



## **Questions About Hosting Children From Ukraine**

- **Is it possible to host children from Ukraine for the summer of 2010?**
  - Yes, through one of the five Ukrainian Chernobyl Community Centers.
  
- **Will the children come from areas of contamination?**
  - The children will come from areas zoned by the Ukrainian government as areas of contamination. The Chernobyl Community Centers exist to help support the social and psychological needs of the victims of Chernobyl. These Centers are helped through the efforts of the UNDP and Friends of Chernobyl Centers, US. (FOCCUS)
  
- **How will the children be selected?**
  - The answer is as varied as the individual organization's criterion. Your organization can come to an agreement with its chosen center, and stipulate preferences in its NGO agreement.
  
- **Will the cost be the same as hosting children from Belarus?**
  - Not exactly, as the processing fees in Ukraine are more expensive. However, the flights out of Kiev compared to Minsk are often considerably less expensive.
  
- **What is the procedure, and what fees may we expect?**
  - First, for expedience, contact CofC US Alliance for the connection with a Chernobyl Community Center.
  
  - Secondly, a letter of invitation containing the number of children requested, preferred ages, sex, and a complete description of the summer program planned by your organization, including how the organization will insure the quality of the children's housing, food, and medical care,

complete with the approximate dates of the respite visit. This may be sent to the Chernobyl Community Center's Director. (By January)

- A formal agreement between the attending Center and the hosting organization, is a government requirement. (By January)
    - A copy of the Contract on Joint Activity for Children's Recuperation Abroad, written in both Ukraine and English and a copy of the Participant Pledge may be obtained through the CofC US Alliance when your process begins.
  - An Official list of the invited children will come from the NGO. Organizations wishing to travel to select their children are invited to do so. Your organization will then need to provide proof of Insurance and proof of reserved tickets. (By February)
  - Paperwork on the Ukrainian side:
    - Medical examinations of the children with vaccinations done at local hospitals.
    - International Passport. (\$20-\$50)
    - Notary registration of passport document (under \$100.)
    - Parental permission from both parents, notarized. (\$20-\$50 each)
    - Visa (\$131)
    - Pin code for fingerprints, for Embassy interview, for ages 14 and over. (\$13)
    - Embassy required delivery fee. (\$10)
      - CofC USA was told that the approximate cost to the hosting organization would be about \$350 to cover all processing costs, with an additional small fee for the work of the NGO.
- **Why are notary costs so high and varied?**
- Unlike in the United States, a notary must possess a law degree. Special paper with watermarks and holograms must be purchased from the government. The attorney then draws up the document, and when signed, a computerized number is registered with the government. Each attorney affixes his/her own fee. In some areas only one lawyer may reside, so there is a lack of competition. Consider also, the high cost of transportation into a larger city where fees may be a few dollars less.

- **Are there other costs to be aware of?**
  - Yes, transportation of the child and both parents into Kiev for an interview at the US Embassy. In some cases one parent may attend, but another notarized document from the absent parent will be required.
  - Transportation to and from the Kiev Borispol Airport.
    - There is recognition that parents and Centers must strive to contribute toward the child's respite opportunity, but it is not always possible.
  
- **What other differences with Ukrainian law will we encounter?**
  - The law stipulates that a chaperone must accompany the group, as well as a translator. The chaperone must possess a degree in teaching, or child psychology, and have three years of experience with children to qualify. Occasionally someone can be found who can do both jobs, but it is not easy, and stipends must be paid for each. There are no exceptions.
  
- **What are the procedures and timeline our organization must meet to begin hosting next summer?**
  - Your organization must first submit a letter of invitation to the Center's Director early in January.
  - Your organization should complete the other fore mentioned work by the end of February.
  
- **What language will the children speak?**
  - The official language is Ukrainian, but most children speak Russian in their homes, and take English in school.
  
- **Now that we have decided to host children from Ukraine what is our next step?**
  - You may begin by contacting either:
    - Judy Canyock - [judybc@cox.net](mailto:judybc@cox.net) or 703-425-4607
    - Heidi Dietz - [flight44@verizon.net](mailto:flight44@verizon.net) or 330-708-9067

