



## Christian Children's Fund - Belarus

### “COMMUNITY SERVICES TO VULNERABLE GROUPS”

### QUARTERLY PROGRAM REPORT

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### Component I “Supporting Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Belarus”

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## **I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **A. PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES**

CCF's project "Supporting Orphans and Vulnerable Children" is aimed at reducing the number of children in Belarus being institutionalized in state-administered orphanages and boarding schools. The program's goals are to prevent institutionalization in selected communities of Belarus by supporting a cultural environment conducive to at-home family care and also to move children out of institutions into less restrictive environments when prior circumstances necessitate removal from their family home. The project targets 'social orphans,' i.e., children whose parents are living, but are unable to provide proper care, or children who have been denied parental rights. The project's activities focus on working with families and social service professionals to maintain and reintegrate children within their original family units.

This component has three main objectives:

- To improve access to and further develop an integrated system of community-based prevention and rehabilitation services for families as well as institutionalized and at-risk children.
- To improve the quality of training and education available to social service providers and awareness of community members surrounding the development of favorable family environments for children.
- To provide technical assistance to the Belarus Ministry of Education (MOE) in order to strengthen the national regulatory and methodological base promoting de-institutionalization and to disseminate key learning's of the project throughout Belarus to build a foundation for replication and sustainability.

### **B. PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS**

In the report period CCF focused its efforts on the development of community based prevention and rehabilitation services and geographic expansion of project activity to two new communities located in the Chernobyl zone. Mid-term project evaluation was conducted by DCOF experts and USAID staff.

The trained groups of trainers have started implementation of prevention programs in local schools, orphanages, social-pedagogical centers and shelters. Among them were Parenting Skills Enhancement Program, Health Education and Substance Abuse prevention and Life Skills Education Programs.

New types of rehabilitation services have been developed as a result of small grants implementation in three targeted communities. Among them there were 12-steps program for alcohol addicted and their relatives, developmental toy library for disabled children and their parents, family clubs for at risk families, alternative family type care for institutionalized children, community-based volunteer services for vulnerable groups.

The Procedure of Child Removal from a Family developed by the Task Group in the previous quarter was highly appreciated by the Ministry of Education and recommended for implementation in the communities. Moreover, the Procedure helped Ministry of Education to identify gaps in existing national legislation and prepare amendments to Family and Marriage Code ( articles 80, 85), as well as in the Statute about Protection of Orphans and Children's at Risk Rights.

In summary thus far:

- Two new communities in the towns of Chausy (Mogilev oblast) and Volozhyn (Minsk oblast) were selected as project sites and a participatory needs assessment of social services was conducted;
- Ten (10) Partnership Agreements with local educational departments and community-based organizations from two new selected communities were signed;
- The total number of project beneficiaries reached **925** people. Among them:
  - 234** parents engaged in Parenting Skills Enhancement Program; 235 children were participating in the integrated playgroup activity.
  - 194** school children and orphans involved in Health Education and Substance Abuse

prevention as well as in Life Skills Education Program.

497 people including children, families at risk benefited from the 14 new services developed through the small grants

- A Call for Proposals issued on child abuse and neglect prevention. As a result 12 new proposals were received from community-based organizations and national/ local NGOs.
- The Procedure of Child Removal from a Family developed by Expert Task Group was recommended for implementation by the Ministry of Education;

## **II. ACTIVITIES**

### **OBJECTIVE 1**

***To improve access to and further develop an integrated system of community-based prevention and rehabilitation services for families as well as institutionalized and at-risk children.***

<b><i>Activity: Selection of the project sites and participatory needs assessment</i></b>	
<b><i>Expected results</i></b>	<b><i>Actual targets achieved</i></b>
At least 4 communities will be visited and assessed according to the established criteria.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Four (4) communities located in the Chernobyl zone were visited and assessed according to the established criteria (Rechitsa and Zhlobin in Gomel region); Volozhin in Minsk region; Chausy in Mogilev region.</li> </ul>
Two communities will be identified as project sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Two communities were selected for project implementation (Chausy (Mogilev region) and Volozhin (Minsk region))</li> </ul>
Partnership agreements with local departments of Education and community-based organizations will be signed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ten (10) Partnership Agreements with local Departments of Education, and local social and educational institutions were signed. Among them were community socio-pedagogical centers, centers of social protection, shelters, schools, rehabilitation centers for disabled children, boarding schools and orphanages</li> </ul>

