

95145

PDABP 573

PDABP

Wheeled Mobility Center at San Francisco State University

Final Project Report Jan 9, 1996

This is not just a wheelchair...

It is a vehicle for social change.



"Since WMC came to work with us in Novosibirsk in 1993, it's as if we have awakened from a deep sleep."
Irina Arnautova

A



About the Wheeled Mobility Center at SFSU

Since 1980, **WMC**, led by Technology Director Ralf Hotchkiss, has provided training and technical assistance to wheelchair designers and builders in more than 20 countries. The majority of trainees are themselves wheelchair riders. More than 10,000 low-cost, high-performance wheelchairs have been produced, and over 200 wheelchair designer/builders have been trained. **WMC** also acts as a consultant to US wheelchair manufacturers and government agencies. The Russia Project was initially funded with grants from USAID through World Learning Inc. WMC's earlier work in the former Soviet Union was financed in part by grants from the Soros Foundation and Vietnam Veterans of California

*"I was imprisoned in my apartment for 32 years.
Now, thanks to WMC, I have a good wheelchair and a new life."*

*Valentina Fedorovna Kuznetsova,
Novosibirsk, Russia*



Marc Krizack
Russia Project Managing Director
Wheeled Mobility Center at SFSU
2233 California Street
Berkeley, CA 94703
USA

FINAL PROJECT REPORT

Wheelchair Building in Novosibirsk, Russia: A Comprehensive Program of Economic and Social Development

©1996 by Marc Krizack. Permission to copy this report or any part thereof is freely granted provided the source is properly cited.

Grantee Name: Wheeled Mobility Center at SFSUF

Grantor: US Agency for International Development through World Learning, Inc.

Grant No: NIS-2022-00-13

Project Title: Wheelchair Building in Novosibirsk, Russia: A Comprehensive Program of Economic and Social Development

Name of NIS Partner(s): Originally Novosibirsk Regional Disabled Sports Club "FINIST"
Now Novosibirsk Regional Non-governmental Organization of People with Disabilities, Center for Independent Living "FINIST"

Country site: Novosibirsk, Russia

Grant Amount: \$525,000

Grant Start/End Dates: 5-25-93 to 12-31-95

Reporting Officer: Marc Krizack, Project Managing Director

Contact Address/Phone: 2233 California St., Berkeley, CA 94703
T/F (510) 548-3652 e-mail: krizack@sfsu.edu

Date of Report: 6-1-96.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
Project Goal	3
Project Results	3
Wheelchair Manufacture	3
Wheelchair Marketing and Business Development	3
Organizational Development	4
Formal Trainings	4
Related Activities	4
HISTORY OF THE PROJECT	5
Initial Strategy	5
Developing the Market through Education, Consumer Advocacy and Government Support	6
NGO-government relations	7
401, SMD, and Competition in Wheelchair Production	9
NGO Development	10
FINIST History and Organizational Development	11
Disabled Women's Program	13
Legal Advocacy	16
GENERAL COMMENTS, CRITIQUE & PROGNOSIS	18
NGO Development	18
The Need for Adequate Centralized Facilities	19
Lack of Accessible Transportation	20
Architectural Barrier Removal	20
Revolving Credit Fund	21
Personnel Procedures	21
Replicability	22
Sustainability	22
Grant Administration/Oversight	24
USAID	25
DISABILITY, DEMOCRACY AND US FOREIGN ASSISTANCE	25
PROJECT TIME LINE from July 1993 to December 1995	28
Acknowledgements	32

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROJECT GOAL

The overarching goal of the project was to promote the integration of people with disabilities in Novosibirsk, Russia into all aspects of social life. The project planned to set up a competitive system of wheelchair production and transform the Novosibirsk Regional Disabled Sports Club "FINIST" (Phoenix) into an independent living center (ILC), a non-residential multi-service provider and advocate by and for people with disabilities in the Novosibirsk Region. One of the main ideas behind the independent living center approach is that disabled people can be brought out of their isolation and into contact with one another by providing a variety of services out of one location. The Independent living center is also conceived as a cross-disability organization which can unite under one organization like-minded disability activists of all disabilities. By empowering and uniting people with disabilities, the Novosibirsk ILC could become an effective advocate and service provider for the Novosibirsk disabled community.

PROJECT RESULTS

Wheelchair Manufacture

- Provided technical support to an existing, now privately-owned wheelchair factory (the former Aeroflot 401 helicopter repair facility). 401 now produces and sells an average of 30 wheelchairs per month. It also manufactures and sells a variety of adaptive aids, such as rolling stools, walkers, standers, etc. It employs 6 people solely in the production of wheelchairs and adaptive aids.
- Established a second private wheelchair factory at SibMedDesign (SMD) and provided technical and marketing support to it. This factory now produces and sells an average of 50 wheelchairs a month. SMD has sold about 700 wheelchairs since the project's inception. SMD employs 8 persons in wheelchair production.

