



Annual Report of the International Women's Club Charities Group

2008-2009

- This report represents the 2008/09 IWC Charities Group general Annual Report
- Financial Statements are available for viewing by special request.

September 1, 2009

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Introduction

On behalf of the IWC Charities Group Board, I am pleased to submit the 2008/2009 annual report which provides an overview of Charities activities throughout the year. Despite the abundance of various data received by the Board throughout the year from the projects we support, we tried to compile it in a clear and concise format.

Once again this past year has been a busy and successful year with achievements, rewards, challenges, disappointments and exciting opportunities for development.

Our core emphasis continued to be helping those we helped in previous years. Given the ever-changing nature of charity work, it is more important than ever that we strive to maintain the highest of standards. Whether it is a soup kitchen, a doll as a last wish for a girl dying from cancer, a van to transport children from the orphanage, or a class for mentally disabled children, we must ensure that the funds are spent in the right way. During the year we implemented new application/report forms ensuring compliance with the law as well as better control. This was not an easy process, but finally it is working with all our current projects.

Thanks to our donors we were able to introduce the “last wish” program – Andrei Timoshenko in the last stage of cancer was able to travel to Sochi and fulfill his lifelong dream – to see the sea.

Considering the current global economic situation, we started to move slowly towards helping individuals rather than NGOs. We can proudly state that we are one of the very few instances helping individuals in their grave needs without involving high levels of bureaucracy. However, while supporting ongoing projects on an annual basis, we did not have many funds left for this purpose. This brought us to the decision to hold a third fundraiser – the Star Ball benefiting amputee children and burn victims. Thanks to the Star Ball, 12 children can walk and touch again. One of the children was adopted by an American family.

The Board Members and volunteers are continuing to learn and to grow as we attempt to meet the many identified needs of the community.

For many of us it has been a year not only of visiting, but also of participating in a variety of aspects of the organization. Whether it be getting up early on a Saturday morning to visit a project or staying up late to finalize the details on a document, many of the volunteers involved have put in a lot of extra time and effort to enable the organization to run effectively.

Volunteer work is hard at times. Yet the rewards we receive by helping are wonderful: When we look into the bright eyes of children and when we get a shy smile from the elderly; When we get a 'thank you' when serving a meal and when we deliver a most needed item; When we imagine how education and life skills training will help the older children manage their life better and when our support saves a life.

Special mention should be made of some Charities Board members. Paulette Venere has held the post of Charities co-Chair during the past 3 years. Apart from general co-chair responsibilities, during maternity leave of our treasurer, Paulette put in time and energy in order to make sure that fund supplies ran well and projects were fully supported. It is through her dedication, the support of the Charities Board and the hard work of all of the volunteers that we have had such a successful year. Lily Martin, Hospitals and disabled lead coordinator went back to the States after providing outstanding service to the Charities Board and the projects she was involved with.

Claire Leven-Marcon, our Newsletter editor, joined SC as Web editor.

Anna van der Meer, Charities Board Administrative officer of 2008-2009 was voted in as new co-chair for Club year 2009-2010.

In 2008/2009 we were helping over 3500 people a month and in two cases we saved lives. It is important to recognize that none of this would have been possible without the considerable support of our expat community.

Last, but not least, on behalf of IWC Charities I would like to thank everyone who has assisted us throughout the year by donating their time, money and spare items. The Board of the IWC Charities Group is proud of its members, coordinators and volunteers alike, and wants to thank them all from the depth of our hearts for their tireless and dedicated work to better the situation of deprived people in this country. It might appear to be only a drop in the ocean, but the joint efforts of so many IWC members, the participants of all IWC fundraising events and the understanding and generous support of the business community has indeed made a difference to many.

I hope next Club year will be even more productive and successful for all of us.

*With best wishes,
Natalie Volkoff Kabir*

A Brief History

Although the Club was established 30 years ago, the beginning of IWC Charities Group activities can be related to the first Winter Bazaar in 1988. It was held at the U.S. Ambassador's residence, Spaso House, and donations came from members as well as from the first sponsors. The funds raised were donated to Armenia, which had suffered a disastrous earthquake.

In the early 1990's the Welfare Group consisted primarily of volunteers visiting a handful of baby houses. Gradually the Welfare Group started to offer help in other areas, such as distributing clothing and donations, buying equipment for children's homes, providing volunteers from the expanding expatriate community, and making contact with specialists visiting Moscow who could offer help. In 1994 the group helped to organize the first international conference on child psychology in Moscow. Mrs. Yeltsin helped with conference facilities, attended some of the lectures and invited IWC members to tea. Also in 1994, Britain's Princess Diana opened a new facility in Moscow for Motivation, a charity making individually tailored wheel chairs for children, with which the IWC Welfare Group had helped and been a major fundraiser.