<b><i>Activity: Needs assessment in new targeted communities</i></b>	
<b><i>Expected results</i></b>	<b><i>Actual targets achieved</i></b>
Material and development needs of the community partner's organizations identified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The project team conducted a participatory needs assessment in two new targeted communities. Together with local specialists they identified existing resources and gaps in services, equipment and professional competencies of the specialists.</li> <li>▪ Equipment purchase lists for partner community organizations working with orphans, disabled children, and families at risk were developed;</li> <li>▪ In coordination with local departments, multidisciplinary teams were created. They include social work, education, health, legal, and law-enforcement professionals.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Improvements/Plans for the next quarter:</i></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detailed assessment reports are available upon request at the CCF-Belarus office.</li> <li>• Equipment will be purchased next quarter and will help develop a community infrastructure supportive to integrated systems of family care services.</li> <li>• Baseline report for two new communities will be submitted to the USAID CTO next quarter report.</li> </ul>	

## **Prevention Services.**

<b><i>Activity: Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in Zhodino, Orsha and Kobrin</i></b>	
<b><i>Expected results</i></b>	<b><i>Actual targets achieved</i></b>

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<p>Fifteen groups (15) of parents (200 people) take part in Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in Zhodino, Orsha and Kobrin.</p> <p>Participation will improve parents' competence and develop parenting skills.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Nineteen (19) groups of parents (234 people) have started</b> Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in Zhodino, Orsha and Kobrin this quarter. <b>Nine (9) parent's groups (108 people)</b> out of 19 have already completed the Course.</li> <li>▪ Among them 8% (8 people) were parents of disabled children;</li> <li>▪ 15% (16 people) were parents from the risk group *.</li> </ul> <p><b>86% of parents</b> better understand the reasons of children's misbehavior and cope with it without violence; <b>93% of parents</b> reported improvement of their parents' competence and skills; <b>84% of trained parents</b> assessed themselves as "responsible parents"; <b>89%</b> of parents maintained optimal emotional contacts with their children; <b>75%</b> of parents started using methods of stress management and self-regulation.</p>
<p><u>Critical notes:</u></p> <p>* <i>Risk group - parents who are under close supervision of social services and police because of their asocial behavior and inability to provide adequate care for their children</i></p> <p>Reports about Parenting Skills Enhancement Program group activity including lists of the participants, analyses of pre-post evaluation forms are available from the CCF-Belarus office upon request.</p>	

To inform parents from the local community about **new prevention services** a **Round Table** was organized in Zhodino on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December 2006. Parents who have completed the program, their children involved into integrated playgroup activity as well as school administration and journalists from the local newspapers were invited to discuss the first results of the parent's group activity.

Parents say:

*Olga N., a mother of 12 year old girl: "... This training course give a chance to parents to recognize that parents' rights are as valuable as children's rights...If parents manage to show their love and respect to their children they will return similar feelings... providing a choice is a way to discipline a child . "*

*Victor M., a father: "...A training is not just classes on how to bring up children properly. For me now it is a life style...."*

*Lena S.: "Sometimes I can make mistakes but it is such a pleasure that now I am able to notice and correct them ... I see the way to a definite goal ...it is no longer wandering in the darkness..."*

For more information, please see Annex 1.

<b>Activity: Life Skills Program for institutionalized children in Zhodino, Orsha, Kobrin</b>	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
<p>Six groups (6) of orphaned, sheltered and children at risk (70 people) took part in Life Skills Program in Zhodino, Orsha and Kobrin.</p> <p>Participation improved practical social competence and skills required for independent living and integration into the society.</p> <p>Domestic skills development classes started in Orsha and Kobrin</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Six (6) groups of orphaned, sheltered children and children at risk (77 people) have started</b> Life Skills Program in Zhodino, Orsha and Kobrin this quarter.</li> </ul> <p><b>76% of teenagers</b> learned how to define personal positive characteristics*;</p> <p><b>78,5% of teens</b> are able to understand the interconnection between values, decisions and behavior*.</p> <p>Domestic skills development classes for institutionalized children have been started in Orsha and Kobrin</p>

\*The final results of the Life Skills education program will be presented next quarter upon completion of new training modules/ topics.

