



Christian Children's Fund - Belarus

“COMMUNITY SERVICES TO VULNERABLE GROUPS”

QUARTERLY PROGRAM REPORT

USAID Cooperative Agreement Number: 121-A-00-05-00703-00

Reporting period: 1 April 2006 – 30 June 2006

Component I “Supporting Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Belarus”

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Publication or issuance date of report:

July, 2006

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Name of USAID office:

USAID/Ukraine Regional Contracting office

USAID Regional Mission representative office in Belarus

Development objective:

Democracy, human rights and development

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 capacity building for community specialists dealing with family and children's issues. The trainees represented the different community-based services such as socio-pedagogical centers, centers for social protection, schools, and child protection units of educational departments, local and national NGOs. The trained groups become the core community teams to deliver effective prevention and rehabilitation services addressing the main causes of social orphan hood and family crises. In order to strengthen and diversify a service palette, three requests for proposals to develop additional services for families at risks and vulnerable children were issued.

In summary thus far:

- About 100 community specialists representing 19 partner organizations have been trained as the trainers in 11 subjects covering Parenting Skills Enhancement program, Health Education and Substance Abuse prevention, Youth Mobilization and Volunteer management, Life Skills Education, and Child Protection Services
- 155 parents and 213 children including those with disabilities benefited from the new prevention services for parents and children in Orsha and Kobrin
- Three requests for proposals were issued, 11 proposals received from community-based organizations and national/ local NGOs. About 50,000 USD in seed grants, i.e 5 grants in total, have been awarded.
- 8 poorest community -based services got an opportunity to improve its material resources and receive new equipment
- Task Group produced the first draft of the Procedure of Child removal from a family helping to avoid groundless and subjective decisions on this matter

II. ACTIVITIES

OBJECTIVE 1

To improve access to an integrated system of community-based prevention and rehabilitation services for families institutionalized children, and children at risk.

Prevention Services.

Activity: Parenting Skills Enhancement Program and Integrated playgroups for children in Orsha and Kobrin	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
<p>Eight groups of parents (100 people) take part in Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in Orsha and Kobrin.</p> <p>Participation will improve parents' competence and develop parenting skills.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eight groups of parents (106 people) from Orsha and Kobrin completed Parenting Skills Enhancement Program. Among them 20% (20 people) were parents of disabled children; 10% (8 people) were parents from the risk group * - 85% of parents better understand the reasons of children's misbehavior and cope with it without violence; 82% of parents reported improvement of their parents' competence and skills; 82% of trained parents assessed themselves as "responsible parents"; 90% of parents maintained optimal emotional contacts with their children; 75% of parents started using methods of stress management and self-regulation.
<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 and focus group discussions notes are available from the CCF-Belarus office upon request.</p>	

Parents say:

L.G., "... This training course reminded us, that although our children are little but persons, with their own characters and needs. We should consider it. We understood that autocratic style and rudeness were not useful and traumatized our children"

For more information, please see Annex1.

Care and Support for disabled children and their families

Services for families of children with disabilities provided within the project address all three factors of the crisis equation:

- The reduction of situational and psychological stress;
- Strengthening a family's ability to cope and access supportive services and resources; and
- Helping families achieve a realistic perception of their situation.

This quarter community services aimed at support provision, facilitating inclusion, overcoming stigma and discrimination of disabled children and their families were continued in Kobrin and co-sponsored by SDC.

Activity: Self-help group for parents of disabled children in Kobrin	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
<p>At least 1 self-help group meeting for parents of disabled children from the Kobrin community will be continued.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On the <i>12th of May 2006</i> a second meeting of the self-help group was organized in Kobrin Habilitation Center for 9 parents of disabled children. ▪ This meeting was targeted at consultation provision for fathers of disabled children. The role of a father in bringing up and education of disabled children was discussed as well as psychological climate in the

	families with disabled children. The attitude towards health and illness was covered during the self-help group meeting.
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Plans/ Improvements for the next quarter.
 *This activity was sponsored by SDC project.
 It is expected to conduct 4-5 self-help group meetings during the period from September till December 2006. Kobrin experience in self-help group activity will be replicated in Orsha and Zhodino in September-October 2006.