Rapid expansion led to a division in ideology and a split in 1995. One group ultimately formed Action for Russia's Children, and the other evolved into the IWC Charities Group we know today. Charities was re-launched at Spaso House in the autumn of 1996 as an

IWC interest group. The Charities Board was established to combine efforts and to provide a centralized authority.

Fundraising at various events throughout the year has become an increasing part of the IWC. The Embassies Dinner and Ball, founded in 1996, attracts more and more people every year buying tickets for dinner at an embassy residence, followed by dancing at one large facility.

A major club event for many years has been the IWC Winter Bazaar. It has been held each December at the Radisson Slavyanskaya Hotel since 1994. The proceeds are always channeled via the Club's Charities group and go mainly to family, children's and women's charities. The scope of the charities we support has also broadened to include the regions around Moscow.

During the last Club year some of the most remarkable accomplishments have been:

- the introduction of a "last wish project"
- the increased number of individuals being helped
- the introduction and implementation of funding rules and paperwork according to legal requirements
- the introduction of a 3rd fundraising event organized by Charities – the Star Ball officially supported by the Moscow City Government

Mission Statement

“Charity begins at home. And in the house of worship. And on the conservative side of the political aisle. The divide between givers and non-givers is not based on income. The charity gap is driven not by economics but by values.” All of these remarkable facts grow out of a survey whose results were described in the Wall Street Journal (“Charitable Explanation,” Nov. 27, pg. A12)

What if the world's poor didn't have to wonder if those of us fortunate enough to have been born into a place of privilege on this shared planet would ever turn our hearts and minds in their direction? What if the act of giving didn't have to please us first? Or what if we didn't think of it as "giving" in the first place? Might "sharing" be a better word?

Many years ago when a member of a community was in trouble their neighbors rallied around them to help in any way they could. Plain and simple, these people just knew it was the right thing to do.

We believe that old fashioned sense of community still lives in people today, that inside each and every person is a desire to help others when they need it.

Our group was created by ladies from many different countries who want to reach out to people in in this country. We are all here as silent proof to the world that there is something more to people than meets the eye, the fact that deep down inside each and every one of us there is a person that cares about less fortunate ones regardless of their residence, that when you boil it all down people really do care about people.

Our Purpose

is to ensure that IWC Charities are able to help those who need it. Although IWC Charities has a long tradition of supporting other charities and NGOs, now we are trying to concentrate on directly helping individuals who often have nowhere else to go.

Charities Group Board

The IWC Charities group Board consists of fourteen members, voted in by the board. The co-chairs are voted in by the IWC Steering Committee for three-year terms maximum. All board members are volunteers.

The Board meets on a monthly basis for internal Charities affairs. Three times a year the Charities Board organizes a Charities General meeting that is open to public attendance.

Charities Board in 2008/2009

Co-chairs	Natalie Volkoff Kabir Paulette Venere
Treasurer	Emma Bowen Nangle
Administrative officer	Anna van der Meer
News letter Editor	Claire Leven-Marcon
Donation office	Elaine de Vries, Julia Pobetova
Hospitals and disabled LC	Lily Martin / Barbara Kausch
Orphanages & detention centers LC	Victoria Beklemicheva
Soup Kitchens LC	Stephanie Mundy
Families & individuals LC	Caroline Arendt
Volunteers LC	Catherine Joubert, Claire Leven-Marcon
Children at risk LC	Marcela Ten Hoonte
Street people LC	Alexandra Wapler

