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**Friends of Russian Orphans**  
 7557 Wind River Drive  
 Sylvania, Ohio 43560

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Spring/Summer 2006  
 VOLUME: IV  
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# Between friends

News & Information from Friends of Russian Orphans

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In 1890, a survey was conducted of a group of Americans who were asked to identify the items that were essential to survival and well-being. The survey identified sixteen items that were deemed to be necessary for life. One hundred years later, the same survey resulted in over forty items being classified as necessary for life. These results are not surprising—the more we have, the more we think we need. Today in the United States, a typical suburban child might say they “must have” such items as a personal computer, a cell phone, or an I-pod. But, do our children really “need” these things? The truth is that most American children do not lack essential material needs. Contrast this with the needs of a child growing up in a Russian orphanage. For them, basic physical needs such as clothes, food and shelter are the most urgent. These are needs that the state tries to supply—but it is often a struggle. Even if these necessities are provided, the reality is that the needs of Russian orphans



are much more complex. The divine order of life is for a family to provide for a child's needs. Unfortunately, where a family is not present, not only are a child's physical needs sometimes unmet, but the child's emotional and spiritual needs are neglected as well. Add abandonment, loneliness, loss and rejection to the mix and it is little wonder that the statistics regarding suicide, crime, and substance abuse are so high among released orphans. They are seeking physical and emotional security in the wrong places. What can FORO do to help? Can FORO make up for the lack of a family? No. But it can provide a cleaner, better-functioning orphanage. It can help a child learn a positive life skill. It can teach of God's love. It can make the overwhelming tasks of the caregivers easier. It can show a lonely, abandoned child that someone cares. And, as we give time and money to make this happen, our own children may learn that true satisfaction comes from giving, not getting. Does FORO meet needs, give hope, and change lives? Yes -- on both sides of the ocean! Is it enough? We may never know. But we do know that God's grace is amazing, it is transforming, and it is powerful. Through FORO, a child may come to understand that he or she is of value and special. And, if that happens, then perhaps a child's real needs may be met. ✎



## Meet Rita & Ivan

Rita and Ivan are brother and sister who live at the orphanage in Velsk. FORO began its relationship at this orphanage in the fall of 2004. Since then, it has supplied funding to enable the orphanage to obtain a new van supplied woodworking and sewing training for older children. FORO has also provided a variety of hand carried relief including shoes and clothes. It is not uncommon for children in the

Russian orphanage system to have siblings either in the same or other institutions. In some cases, those relationships help provide a sense of belonging and responsibility and a chance to experience family love. In other cases, sibling relationships are difficult and complex. As with all orphanage children, Rita and Ivan face an uncertain future. Please pray they will always know the bonds of mutual commitment and love that brothers and sisters across the globe are meant to share.



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EDITORIAL: Lisa Wurster • Teresa Grigsby  
 DESIGN: Heck's Direct Mail & Printing, Toledo, Ohio

HOW TO CONTACT FORO:  
 Friends of Russian Orphans  
 7557 Wind River Drive/Sylvania, Ohio 43560  
 (419) 841-6971/www.fororphans.org  
 contact@fororphans.org  
 grigsby@buckeye-express.com

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## 'Evening for the Angels' Helps FORO



Deputy Minister of Education for the Arkhangelsk region of the Russian Federation, Valery Nuromsky, and FORO facilitator Irina Simonova were special guests at 'Evening for the Angels.'

On March 29, FORO presented its second "Evening for the Angels" at the Franciscan Center in Sylvania, Ohio. Over 300 people attended the elegant dinner and program. Mr. Valery Nuromsky, the Deputy Minister of Education for the Arkhangelsk region of the Russian Federation, traveled to America for the

event and expressed thanks for the work FORO is doing to help orphans in his region. The theme of the program was "Choose Love", and the songs and stories that were presented were aimed at illustrating the impact that FORO is having on orphans and others in Russia who have been touched by FORO's work. A special feature of the program was a beautiful ballet performed by Sue, Nathan and Elisabeth Champion, American missionaries to Russia, who will soon be sharing their special talents with orphans in Russia. FORO also highlighted various projects it hopes to accomplish in 2006 and beyond. We hope those who attended the event were inspired and touched by what they saw and



Sue, Elisabeth and Nate Champion performing a traditional Russian dance at 'Evening for the Angels'

heard. Everyone associated with FORO greatly appreciates the financial support of the event sponsors and the work of many people who made the evening a memorable way of creating awareness of the work FORO is trying to do, and obtaining resources to aid in its mission. 🐾

## FORO Friendship Quilt Program

If you have wondered how you can help FORO's work besides making a personal financial donation, consider helping with this new program. Gifted Sylvania quilter, Mary Clark, has created a beautiful "friendship quilt" to help support FORO. This lovely work of art will be auctioned later this year and all proceeds will be directed to FORO. The quilt can be displayed at churches, community organizations, and special events—anywhere a group of people might be willing to purchase tickets for the auction. Please consider coordinating a showing of the Friendship Quilt at your church, workplace or organization. Your effort can help make this auction a great fundraiser for FORO. For details on how you can help, contact Amy at (419) 878-4557 🐾

## 2006 Starting Strong Scholarships Awarded

For the second year, FORO has provided financial scholarships to orphans in Severdinsk who are preparing to leave the orphanage for higher education. This program provides a small monetary stipend of \$250 for the students to help defray living expenses as they enter the outside world. The grants are overseen by orphanage officials. This year, thirteen students are participating in the program—over double the number of students from last year. For young people who have no family support system, this assistance is a great benefit as they begin the difficult transition to non-institutional living. 🐾

## FORO Friendship Trips Continue:

FORO Board member Kerry Clark headed a FORO team that visited the orphanages in the Arkhangelsk region last fall. On this trip, Kerry again entertained the children and their caregivers through music. The team also hand carried donations to numerous orphanages and delivered FORO assistance for a number of projects. Later this year, FORO representatives will be traveling to Russia on two occasions to visit FORO assisted orphanages, advance specific projects and meet with government officials. Please keep these teams in your prayers as they proceed with the business necessary to enable FORO's work to proceed. 🐾



FORO Board member Kerry Clark and Sergei. FORO has funded medical treatment for Sergei.

## New Project Opportunities



FORO hopes to meet many needs at Dzherzinsk Orphanage #2 for Special Needs Children where this child lives.

FORO has prepared a booklet illustrating some of the projects that we hope to accomplish in the coming months. Each project description identifies the orphanage at which the project will be implemented, reasons why the project is needed, and the anticipated project cost. These projects cover a wide variety of activities and range in cost from less than \$50 to \$20,000. If you would like a copy of the project booklet, "Meeting Needs, Touching Lives, Choosing Love", please let us know. Perhaps you can organize your church, club or family to sponsor one of these projects. 🐾