



RUSSIAN GIFT OF LIFE, INC.

&

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S HEART FOUNDATION

Together, "Helping Heal the World, One Heart at a Time"



Save One
International Children's Heart Foundation
Kemerovo, Siberia, Russia

January 2010

Medical Mission Trip January 23 - February 6, 2010

The International Children's Heart Foundation made its third medical mission trip to the Kemerovo Center of Cardiology on January 23 - February 6. The team, led by Cardiovascular Surgeons Dr. William Novick and Dr. Yakov Elgudiny consisted of one anesthesiologist, one perfusionist, one OR nurse, one cardiologist, one respiratory therapist, two intensivists, six PICU nurses and one translator. The team came from five different countries, all joining together for one cause -- to save the lives of children with congenital heart defects.

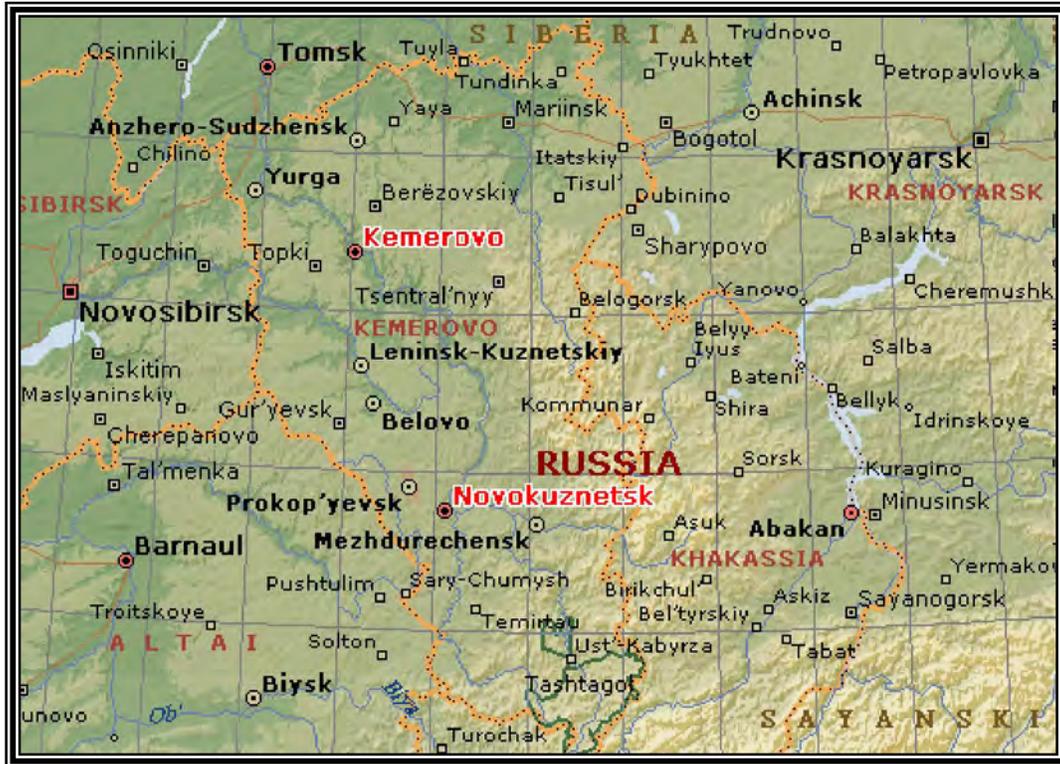
There is an estimated 250 to 270 children with congenital heart defects that need open-heart surgery each year in Kemerovo. Only about 60 to 80 children receive the surgery they need. The Division of Pediatric and Congenital Heart Disease was established in Kemerovo four years ago and the surgeons have been performing open heart surgery on children over 12 months of age only and none with complex disease. But a large number of children with congenital heart disease need to be operated on during the first year of life or they will die. Children who need surgery emergently are being transported to other centers far away. Due to transportation problems and the critical condition of the children, many do not survive.



During our team's visit to the Kemerovo Center of Cardiology 18 children received operations that would not have been possible without the support of our sponsors. Additionally, our volunteer doctors, nurses and technicians worked along side the local staff teaching them the latest techniques in taking care of children with congenital heart defects.

This medical mission trip would not have been possible without the support of our sponsors and volunteers. The International Children's Heart Foundation extends its sincere thanks to Russian Gift of Life, Inc. for helping make this trip possible and for providing hope to 18 children and their families. The parents of the children that benefited from these operations were extremely happy and appreciative of the "gift of life" that their children had received.

Kemerovo, Siberia, Russia



The city is located 2,164 miles east of Moscow. It is an important industrial city developed during Soviet times with important chemical, fertilizer, and manufacturing industries and is linked to western Russia by a branch of the Trans-Siberian Railway. Since the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the city's industries have experienced a severe decline, creating high levels of unemployment.

