



Svirstroiski Detsky Dom (Children's Home) is located on Sosnovaya Street in the village of Svir Stroi in a remote, impoverished region of northern Russia on the Svir River halfway between Lakes Ladoga and Onegin. The 125 children here are hungry. Malnutrition is slowing their growth. Twelve year olds are just now losing baby teeth. The doctor visits only once a year. The children's clothing is poor. The building is falling apart. The caregivers get paid only sporadically and the director's budget gets cut every year.

The young people at Svirstroiski Detsky Dom, like young people everywhere, are dreamers. They have plans and hopes but they need good educations. If Russia is ever to have a stable economy, if the Russian people are ever to enjoy political freedom, her dreamers and visionaries need to be nurtured and properly educated.

In Russia today, there are about 600,000 children in 2000 detsky doms. According to a PBS documentary aired in May of 1999, of all the children now in detsky doms in Russia 83% will be dead by the time the youngest is 23 years old. Sixty seven of 100 of the boys will spend time in jail and many of the girls are being kidnapped into sex slavery.

We at Children of Sosnovaya Street are working to change that.

Children of Sosnovaya Street
655 N.E. Northlake Way
Seattle, WA 98105



Their

Dreams

Our Mission

Some Dreamers and their Dreams:

Yuri, who has gotten perfect marks all the way through school, wants to 'get all the drugs out of Russia'. He's trying to get to the Police Academy in St. Petersburg.

Vladimir wants to become an economist. When he has his degree, he wants to collect his younger siblings from the detsky doms where they live and bring them home to raise.

Olga and **Vera**, two very talented sisters, want to study architecture and design.

Sasha, when he was fifteen, placed 975 out of 20,000 in a pan-European competition for students of algebra. He has had meningitis. That keeps him from being considered for higher education. He wants to study mathematics and then return with his siblings to the mountains of the Altai to teach.

Misha fixes all the dom's small electrical appliances but he needs surgery on his wandering eye before he can go to electrician's school.

Katya wants to study medicine and make a home for her younger sister and brother.

Larisa and **Marina** want to teach small children.

Zhenya wants to be an actress.

Without our help Misha will not be sent to school at all. Sasha just needs a complete physical to be allowed to enter university. The other boys will be sent to carpentry school and the girls to seamstress or clerical training. Almost nothing is being built in this area of Russia and there are no clothing factories and very few clerical jobs.

Help us keep these young people's dreams alive! Help us keep them off the last-hired-first-fired seesaw that is common for detsky dom graduates. Your donation to Children of Sosnovaya Street will go a long way toward making it all possible. Visit our website to learn about volunteer opportunities.

Children of Sosnovaya Street (CoSS) is a non-profit, charitable and educational foundation formed by a group of diverse, dedicated people who share a common vision - a better life for the orphaned, abandoned and displaced children living in the detsky dom on Sosnovaya Street in Svir Stroi. The mission of CoSS is to see to the educational and health needs of the children residing in that detsky dom and to give them life skills training for when they leave.

Four of our members have traveled to Russia for at least one summer-long visit as volunteer caregivers and teachers, living with the children and witnessing the dedication and ingenuity of the director and staff in keeping the home running with limited resources. Our admiration for the children and staff sparked the formation of CoSS.

Contact us!

CoSS is on the internet at <http://www.sosnovayakids.org>. Or contact us at the address or fax number listed below.

Children of Sosnovaya Street
655 N.E. Northlake Way
Seattle, WA 98105
fax: 206.675.1125

Please send your donation with the coupon on the next page.

Thank you.

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