Inclusion of children with disabilities, where it possible, into activity of the peer groups can promote healthy social interaction and beneficial growth experience for all participants. Typical children who are reared in everyday interaction with disabled ones relate to disability as a matter of course; the disability becomes a single, and not always relevant, characteristic in understanding the nature of the person.

Activity: Volunteer activity to support families with disabled children*	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
# and type of volunteer services to support and integrate disabled children and their families; # and categories of the participants of volunteer programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fifty one (51) volunteers from school #3 and school#1 in Kobrin carried out 7 cultural/leisure activities for disabled children from Kobrin Habilitation Center. Disabled children were active participants of all the events (sport games, visiting museums, excursions, Family Day, joint trip to the national forest reserve, etc.). • 97 disabled children and 22 parents, as well as 51 volunteers took part in activities organized by the volunteer group. • 600 small gifts for disabled children were collected and delivered by more than 200 volunteers from 19 schools of Kobrin district. This action was initiated by youth volunteer group from CCF partner school #3
<u>Plans/ Improvements for the future.</u> It is expected to start volunteer group activity in Orsha and Zhodino since September – October 2006. *This activity was sponsored by SDC project.	

Children-volunteers say:
Irina, 16 years old: "...To become a merciful person you should be inspired from the childhood...It is showed up that disabled children are very talented in different ways. Some of them may play different music instruments; they can read and write poems. I am happy to communicate with them ... I think that in order to become a volunteer it is necessary to learn how to be good to somebody from the bottom of your heart".

Activity: Integrated playgroups for typical and disabled children	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
At least and 96 typical and disabled children (10 groups) take part in integrated playgroup activities; # of young volunteers provided assistance to integrated playgroup activities; # and type of new developmental programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One hundred sixteen (116) non-disabled children and children with disabilities (30 of 116) were involved in 10 integrated playgroups, creative and development activities in Orsha and Kobrin while their parents were at Parenting classes. • 13 young volunteers regularly provided assistance to integrated playgroup activities • 12 unique developmental programs for integrated playgroups prepared by community trainers (art therapy, cognitive, emotional and aesthetic development, basic IT skills, communication skills).
<u>Critical notes.</u> *This activity in Kobrin was sponsored by SDC project. Trainer's reports, developmental programs are available upon request at CCF-Belarus office	

From trainer's reports:

Svetlana Prokopik, integrated playgroup trainer from Kobrin:

".. From session to session children increased confidence in their skills and talents. It was great to see their happy eyes when they demonstrated to -their parents handcrafts made by their own hands. The group became more and more amicable; the oldest children helped the youngest ones. Disabled children felt very comfortable and confident because of very friendly and supportive atmosphere in the group. Volunteers were of a great help. They not only helped trainers and supported children but also organized very interesting and funny minutes of relaxation with them." "

Elena Obukhovich, integrated playgroup trainer:

"... There were two boys with disabilities in our group but the other children did not consider it as something unusual. All children were so nice and kind to each other. Volunteers were very helpful"

Rehabilitation Services

Activity: Selection of local service providers to deliver services for disabled children and their families, substance abuse treatment and counseling, orphan hood prevention and strengthening family capacity.	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
At least 4 grants for the total amount of 50,000 \$ will be awarded-	Five (5) small projects of 11 submitted approved for the total amount of 49, 047 USD \$*
Partnership agreements with selected partners will be signed, money transferred	Five Partnership Agreements were signed and money is transferred to organizations whose projects were approved
<u>Plans/ Improvements for the next quarter.</u> Signing of the Partnership Agreements was accompanied by <i>Inception Workshop for grantees on the 16th of July 2006</i> . The procedure of project registration in the Department on Humanitarian Aid was presented during the Workshop as well as CCF rules and regulations for grant management and implementation. It is expected that at the end of July 2006 the projects will be registered in the Department of Humanitarian Aid and projects' activity will be started next quarter. Please, see the list of the grants awarded in the Annex 2. *Original applications, lists of the Inception Workshop participants and Partnership Agreements are available from the CCF-Belarus office upon request.	

