



# Russian Social Assistance Homes

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Dear friends,

August again... This report finds us in the middle of our 18<sup>th</sup> year of the Social Assistance Homes. This time eighteen years ago we had just purchased our second apartment. The first was in Syktyvkar where two widows and a mom with two boys lived. The second was in Kotlas, RU which was our first foster home.

To that bit of history, we can add our 15<sup>th</sup> Home, which opened this month in Zhukovsky. This city, home to over 100K, is a suburb of metro Moscow which has a total population of 19 million. I must say this registration was much harder to get than the first ones. The idea to begin in the Moscow area was born in October of 2017. The initial meeting was followed in January of '18, then two more meetings before submitting the paperwork for registration. That took over three months, followed by apartment hunting and interviews with potential residents. The process was completed this month when a grandmother, her daughter, and her granddaughter were accepted and moved into this first apartment. This family moved to Moscow from Nizhny Novgorod about 6 months ago, rented an apartment and the daughter found a job but they later had to move out. They moved but had no place to go until Nadia, our Director, found them. I have plans to meet them on the upcoming trip at the end of October. More later...

That brings me to an update on progress in Ukhta and Sosnogorsk. The last word came on August 4, and said the paperwork had been re-submitted that morning. They were hoping the corrections requested would complete the process so they could begin. As mentioned above, the registration process is quite lengthy. (We're in the 11<sup>th</sup> month for Uk/Sos as well.) I am thankful for the dedication and determination of those working on the projects to make this effort a reality. Please pray for all mentioned above.

In earlier Newsletters, I mentioned how cold weather continued well into their springtime in Syktyvkar and areas north. When warm weather finally arrived, vacation time began. I'm afraid very little information has been received since early July. The last bit of news involved the summer camp pictures and the news of Artyum's, baptism. He is the grandson of one of our residents in Syktyvkar. My next trip is the annual visit in each of the Homes, both foster homes as well as the ones for the women and children. In that last correspondence from TK (our Director in Syktyvkar), she said that 8 had moved into the apartments there during May and June. With the addition of the three in Zhukovsky, that brings us to 40 total residents in the SAH plus the 38 in the foster homes. Capacity is about 88 with the addition of the apartment in Zhukovshy. God has blessed us with opportunities to affect the lives of 385 to date.

October has proven to be a very advantageous month for visiting our friends in Russia. This trip will involve at least 5 going for a variety of objectives. Two from Lafayette, LA will travel to Kotlas to encourage the Church and Homes there. Johan Adendorff and Rusty Roden have been faithful to do this for the past three years. The village work, with small churches, will continue as Marlon Rutherford and Chuck Tharp carry on that effort. An attempt to visit Archangel may also materialize. As mentioned, my efforts will be directed toward visiting each home and the efforts in Uk/Sos. On the way home, I'll stop in Moscow to visit and plan the next step in starting any additional homes there. Please say a prayer of thanks for all who continue to go...

May God continue to bless us all... Thank you...

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