



One Heart for Bulgaria

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Sponsor's Corner

Are you interested in finding new ways to fundraise for your sponsorship? The Chardon Branch, which sponsors Ivan Rilski, raises their whole amount every year by setting up a giving tree in their lobby! The tree is decorated with pictures of the children and ornaments with varying donation amounts. People choose an ornament and then donate the amount indicated.

If you have a great fundraising idea, please let us know and we'll publish it in the Sponsor's Corner. Contact Virginia Brown at 208-356-3281.

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Love and Pain

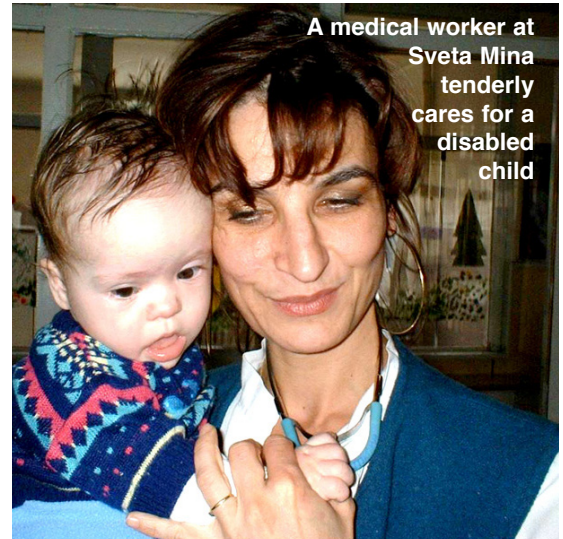
There are some situations which words cannot seem to describe. I am not sure how to talk about my experience visiting Sveta Mina Hospital--the contrasts between tragedy and beauty, fear and hope, despair and peace somehow escape my ability to capture them in a way that will remain true to my experience.

Sveta Mina Department One is for children under the age of three who are severely disabled and have been abandoned to the care of the state. We first learned about this orphanage from a humanitarian missionary who told us that the children are known as the "throw-away babies"--because of the severity of their disabilities, they usually die before the age of three. Their parents cannot or will not take care of them, and they are considered a burden to the hospital because they generate no revenue. As a result, their needs often go unmet so that the hospital can focus its resources on "paying" patrons. The children's little lives are spent in what is often a hospice situation, though without almost any of the attention to comfort and support which would attend the same situation in a more developed country. Although the staff members are generally very good and caring, they are understandably exhausted physically and emotionally from day after day contact with extremely ill and dying children.

No amount of talk could prepare me for what I saw at Sveta Mina. The children truly are in desperate circumstances and need many things to ease their pain and help them remain comfortable. Diapers, bottles, bedding, funding for additional staff--the list really could go on and on. The other aspect of the situation which I wasn't prepared for was the incredible feeling I got as I held the little children; as I stroked their hair, touched the little eyes that would never see, massaged the little twisted limbs that would never walk. The feeling was one of almost overwhelming love and pain.

Along with those feelings came a very strong sense of purpose and resolve: Although I could not do everything, I knew I could do something. I could provide some comfort; I could make sure they sensed that someone cared. I could take this on. I could open my eyes to their suffering and respond.

We are so pleased with the response of the director and staff at Department One. They are very grateful for the sponsorship which supported them through 2004, and I would like to thank the Scott and Ali Garner family for that support. They are also sponsoring a quarter sponsorship for 2005--what a difference that will make. We are still looking for another sponsor to bring them up to a full sponsorship; if you are interested in participating, please contact Deborah Gardner at 435-792-3508, or email her at deborah@oneheart-bg.org. For more information about sponsoring an orphanage or about Sveta Mina, please visit our website: www.oneheart-bg.org.



A medical worker at Sveta Mina tenderly cares for a disabled child

—Heidi Glyn Barker, Executive Director, One Heart

Ritchie Hill Memorial Shipment on its way to the children

One Heart would like to acknowledge all of the people who worked so hard to get the container supplies collected, sorted, boxed, and weighed. We had boxes of clothing, blankets, shoes, and hygiene materials donated from all over the country. Local eagle scouts gave tremendous service to collect goods. The largest part of the donation was 2000 fleece blankets from Brigham Young University's Especially For Youth summer camps. This was a substantial contribution and an opportunity for me, as a representative of One Heart, to speak to over 18,000 youth about the Bulgarian orphans. Globus ReliefFund, Salt Lake City, also helped our shipment substantially. This charity collects surplus medical equipment and supplies and permits other charities to purchase from them at 10% of wholesale cost. We received thousands of dollars of first aid supplies at a fraction of the cost!

