursery model will be replicated in 4 FCP pilot sites. One Nursery will be open in Trebukhiv village, Brovary ray-

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## FCP GRANTEES' ACTIVITIES: HIGHLIGHTS AND SUCCESS STORIES

### Psycho-Social Support Services for Children from At-Risk Families: "Sunshine" International Charitable Fund

The problem of street children remains acute in Ukraine. While no official statistics exist of their number, it is a consensus among the officials and child welfare professionals that the numbers of street children are on the rise. An often-heard claim is that more children live on the streets today than in the years of post-World War II devastation.

The common causes driving children to the streets are parents' addiction to alcohol and drugs, poverty, unemployment and domestic violence. In response to the problem, numerous rehabilitation programs for street children implemented by NGOs and government agencies have emerged and operate throughout the country, some of them very successful. The urgent need, however, is in the prevention and family strengthening programs that would stop the influx of children to the streets, shelters and institutions.

"Sunshine" is an international charitable fund based in Brovary rayon, Kyiv oblast that helps street children and children in need. It operates a professional rehabilitation center for street children in the village of Trebukhiv, Brovarskiy rayon, provides family-preservation services to at-risk families and develops foster care programs.

In the summer of 2005 and 2006 FCP awarded two partnership grants to "Sunshine" to support its annual summer camp for children from at-risk families of Brovarskiy rayon and the residents of the rehabilitation center. The goals of the summer camp program are: (i) Provide rehabilitation for children from the families at risk; identify the main problems these children face and develop early intervention strategies to strengthen the families; (ii) Pro-



Fishing at the summer camp

vide further rehabilitation for "Sunshine" center residents.

In 2005, 93 children participated in the camp. The 2006 camp served 81 children. Children from "Sunshine" center, together with their caregivers and teachers clean the area and set up the camp. They help with cooking, laundry as well as educational activities and entertainment for summer camp participants. "Sunshine" staff and volunteers get to know the children well and use the camp program as a springboard to provide services best suited for children, including foster placements and family reunification and preservation activities. "Sunshine" staff compiled personal and family profiles for each participant. The local department of children and the center for social services were provided with copies of the profiles to enable the social workers provide the necessary support and develop proper responses to crises, where necessary. ❖

### Public Awareness Campaign to Promote Domestic Adoption: "Magnolia TV"

The general public in Ukraine has long held that it is the prerogative of the state to take care of its abandoned children. The state inherited a soviet tradition of institutionalizing orphans and abandoned children – a practice that the government of Ukraine began to change only recently. The public has remained content with the existing system and unaware of the abuse and violations of human rights that children

suffer in institutions. Underneath, the deeply-rooted prejudices against abandoned children have persisted that claim these children are bound to inherit all the alleged vices of their troubled parents', such as "the crime gene" and predisposition to substance abuse.

Amid the existing stigma, with no efforts on the part of the state to promote national adoption and the media's indifference to their problems, these children's chances to find a family have, until recently, remained slim. However, things began to change with the arrival of the new government in 2004. The new leader-

ship of the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sport started an unprecedented reform of the child welfare system towards family-based care and launched a public awareness campaign to popularize the idea of adoption and foster care among the public.

Consistent with the government's efforts, FCP has solicited grant applications for public awareness campaigns to promote family-based care. In January 2006 FCP awarded a 6-month grant to "Magnolia TV", a professional media company, to raise awareness of the children residing in institutions and popularize the idea of adoption.

"Magnolia TV", a leading professional in media production, has been committed to helping children for many years and became known throughout the country due to its regular "Missing Children Search" TV program, produced in partnership with Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs. Under the terms of the FCP grant "Magnolia" produced short TV features on over 70 children residing in institutions in the FCP pilot sites and eligible for adoption. Each feature ended with the number of a hot line that "Magnolia" established to receive and refer the phone calls. It also produced a documentary featuring the stories of two families who successfully adopted children from institutions. The film and the feature series were broadcast on national and regional channels for three months.

The broadcasts received an overwhelming response from people across Ukraine. Callers expressed sincere interest in adopting a child they have seen on TV or becoming foster parents. They were referred to the local departments of children in the area of the child's residence, where child welfare specialists will continue to process their inquiries and, where possible, select and train potential adoptive or foster families for the children.