<b>Activity: Health Education and Substance Abuse Prevention Program in Zhodino and Orsha</b>	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
Ten groups of children (100 people) take part in Health Education and Substance Abuse Prevention Program in Zhodino, Orsha.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Ten (10) groups of children (117 people) have started</b> Health Education and Substance Abuse Prevention Program in Zhodino and Orsha this quarter.</li> <li>▪ As a result of the first training session school children have been acquainted with knowledge on men's and women's reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, the effects of drugs, alcohol and tobacco on health. They have been discussing the Life cycles and values, the role of healthy life style in achieving stated values. They are developing skills of responsible behavior, conscious decision making, resistance to the group pressure and ability to say "no".</li> </ul>
The final results of the program will be available next quarter when these groups complete the program.	

A *Refresher seminar* for previously trained trainers was organized in Orsha on 18<sup>th</sup> of November 2006 to update trainers' knowledge on some program issues. As a result 4 groups were started in Orsha in December 2006.

To enlarge this activity in Kobrin and Orsha a ToT for 26 new persons was held in partnership with the NGO "Cooperation for Children's Future" within its UNICEF funded project. The first *ToT "New Approaches for HIV/AIDS Prevention"* was conducted for 16 people in Kobrin on 21-23 of December 2006.

#### **Care and Support for disabled children and their families**

*Services for families* of children with disabilities have continued its development in Kobrin community and were spread up in Orsha and Zhodino.

<b>Activity: Self-help group for parents of disabled children in Kobrin*</b>	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
At least 10 parents of disabled children will take part in self-help group meeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ On the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2006 the meeting of the self-help group was organized in Kobrin Habilitation Center for <b>12 parents of disabled children</b>.</li> <li>▪ This meeting was aimed at self-help group capacity building. They got knowledge on involvement of new members into self-support activity as well as about methods of interaction with newcomers. The participants learned how to cope with negative emotions and analyzed different negative situations that they experienced in their day-to-day life.</li> </ul>
<i>Plans/Improvements for the next quarter.</i>	
*This activity was sponsored by SDC project.	

<b>Activity: Capacity building for professionals working with disabled children: training on preventing burnout *</b>	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
At least 10 specialists working with disabled children will take part in the training. Participants will improve knowledge on methods of burning out effect prevention, they will develop self	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ On the 14<sup>th</sup> of December 2006 the training on preventing burnout was conducted for twelve (12) specialists from Kobrin Habilitation Center.</li> <li>▪ As a result of these training specialists learned how to use burnout prevention methods in professional activity.</li> </ul>

regulation skills.	
<i>Plans/Improvements for the next quarter.</i>	
*This activity was sponsored by SDC project.	

<b>Activity: Volunteer activity to support families with disabled children*</b>	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
<p>Three new volunteer groups will be created in targeted communities to provide support for disabled children and their families.</p> <p>At least 15 activities for disabled children will be presented</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As a result of the exchange visit to Kobrin Habilitation Center in September 2006 <i>three (3) new groups</i> were created in Zhodino, Orsha and Kobrin schools. Volunteer group of Kobrin school #3 has continued its activity.</li> <li><b>Fifteen (15) cultural/leisure activities</b> for disabled children were conducted by <i>77 volunteers</i> from Kobrin, Zhodino and Orsha schools. Disabled children were active participants of all the events such as sport games, Fall Ball, Birthday Celebrations, Teachers' and Mother's Days, New Year celebration etc.). School volunteers collected and disseminated presents for disabled children.</li> <li><b>Home visits for 8 disabled children</b> were organized by <i>twelve (12) volunteers</i> on the regular basis.</li> </ul>
*This activity in Kobrin school #3 was co-sponsored by SDC project.	

Children-volunteers say:

*Olga, 15 years old: "...At the end of joint performance I realized that disabled children were very much interested in what we had been doing together ... they need us as we are close friends now..."*

For more information please see Annex A.