One Heart would also like to acknowledge the following "Superstar Volunteers:"

Stacy Hill, (Idaho) is the reason this shipment got shipped! Thank you Stacy for believing that this container will make a difference and that it would be a wonderful tribute to your late husband, Richie. Thank you for your generosity and compassion.

Sandra Schut, (Salt Lake City) is a superstar volunteer who donated many hours at her sewing machine making puppets, hundreds of sheets, and educational supplies for the children. She easily put in over 500 hours! Thank you so very much for your dedicated service!

Lloyd Nielson, (Tooele, Utah) from the Knights Templars. He and his organization helped to collect medical supplies and equipment for the shipment including wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, and ointments.

Gary Schill, (Mexico), a BYU student and former missionary in Bulgaria served as our One Heart intern this summer for the container. He supervised much of the container inventory and was my assistant in getting the container completed and

shipped. The container wouldn't have left in 2004 without Gary!

Thank you to the following for helping at the warehouse this summer! LaDawn Smit, Kathy Anderson, Sandy Schut, Brittany Daw, Ivan Djambov, Johnny Scott and Eagle Scout project volunteers, Kim Meyers, Jana Pitt, Alyssa Hill, Dave and Donna Altop, Chris King, Scott Reed, Matt Jensen, Mike (at Rug Dr.), Pete (at Utah Scale Co.), Matt Anderson, Britain and Emma (the youngest helpers!), And to everyone else who came!!

We would like to acknowledge and thank the following businesses for their help and support: Kid to Kid, Lindon, Utah (donated children's clothing); Wandering Wardrobe, Springville, Utah (donated teen clothing); Rug Doctors, Sandy, Utah (donating time and use of their forklift); Utah Scale Company, Sandy (donating use of their freight scale); Intermountain Wholesale Group, SLC (donating warehouse space for 1 year!)

This is what we have to celebrate! Over \$90,000 worth of goods are on its way!
 Clothing \$8,615 estimated value, 83 boxes, 1723 lbs. • Blankets/Bedding \$24,804 estimated value, 113 boxes, 2352 lbs. • Shoes \$14,165 estimated value, 54 boxes, 1416 lbs. • Hygiene \$18,465 estimated value, 74 boxes, 3693 lbs. • Food \$532 estimated value, 4 boxes, 133 lbs. • Medicine and Medical Equipment \$24,000 estimated value, 74 boxes, 1054 lbs. • Educational Supplies \$2,200 estimated value, 27 boxes, 600 lbs.

Thank you so very much on behalf of the children! The goods will be received by the Plovdiv city government who will waive custom fees and then it will be distributed by our One Heart country director, Nickolai Gavazov in November. We are making a difference, one child at a time! There will be many happy children as a result. I feel Ritchie Hill would be pleased with our efforts.

—Kelly Anderson, Projects Director

Shipment bound to Bulgaria despite theft

October 6th was meant to be a day of celebration because the shipment was complete, but instead it became a day spent talking with police and media about the theft of 200 heart catheters meant for the Plovdiv Bulgaria Heart Clinic. The goods had been donated by Deseret International and collected by Dr. Badger of Provo, Utah. The value of the goods stolen was estimated to be over \$60,000. (Fortunately another 100 catheters remain on the shipment.) When we discovered the container had been broken into at the Sandy warehouse, we were devastated. It was difficult to imagine why such a theft would take place, especially of equipment used to save lives. We hope that with the news of the theft, the supplies will be returned and that more doctors will become aware of the clinic's needs and will be interested in donating additional catheters for the patients. If you know anyone who is a heart surgeon and has access to outdated catheters, please contact us.