The TV features and the film have gone a long way to break the stereotypes and demonstrate that abandoned children are just as deserving of love as the others. "The people's response has greatly surpassed our expectations," says Boris Poberezhsky, "Magnolia TV" project director. "This work has been of great importance, and we intend to keep it going." "Magnolia" is planning to continue producing TV features on children in institutions throughout the country and make this work an on-going activity. ❖

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## Services for HIV-Affected Families and Children: "With Hope" Charitable Organization

The city of Kryvyi Rih, Dnipropetrovsk oblast, has one of the highest HIV-prevalence rates in the country. Among the hardest-hit by the epidemic are the children. As of October 1, 2005 there were 401 HIV-positive children officially registered at the city AIDS center. Most of these children don't have access to education and other services because of stigma and discrimination.

Charitable organization "With Hope" is a Kryvyi Rih-based NGO established in 2001. The organization provides case management and counseling services to HIV-affected families, conducts awareness campaigns and organizes support groups. In 2005 "With Hope" conducted a survey among 52 families in Kryvyi Rih who care for HIV-infected children. 91% of respondents stated they would greatly benefit from services of a day care center that would give their children opportunities to receive social, educational and psychological services they had been denied.

In January 2006 the organization received a 6-month grant from Families for Children Program (FCP) to expand the scope of its activities and establish a center of comprehensive services to HIV-affected population. The center named "Rodyna" ("family") is designed to address the needs of HIV-affected children, their families as well as HIV+ pregnant women. With FCP grant funds the organization was able to put into operation a day care center for HIV-affected children, opened three additional HIV/AIDS counseling stations at three hospitals and has provided various services to over



**"With Hope" staff members conduct a training session for families**

40 HIV-affected families with children, including educational, medical, nutritional support and trainings on caring for HIV-affected children. ❖

**B**rothers Sasha and Tolya were referred to "Rodyna" center by Kryvyi Rih AIDS Center pediatrician. The boys' grandmother, Hanna Andriyivna, who brought the boys to the center, told that her daughter and the boys' mother Olena was currently at one of the city's TB hospitals. Olena's health was rapidly deteriorating, overcome by HIV. The center's social workers went to visit the mother. They brought food, spent time talking to her and arranged with the clinic's administration for Olena to be moved into the ward. Before that Olena, together with many other patients had been lying in the corridor since the hospital is chronically overcrowded. On March 18th 2006, no longer able to fight the disease, Olena passed away.

On March 26th the center was conducting a training session for families on how to care for HIV-infected children. Despite the anguish over the loss of her daughter, Hanna Andriyivna came to the training. She also brought her older son Andriy, who hadn't previously visited the center. During the training Andriy looked subdued and said little. After the training, when the participants shared their feelings, Andriy, unable to hold back the tears, confessed he hadn't known of Sasha's and Tolya's HIV status until then. To the trainers' question: "Now that you know of their status, how do you feel about the children?" he responded: "They are our own children. They have me now, and my mother. I am grateful I learned the truth in such warm atmosphere, among people who have HIV in common."

Sasha and Tolya continue to attend the daycare center. The center staff provides support to their family. Hanna Andriyivna, with help from the center's lawyer, is gathering documents to be registered as the boys' legal guardian.

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## Public Awareness Campaign to Promote Foster Care: Brovary Rayon Center for Social Services

Brovary rayon Center for Social Services is a public agency providing social services to families, children and youth. One of the target groups served by the Center is orphans and children deprived of parental care. Most of these children stay at institutions in absence of family based alternatives. Family based care is at the initial stages of development, with the public knowledge of the benefits and available models of family care still very limited.

The goal of a 3-month FCP grant awarded to the Center was to carry out a public awareness campaign to recruit prospective foster parents. Major activities included meetings in all villages of the rayon with representatives of village administrations, school and day care centers' staff, community members. Local media published 5 newspaper articles on family based care and aired 5 radio broadcasts. The project team developed and published a booklet on foster care which was widely distributed during the meetings. In addition, the project team produced posters on foster care that were put up in public transport.

The major accomplishment of the project is the recruitment of 6 families who expressed interest in fostering children and applied to the Center for Social Services to participate in the training for prospective foster parents. ❖

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## Services for HIV-Affected Families and Children: "Peremoha" Charitable Fund

Brovary rayon has one of the highest levels of HIV-prevalence in Kyiv oblast. As of January 1, 2006 there were 150 HIV-positive people officially registered in the rayon, including 30 children. 70% of these children originate from families in crisis struggling with extreme poverty, substance abuse and other problems. As a result, children don't receive adequate care and have no access to timely diagnostics, treatment or social and medical services.