<b>Activity: Capacity building for volunteers working with disabled children*</b>	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>26 volunteers from Kobrin will take part in the Volunteer Camp</li> <li>12 volunteers will take part in the training on video films making</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Twenty six (26)</b> volunteers from Kobrin took part in the Volunteer Camp <i>on 30<sup>th</sup> of October – 3<sup>rd</sup> of November</i>. Six (6) trainings were organized for them such as Debates and conflict resolutions, fairy tale therapy, games and art therapy. It helped them to develop communication skills, ability to defend the own point of view, self-assertiveness, helped them to demonstrate positive traits of character. *</li> <li>Volunteers participated in master classes on crafts and arts. These methods will be used in further volunteer activities.</li> <li><b>Twelve (12) volunteers</b> and 3 volunteer group coordinators from Kobrin school #3 took part in the Training on Making Video Films <i>on 11-13<sup>th</sup> of December*</i>. As a result video material about disabled children in Habilitation Center was prepared by school children to attract the public attention to the problems of children with special needs. Next quarter a special training will be organized to assist volunteers in cutting and sound recording of the film.</li> </ul>
*This activity in Kobrin school #3 was co-sponsored by SDC .	

<b>Activity: Integrated playgroups for typical and disabled children</b>	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
At least 220 typical and disabled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Two hundred thirty five (235)</b> non-disabled children and</li> </ul>

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<p>children (25 groups) take part in integrated playgroup activities;</p> <p>Young volunteers provided assistance to integrated playgroup activities.</p> <p>10 new developmental programs will be worked out</p>	<p>children with disabilities (8 of 235) were involved in <b>29 integrated playgroups</b>, creative and development activities in Zhodino, Orsha and Kobrin while their parents were at Parenting classes. <i>Fourteen (14)</i> out of 29 groups were completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Three (3) young volunteers</b> regularly provided assistance to integrated playgroup activities in Kobrin Habilitation Center.</li> <li>• <b>Ten (10)</b> unique developmental programs for integrated playgroups prepared by community trainers (sport activity, lessons of beauty and charm, art therapy, cognitive, emotional and aesthetic development, basic IT skills, communication skills etc.).</li> </ul>
<p><u>Critical notes.</u></p> <p>*This activity in the town of Kobrin was co-sponsored by SDC project. Trainer's reports and developmental programs are available upon request at CCF-Belarus office</p>	

From trainer's reports:

*Elena O., integrated playgroup trainer from Kobrin:*

*"...I developed a program for disabled and typically developed children...It helped children with disabilities to show their best qualities and increase their self-esteem...At first they were very shy and calm...but in three meetings they start understanding each other better and became a real group... As a trainer, a teacher and a mother I would like to say that such classes are very important both for disabled and typically developed children... Children must see that there are children who differ from them and need support, understanding and assistance...Disabled children should recognize that regardless of anything they are able to communicate with other children equally."*

## Rehabilitation Services

This quarter a variety of rehabilitation services were developed within small grants awarded in the Year 1. The following projects have been implementing:

<b>Projects</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Location</b>
"Family University"	Youth NGO "Healthy Choice";	Town of Zhodino
"Host Family"	Educational Establishment Divin Boarding School for Orphans and Children Without Parental Care	Divin village, Kobrin district
"Family Support Center"	NGO "Kobrin Branch of Belarusian Association of Assistance to Disabled Children and Youth	Kobrin
"Together for a "Special" Child"	Republic NGO "Belarusian Association of Assistance to Disabled Children and Youth	Kobrin, Orsha, Zhodino
"A Way for Recovery"	Republic NGO "Mothers Against Drugs".	Kobrin, Orsha, Zhodino

As a result of small grants implementation a variety of *new community-based services* were developed in Kobrin, Zhodino, Orsha.

Among them:

*Services for alcohol addicted and their relatives:*

- Twelve-step AA program for alcohol addicted and for codependent relatives in three targeted communities;

*New developmental opportunities for disabled children and their families through:*

- Toy library for disabled children from three communities;
- Sand therapy;
- Club for parent's of disabled children.

*Services for Families and Children at Risk:*

- Clubs for parents and children from at risk groups;

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- Social-pedagogical consultations for parents and children at risk;

*Alternative care development:*

- Support services and capacity building for the host parents

As the result of small grant implementation **497** people received assistance. Among them:

- *118 community members* including families, orphans, and children at risk benefited from new prevention and rehabilitation services;
- *276 of disabled children* got an access for new education and social services
- *103 stakeholders* were reached through projects' dissemination activity such as Round Tables.

Although it is too early to talk about after the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of small grant implementation but nevertheless within this period as a result of small grants activity local community resources mobilized; local population's participation increased; partnership between governmental and non-governmental organizations improved and new approach/methodology learned by service providers.