Charities Group Work Structure

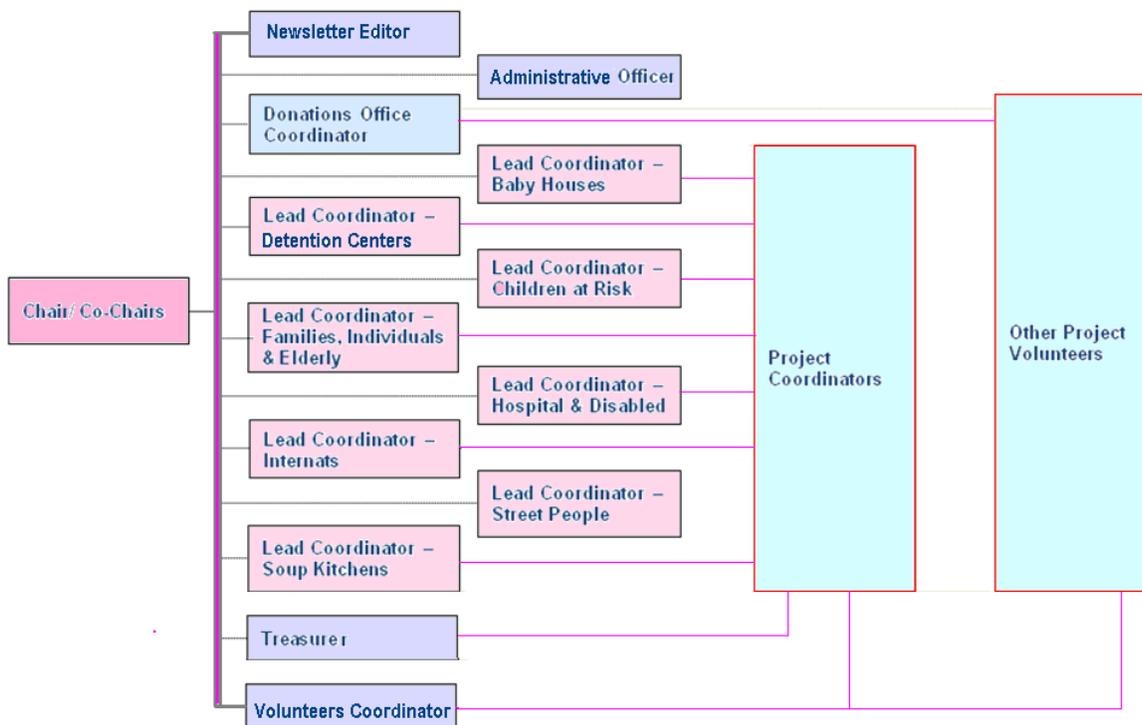
How do we spend our time? Not only helping the disadvantaged. We also constantly try to attract the attention of people, so we can raise awareness of our work and the money we need to keep going.

Financial support is received from our major fundraisers as well as from direct donations. We accept donations in kind at our DO office and we redistribute these items to our projects.

The Charities Board consists of a Chair and Co-Chair or 2 Co-Chairs, both being members of the IWC Steering Committee. The Charities Board also has a Treasurer, an Administrative Officer and various Lead Coordinators. Each Charities project shall have an IWC-Coordinator.

Charities Board Positions

Other Charities Volunteers



Legislation

The Charities Group shall meet on a regular basis in support of its charitable activities in Russia. The Charities Board is responsible for screening all projects receiving its assistance and for monitoring all funding services and in kind donations it distributes. Funds raised from the annual Winter Bazaar event will be used to support approved IWC Charities projects. The Charities Board shall propose projects to be funded by the proceeds from the upcoming Embassy Dinner and Ball. The Steering Committee shall approve these proposed projects. After the event, the Steering Committee shall finalize its approval of the proposed projects, noting any recommended updates from the Charities group and authorize distribution of the funds. The Charities group will submit each year, at least one candidate (voting or re-voting), for the positions of Charities Chair and Co-Chair to the IWC Nominating Committee.

One of the Officers of the IWC will be a voting member of the Charities Board. In case the Officer declines, the position shall be passed over to another member of the SC, who would volunteer to actively participate in activities of the Charities Group, this person preferably being from the Winter Bazaar Team or Fundraising Team. In addition, any 1 or 2 members of the SC with the acceptance of a Charities Chair may attend the Charities Board meeting as an observer. Also a member of the Charities Board may attend the SC meeting as an observer with the prior acceptance of the President.

Fundraising Events

The Fundraising Group shall meet on a regular basis in support of the Club's fundraising activities except the Winter Bazaar. The group is responsible for determining the fundraising projects for the Club year, scheduling the events, and coordinating the collection of funds with the Treasury group.

The fundraising group shall present all fundraising projects to the Steering Committee for approval prior to inception. They will work closely with the Club Officers as the event progresses. The fundraising group shall request approval of expenses in excess of \$500 from two club officers in writing, via email. All financial documents (regarding income / expense items) shall be provided to Treasury within one month of the occurrence of the event. Treasury shall sit on the working committee of all fundraising events.

