

August 25, 2003

Chernobyl Doctors Vasil Pasichnyk and Natalia Zenchenko to Visit Indiana September 5-13

Dr. Pasichnyk is a pediatrician and his wife Natalia is a neurologist who lived through the Chernobyl nuclear accident 17 years ago and have since dedicated themselves to rehabilitating the children of Ukraine. As the news of the accident dims into the past, the health consequences do not.



byl nuclear catastrophe, Dr. Pasichnyk was 40 miles away working as the head provincial pediatrician. He quickly organized the examination and treatment of children who bordered a 20 mile zone around Chernobyl. The closest

village was 23 miles from the destroyed fourth block at Chernobyl. Children were immediately sent to Crimea, Uzbekistan, Georgia, St. Petersburg and other areas of the Soviet Union. For his part in organizing help for children's health and decreasing mortality rates, Dr. Pasichnyk was awarded the "Merited Doctor of Ukraine" award and promoted to vice-director of the provincial department of health.

Their purpose to visit us is to become better acquainted with doctors, religious organizations, business people and others concerned about the state of children's health after the Chernobyl catastrophe. Dr. "P," as his non-Ukrainian friends call him, previously visited Indiana in 1999 and also visited the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, St. Jude's Children's Hospital in Memphis as well as other rehabilitation centers.

On April 26, 1986, the day of the Chernobyl

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But this was short lived. Every year after the Chernobyl catastrophe children's illnesses increased to where disabilities tripled in five years. He pressed to bring issues to the authorities about improving treatment for children, open a new hospital in Chernihev, increase the funding for sending children on sanatorium holidays. His work was primarily with mothers and children affected by the Chernobyl nuclear power station disaster. Those in charge did not appreciate his emphasis and he was demoted in 1992.



Dr. Pasichnyk was a guest of Indiana First Lady Judy O'Bannon in 1999 at the Governor's Residence. She gave him a maple box crafted by School for the Blind.

(please go to "Pasichnyk")

Indiana Teens Visit Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant and Rehabilitation Center

LifeNets conducted a mission to Chernobyl from January 12-19th to better acquaint seven Hoosiers to the past and futures dangers of the world's worst nuclear accident. Our mission was also to continue to build support for a unique rehabilitation center in Ukraine. It is devoted to the medical as well as voca-



Jonathan McClure in front of the sarcophagus covering the reactor that exploded

tional rehabilitation of children. Among the visitors were 15 year-old Park Tudor student Jonathan McClure and 16 year-old Katie Shabi who now attends Indiana University High School.

We all visited the evacuated town of Pripyat, about a mile away from the nuclear power plant. It housed the workers of the Chernobyl plant

Jonathan made a video entitled "No Place to Hide"

for the National History Day Competition. He took first place at the Indiana State competition and placed 10th in national competition in Washington

D.C. He is also working on his Eagle Scout project which will link Riley Hospital in Indianapolis with the Chernihev Children's Center in Ukraine via e-mail. He received a \$1200 grant for translation soft-



Children at the "Revival" Center



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“Revival” Center for the Medical/Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Children

At LifeNets we have been closely involved with the “Revival” Center since our first visit in April 1996, just a few months before the June opening. Dr. Pasichnyk and fellow doctors have created the Center to operate as a non-government, non-profit charitable agency. It started with 30 children brought in monthly for rehabilitation. It has now expanded to serve 150-60 children who are brought in for treatment monthly. The diseases that are treated at the Center:

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newsletter@lifenets.org or write us at the above address.

Donation to LifeNets are tax-deductible in the United States.

- Organic injuries of the central nervous system
- Pre and peritoneal injuries
- Cerebral palsy
- Paralysis, paresis and hyperkinesias of other origins
- Speech defect and light forms of intellectual disability
- Epilepsy
- Illnesses of periphery nervous system (consequences of traumas and neuroinfections)
- Congenital nervous-muscular illnesses
- Vegetative-vascular and vegetative-somatic syndromes origins
- Orthopedic illnesses that don't require operations

What is Still Needed?

With doctors salaries at \$60 a month and children's rehabilitation and care costing a mere \$80 a month, we get a lot for our charitable dollars.

Even at \$80 a month, many families cannot afford the monthly course of treatment for their children. The Center has just started receiving some aid from the government, but in large part, it has remained open through people working with organizations like LifeNets who keep this Center going with money and material help.

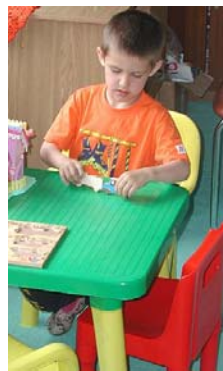


Volunteer Beverly Kubik helping load our last container to Chernobyl from Wisconsin that had lots of beds and therapy equipment.

In November LifeNets will send its fifth container. This one will be with 20 tons of much needed medical equipment and supplies and be sent from Peine Engineering in Indianapolis who have graciously given us warehouse

space to stage the container collection.

There is a long waiting list for children who would like treatment and that can soon be possible with a projected 12,000 square foot expansion to the current facility. LifeNets is committed to continue helping as it has through the years. Want extra value for your donation? Here is where you can make a big difference for very little.



Pasichnyk (con't)

With doctors of like mind, he formed a program for preventing and treating children's disabilities. He decided to create a children's rehabilitation center.

Dr. Pasichnyk's wife Natalia Zenchenko was also one of the original planners of this new children's rehabilitation center. She is a children's neurologist and at that time was the head children's neurologist of Chernihev. She is currently the vice director of the Center, but she is also the head of the medical service at the

children's Polyclinic No. 2 in Chernihev.

In the summer after the Chernobyl catastrophe she worked with a group of doctors in the Ukrainian Ministry of Health. Together with physicists and nuclear scientists she researched the radiation of children by radioactive iodine. Those who had high does of radiation were sent to children's hospitals and clinics. After this assignment she actively organized programs for improving children's health.