Needs assessment conducted by CCF in the targeted communities resulted in 4 special agreements for equipment purchase for 8 poorest community services. Among them were Habilitation Centers for Disabled children, Centers of Social support, boarding schools for institutionalized children, shelters. List of equipment available at CCF-Belarus office upon request. Now all the transfers made according to the special agreements are in the process of registration in the Department on Humanitarian Aid.

OBJECTIVE 2

To enhance the professional training and education of social service providers and awareness of community members with regards to the development of favorable family environments for children.

Activity: Training of Trainers (ToT) on Parenting Enhancement Programs in targeted communities (Orsha, Kobrin)	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
At least 12 community specialists from Orsha and Kobrin will be trained as a Parenting Training Course providers;	▪ Fourteen (14) community specialists from Orsha and Kobrin participated in series of <i>ToT parenting workshops (in June 12-14 and June 19-21)</i> course curriculum.

80% of TOT participants will report improvements of specific knowledge and skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>100% of the participants</i> reported improvements in specific knowledge and skills such as understanding the process of group work, adults learning techniques, interactive methods of teaching, working with different types of participants, implementation of M&E system
<p><u>Critical notes/ Outcome:</u> We expect expansion of Parenting Skills Enhancement programs to new community schools in Orsha and Kobrin in September-October 2006 (as soon as training rooms there equipped). *Reports about TOT workshops including lists of the participants, analyses of pre-post tests and evaluation forms of the participants are available from the CCF-Belarus office upon request</p>	

Activity: Trainings of Trainers ToT on Health Education and Substance Abuse Prevention Program	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
<p>At least 11 community specialists from Zhodino will be trained as a trainers on Health Education and Substance Abuse Prevention Program</p> <p>80% of participants will report improvements of specific knowledge and skills,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eleven (11) community specialists from Zhodino completed Training program consisting of 4 workshops: Workshop 1 - 6-8th of April – New approaches to HIV/AIDS prevention, Workshop 2 - 11-13th of May – Reproductive Health, Workshop 3 - 18-20 May – Substance abuse prevention, Workshop 4 - 21-23 June – Interactive methods of work with children and youth in Health Education. • 90% of participants improved knowledge and skills on the training topics such as HIV/AIDS issues, reproductive health, substance abuse issues and as well as on methods of organizing trainings for different age groups of school children on health education.
<p><u>Critical notes/ Outcome:</u> ToT participants (Zhodino) will pass testing training in September and start Health Education Program groups in October 2006 in a school, boarding school, shelter and social service. *Reports about TOT workshops including lists of the participants, analyses of pre-post tests and evaluation forms of the participants are available from the CCF-Belarus office upon request</p>	

Activity: Training of Trainers ToT on Life Skills Program	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
<p>At least 12 community specialists from Orsha, Kobrin and Zhodino will be trained as a Life Skills Training Course providers; 80% of participants will report improvements of specific knowledge and skills, to run Life Skills Program for orphans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Eight (8) participants*</i> completed ToT sessions on Life Skills Program on 26-28th of April (Part 1) and 15-17th of May (Part 2). They were provided with knowledge on methods of organizing trainings for teens, characteristics of teenagers, as well as how to teach them basic life skills (money management, meal preparation, employment skills and etc.). ▪ <i>100% of participants</i> passed testing training and reported about improvement of specific knowledge and skill on the training topic.
<p><u>Critical notes/ Outcome:</u> *Twelve participants started TOT in April but 4 people could not come to the second session in May because of their huge workload. They will complete TOT course in September 2006. Trainers from Orsha, Zhodino and Kobrin will start Life Skills Education trainings for institutionalized children in September 2006.</p> <p>Reports about TOT workshops including lists of the participants, analyses of pre-post tests and evaluation forms of the participants are available from the CCF-Belarus office upon request</p>	

Activity: Training on Volunteer Management	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
<p>8 community specialists from Orsha and Zhodino will take part in the training on Volunteer Management.</p> <p>80% of the participants will be acquainted with methods of organizing volunteer activity in the institutions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Nine (9)</i> participants from Orsha and Zhodino took part in Training on Volunteer Management on 18th of April 2006 in Minsk. ▪ 90 % reported improvement of skills and knowledge about recruitment, motivation and recognizing volunteers;
<p><u>Planned activity.</u></p> <p>At least 3 volunteer groups in Orsha and Zhodino will be started in September-October 2006. It is expected that this groups will provide assistance and integration of disabled children from local Habilitation Centers.</p> <p>*Report about Training on Volunteer Management including lists of the participants, analyses of the evaluation forms are available from the CCF-Belarus office upon request</p>	