*Beneficiaries says: Tatiana Slabnina, a mother of a disabled child:*

*"Rebuilding the premises unites parents of disabled children around the common business....we are ready to provide any assistance required...if there is no such a project it must be organized to mobilize parents...we are creating our "own" Center..."*

\*CCF sub-grantee's quarterly reports are available at CCF-Belarus' office upon request.

<b>Activity: New call for proposals –November 24, 2006</b>	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
<p>Belarusian NGOs and interested stakeholders from other sectors will be informed about RFAs on rehabilitation service provision in the targeted communities.</p> <p>At least 10 projects will be submitted in the middle of December 2006.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Criteria and questionnaires for project selection were developed;</li> <li>▪ RFA was designed and distributed through Internet, and e-mail dissemination for partner NGOs and governmental structures.</li> <li>▪ <i>Twelve (12)</i> applications were submitted by governmental and non-governmental organizations working on child abuse and neglect issues from Zhodino, Orsha and Kobrin.</li> </ul>
<p><u><i>Plans/ Improvements for the next quarter.</i></u></p> <p>Selection of the service providers was accompanied by <i>Workshop on Proposal Writing</i> for potential applicants on <i>7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> of December 2006</i>. <i>Nineteen (19) participants</i> from 16 organizations acquainted with project design, action plan development, project monitoring and budgeting.</p> <p>It is expected that at least 4 projects will be approved and get funding next quarter.</p> <p>*Original applications, lists of the Inception Workshop participants are available from the CCF-Belarus office upon request.</p>	

<b>Activity: Development of Community Advisory Boards</b>	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
<p>Community Advisory Boards (CABs) started development of over community deinstitutionalization plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ CAB Meetings were conducted in Orsha (November 16-17), Kobrin (12.10.2006, 14.11.2006) and Zhodino (02.11.2206).</li> <li>▪ CAB members conducted needs assessment and SWOT analyses in the sphere of institutionalization, and accumulated ideas for Community Deinstitutionalization Plan.</li> <li>▪ Action plan of CAB activity for the next quarter developed.</li> </ul>

**Improvements for the next quarter:**

Next quarter community Strategies on Deinstitutionalization and its indicators will be developed. The indicators will correlate with the CCF project's indicators.

To guarantee CAB's sustainable and effective activity additional trainings on M&E, Strategic Planning are required.

\*Original lists of CAB participants and reports are available from the CCF-Belarus office upon request.

**OBJECTIVE 2**

***To improve the quality of training and education available to social service providers and to raise awareness of community members surrounding the development of favorable family environments for children.***

**Activity: Workshop "Building Partnership with Parents" in Orsha and Zhodino.**

<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
Local service providers working with disabled children and their parents will better understand the possibilities for building partnership with parents to create more favorable family environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Three-day Workshops</i> led by an international expert Dr. John Harris (UK) were organized for parents of disabled children and specialists of Habilitation Centers <i>from Orsha (8th -10th of October) and Zhodino (12th -14th of October)</i>. These workshops were aimed at building partnerships between parent/parent, professional/professional, and parent/professional in order to establish the relationships that place a disabled child at the centre of any discussions and decisions about support provision for him/her.</li> </ul>
At least 20 specialists and 20 parents take part in the workshops in Orsha and Zhodino to identify priority needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ As a result of the Workshops <i>26 specialists together with 23 parents of disabled children</i> from Orsha and Zhodino identified and agreed about priority problems to be solved and possible joint actions.</li> </ul>

**Improvements for the next quarter**

New instruments (Family Files) will be introduced into the practice of Habilitation Center for disabled children that will require involvement of parents into assessment and creation of rehabilitation/developmental plans for children with special needs.

A report about the workshops including lists of the participants, analyses of their evaluation forms are available at CCF-Belarus' office upon request.

**Activity: Series of the workshops on Child Protective Services for the multidisciplinary teams**

- ***Assessment and Investigation in Family Centered Child Protective Services and (20<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> of October)***
- ***Learning Lab - practical tools (10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> of November)***

