



Siberian Bridges, Inc.

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Access, opportunity and good neighbors through cultural exchange

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Dear Friend of Siberian Bridges,

There is an epidemic of orphans and at-risk children in Siberia.

When her parents died, Vika became one of over 700,000 children in Russia's chronically underfunded state children's homes – where often substandard facilities are short on basic necessities, opportunity and hope. Young people emerge without support or tools to help them transition successfully to adulthood -- over 80% end up homeless, in prison, drug and alcohol addicts, or victims of the sex-slave trade. A staggering 10% commit suicide.*



Vika on right

Can you help give these children a better chance?

Luckily Vika was placed at the Petrovsk-Zabaikalskii Children's Home in Zabaikalye where a dedicated staff is determined to return opportunity and hope to the children. We have committed to help and this year initiated two new programs that join our existing Pen Pal program:

- The Kid Care Pipeline - bi-monthly shipments and funding for necessities and educational materials.
- Computers for Kids - collects and refurbishes used laptops in the US, then sends them to the children's home to provide educational opportunities and connections otherwise unavailable.

Thanks to you, we have already accomplished much...

I started Siberian Bridges after concert tours in Zabaikalye in 1989 and 1991 -- the first westerner to do so in over 70 years! -- and returning to teach 1992. I began with the dream of creating connections to this beautiful, remote land and its people -- to help bridge cultures, build community, and improve individual lives. We end our 18th year at Siberian Bridges with gratitude to all the members, past staff, directors, donors and volunteers that have helped us succeed:

- Teacher and professional exchanges -- over 27 so far.
- Book donations to Siberian libraries and schools -- 5,000 books and counting.
- Siberian Bridges-Russia. Our sister organization which is igniting volunteerism and encouraging philanthropy and civil society with its own projects such as environmental cleanup, volunteering at the Children's Home and supporting an animal shelter.



Children of the Petrovsk-Zabaikalskii Children's Home



Play at the Children's Home

But there is more to do...

(over)

We have BIG plans for next year to expand existing programs, and to initiate a new summer camp in Siberia for disadvantaged children that will include service-tourism opportunities!

We will also hold workshops on voluntary organization development in Chita in Spring 2012. Board member and professional hydrologist Judy Boudreau will conduct these sessions as well as assessments of water quality/systems and general environmental conditions in the region.

Will you help us this holiday season?

Donor generosity has brought Siberian Bridges a long way. Please help us to continue our mission of connecting cultures, building community, and improving lives -- like those of Vika and Siberia's other needy children. Specific giving opportunities include:

- \$45 funds a Kid Care shipment for the Petrovsk-Zabaikalskii Children's Home
- \$60 funds a box of books for the Pushkin Regional Library and others in Zabaikalye
- \$75 funds refurbishment, shipping and installation of a Computers for Kids laptop
- Donate a used, operational laptop to Computers for Kids

Siberian Bridges in an all-volunteer organization. 100% of your donation is fully tax-deductible.

With best wishes for the holidays and many thanks for your support,



Thomas Dickinson
Founder & President

*Statistical sources:

1. Ascent Russian Orphan Aid Foundation <http://www.iorphan.org/>
2. Department of Education of the Russian Federation <http://www.ed.gov.ru/>
3. Russian Life Magazine <http://www.russianlife.com/blog/plight-orphans/>
4. Russian Children's Welfare Society
http://www.rcws.org/aboutus_statistics.html



*Children's Home boy with SB
donated winter cap and
stuffed toy*