Activity: Workshop for the multidisciplinary team of the specialists on Organization of Child Protective Services	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
<p>At least 16 representatives from the targeted communities will take part in the workshop on Child Protection Services</p> <p>Trainees will obtain knowledge on the structure of the training program as well acquainted with principles of child welfare system in USA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 19 participants took part in two-day Introduction Training on Child Protection Services on 24-25th of June 2006. They were representatives of local Departments of Education, schools, shelters and social-pedagogical centers and health care system from Orsha (6 people), Zhodino (6 people) and Kobrin (5 people) as well as Task Group members. This workshop was carried out by Pam Severs, a trainer from the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA). ▪ 100 % of the trainees got new information on the topic, and expressed their desire to implement knowledge and skills in practice, to start dissemination of new knowledge in their respective communities after the each training session.
<p><u>Planned activity for the next quarter:</u></p> <p>It was the first introduction workshop in series of nine Child Protection workshops for multidisciplinary teams focused.</p> <p>Report about the workshop including lists of the participants, analyses of their evaluation forms available at CCF-Belarus office upon request</p>	

Close communication with community project staff and partner organizations resulted in idea to conduct additional capacity building events in order to ensure quality of project implementation.

On April 13, 2006 CCF-Belarus staff held training session on Project Cycle management for 13 representatives of partner organizations. All of them reported about improvements of their knowledge on result-oriented project management, planning, reporting, and partnership development. As the result community coordinators provide CCF-Belarus with monthly reports and plans, community organizations started cooperation and links between each other.

Two workshops on Proposal Writing (on April 28 in Kobrin and on May, 4 in Minsk) helped representatives of the community social services to develop their proposals aimed to prevent social orphanhood and strengthen families. As the result nine applications were submitted to the grant contests, three of them were awarded.

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.

Activity: Technical Task Group Meetings	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
At least 1 meeting of the Task Group conducted	▪ Three meetings (3) of the Technical Task group (25 th of April, 26 th of May and 26 th of June 2006) were supported by CCF-Belarus.
Task groups will develop the first draft of the Procedure of Child Removal from the Family.	The first draft of the Procedure of Child Removal from the Family was developed.
<i>Critical note.</i> It is necessary to admit that Task Group members involved in the discussion and preparation of the Procedure specialists from their respective communities. In addition CCF-Belarus suggested sending the final draft of the Procedure to socio-pedagogical centers from all over Belarus for further discussions and suggestions. It will help to provide participation of the field staff and practitioners in decision-making process. Ministry of Education supported this idea. Till the end of August 2006 Technical Task Group members will work out a final draft of the Procedure of a Child Removal from the Family. The results will be presented and discussed during the Round Table Sessions in September 2006. For more information, please see Annex 3 .	

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.

CCF-Belarus and CCF HQ coordinated their efforts in identification of the suitable international sub-contractors for Child protection training programs and alternative family type care in Belarus. The Child Protection CORE training program of the Child Welfare League of America was chosen for the training curricula. The Institute for Human Services agreed to provide the training as it employs both original authors of the curriculum and a cadre of skilled trainers for each of the CORE areas. The training began in June and will continue through the next year. The Child Welfare League of America agreed to provide training on its PRIDE curriculum for foster care over the next year.

In May 14- 26 Mary Moran, CCF HQ Program Specialist and Ingrid Jones, CCF Regional Program Manager visited CCF-Belarus. They discussed with the project staff ways of further project development, clarified specifics of Child protection workshops.

Meetings with USAID

CCF Country Director Irina Mironova, and Project Manager Marina Ananenko met with USAID CTO Marina Abrosimova, and her replacement Yahor Novikau on 18.04.2006. During the meeting 2nd quarterly report was discussed and the results of the project implementation were presented.