<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
At least 16 representatives from the targeted communities will take part in the 2 workshops on Child Protection Services	Multidisciplinary team (19 people) consisted of representatives of Departments of Education, schools, police, child protection services, shelters and social-pedagogical centers as well as health care took part in <i>Workshops</i> oriented at provision of practical instruments and methods of work with families and children.
Trainees will obtain knowledge on the structure of the training program as well acquainted with principles of child welfare system in USA.	As a result of these <i>Workshops 100 % of the trainees</i> learned how to integrate casework methods with the exercise of protective authority, when necessary, to ensure children's safety; to use casework methods to engage and empower families to become invested in a collaborative worker/family relationship; to determine the level of immediate and future risk of abuse or neglect to

	children in their homes; to complete a thorough assessment that identifies family situation; to plan and conduct investigation process; to implement interviewing strategies in family-centered child protective services investigations.
<p><u>Planned activity for the next quarter:</u> Series of training on Child Protection will be continued next quarter. It will cover such issues as Case Planning and Family Centered Casework, the Effects of Child Abuse and Neglect on Child Development, Separation Placement and Reunification in Family Centered Child Protective Services.</p> <p>Report about the workshop including lists of the participants, analyses of their evaluation forms are available at CCF-Belarus office upon request.</p>	

<b>Activity: Series of training for local community specialists on alternative care development (PRIDE Model)</b>	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
At least 20 representatives from the targeted communities will take part in PRIDE Workshop.	On the 30 <sup>th</sup> of November-3 <sup>rd</sup> of December twenty (20) local community specialists involved in alternative care provision for orphans and children at risk took part in a <b>four- day workshop on alternative care development</b> based on PRIDE Model and methodology.
Trainees will obtain knowledge on alternative care development, selection and training of perspective foster/adoptive parents.	100% of the participants obtained knowledge about impact of abuse, neglect and trauma impact on a child's attachments, development and behavior; on types of losses and their impact on the child and his/her behavior; raised awareness about importance of permanent family environment for children.
<p><u>Planned activity for the next quarter:</u> Working plan for further development and implementation of alternative family type care (PRIDE model) in the targeted communities will be coordinated with community stakeholders and workshop participants</p> <p>Report about the workshop including lists of the participants, analyses of their evaluation forms available at CCF-Belarus office upon request.</p>	

Dr. Mick Polowy, the author of PRIDE methodology and the workshop trainer:

*...the group demonstrated an excellent grasp, and working knowledge of the guiding principles/themes/topics upon which the PRIDE Program is based ...they displayed an exemplary amount of motivation to learn how to conduct the Foster PRIDE/Adopt PRIDE Training Program. They invested an enormous amount of energy in completing all of the many small group activities and expressed enthusiasm when debriefing the activities that the trainer demonstrated... they worked diligently in attempting to apply what was being taught to the realities of the children and families in Belarus. Their questions and concerns illustrated a sincere commitment to doing what is in the best interest of the children and families in need of family foster care and adoption services."*

**OBJECTIVE 3**

***To provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Education in Belarus in order to strengthen the national regulatory and methodological base in the area of de-institutionalization and family support and to disseminate key learning's of the project throughout Belarus to build a foundation for replication and sustainability.***

<b>Activity: Technical Task Group activity</b>	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
At least 1 meeting of the Task Group meeting will be conducted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ One meetings of the Technical Task group was conducted on 22 of December 2006. The results of the 1<sup>st</sup> year activity were</li> </ul>

<p>The procedure of Child Removal from the Family assessed and approved by the Ministry of Education</p>	<p>discussed and Action Plan for the next year was developed.</p> <p>Galina Rudenkova, Senior Specialist on Child Protection and De-institutionalization of the Ministry of Education, provided an expert conclusion for the Procedure of Child Removal from the Family. She recommended it for implementation in the communities.*</p>
<p><i>Critical note.</i></p> <p>The Procedure helped Ministry of Education to identify gaps in existing national legislation and prepare amendments to Family and Marriage Code ( articles 80, 85), as well as in the Statute about Protection of Orphans and Children’s at Risk Rights.</p> <p>It is expected that the Procedure will be passed on the local level.</p> <p>* Original expert conclusion available at CCF-Belarus office upon request</p> <p>For more information, please see Annex 2.</p>	

### **III. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION**

CCF-Belarus has held weekly project review meetings in Minsk. These meetings strengthened project management, performance, and integration leading to enhanced cooperation and communication between project staff.

On *November, 26 - December, 3* Mary Moran, CCF HQ Program Specialist and Bonica Dave, Grants Officer took part in the Monitoring and Evaluation visit to project sites together with DCOF/USAID Evaluation Team. They discussed project results and future plans with CCF-Belarus Office as well as clarified the details in organized PRIDE trainings.

