



Fall 2009

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Hello and thank you for taking a few minutes to catch up on what's new at the KidsFirst Foundation. I'm pleased to report that through your continued kindness and generosity, we have been actively executing on our mission to provide better lives for orphaned children around the world.

Yes, we have been hit by our challenging economy. But, we have also been fortunate to have had the ongoing support of so many individual and corporate donors. Special thanks to our dear friends at WestPoint Financial Group for supporting us again through proceeds from their annual golf outing.

I'm continually amazed by the generous donations so many families make of their time, talent and treasure. I want to thank all of you and I'd also like to encourage others to consider how they might get involved. We plan to recruit

three new Foundation Board Members over the next several months. So, if you have an interest in becoming part of our team, please let me know.

Finally, we have a Foundation mission team leaving for Russia on September 10. A story follows about the trip and all that they will accomplish. I want to wish them safe travels and I want to ask each of you to consider making a contribution today. If you donate by Tuesday, September 8, we will be able to immediately put your funds to work helping orphaned kids.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter. Please contact me if you'd like to talk more about the KidsFirst Foundation. Together, we will change the world one kid at a time.

Dawn Lockwood – KidsFirst Foundation President

MISSION TRIP

The tickets have been purchased, the rooms are booked and the itineraries are set. It's time for the 2009 KidsFirst Foundation Mission Trip and our travelers are ready to move out. The team is scheduled to leave Indianapolis on September 10. Once in Russia, they will spend a week working at orphanages in Borovichi, Moscow, Novgorod and Tver. Here's a look into what they hope to accomplish.

In Moscow, our team will visit with young people living between orphanage care and the real world. These teenagers are too old for institutional care, but they aren't quite ready to make it on their own. The Foundation already provides some transitional housing assistance and through our visit we will identify other needs that we can fill to give these needy kids the helping hand they need.

In Tver, our mission team will check on the playground we built last year and they will plant several trees to make the outdoor play area even more inviting and special for the kids living there. We will also work with local officials to determine which basic humanitarian needs we need to fill for these kids.

In Novgorod, our team will break ground on our next KidsFirst Foundation playground. This will be the

second playground that we have built through the generosity of our donors. The orphanage director tells us that a playground will bring smiles to the kids and that they will benefit greatly from being able to exercise outside.

In Borovichi, the mission team will visit with orphaned kids and work with the institution director to identify how we can best improve living conditions. We might purchase winter jackets, we might purchase school supplies or we might identify other needs once we're on the ground. One reason why we travel is so we can see firsthand how to best put your donations to work effectively.

"Our trip will touch the lives of some very needy kids," said Inna Pecar of the KidsFirst Foundation. "We appreciate everyone's support and we look forward to representing all KidsFirst families on our journey."

Every member on our mission team will be paying their own way. No Foundation donations are ever used to cover transportation, lodging or other travel expenses. All donations go directly to helping kids in need.

DID YOU KNOW?

United Way Giving:

Did you know that you can support the KidsFirst Foundation through your annual United Way giving? It's true and it's easy to do. Just list our Foundation account number (#4167169) on your annual campaign contribution form.

Gifting Miles and Points:

Did you know that you can help the KidsFirst Foundation by gifting hotel points and airline miles? When families adopt special needs kids, they incur significant expenses.

KidsFirst Foundation Board:

Did you know that the KidsFirst Foundation is looking for a few new candidates to join our Board? We plan to host a Board recruiting dinner in November. If you're interested in being considered for the Board, please let us know and we'll send you a dinner invite.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

If you haven't been to one of our special events yet, you should really plan to join us. We have a lot of fun and we strive to provide an educational and entertaining cultural experience. Here are a few things we have in store over the next six months.

Magic of Russia Fundraising Dinner, Saturday, September 26

Come join us for our fourth annual fundraising dinner at the beautiful Broadmoor Country Club. This year, we return to our celebration of Russian culture. The food, drink and music will all have a distinctly Russian flair. Our Russian D.J. will have us dancing and we will enjoy several great performances from Indy's own Russian Ballet Company. We will also have a silent auction and the return of our popular "heads or tails" raffle game.

To register online, go to www.kidsfirst-foundation.org. Dinner costs \$100 per person. Table sponsorships are also available. Profits will go to build playgrounds and provide general assistance for the orphanages that KidsFirst works with in Russia. For more information, contact Lisa Peterson at Lmshepar1@hotmail.com

Father Frost Party

In January (specific date TBD), we will host our second annual Father Frost Party to benefit the KidsFirst Foundation. We heard you and we are bringing this event back by overwhelming and popular demand. This festive celebration of the Russian New Year will include snacks, gifts, ballet performances and a visit from Father Frost and his helper, Snegurochka.



KidsFirst Foundation

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**KidsFirst Foundation is a
501(c)(3) organization.
Donations are tax deductible.*

FIND THE KIDSFIRST FOUNDATION ONLINE AT
www.kidsfirst-foundation.org

MILK JUG STORY

Earlier this year, the Foundation invited KidsFirst families to take part in our first-ever Milk Jug Coin Collecting Contest. Many of you responded and through your collective efforts, we are pleased to report that you raised nearly \$600 to help kids in need.

Many of the contest participants brought their milk jugs full of coins to the annual KidsFirst reunion in Noblesville. We had two categories of competition. The winners in our milk jug decoration contest included:

1st place = Logan Vorce
(decorated with kids and ladybugs)

2nd place = Rina Canute
(decorated with dragonflies)

The winners in our total weight of coins category included:

1st place = Matthew and Natasha Entrekin *(25 lbs)*

2nd place = Rina Canute *(18 lbs)*

Thank you to all of the kids and families that participated. The stories you told us of kids going door-to-door in their neighborhoods really warmed our hearts.

We plan to host our second annual coin collecting contest around the reunion next year. So, be sure to start collecting your coins now. Every penny count