Funds and items distribution diagram



Charities Group Projects



Government funding cannot even begin to provide everything that is needed - even to orphanages, pensioners and hospitals - so our role is VITAL in getting urgently needed help which both saves and transforms lives.

For simplicity and easier control, we have divided our projects into several sectors. [In 2008-2009 we also had Baby House projects – should this be mentioned here? They are included in the list below. I do note that you included baby houses under orphanages, so perhaps that is enough]

Orphanages

IWC helps by providing educational programs, food, toys, playground equipment and facility renovations, pays for special classes and special centers.

Many orphanage graduates were supported by IWC when they needed help in starting their new lives. This included purchases of furniture and apartment renovations as well as general start-up packages.

Volunteers visit baby houses and play with children.

Soup kitchens

- more than 100,000 meals a year
- 7 soup kitchens
- 180 meals a day
- 5 days a week
- psychological support
- cheerful atmosphere

Committed volunteers serve meals to “babushkas”, war veterans, disabled and large families in need. In other places, the homeless and the impoverished are also fed during the weekends.

Hospitals & Disabled

This group works with hospitals, hospices and individuals in need of assistance. They cover all age groups, children to adults. Volunteers primarily work directly with the patients and assist the caregivers by teaching them English. This year we provided to 14 hospitals and hospices medical equipment, hygienic supplies, furniture and food to individuals. Some of these projects, such as the Speransky Children's Hospital Burn Unit, were given special attention. In this case we provided bi-monthly puppet shows for the young patients.

Children at Risk

This project area includes day centers and organizations that provide handicapped children, orphans and single-parent children with life skills and social support programs to help them adapt to independent life. We support educational and psychological projects, such as computer and English lessons, arts and crafts lessons and independent life-skills projects with an emphasis on preparing children for life out of the institution.

Families and Individuals

This group covers help to foster parents, support to special communities and support to victims of human trafficking. We support each family by purchasing food, medical and hygienic supplies, as well as giving them items from our donations office.

Last year we started two new projects under this category – “the last wish” and “Star Ball kids”. The last wish program covered wishes of young cancer patients, such as a new doll or a trip to the sea.

Star Ball children, the 12 amputee kids were supported by purchasing the artificial limbs, payment for the treatment, medical and surgical help.

Street People

Street people section has three projects, covering food programs for teenagers living in the streets, a night bus, and support of Missionaries of Charity (Mother Teresa). This project assists homeless people through a walk-in medical clinic, soup kitchen and bathing/laundry facilities. Also they provide temporary homes for street people without documents, before they are transferred to a permanent institution. All projects are supported by many volunteers. Our special project, a night bus, goes around the city every Tuesday from October to June feeding the homeless (about 100 people per night).

Detention Center

For the past two years we have been involved in renovating the rehabilitation and education center in Detention center (SIZO 6). Many convicted women in Russia are themselves victims of domestic violence. Most of them would like to start new life and adapt to a new lifestyle after they get released. As such, rehabilitation classes are essential in helping them to turn their lives around. In the center ex-convicted women have the opportunity to study in large classrooms, with new furniture and school equipment bought with the help of the IWC.

Donations Office

The IWC Donations Office accepts and distributes reusable clothing, household goods, and electronics. The generosity of expats in the Moscow area, local Russian residents, and at times, corporations, has enabled us to give out clothes, toys, furniture and other items to most of our project recipients.

With the support of GlavUpDK, we maintain our office near Belorusskaya metro station, where all recipients who are granted access to the DO can come and select the items they need. With the help of dedicated volunteers and donors, we have managed to keep our shelves stocked and find items to meet the needs of some of the poor in Moscow and the surrounding area.