- ***Coordination with USAID***

CCF-Belarus project staff together with USAID –Minsk worked together on preparations for mid-term project evaluation by DCOF experts.

Within mid-term evaluation in *27<sup>th</sup> of November – 4<sup>th</sup> of December* CCF-Belarus project staff, CCF HQ specialists, Lynne Shaberg , Lucia Corell ( DCOF-Washington), Nancy Godfrey ( Director of the Office of Health and Social Transition from USAID Regional Mission for Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus), Larisa Komarova ( USAID-Minsk Program Development Manager) and Jahor Novikau (USAID CTO) conducted joint evaluation visits to the project sites . They had meeting with project partners and discussed the project achievements. Project perspectives were discussed.

- ***Coordination with Ministry of Education of Belarus***

Irina Mironova, CCF-Belarus Chief of the Party, Nadezhda Karaseva CCF-Belarus Child Protection Specialist, and Ms. Galina Rudenkova, Senior Specialist on Child Protection and De-institutionalization of Ministry of Education met at CCF office. CCF-Belarus staff promoted new approach to the development of effective child protection system, multidisciplinary approach, adaptation of international experience in Belarus. Significant progress in formulation of joint vision was achieved, new ways for partnership with the Ministry of Education identified.

CCF-Belarus Child protection Specialist was invited by the Ministry of Education as an expert to provide her input to the Report about support for disadvantaged families and children at risk.

Ms. Galina Rudenkova, Senior Specialist on Child Protection and De-institutionalization of Ministry of Education provided her expertise of the Procedure of Child Removal from the Family developed by Task Group members.

- ***Cooperation with local partners and information dissemination.***

To disseminate information about project results and achievements **3 articles** were published in local newspapers.

The results of the Round Table on the successful implementation of Parenting Skills Enhancement Program conducted in Zhodino on 06<sup>th</sup> of December 2006 were covered in the local newspaper “*Zhodinskya Naviny*” – circulation 6329 copies.

*Olga Misevich, Community Project Coordinator*, announced the results of the project implementation in *Informational Bulletin “Orsha Alliance” #19* (circulation 299 copies) published by Orsha Public Club. This bulletin also reflected such project activities as a Round Table “*Rehabilitation of Teenagers at Risk*” conducted by CCF-Belarus and Vitebsk Oblast Executive Committee and self-help groups for alcohol addicted and their co-dependant relatives created within the small grant supported by CCF-Belarus.

Results of the small grant “*Host Family*” supported by CCF-Belarus and implemented by Divin Boarding School (Kobrin region) were presented in the local newspaper “*Kobrin sky vestnik*” (circulation 7060 copies) in the article dated by 14<sup>th</sup> of October.

#### ***Cost- share and leveraging***

SDC sponsored activities provided by CCF-Belarus such as parenting groups, volunteer groups and self-help groups for parents of disabled children in the town of Kobrin. The total cost-share with SDC for this quarter was **6 532, 02 USD**. This is calculated on the services for disabled children, their families, and training with international expert for the specialists, parents, siblings and young volunteers. This contribution provides better access to social services as well as integration of disabled children and their families to the community.

### **IV. PROJECT MANAGEMENT & STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

#### ***Staff development***

Irina Mironova, CCF-Belarus Country Director and Nadezhda Karaseva, CCF-Belarus Child Protection Specialist took part in *International Visitor Leadership Program on Domestic Violence Prevention on 8<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> of October 2006 sponsored by US Department of State* . As a result of the program they were acquainted with a wide spectrum of rehabilitation services, crises interventions, training programs for the specialists, advocacy and lobbying developed in USA. They learned about the role of US Government, local authorities and NGOs in identification and prevention of domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, developed new contacts with peer organizations and networks.

### **V. BUDGET**

SF-272 (this report will be submitted under separate cover)



## CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S FUND, Inc. Representative Office in Belarus

### ***Three Newly-Created Volunteers' Groups Are Effective Tools of Social Integration of Children with Special Needs***

Supported by CCF-Belarus' ***Supporting Orphans and Vulnerable Children*** project, Belarusian child care institutions in the targeted communities continue to successfully introduce volunteers' groups, effective tool of social integration and inclusion enabling children with special needs to be actively involved in educational activities together with their typically developed peers.

