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Vasyl Pasichnyk

Director of the Center and a member of the Medical Sciences Society and Merited Doctor of Ukraine. He has been educated as a pediatrician and has much experience with organizing health protection for mothers and children. He has a higher specialization in pediatrics and organizing the protection of health.

On the Day of the Chernobyl catastrophe he was working as the head pediatrician of the Province and from the first days of the accident he organized the examination and treatment of children that bordered the 30 kilometer zone around Chernobyl. The closest villages are found 35 kilometers from the destroyed 4th block at Chernobyl). Chernihev is 68 kilometers from Chernobyl. Children were sent to Crimea, Uzbekistan, Georgia, St. Petersburg and other areas of the Soviet Union. For his part in organizing the helping the health of children and helping decrease mortality rates he was awarded the “Merited Doctor of Ukraine” award and was promoted as vice-director of the provincial department of health protection with regard to the health protection of children and mothers and medical problems from the accident of the Chernobyl nuclear power station.



But the positive value of his work with the ruling structure was only temporary. With every year after the Chernobyl catastrophe the children’s illnesses increased. The biggest witness of this was tripling of children’s disabilities five years after the accident. It became his job to bring issues to the authorities about improving help for children, the opening of a hospital in Chernihev, increasing the funding for sending children on sanatorium holidays and improving the life quality of children. This was not appreciated by those in charge and in 1992 he was removed from my post in the health department and took a more ordinary job as a consultant for children who were victims of the Chernobyl catastrophe.

But at the same time with fellow doctors who thought the same way, he formed a concept and a program for giving help to disabled children and prevention of children’s disabilities. He decided to create a center for rehabilitation. One of the head planners of this concept was a children’s neurologist, **Natalia Zenchenko**. She was the head children’s neurologist in the city of Chernihev. She currently has the role as vice director of the Center, but she also the head of medical service at the children’s polyclinic. She has the highest qualifications in children’s neurology and organizing the protection of health.

In the summer after the Chernobyl catastrophe she worked with a group of doctor in the Ministry of the Protection of Health of Ukraine where 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 worked in organizing the improving children's health in Chernihev and improving medical help.

The Center operates as a non-government, non-profit charitable agency for the protection of health.

In connection with the great increases of illness to children more and more need help and for that reason the Center continues to expand. He began with helping 30 children in 1996. Today we are helping 150-160 children every day.

For the expansion of the Center they were given three wings having 1200 square meters (about 12,000 square feet). They need to do remodeling, acquire rehabilitation equipment furniture, and other things.

The purpose of the this trip is to become better acquainted with doctors, religious organizations, business people and other people concerned about the state of health of children after the Chernobyl catastrophe and their future. They would like to acquaint our American friends with Ukraine and to ask for help until Ukraine comes out of its economic problems. Also, they would like to become better acquainted with the United States, the flagship of democracy in the world.

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