



# Rotary International

## Rotary Club

### Irkutsk

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#### **URIK SHELTER FOR CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS**

URIK SHELTER IS SITUATED IN THE RURAL AREA 10 MILES AWAY FROM IRKUTSK. IT IS AN INSTITUTION OF THE REGIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY DEPARTMENT WHICH HAS BEEN IN OPERATION SINCE 2002. UP TO 40 KIDS FROM NEARBY VILLAGES, AGES 3 TO 16, FIND THEIR TEMPORARY HOME HERE. THESE KIDS TURN OUT IN THE SHELTER UNDER DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES: MAINLY THEY ARE NEGLECTED BY THE FAMILY, THEIR PARENTS GET DEPRIVED OF PARENTS` RIGHTS; CHILDREN HAVE NO PLACE TO GO, THEY RUN AWAY, GET LOST, LOOSE FAMILY CONTACTS; ARE LEFT WITH NO PLACE TO LIVE, WERE ABANDONED, LEFT ALONE AFTER PARENTS/GUARDIAN`S DEATH. VERY OFTEN THE KIDS HAVE NO IDENTIFYING DOCUMENTS. AS A RULE THEY NEVER WENT TO SCHOOL AND CANNOT READ OR WRITE.

DURING THEIR TEMPORARY STAY AT THE SHELTER (6-18 MONTHS OR LONGER) THESE KIDS GO THROUGH SOCIAL, MEDICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL REHABILITATION PROCESS TO HELP THEM TO GET ADAPTED TO "NORMAL" LIFE. .

THE STAFF OF 15 (ALL OF THEM ARE WOMEN) ARE VERY DEDICATED PEOPLE, CARING FOR THE KIDS, RESPONSIBLE AND COMPATIONATE. EACH SPECIALIST – PSYCHOLOGIST, SOCIAL WORKER, SPEECH THERAPIST, PHYSICAL THERAPIST, TEACHERS, EDUCATORS, CARETAKERS - DO THEIR BEST TO ASSIST THESE KIDS: THEY LOOK FOR A FAMILY MEMBER OR A CLOSE RELATIVE WHO CAN BECOME A KID`S GUARDIAN, FIND AN ADOPTIVE FAMILY OR A FOSTER FAMILY, OR A CHILD IS SENT TO AN ORPHANAGE WHICH BECOMES A PERMANENT HOME TILL THE KID TURNS 18.

THE SHELTER SHARES A ONE STOREY BUILDING WITH THE VILLAGE HOSPITAL, NOW FORMER HOSPITAL ROOMS ARE THE CHILDREN`S BEDROOMS. THE KIDS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE SHELTER AREA, BUT THEY WANT TO SPEND AS MUCH TIME OUTSIDE AS POSSIBLE. IN WINTER WHEN IT GETS COLD THEY STILL WANT TO BE OUTSIDE AND PLAY.

RC "IRKUTSK" HAS BEEN SPONSORING THE SHELTER SINCE SEPTEMBER 2006. THE CLUB MEMBERS INDORSE THE SHELTER REQUEST FOR \$1000 TO PURCHASE WINTER SPORTS EQUIPMENT.

*~PRESIDENT OF RC "IRKUTSK" SERGEY NIKIFOROV~*