Wheelchair Marketing and Business Development

- Established a FINIST business arm which markets SMD wheelchairs.
- Established a credit fund run by FINIST to help in the purchase of wheelchairs and other assistive devices.

- Established an automobile/wheelchair repair shop which operates under the FINIST business arm. The shop also collects data on wheelchair design and manufacturing flaws which are reported to the factories.
- Helped SMD win a government contract for wheelchairs for 1996.

Organizational Development

- Transformed the Novosibirsk Regional Disabled Sports Club "FINIST" into the Novosibirsk Regional Non-governmental Organization of People with Disabilities, Center for Independent Living "FINIST." FINIST has 25 very active members, 15 of which are women, 86 dues-paying members, and 200 candidate members.
- Established and developed "ARIADNA" as a quasi-autonomous disabled women's section of FINIST. ARIADNA has 11 active members and has been able to get as many as 30 women to a general meeting.
- Promoted a legal advocacy program which resulted in the establishment of "CONSUL," FINIST's legal arm. CONSUL employs 2 persons. From December 5, 1995 to May 20, 1996 CONSUL gave 1670 consultations to people with disabilities. CONSUL averages 10 -15 phone consultations and 2-3 drop-in consultations per day.

Formal Training

Trained: 12 people from 9 disability or disability-related organizations in proposal writing
 8 people in wheelchair design and manufacture
 7 people in custom wheelchair seating
 5 people in independent living/disability rights movement and NGO-government relations in the US.
 10 people in independent living in Finland.
 5 accountants in western-style accounting and AID reporting procedures

Related Activities

Facilitated: **Travel** of 1 person to the UN Women's Conference in Beijing.
Exchange visit of 2 disabled teenage girls to a Mobility International USA leadership development training in Eugene, Oregon.
Participation of at least 12 FINIST activists in various leadership trainings within Russia sponsored by other organizations. Many of these 12 attended more than one training.
Visit of US disabled dance troupe to Novosibirsk. FINIST set up own dance troupe following series of performance workshops.

Establishment of computer training school for disabled set up with grant from Minneapolis sister city project.

EMPLOYED or created employment in Russia for:

- 8 full-time and 2 part-time jobs in wheelchair production at SMD (ongoing).*
- 4 jobs in automobile and wheelchair repair (on-going).
- 1 full-time translator/interpreter for duration of project.
- 1 half-time accountant for duration of project.
- 10 regular part-time positions within FINIST over course of project.
- 8 regular part-time jobs were held by people with disabilities.
- Numerous temporary employment positions primarily for drivers, translators and interpreters.

*This figure does not include 6 full-time and 3 part-time jobs at 401 which was already producing wheelchairs at the project's inception.

HISTORY OF THE PROJECT

Initial Strategy

The project, which began in June 1993, built on the foundation and contacts which WMC had made in Novosibirsk beginning in 1990, when Marc Krizack and Ralf Hotchkiss introduced the then Aeroflot 401 Helicopter Repair Facility to wheelchair design. WMC's initial strategy for developing a competitive system of wheelchair production in Novosibirsk was based on the assumption that Russia's transition from a planned economy to a market economy posed unique problems for an emerging wheelchair industry. The solution, WMC believed, was to create "managed competition" by setting up three competing, privately owned wheelchair factories. Managed competition would be a way to keep one producer from using preexisting or unfair advantages to drive the other producers out of business. In order to guarantee that no factory would get a monopoly on certain hard-to-get parts and materials, we conceived of a specialty parts division which would be a FINIST/private sector co-venture that would supply all three of the planned private sector wheelchair building shops. Our plan also called for the sharing of equipment which might be too expensive for any one of the factories to purchase on its own.

Our plan involved establishing a revolving consumer credit fund for wheelchair purchases to guarantee a market for wheelchairs. By lending money to individuals to purchase the wheelchair of their choice, we expected to bring consumer pressure to bear on the factories and promote competition which would result in higher quality, less expensive wheelchairs.

Finally, our plan called for providing multiple revenue streams to FINIST through its majority ownership in the specialty parts division, repayment to FINIST of loans we made to the factories for the purchase of necessary equipment, and from the repair of wheelchairs and similar items such as bicycles.

This system of "managed competition" was predicated on the following assumptions: 1) The Russian economy would be stable, 2) There was a significant private market for wheelchairs within Russia, 3) WMC would have to provide a large portion of the capital investment, 4) WMC would have a strong voice in design and production decisions at each of the factories, 5) FINIST would need significant support only in the area of business management.

