



### Our Work with Children's Shelters



Children at the shelter are holding letters that spell the word FAMILY in Russian.

In March 2008 Kidsave began working with children's shelters in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, which provide temporary shelter for children who have been removed from their family's home due to neglect and abuse. The children sometimes live in these shelters for up to one year, until they are moved into orphanages. Kidsave is working with shelter social workers to teach them how to find families for these children now, so that they may never have to enter an orphanage at all.

In September 2008 Kidsave met with Shelter representatives and the Department of Social Protection to review our accomplishments over the past six months, and to discuss barriers to broader success.

Over this six-month period, three children were placed with foster families, and four other children are able to spend extended periods of time with their host families on a regular basis. These seven children now have a chance for a better life, and will not have to experience the trauma of orphanhood and institutionalization.

The main obstacle to expanding this family placement program are legislative barriers that regulate the transfer of children into foster, patronat and host families. Legislation must also be amended to include provisions that make family placement for these children a priority, and permit the shelters to hire family placement specialists. As a result of this meeting, suggestions for amending local patronat law have been drafted and sent to the regional Duma.

[www.kidsave.org](http://www.kidsave.org)

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Kidsave Yuzhno-  
Sakhalinsk  
92, Mira Avenue  
Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk,  
Russia 693000  
Tel/Fax: (4242) 72-71-25  
Cell phone: 40-00-30  
Email:  
[sakhalin@kidsave.org](mailto:sakhalin@kidsave.org)

Kidsave's partners  
in Sakhalin:

Sakhalin Energy  
KCA Deutag,  
Sakhalin Outfitters

#### In this issue...

*New Connections* 2  
*For Kids*

*Our New* 2  
*Corporate Mentor*

*From Australia* 3  
*With Love*

*Staff Training at* 4  
*the Children's*  
*Shelter*

*Upcoming Events* 4

## New Connections for Kids

In September 2008 ten children from the Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk shelter were invited to Chapayevo, a small village in the Korsakov region. This picturesque village is surrounded by high mountains, which protect it from the cold Sakhalin winds. In honor of their visit, the village school held a sports tournament that day to welcome the children.

The children arrived early in the morning and were taken on a tour of the school museum. A local shop owner made sweet gifts for the children. They then participated in the sports tournament, which featured many games, fun quizzes and opportunities to win prizes.



After enjoying a hearty dinner, the tired but happy children returned to their shelter, and shared stories about their day with the other children who live there, too.

The children had a wonderful time that day, but the ultimate purpose of their visit was to give the children and interested Chapayevo villagers an opportunity to get acquainted. The next time the children visit, Kidsave and shelter social workers hope to match some of the children with host families in the village, and provide the children with opportunities to spend time with these families during vacations and school breaks..

## Sakhalin Machinery - a New Corporate Mentor

In our spring newsletter we featured a story about our local Corporate Mentoring Program for older orphans. Mentorships are very important for older orphaned children, because they have little or no opportunity to learn about different professions, and also need to learn how to build relationships with people outside the orphanage *before* they emancipate from their orphanages. Soon after that newsletter was released, Sakhalin Machinery contacted Kidsave about participating in the program.

In October 2008 Sakhalin Machinery organized a tour for three teenage boy from the Troitskoye Orphanage, who wanted to learn about opportunities at the company. Company director, Paul Iremonger, showed the boys the company workshops and equipment, and told them about the places on the island where the company worked. The boys were very interested in the equipment and were thrilled to have a chance to sit in a new tractor cab and take pictures of themselves by a load lift. At the end of the tour, the boys all received a company cap and brochure.

The following week two of the boys started their mentorship at Sakhalin Machinery. Through this experience the boys will learn basic job skills, which will be critical to finding employment and working with other when they emancipate from the orphanage at age \_\_\_\_\_. And with a little luck and a lot of hard work, these soon-to-be young men could become ace-high specialists at Sakhalin Machinery!  
(See photo on the next page....)



A student from the Troitskoye Orphanage enjoys posing for a photo behind the wheel of a load lift at Sakhalin Machinery. Two teens from this orphanage are currently participating in the Corporate Mentorship program sponsored by Sakhalin Machinery.

## From Australia With Love

Three years ago an Australian couple, Peter and Tracy Harrison, left their homeland and comfortable lifestyle to move to Sakhalin. They came with a purpose — to help older emancipated orphans who are struggling with the challenges of independent living.

The Harrison's house has become a home to many emancipated orphans over the past three years. Their doors are always open to those who need support, advice, empathy, or simply a bowl of soup.

Some of these young people have already started families of their own. Ten emancipated orphans (and three babies) are currently living with Harrison's. Tracy says she sometimes feels like the grandmother of three! In fact, during our visit Tracy was taking care of newborn Bogdan while his parents were at work. All of the Harrison's houseguests either work or go to school.

Peter and Tracy Harrison hope that other Sakhalin residents will follow their example, and help these young people so that they have a chance to lead happy, successful lives. For more information, please contact Peter and Tracy Harrison at [ptharrys@gmail.com](mailto:ptharrys@gmail.com).



Tracy and Peter Harrison, and half of their extensive Sakhalin family pose for a photo on their front porch.

## Staff Training at the Children's Shelter



In October 2008 Kidsave trained a group of 17 staff members from the Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk Shelter. Most of the participants who attended this training were either full-time or part-time tutors at the Shelter. The training was tailored to meet their needs, and focused on characteristics of the children who enter the shelter, reasons for their negative behavior, and the adverse effects of orphanage life.

The session entitled “*Psychological Problems of Children Who Have Been Separated from Their Families*” was particularly enlightening for the tutors. As a result of the training, these tutors realized that before the training, they had no idea how badly these children suffer when they are separated from their families — regardless of how badly the children were treated by their parents.

The participants were quite enthusiastic about the training, and were eager to use their new knowledge to help the children in more effective ways, and look forward to participating in the family placement program.

**Upcoming Event...**

In March 2009 Kidsave will hold its annual **STAND BY ME** gala, to help support Kidsave’s mission and the children we serve.

We need volunteers to help us prepare for this important event. Opportunities for creative endeavors, hard work and lots of fun are available now!

**Volunteers Needed**

Kidsave always needs volunteers! If you’re interested in getting involved, please contact Natalia Trefilova at [natalia@kidsave.org](mailto:natalia@kidsave.org), or call her at work phone: 72-71-25 or cell phone: 40-00-30

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