On May 19, 2006 , CCF's Technical Specialist, Mary Moran and Regional Program Manager, Ingrid Jones met with Chuck Howell, Yahor Novikau, Marina Abrosimova. During this meeting, Project implementation

was discussed including future site selection in the Chernobyl region, progress on the goal of advising policy re child protection and models of regulations, headquarters involvement in the project including monitoring visits and interaction with USAID office, and the impact of elections.

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

CCF-Belarus held a series of the working meetings with Ministry of Education of Belarus to discuss project implementation. Negotiations on signing a Partnership Agreement are in the process.

- ***Coordination with UNICEF***

On the 17th of April 2006 Irina Mironova, Alexei Golontsov, Marina Ananenko, Nadezhda Karaseva and Inna Chirko took part in the meeting with UNICEF representative Mr. Alexander Karankevich. During the meeting the results of the CCF-Belarus project were presented and the ways of cooperation in legal acts and procedures development were discussed.

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

On 23rd of June 2006 CCF-Belarus Child Protection Specialist took part in the Round Table “Belarus Orphans: Creating Favorable Environment for Development and Self-realization of Orphans and Children Without Parental Care”. It was organized in National Press Center. Representatives from Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Statistics and Analyses, Minsk Executive Committee, UNICEF, SOS-Children’s Village and mass media participated in the Round Table as well. As a result on the 04th of July 2006 a publication was made in the National newspaper “Narodnaya Gazeta” (circulation - 35 000).

For more information, please see Annex 4.

- ***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 4,163 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

On the 25th of May project staff took part in a Seminar on *Monitoring and Evaluation* organized by CCF-Belarus Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist. As a result the project team discussed project indicators, information to be collected, methods of information collection based on indicators.

V. BUDGET

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



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

Small Grants supported within OVC project

pr.N	Org. Name	Project name	Project discription	Ammount \$	Status
CCF-B 2006-OVC-03	Youth NGO "Healthy Choice"	"Family University"	The project is aimed at strengthening capacity of at risk families, through development of preventive and rehabilitation services. Project activities are designed in a form of family club, where trainings, consultations and healthy life-style activities will be implemented.	6,266.00	Submitted for registration
CCF-B 2006-OVC-04	Educational establishment "Divin State Boarding School for Orphans and Children Without Parental Care"	Host family	The goal of the project is to raise motivation and awareness of families living in Kobrin area to host children from Divin boarding school during vacations and weekends.	2,938.00	Submitted for registration
CCF-B 2006-OVC-05	NGO "Kobrin branch of Belarusian Association of Assistance to Disabled Children and Youth"	"Family Support Center"	The goal of the project is to prevent social orphan hood and institutionalization of disabled children through strengthening family capacity and coping skills and increasing community support and acceptance of handicapped children.	6,101.58	Submitted for registration
CCF-B 2006-OVC-10	NGO BelAPDIiMI "Belarusian Association of Assistance to Disabled Children and Youth"	"Together for a "Special" Child"	The goal of the initiated project is to improve living conditions of families with disabled children and young people through development of integrated family-centered services.	18,742.00	Submitted for registration
CCF-B 2006-OVC-11	National NGO "Mothers against Drugs"	"A Way to Recovery"	The goal of the project is to enlarge rehabilitation services for people with alcohol problems through organizing self-help groups based on 12 step program for them and their relatives.	15,000.00	Submitted for registration



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

CCF-Belarus develops procedures to strengthen protection of the rights of children to be brought up in the family

CCF-Belarus initiated democratic procedure of legislation development to protect children's rights to be brought up in the family. To achieve this **Task Group** was formed in March 2006 in coordination with Belarus Ministry of Education. This group consists of 7 experts including social workers and child protection practitioners, scientists and representative of the Ministry of Education.

The list of procedures to be developed was discussed with the Ministry of Education. It suggested starting with development of the *Procedure of Child Removal from the Family*.

It is expected that ***Procedure of Child Removal from the Family*** will be designed on the democratic principals for the following reasons. At first, it is based on decentralized approach as not only one person from the Ministry of Education will be involved in its development but local community child protection specialists as well. Secondly, it will take into account the feedback from the local communities after probation period before its approval on the national level.



This quarter three meetings of the Task Group were organized by CCF-Belarus project staff. They were targeted at development of the Procedure's structure, discussions of international legal documents related to this issue. As a result Swedish, American and Belarus legislation was analyzed, the gaps in current national legislation were identified.

