



Congratulations Kiwanis Club of Corvallis – Sunrisers for your Corvallis Sister Cities **TOUCH** Project.

TOUCH Article submitted by

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Additional information about The **TOUCH** Project is available at the following website:
<http://www.sistercities.corvallis.or.us>

You may also contact the volunteer Co-Coordinator for more information:

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The **TOUCH** Project (Take One Ukrainian Child's Hand) was formed as a sponsorship program for Ukrainian children.

Our participation in this international program is very modest in that we sponsor one girl in the New Family Program; and one of our members sponsors a child in the Chaslivtsi Orphanage.

The following description of the **TOUCH** Program was taken from a website dated 2/2/2006.

In 2000, Sabra Killen and Alice Rampton traveled from Corvallis, Oregon to Uzhgorod, Ukraine to help distribute a shipment of humanitarian aid from the Corvallis Sister Cities Association. This shipment of humanitarian aid was one of many projects between Uzhgorod and Corvallis since the inception of their sister city relationship in approximately 1990.

Killen and Rampton visited 3 orphanages and recognized that there were many children with special needs. Upon returning home, they envisioned a program that would help meet some of these specific needs. To help with the support of these children, the concept of a sponsorship program was developed.

The 110 children at the Chaslivtsi Orphanage outside Uzhgorod, Ukraine were the first to receive sponsors. The **TOUCH** Project has grown to include additional

children in Uzhgorod with disabilities, abandoned or neglected children and orphans. There are now over 300 children in the **TOUCH** Project with sponsors for each child. Most of the sponsors are from Corvallis, but there are sponsors now in eleven other states and 2 in Canada. Sponsors include families, individuals, businesses, civic and religious organizations, youth clubs, and school classrooms.

Approximately 75 individuals have traveled from the US to Ukraine since 2001 as part of an annual **TOUCH** delegation to help these children in various ways. These volunteers travel at their own expense. Delegation members meet and visit with the children, take them shopping for school clothes, on outdoor excursions and hikes, and to movies, museums, parks and cultural events. Sponsorship funds are also used to purchase eye glasses, school supplies, food, furniture, toys, books, etc. Additional funds have been raised from **TOUCH** sponsors and other individuals and corporations, including NuSkin Enterprises Force For Good Foundation, to support various projects including the installation of a septic system at the Chaslivtsi Orphanage, a mini van, a laundry facility, 2

computer centers, and 120 beds and bedding. Over \$150,000 has been raised and donated to improve and brighten the life of each child in the **TOUCH** Project.

The **TOUCH** Project has grown to include four sponsorship programs for over 300 children in Ukraine including: The Chaslivtsi Orphanage, The New Family Program, The Medical-Social Rehabilitation Center, Vocational Training Programs (Total 305 children).

Sponsorship Guidelines

- * The **TOUCH** Project is a friendship program, not an adoption agency.
- * Limit of 2 children/sponsor.
- * Each sponsor -\$60/yr.
- * Donations are hand carried to Ukraine by volunteers.
- * Donations are used to purchase needed items for children in the program. The funds are also used to improve facilities where the children live or gather.
- * Each sponsor receives an information sheet and a photo of the child. Correspondence through letters is encouraged between the child and sponsor.
- * All donations are tax deductible when checks are written to the **Corvallis Sister Cities Association**.



Chaslivtsi kids shopping with Pam Hough