On the positive side, when the theft became known, Kathy Headlee of "Mothers without Borders" came to the rescue to fill the empty space in the container. Within an hour of hearing the story, she loaded her car and delivered hundreds of items of clothing, educational supplies, and toys for the children. I was truly grateful to see her cheerful heart and generosity. The goods filled the void of what was stolen and helped me to keep moving forward, recognizing that although the catheters were gone, we still had so very much to offer Bulgaria. Kathy Headlee runs a wonderful established organization for African orphans; they are fortunate to have her! Thank you for sharing, Kathy!

Update on our activities

In August we celebrated at our first annual Sponsors' Conference, which was held at the Weston Daw residence in Murray, Utah. The sponsors finally got to meet and get to know each other and the board members, and we all enjoyed a delicious dinner and a special program by singer and songwriter Karyn Grant. Sponsors who were unable to attend received a packet of information about our goals for 2005.

Our sponsorship director, Deborah Gardner, recently returned from a trip to Bulgaria, where she met with Nickolai and many of the orphanage directors—and the children, of course. She was accompanied by Saren Eyre-Loosli, who was doing some groundwork for the training program, and by Sara Holmer. There will be a report on their trip in the next newsletter. The orphanage directors were particularly pleased with the work our One Heart Representatives are doing, and were excited to have them

and other orphanage workers participate in upcoming training sessions.

Sometimes it is easy to get all wrapped up in the administrative aspect of running an organization. It's fun, challenging, rewarding, frustrating, and bewildering at times. But I want everyone to know that we take this work very seriously—we are committed to doing everything we can to make positive changes in the lives of these children. We appreciate your help, your support, and your willingness to share our vision. When I do start to feel overwhelmed I lean back, shut my eyes, and picture the beautiful faces of the children. I imagine them saying, "You can do it—you can make it. We're all here for you." And in a very real way, they are. So thanks to all of you, donors, sponsors, volunteers, and children—for participating in this labor of love.

—Heidi Glyn Barker



Laundry equipment obtained

A really nice trend was started at the Sponsor's Conference this year: one sponsor and one donor each donated \$2,500 toward a washer and a dryer for their respective orphanages. Gorna Koznitsa, which is fully sponsored by Scott Stringham and his group, will finally be getting the dryer they have needed so badly, and Sveta Marina, an orphanage for severely handicapped children, will also be getting a washing machine thanks to the generosity of Frank Osterloh.

Following on the heels of that, One Heart

Bulgaria's Director, Nickolai Gavazov, working with the humanitarian arm of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, was able to secure funding for a washer for Rada Kirkovich, as well as funding for washers, dryers, and refrigerators for three more orphanages! Having working appliances—especially washers and dryers—will really lessen the burden on the caretakers and allow them to provide cleaner, healthier environments for our kids.

New Donation Option—12 for \$1200

Many people have inquired about how we pay our operating expenses, since 100% of our sponsorship money goes to the children. In the past, our administrative costs have been covered by a private donor. For 2005, however, we would like to recruit 12 "Operations Donors" to commit to donate \$1,200 each to help offset our operational costs. such as printing and mailing, office supplies and equipment, and the salary of our full-time

Bulgarian director, Nickolai Gavazov (all of our state-side workers are unpaid volunteers). "Operations Donors" would receive feedback about an orphanage of their choice, and would be included in our annual sponsors' conference. I guess you could look at this option as being a sponsor for the whole organization! If you are interested in participating as an Operations Donor, please contact Glyn Barker at 440-338-6754.

One Heart Special Offer for Christmas

Do something really meaningful for Christmas this year, and send One Heart gift cards to your friends and family members. These charming cards indicate that a donation was sent by you to One Heart in their behalf. A minimum donation of \$10 is requested. If you would like, we will deliver your choice of gift along with the card:

- Gift card plus bookmark: \$20 donation
- Gift card plus Bulgarian doll rose oil holder: \$50 donation
- Gift card plus Narcissus Paperwhites: \$100 donation



Beaded bookmark is approx. 12"

Doll's actual size is 4.5" Contains vial of rose-oil



Paperwhite bulbs come with container, planting medium, and instructions for forcing.

To order, please call Glyn Barker at 440-338-6754 by Nov. 25 and have the address information for your recipients handy.



We're on the Web!
www.oneheart-bg.org

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