It is expected that till the end of August 2006 Technical Task Group members will work out a final Draft of the Procedure of a Child Removal from the Family based on its discussion with local practitioners. The results will be presented at the Round Table Sessions and the Ministry of Education will be provided with the final version for final approval in September 2006.

To increase Task Group capacity its members were invited to participation in Child Protection Workshop for the multidisciplinary team of the specialists on organization of Child Protective Services that was conducted on the 24-25th of June 2006.

This Introductory workshop was organized by CCF-Belarus in partnership with Child Welfare League of America (CWLA). During the workshop the participants were acquainted with the structure of the training program and its methodology, as well as with principles of child welfare system in USA.





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

CCF-Belarus presents *Supporting Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Belarus* project during round table in the National Press Center

Informing stakeholders about effective practices and approaches of deinstitutionalization is critical for CCF-Belarus in implementing *Supporting Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Belarus (OVC)* Component of the *Community Services to Vulnerable Groups Project*.

On June 23, CCF-Belarus Child Protection Specialist Nadezhda Karasyova took part in the round table discussion *Belarus Orphans: Creating Favorable Environment for Development and Self-Realization of Orphans and Children Without Parental Care*, which was held at the National Press Center in Minsk.

The event gathered key stockholders on the issue of orphans and vulnerable children, including specialists from Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Statistics and Analysis, Minsk City Executive Committee, UNICEF in Belarus, SOS-Children's Village, and representatives of national mass media.

The discussion focused on various aspects of the problem of orphans in Belarus, and on ways of bringing together effective national and international experience.

Nadezhda Karasyova made an overview of the background, objectives and main achievements to date of the CCF-Belarus project *Supporting Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Belarus (OVC)*. She emphasized that the project is aimed at institutionalization prevention in Belarus through development of community-based prevention and rehabilitation services for families and children, as well as strengthening capacity of local institutions and specialists engaged in the services provision for population.

In interview to several national newspapers N. Karasyova stressed the importance of uniting efforts of all agencies and organizations involved in support provision for family and children. She explained that one of the objectives of CCF-Belarus OVC project is to form a multidisciplinary team of specialists who will work with families and children at risk to avoid children's institutionalization.

The results of the round table discussion including information about CCF-Belarus OVC project received coverage in several national news agencies and newspapers.

ие, придерживают-х правил при орга-лизации. Так, боль-шевички (57,9%) ис-пользуют соль, употребляют боль-шевички. 41% следят за сроком годности продуктов. 39,9% пользуются употре-бой продуктов (без по-требностей). 16,3% стрелять свой рацион продуктов. Кстати, о-диеты соблюдают

5,6% респондентов, а учитывают соотношение белков, жиров, угле-водов — 5,5%. Однако только 25,3% опрошен-ных соблюдают режим питания, правила приема пищи. Практически каждый третий участник социоло-гического опроса (31,4%) ответил, что "пита-ется как придется".

В РЦЭМОС отметили, что пита-ние — важная составляющая здоро-вого образа жизни. От того, что и как мы едим, зависит не только на-ше здоровье в целом, но и настрое-

ЧМ-ФУТБОЛ
Футбольны
С каждым игровым днем манда, у которой есть поешь, такова суть плей-офф-такета. Пока на трофей в Сегодня вечером их стане

Нет сиротству!
Христианского детского фонда (ХДФ) осуществляет в Беларуси проект, направленный на профилактику сиротства. Он реализуется в трех городах республики — Орше, Жодино и Кобрине. Одной из главных задач проекта является создание благоприятной среды для сохранения и укрепления семьи и для гармоничного развития детей. По мнению представителей фонда, для этого необходимо сформировать «эффективную» модель межведомственного взаимодействия в сфере оказания комплексных услуг детям и семьям, которые находятся в социально опасном положении либо подвержены попаданию в группу риска.
Проект предусматривает распространение и внедрение современных технологий работы социальных служб по защите ребенка и поддержке семейных форм воспитания.

