

September 20, 2005

## Fall 2005 Report

Friends,

Our trip in August to **Moscow** was an overwhelming success! My general impression is that they are ready to implement! The training group consisted of 25 professionals from Tula, Astrohan, Dimitrov, Tosno, Cheboksari, St. Petersburg, Izhevsk, Dnepropetrovsk, and Tashkent<sup>1</sup>. Following training last summer in *Keys to Healthy Living* by OPORA staff, participants provided *Keys* groups in schools, rehabilitation (treatment) centers, 12-Step programs, prisons (Izhevsk and Tashkent), shelters and summer camps for street children, and for children who are HIV+ (Ukraine). Some participants also trained others: at addiction prevention schools, medical schools, schools for counselors and social workers, and on television and the internet! Our training this summer was on how to work with families with a chemically dependent parent. Irina Yakubova (Co-Director OPORA) summarized our exciting work with this group, "outside Moscow, there is more potential and resources. Moscow is difficult because there are too many leaders and outside influences."



**Moscow August 2005**

Besides training, I also represented the Santa Clara County Moscow Sister Commission in meetings with Alla Podunova, Assistant Prefect on Social Issues for NW District, and with Lebova Pavavlina, Director of Social Services for the NW District, regarding a possible 2006 Santa Clara County delegation to Russia. (Lebova was part of the Russian delegation who visited Santa Clara County in December 2004.) They are *all* very excited about the possibility and requested that our delegation include Judge Edwards, representatives from the nonprofit sector, artists in recovery, and students. A formal proposal has been requested. A highlight of these visits was seeing how the NW Moscow Social Services offices have implemented ideas learned here, such as wheel chair access to their office, equipment for the deaf, and a "notice board".

### ***Celebrating Families!***<sup>TM</sup>

Drug courts and community based organizations continue to express interest in *Celebrating Families!*<sup>TM</sup> In July we trained 19 professionals from Connecticut, Fresno, Modesto, Atlanta, and San Jose in the model. September 14-16 we trained an additional 23 professionals from Idaho and Oregon – the training was hosted by a foster family agency, with many participants from the Drug Courts. Highlights of the last few months include:

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<sup>1</sup> Tula is 100 miles south of Moscow; Astrakhan is 750 miles SE of Moscow, a port on the Caspian Sea; Dimitrov is 50 miles north of Moscow; Tosno is 75 miles SE of Peterburg. (Tidbit: Russians don't add the "Saint" anymore, and don't have possessive form as we do, so there is no "s" after "Peter"); Cheboksari is 400 miles east of Moscow; Peterburg is 375 miles NW of Moscow; Izhevsk is 625 miles east of Moscow; Dnepropetrovsk is 350 miles SW of Moscow; and Tashkent (capital of Uzbekistan) is 1650 miles SE of Moscow. *Who* would ever have believed that programs that started here in San Jose would get to these places!

- *Celebrating Families!*<sup>™</sup> has its own website: [www.CelebratingFamilies.net](http://www.CelebratingFamilies.net)
- We received a 3-year grant from Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health to develop, pilot and evaluate a preschool component for *Celebrating Families!*<sup>™</sup> Training will be in January 2006. Karol Kumpfer will continue with us as evaluator for this important project.
- All local *Celebrating Families!*<sup>™</sup> replication sites are up and running: House on the Hill, Friends Outside, and EMQ Children & Family Services. House on the Hill shared a letter with me from the father of one of the adult women in treatment. (He, his wife and their grandson have been attending *Celebrating Families!*<sup>™</sup>)

*"I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for an outstanding program. After 10 weeks of attending the group sessions I have noticed substantial difference from session one and have also noticed that all the patients including my daughter have made great progress I believe the curriculum is the best I have experienced. I encourage all women that have an addiction in their lives to give the program an opportunity to change their lives for the best with a complete recovery program. "*

- A number of people have said the attached article is "the best description of *Celebrating Families!*<sup>™</sup>" they have read. It was published in The Source and referred to on *Brevity on the Net*, an internet news service National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

Thank you for your continuing interest and support!

Sincerely,

Rosemary Tisch  
Director

Attachment:  
Article