List of projects 2008-2009

Individuals

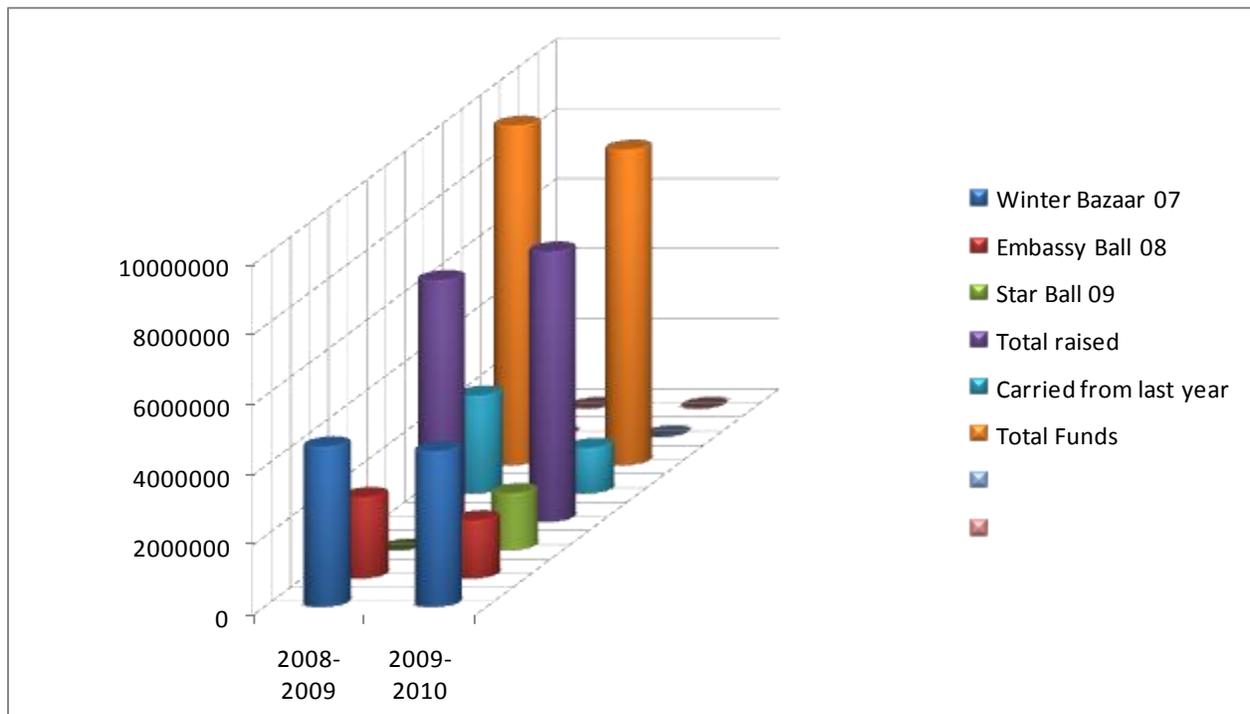
Katya Termiyanz
Lana Kimefield
Adelina Dolgopolova fruit and vegetables
Andrei Timoshenko - Wheelchair
Metis – 3 children
Adelina Dolgopolova – disposable bags, travel expenses, food supplements, others
Grigori Shishkin – treatment
Anastassia Juss – treatment
Hakim Zharashuev – skull prostheses, notebook

List of projects 2008-2009:NGOs:

Babyhouse General Fund
Baby House #23 & # 5 – Diapers
BH Lubertski- Hygienic items
BH Lubertski- Washing Machine
BH Kolomna - hygienic items
BH Kolomna - new windows
Taganka Children's Foundation
Metis Reading Classes
Metis Transportation, maintenance and materials Fund
Metis Art Classes
Metis Psychological Group Sessions
Operation Hope, 3 projects - needles/shunts (closed in November 2008)
Adult Hospice - monthly supplies
Hospice - 10 dispensers
Donations Office General Expenses
Donations Transportation Fund
Donation office "Starter Pack"
Helping Hands at First Children Hospice - food for children with cancer
Speransky Children's Hospital - Education of doctors
Speransky Children's H -Theatre Project
Speransky Children's Hospital - purchase of thermal plastic sheet for treatment
Speransky Burnt Unit - Medical Materials
Kodkovo Convent Orphanage
Bykovo Internat – computer classes
Mother Teresa's Home for Orphans
Rodniciok Children's Home
Salesian Foster Home Fili Park
Salesian FH – shoes & shampoo
Bogorodsky - computer and cooking classes
Spassk Riazan Internat Foot ball
Spassk Riazan - Youngsters office, ceiling & wall renovations
Yelatme Orphanage - diapers
Yelatma - Andrei. Baby food and shunt.
Moscow Protestant Chaplancy. Center SK - Center -
Mosfilmovskaya renovation of toilet and entrance
Food for the Retired Lib. of Biblioteka Lenina
Orthodox SK of the Ch of Gabriel
Soup Kitchen in Church of Vera
St Catherine the Great Soup Kitchen
Milostivaya
Night Bus
Street People General Fund
House of Compassion
Active Child Care - First Contact Center
Mother Teresa Street Clinic
Penza Nijne lomov orphanage - limb prosthesis for 4 children
Penza Mokshansk orphanage van
Prodolenie

Financials

Funds raised and allocated



Funds allocated by project type