In November, three new volunteers' groups were created in Orsha, Zhodino and Kobrin. This was largely the result of the experience exchange visit for care providers organized in September by CCF jointly with Kobrin Habilitation Center, where first such group functions since 2005.

Inspired by the success of their colleagues and equipped with the methodologies and practical tips during the visit, educators of public schools jointly with specialists of the Habilitation Centers in the three cities started forming their local volunteers' groups. As a first step, they invited the students interested in becoming members of the volunteers' group to organize a collection of gifts for their disabled peers. The campaign was a success, and soon over 80 students were already involved as volunteers in all the three cities participating together with their peers with special needs in various developmental and educational activities, such as *Fall Ball Competition*, birthday celebrations, *Teachers' Day*, *Mother's Days*, New Year celebration, etc.



*A role-play activity led by volunteers in Zhodino Habilitation Center* 2006/11/28 17:17



*Volunteers play together with children with special needs in Zhodino Habilitation Center* 2006/11/28 17:30

In Zhodino, for example, in the activity *Everything Is Possible When We Are Together* organized by the local volunteers' group "Semya" (Family) the volunteers put on a puppet show for disabled children, played games together with them, and presented to the children toys which had been collected during a special camping in which all the students of their school took part. During another event, called *Friend To Friend* organized on Christmas Eve, the volunteers together with their disabled peers were making souvenirs and toys for decorating the Christmas tree and the classrooms in the Habilitation Center.

***Tatiana, leader of volunteers' group, Zhodino:*** "...Both disabled children and volunteers enjoyed working together. The disabled children invited the volunteers to come again. They have become real friends."

***Irina Kutsepalova, Zhodino Habilitation Center:*** "... This activity is very important for volunteers themselves, as it helps them to grow up as kind, merciful and sympathetic people and responsible citizens who respect and understand the needs and problems of the disabled."

***Masha, volunteer, Orsha:*** "Just like we do, the disabled children also need attention and friendship."



## CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S FUND, Inc. Representative Office in Belarus

### ***CCF-Belarus Helps National Experts to Develop a New Legal Procedure Ensuring Better Protection of Children's Rights***

Assisting the national child protection and education authorities in improving the existing state policies to ensure better protection of children's rights is one of the important objectives within CCF-Belarus' **Supporting Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Belarus** project.

To this end, in coordination with the Ministry of Education **Task Group** was formed consisting of seven experts, including social workers, child protection practitioners, scientists, and specialists of the Ministry of Education.

As the Task Group reviewed the Swedish and American laws and the existing Belarusian norms, several serious gaps in the national children's rights legislation were identified. The experts concluded that the most urgent problem to deal with was the absence of a legal framework for the process of **child removal from the family**, and the Task Group started developing the appropriate procedure.

In September 2006, a final version of the **Procedure of Child Removal from the Family**, first attempt to legally define the sequence of actions of state child protection agencies to ensure child's safety "in circumstances threatening life and health of a child", was developed and submitted for examination to the Ministry of Education.

The Procedure developed was highly valued by the national child protection and education authorities, and to ensure its introduction in all childcare-and-protection institutions of Belarus, **The Decree of the President #18 "About Additional State Measures of Child Protection in Disadvantaged Families"** was adopted in November 2006, providing the legal framework for practical implementation of the norms contained in the Procedure.

The Procedure also contributed to the development of several other national legislation acts, as it provided definitions of several legal terms which had not existed in the national laws before. For example, the definition of the term "**child abuse and neglect**" was for the first time included in the **Amendments to the Family and Marriage Code** to be adopted by the Parliament in February 2007, and the term "**evaluation of the child's condition in the family**" was incorporated into a **Provision of the Council of Ministers** dealing with the protection of rights of orphans and children at risk, which was adopted in December 2006.

The Procedure can also be effectively used by the legislative authorities on the local level as a document specifying activities of the child protection units in case of child removal from the family. First step towards it was made in Zhodino, where the local Executive Committee created the Child Abuse and Neglect Rapid Response Team, a municipal multidisciplinary unit which will operate based on the provisions of the Procedure.



*Experts working on the draft of the new legal procedure*

Galina Rudenkova, Senior Specialist on Child Protection and Deinstitutionalization, Ministry of Education of Belarus: "...*This procedure fully complies with the Belarusian legislation and can be considered a platform for development of a multidisciplinary legal act regulating child removal from the family... It will help to fill in the existing gaps in the legislation*".