Over 3 million people live here, mostly in large cities. In fact, Kemerovo Region is a very urbanized part of Russia, with about 87% of the population residing in cities. Kemerovo Region is also known as Kuzbass - from "Kuznetsk basin" - the name of the largest coal deposit on earth, which is located here.

Siberia is a very large area stretching from the Ural Mountains on the west to the Pacific Ocean on the east. All of Europe could fit inside of Siberia several times over. It is a part of Russia, the largest country in the world.

Yulya Slyun'



Yulya is 9 years old, an only child and lives about three hours from Kemerovo in Chyblinskii Raion. It was by chance that her heart defect was even discovered. About six months ago, Yulya had a TB skin test and the results were positive. The doctors sent her to get an x-ray. The results of which were shocking. The doctors saw no signs of tuberculosis. However, they did find a heart defect. Her mother couldn't believe it, as Yulya had no symptoms and was a very energetic child. She was immediately admitted to the hospital for a cardiac evaluation. Yulya was diagnosed with an atrial septal defect (ASD) along with mitral valve insufficiency.

ASD, also known as a "hole in the heart," is an opening in the atrial septum, or dividing wall between the two upper chambers of the heart known as the left and right atria. If not repaired, this heart defect could cause severe lung problems.

Yulya received surgery on January 26 and made a very quick recovery. Within a couple of days, she was able to play with her favorite toy, tигра.



Her mother, with tears filling her eyes, said *"Thank you so much to all of the doctors, surgeons, nurses and sponsors who made it happen. Thank you for taking care of my baby. The most important thing is that I now have a healthy child. Thank you all!"*

Anna Viktorovna

Anna is 13 years old and is from Leninsk-Kuzneckii, which is approximately an hour and a half from Kemerovo. She lives with her parents and little brother, Vanya. Anna loves to ski and skate. She also sings in the school choir. Her heart defect was discovered when she began experiencing tachycardia. Tachycardia typically refers to a fast heart rate. Anna was sent to a cardiologist who discovered that she had partial anomalous venous return (PAPVR).



On February 1, Anna (pictured here with Tess Hunt, respiratory therapist and medical team member) received complete repair of her heart defect and is doing great! She told the staff that for her future, she would like to become an attorney. She is so happy that she now has a chance at achieving her goal!

Diana Akulova

Diana is a very smart and outgoing 3 year old little girl from Leninsk-Kuzneckii. She lived in an orphanage from birth until a few months ago. Unfortunately, she was diagnosed with a very rare heart defect. Ebstein's anomaly, also called Ebstein's malformation, is a congenital heart defect in which parts of the tricuspid valve are abnormal.

Our team was able to successfully repair her tricuspid valve on January 30. She was such a wonderful patient and loved by all of the staff.



A few months prior to her surgery, Diana was adopted by a wonderful and loving family. She now has 8 brothers and sisters, lives on a farm and will be able to enjoy a normal life. She is so excited to go home to her new family and is especially excited to play with all of the animals on their farm!

Diana's mother, pictured above, said
*" Thank you to everybody. Thank you for
your help and support. I do not know
how to say thank you enough! Thank you all."*



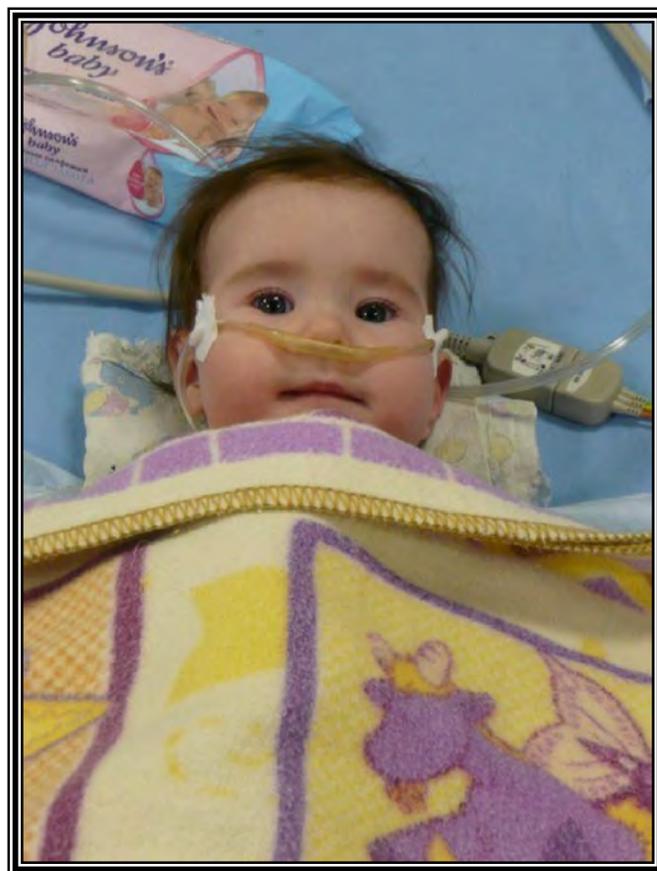


Iliya Sizer

Iliya is 13 years old and lives in Kemerovo. He was diagnosed with an aortic aneurysm, secondary to Marfan's Syndrome. An aortic aneurysm is an abnormal bulge in the wall of the aorta, the major blood vessel that feeds blood to the body. A ruptured aortic aneurysm could cause life-threatening bleeding.