ROONEY
9

С турниром уже распро-щались многие фавориты. В том числе бразильцы, сложившие с себя полномочия чемпионов мира. Будно представить, каков масштаб национального горя в стране, где 80 процентов населения не сомневались в триумфе любимцев. Гораздо больше, чем болельщики, подавлены сами игроки. С большой взы-сцой болельщики. Никто не может описать нашего разо-чарования, — признался после игры лучший футболист 2005 года Роналдиньо. — Это

No to Orphanhood!, article in *Narodnaya Gazeta* about CCF-Belarus OVC project



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

CCF-Belarus' Parenting Skills Enhancement Program helps develop community-based institutionalization prevention services for families in the local communities

Parenting Skills Enhancement Program started in Orsha and Kobrin in March 2006 is an integral part of **Supporting Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Belarus (OVC)** Component of the **Community Services to Vulnerable Groups Project** and is aimed at strengthening family capacity and preventing children's institutionalization. This program was

During the program, over 30 disabled children together with their parents had a chance to interact and discuss their problems with parents of typically developed



A role-play activity during Parenting Course, Kobrin.

children. While the parents were at training sessions, the young volunteers trained by CCF-Belarus in art-therapy work engaged the children into integrated play groups' activity.



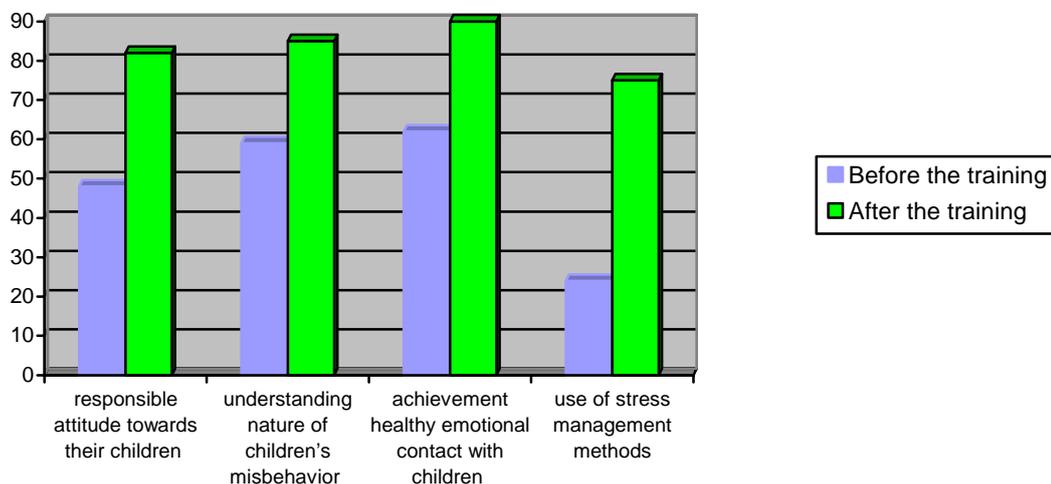
Integrated play-groups (art therapy) at Habilitation Center for Disabled Children, Kobryn

The program offers a unique opportunity for integration and social adaptation both for disabled children and their parents who are normally isolated from the rest of the society and are left alone face-to-face with their problems.

In Orsha, for example, the training group was formed of foster parents, guardians, and parents from at risk groups. At the end of the training program many parents expressed interest in attending training session

next year. A mother who initially had been very pessimistic said *"...I did not expect it will fascinate me so much. It is a very useful thing!"* Another participant said she is now able *"to calm down and criticize my child in respectful manner"*.

Parenting Course in Kobrin and Orsha: results of pre- and post-evaluation of participants' family relations



Participants' comments after the program:

Natasha, 45, Kobrin: *"...as a result of the training program I can understand my daughter better. It is very useful for parents and children".*

Larisa, 43, Orsha: *"Even after the very first day of the training I was able to stay away from my children's quarrels and did not allow my children to involve me in it."*

Marina, 35, Orsha : *"I had a chance to communicate with other parents and to share my problems and concerns... It is always easier to find a way out of the situations caused by my son together with somebody else. The methods and techniques learned during the course helped me to understand him better ...We have fewer conflicts now...We try to discuss everything **together** and select appropriate solutions that suit us both".*



Parents with their children after the completion of Parenting Course in Orsha