The Brovary city charitable fund "Peremoha" was founded in 2003. The goal of the organization was to provide social support to women suffering from substance abuse. In order to help these clients "Peremoha" established a rehabilitation center. However, it turned out that addiction was not the only problem of Peremoha's clients. Many of them also tested HIV-positive. Some of these women had chil- ►►

► dren. Due to their status, their families were isolated and stigmatized.

As the number of HIV-infected adults and children has continued to grow, with no services available to these families in Brovary rayon, "Peremoha" decided to expand its services to support this vulnerable group. With funding awarded through FCP grant "Peremoha" established a social support center for HIV-affected children and their families. To date, 20 families have benefited from social, psychological, medical, legal and educational services. Children from families with low income received food, diapers, and vitamins. Parents took part in various trainings on HIV-related issues and participated in support group meetings. HIV-infected pregnant women and new mothers received early abandonment prevention counseling. ❖

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► on and will serve families from the rayon. Another Nursery will open in Uman and serve families from both the city of Uman and Uman rayon. Two Nurseries will be open in Dnipropetrovsk region – one in the city of Dnipropetrovsk and the other in Pischanka village to serve the families from Novomoskovsk rayon.

To accomplish this, a Task Force comprised of representatives from each pilot site will be established. In collaboration with Relief Nursery staff from Eugene, Oregon, the Task Force will develop and approve a standardized list of core services to be provided, criteria for selection of families to be enrolled in the program, standardized equipment list and staffing pattern.

US Relief Nursery team will travel to Ukraine several times during the year to provide technical assistance in program initiation and conduct practical skills training.

In addition to establishing Relief Nurseries in the pilot sites, FCP will continue to support the expansion of preventive and family preservation services for HIV-affected families and

**I**n early 2006 "Peremoha" received a phone call from a local maternity hospital. A hospital staff worker informed there was a potential client waiting at the hospital – a young woman in the last term of pregnancy, who had just found out she was HIV-positive. A social worker from "Peremoha" social support center left for the hospital immediately.

**Tetyana (not the client's real name) was confused and depressed. She was contemplating leaving her new-born child at the hospital. Much of what she knew about the HIV infection was incorrect. In her mind the gravity of possible consequences of HIV-infection was vastly exaggerated. The social worker spent time with Tetyana, explaining to her the nature and effects of the HIV-**

**infection upon adults and children and left some brochures. Two days later Tatiana came to a second meeting, looking a lot more cheerful. During the conversation she mentioned she had bought some new things for the baby.**

**Two weeks later Tetyana called and told she gave birth to a beautiful baby boy. During the visit to the hospital the social worker found Tatiana feeding her son lovingly. Tatiana said she had discussed the situation with her husband, and they both came to a decision to keep and raise their son. Tatiana and the baby are home now, while "Peremoha" staff continues to provide advice and support to her family, including formula, diapers and clothing for the baby made possible through FCP grant funds.**

children. Currently FCP is supporting 9 grant projects providing a variety of services to families and children affected by HIV. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> program year, these projects will continue. FCP will support networking among HIV grantees and Relief Nurseries to allow opportunities for referring clients and integrating services when appropriate. Participants of the HIV Internship that will take place in October 2006 will have a chance to train with Relief Nursery staff in Eugene.

### De-institutionalization

Ukrainian government has initiated a reform of child care institutions which should result in significant reduction in the number of children in institutional care and shift the placement decisions towards family-based alternatives. The institutions themselves are to be downsized, become community-based and allow children to integrate within community by attending regular school, participating in the community events, maintaining relationships with relatives and friends.

To assist with the reform implementation on the local level, FCP will support efforts in the pilot sites to conduct individual child as-

essment and permanency plan development for children in institutions.

Families for Children Program will work closely with the administration of the institutions, local centers for social services and service on minors and offer technical assistance and skills training to facilitate permanency plan development for children – re-integration into birth families, adoption or foster care.

FCP will conduct a series of workshops for social workers, educators, psychologists and medical professionals from the pilot sites. The workshops will cover such topics as: attachment and attachment disorders, the effects of traumatic separation on children, placement strategies to prevent trauma, promoting re-unification, assessing family readiness, preparing a child for permanency, selecting and matching families and children, identifying and preparing families for children with special needs.

Recruitment and training of foster and adoptive parents as well as birth family re-integration efforts will be supported through the involvement of the international and local technical experts as well as the FCP grant program. ❖

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