On February 4, Iliya received a complex operation where his native valve was preserved so that he will not need to take blood thinners the rest of his life. He made a full and uneventful recovery!

This is **Vliana Truchina**, an 8 month old little girl who was diagnosed with partial anomalous pulmonary venous return or PAPVR. Our team performed her surgery on February 3 and she is doing great! Thanks to the sponsors and team members, Vliana now has a second chance at life!



Valeria Listopad

Valeria is 5 months old and lives with her family in Mariinsk, about 2 ½ hours from Kemerovo. Just after her birth, Valeria's mother became very concerned about her health. She wasn't gaining weight, had no appetite and little to no energy. When she was just a month old it was discovered that Valeria had atrioventricular septal defect or AVSD (a large hole in her heart).



On January 27, she received complete repair of her AVSD and is recovering well. Her mother, pictured here holding Valeria, would like to thank all of the team members and sponsors who made this surgery possible.

Patient List

| Name | Age | Procedure |
|----------------------|-----------|---|
| Diana Akulova | 3 years | Repair of Ebsteins Anomaly |
| Emilia Demina | 2 months | ASD Closure, PA Reconstruction & PDA Ligation |
| Gleb Globa | 2 months | VSD Closure |
| Galina Hlopotina | 10 years | Ross Procedure |
| Alexandra Klekovkina | 2 years | PAVC Repair |
| Elizabeta Kuskova | 4 months | VSD Closure |
| Eugenia Kvanovna | 15 years | ASD Closure |
| Valeria Listopad | 5 months | AV Canal Repair |
| Alexander Morosov | 4 months | PA Banding |
| Iliya Sizer | 13 years | Ascending Aorta Replacement & David Procedure |
| Yulya Slyun | 9 years | PAVC Repair |
| Arina Sohin | 3 months | ASD Closure & PDA Ligation |
| Mikhailova Sveta | 18 days | PA Banding |
| Vliana Truchina | 8 months | PAPVR Repair |
| Anna Victorovna | 13 years | PAPVR Repair |
| Elisa Astriedora | 10 months | AV Canal Repair |
| Karina Tortunashenva | 3 months | VSD/ASD/PDA/PAPVC Repair |
| Ubaidullohov Sayidov | 7 years | DORV Repair |



Medical Team

| Name | Position | Origin |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| William M. Novick | Surgeon | United States |
| Yakov Elgudin | Surgeon | United States |
| Olga Kozhemiakina | Anesthesiologist | Belarus |
| Nigel Cross | Perfusionist | United Kingdom |
| Martina Pavanic | OR Nurse | United States |
| Shirah Shore | Cardiologist | United States |
| Tess Hunt | Respiratory Therapist | United States |
| Pavel Shauchenka | Intensivist | Belarus |
| Yauheni Suslin | Intensivist | Belarus |
| Sara Snyder | PICU Nurse | United States |
| Robin Pharney | PICU Nurse | United States |
| Yulija Kleshchanka | PICU Nurse | Belarus |
| Frank John Molloy | PICU Nurse | United States |
| Nina Hertouskaya | PICU Nurse | Belarus |
| Karen Widdis | PICU Nurse | United States |
| Dilarom Saidmuratova | Translator | Russia |



The Story of Dilya

A few months ago, the ICHF office received a call from a girl wanting to speak with the surgeon that performed her operation 14 years ago in Kazakhstan. It was Dilya. She said she was 12 years old when she received repair of her heart defect in Almaty, Kazakhstan in September 1995, by lead ICHF Surgeon, Dr. Novick.

ICHF makes an effort to follow-up on the young patients that we operate on to see how they're doing and where their lives have taken them. Most of them move on after they become adults. This was exactly the case with Dilya. Shortly after her operation, she moved to Siberia and we lost contact with her and her family. But Dilya found us! She said, *"I am so happy that I found Dr. Novick and finally I can thank him personally for saving my life."*

Today, Dilya is living right here in the United States and going to pre-nursing school. She will enter nursing school this year and plans on continuing her studies until she gets her master's degree.

In the future, she said she would like to work with ICHF and help other children. Dilya relates, *"That's what I was dreaming about and I cannot believe that my dream might come true. It will be an honor to work on the team with Dr. Novick."*

Dilya's dream is now reality, as she was a team member during this mission trip as a translator. Dilya said, *"Right now, I feel like I can do anything in this world. You just have to hope that one day you will achieve your goal."* We were honored to have her as part of our team and are very happy to see her as a healthy young woman living a normal life and achieving her goals!



(Dr. Novick with Dilya in Kemerovo)



Save One
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