

Your monthly news from the Step Up Orphan Opportunity Centre

September 2013

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HandsOn Workshop IS VERY GRATEFUL to all Step Up's volunteers and friends who have helped us make 100 bird houses for Gorky Park! We did it! Summer Camp in Belskoye Ustye Orphanage In July our volunteers organized a summer camp for mentally and physically disabled children in the Pskov region





Photo by Dina Magnat

On September 16<sup>th</sup> we held the opening ceremony marking the start of Step Up's new academic year. After the traditional congratulations and well-wishing we reminisced about the achievements and highlights of the previous academic year.

At the end of last year five students received their certificates of basic secondary education and four students received their certificates of general secondary education. One graduate from a previous year passed the Unified States Exams and began university.

In total, four graduates were admitted to university, five graduates to college, and one graduate is getting ready to take university entrance exams next year.

Congratulations to our students for passing their exams successfully and starting at college and university! Everyone is invited to attend Literature Club!

## **On November 16th**

the next meeting of our famous Literature Club led by the inspirational Mikhail Sverdlov will take place!

This year Literature Club is starting later than usual, but the delay gives participants a chance to prepare properly and make sure that they have read *The White Guard* **by Mikhail Bulgakov** in full. We will discuss this novel at the club's first session.

**Everyone is welcome!** 

8 Voznesensky Pereulok For more information, please call us on: +7 (495) 629 51 17



Do you want to volunteer for the Belskoye Ustye Orphanage Summer Camp? See page 2 for more information

Вверх

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**Belskoye Ustye Orphanage Summer Camp** 

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Volunteer performance

From 2nd to 21st July volunteers, students and staff from Step Up put on a summer camp for mentally and physically disabled children living in the Belskoye Ustye Orphanage (Pskov region, near the town of Porkhov).

The Camp was a continuation of a 10 year tradition of holding such summer camps at this orphanage.

**The main purpose of the Camp** is to help children from closed institution overcome their isolation, provide a stimulus for their future development, and make their summer holidays interesting and exciting. Volunteers from all over the world came to a small village in Russia's remote Pskov region to accomplish this.

The Camp gives every child at the orphanage – whatever their level of disability – the chance to participate in games, activities, shows and different projects. Just by being there, and talking about themselves and the wider world, volunteers can help. Volunteers also share their experience with orphanage staff, giving them ideas for new activities. Read a detailed report about the 2013 Camp on our website vverh.su (in Russian)

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We want the Belskoye Ustye Summer Camp for mentally and physically disabled children to take place again in 2014, which is why we have already started preparations

To support Summer Camp in Belskoye Ustye next year you can:

1) make a financial donation on our website <u>vverh.su</u>

2) become a volunteer and be involved in organising Summer Camp

Send an email with the subject "Summer Camp 2014" to <u>info@vverh.su</u>

We are very grateful to the volunteers and sponsors whose participation and support made this year's camp such a wonderful event!

With thanks to St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Action for Russian Children (ARC), BKC-IH Moscow, Charity Aid Foundation (CAF), Vitol Charitable Foundation, World Childhood Foundation, GlobalGiving Foundation, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Ernst & Young, Global Fund for Children, Globus International, HyperGlobus, UBS, Linklaters, GlaxoSmithKline, the British Embassy, TVAllianceMediaGroup, Absolute Fund, Yandex, Centre for Philanthropy and "Cards of Kindness" project, the Future Actually Community of Translators, Bulgakov House Museum-Theatre, Vladimir Spivakov Foundation, Pokrovskie Vorota Cultural Centre, Masterskaya Theatre and Club, Diell and numerous private sponsors for their help and support.