



**Санкт-Петербургская общественная организация  
«Семейная коммуна «Надежда»**

для подростков и молодежи-сирот и социальных сирот, лишившихся попечения родителей, находящихся в социально опасном положении и нуждающихся в социальной реабилитации

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**Dear Kirill, Jonathan, Andrey and all our numerous American Friends who have united ideas and feelings under the name of "Hope".**

**Due to your support and together with you we believe that we can make the life of our pupils purposeful, sensible and filled with a vitality which will enable them to become full and useful members of society.**

**Due to you, The Fund, we have been able to blow a "new breath of life" into yesterday's homeless, abused teenagers.**

**We have a special feeling of admiration for those donors of the fund who have managed to take it upon themselves to help specific pupils - children, teenagers and youth, who have been rejected by their parents, society and the state.**

**There are very many funds willing to help Russian babies and very small children thrown out by their parents.**

**The feebleness and appearance of these children causing an immediate desire to help.**

**Our pupils too, were once babies and very small children who, due to adverse circumstances, "fell by the wayside" and who, as they got older, society believed were no longer helpless and needy.**

**All of them with numerous social, medical and legal problems.**

**The state does not help such children so long as their parents are alive and are not deprived of their parental rights.**

**Parents have lost touch with such children who are no longer necessary for them, and the children are left without any form of care and control or have been thrown out on the street, or have left a seemingly hopeless life to try and live independently.**

The majority of such teenagers turn to crime or become glue sniffers, alcoholics, drug addicts and vagabonds and thereafter turn into "superfluous people".

The state has not yet realized the enormity of this problem which is affecting a whole generation of youngsters and thus affecting future society generally. 90% of such children, in addition to the above mentioned problems, are badly affected by or are bearers of HIV, hepatitis A, B and C, tuberculosis and many other diseases.

One of the forms of the help for such children is the creation of communities such as "Hope" and the creation of rural settlements for a joint effort in the struggle for survival.

Today's official statistics on Russia show that the numbers of homeless children migrating across Russia vary from about 2 million in the winter to up to 5 million in the summer.

This can be a devastating problem for the future of Russia as the destructive tendencies contained here can develop into **an enormous** social, economic and political crisis. In our estimation we are standing on the edge of the cliff in relation to this problem.

Thank God that the heads of the Fund and many donors have understood this situation, and in participation, have already actively joined in the bid to resolve this problem!

**WHILE THERE IS LIFE THERE IS HOPE!**

Today many of our pupils participate in realization of the projects of a commune, having learned a number of professions, and have achieved labour skills and operational experience as cattle breeders, agriculturists, farmers, tractor operators, builders and drivers.

For them the interest in life has awakened.

The future has been brought into a new perspective and is appearing more and more attractive.

The main thing that all of them trust, is that beyond the ocean there live kind and humane people, capable of appreciating another's troubles and, perceiving of these troubles as their own, come with aid at a difficult moment.

During the last years there have, apart from many smaller projects, been carried out more than 10 very important projects, maintained by the fund AROAF.

The first project "Shower for the Soul", has allowed us to finish repairs to the day care center of the House of the family commune "Hope" on the premises for crisis service, at Dvinskoy 10.

There was no money for a shower room, but rapid support from the fund has enabled work on the shower room to be completed very quickly and thus the Dvinskoy 10 complex is now fully operational.

Today more than 120 children, living in the micro district "The Sea Gate" in Saint Petersburg, are taken care of by staff in the complex. This care includes help to combat crime and drug dependence by the children.



**To a large degree our general achievements are due to the establishment of a complex of projects, based on the creation of our commune in Karelia, which now serves as a material base for other projects.**

**The basic components being an agricultural production, with the organization of workplaces.**

**A cow shed for 10 head of cattle and a pig sty with 6 sows were built with the support of the fund.**

**It is necessary to add material base industrial workshops (there are woodworking machine tools, power 40 kw) under the new project "The Workplace - for each teenager" and the most actual project at the moment is the project for reconstruction and reorganization of the old apartment house which, owing to failure of the foundations, requires urgent restoration.**

**With the support of some of the organizations, our own human resources "The Communards" are proceeding with construction of the administrative building to which everyone will be transferred for the period of repair of the old apartment house. A very important and necessary task has been undertaken in the project maintained by the fund on clearing constructions (preparing the ground for foundations).**

**We wish to apologise for the time delay on realization of this project.**

**The Moscow firm to whom we have offered the job of clearing constructions is ready to ship the necessary equipment. However, in connection with changes in the Russian legislation (the Ground code for the legislation on public organizations and associations to which we belong) we are afraid to begin this work, as it is necessary to solve the problems caused by these amendments which can affect our land management (to acquire the property right or long-term rent for the ground and to solve the problem of an establishment of the property right to real estate).**

**Otherwise, it is possible, that at some future point in time any of our properties or creations can become a subject of envy of officials who might wish to try to acquire these for themselves. Something that often happens in Russia.**

**We must not allow this to happen!**

**Therefore we are now working on the solution of this problem together with the administration of the local authorities of the settlement at Kurkiyoki.**

**A deep bow of gratitude to all of you from our Russian children.**