By the Spring of 1994, WMC had altered its strategy in four ways. In the first year, with rampant inflation, the fracturing of the once monolithic Russian economy, and a new government austerity plan, it was an open question whether the factories would be able to sustain even a minimal level of production. These problems, coupled with the difficulty in finding reliable partners, lead us to limit our efforts to 401 and a newly established small, private company, SibMedDesign. Second, WMC shifted funds away from production and toward marketing because the factories contributed a much larger amount towards their own capitalization than we had anticipated and because the factories were having problems selling their wheelchairs. Third, WMC limited its efforts to teach Western-style cost accounting due to Russian resistance to learning these new accounting methods. The wheelchair division at 401 was just a small part of a 1600-employee helicopter enterprise that, although nominally private, is still considered a state enterprise and functions that way. Since the wheelchair division is not independent enough from the rest of the factory, our efforts to help with Western-style accounting were basically ignored. At SibMedDesign, which had only 50 employees in all lines of work, the rampant inflation and shortages of primary materials made it very difficult to do a proper accounting under any method. Because the immediate benefits of western-style cost accounting were limited, SMD felt it would be better if we provided technical and marketing assistance instead. There was also a certain resistance in 1994 at both factories to what they perceived as Americans imposing our methods.

Fourth, WMC made greater efforts to directly develop an active movement of people with disabilities, with a special emphasis on organizing disabled women, as a way to build the market for wheelchairs and give a much needed boost to FINIST and the independent living movement.

Developing the Market through Education, Consumer Advocacy and Government Support

The greatest problem facing the one factory in production at the project's inception was marketing. Soviet manufacturers never had to market their products because nothing was built that had not already been sold by or to the state. The Soviet wheelchair monopoly also never spawned retail stores and repair shops.

The Russians' lack of marketing experience was compounded by disabled people and their families' lack of incentive to purchase a wheelchair. We had assumed that if we gave the consumers a choice of wheelchairs from different manufacturers the market would promote better wheelchairs at lower cost. Although this turned out to be true, it happened in a quite unexpected way and against considerable odds.

When we began the project we had not fully appreciated the extent to which most of Novosibirsk is inaccessible to wheelchair riders. We found that Russia's well-developed but extremely inaccessible architectural infrastructure presented endless barriers to wheelchair travel. This had induced an attitude of resignation and dependence in disabled Russians and their families who chose not to spend scarce resources on a piece of equipment that might do little more than get a person from his bed to the kitchen table. Also, because wheelchairs were given away, disabled people never developed a sense of themselves as consumers. Typically, disabled Russians who were fortunate enough to have a wheelchair received a one-size-fits-all model from the government.

Within Novosibirsk, the market for wheelchairs was, and is, determined primarily by various government bodies, not by wheelchair riders. 401 first sold most of its chairs to the city of Novosibirsk because its chief director had good connections to the municipal administration. SMD's chairs have been sold primarily through the Regional Department of Social Protection. (Social Protection is roughly equivalent to our state departments of rehabilitation and welfare). How the Regional Department of Social Protection came to buy SMD wheelchairs is itself an interesting story and illustrative of the forces that make a market for wheelchairs in Russia.

In 1991, wheelchairs in Russia were produced at a single state-owned factory in Stavrovo, a few hours drive from Moscow. Two types of chairs were produced. One was a lever drive chair for outdoor use, the second was a "depot" chair, a typical hospital type chair not designed for active living. The Stavrovo factory was part of the federal Department of Social Protection, and even after 401 and SMD went into wheelchair production the regional departments of Social Protection were required to purchase Stavrovo-built chairs (although other administrative bodies were not so restricted). In order to break this monopoly, WMC helped SMD improve the quality of its wheelchair so it could meet international (ISO) standards. But it was also necessary to educate the case workers and bureaucrats in the Department of Social Protection, first about the benefits of a good wheelchair, and second about the importance of listening to what wheelchair riders have to say about the wheelchairs. The novelty of this concept was demonstrated in September 1994 when FINIST invited members of Social Protection to an exhibition of wheelchairs made by SMD and 401. The people from Social Protection, acting as if the wheelchair riders in the room did not even exist, asked the managers of 401 how good their wheelchair was. This enraged the FINIST wheelchair riders who demanded that they be consulted. They demonstrated the comparative advantages of the SMD and 401 wheelchairs and told Social Protection that the SMD chair was highly superior. Slowly, the idea dawned that wheelchair riders could provide the best information about wheelchair quality. WMC supported the FINIST wheelchair riders as they demanded that the government let the end user decide what chair he or she should get, not just what the government wanted to give.

NGO-government relations

WMC developed a strong alliance with Anna Stepanovna Petukhova, Director of Veterans and Disabled Affairs at the Novosibirsk Regional Department of Social Protection. Anna Stepanovna showed keen interest in our project from the beginning. While other bureaucrats in her department, leery of our motives, kept their distance, Anna Stepanovna made every effort to understand our goals and support them. By January 1994, six months after the project began, Anna Stepanovna incorporated our model, as she then understood it, into Social Protection's program.

In September 1994 WMC brokered an agreement between SMD and FINIST by which FINIST would receive 8% of each wheelchair FINIST sold for SMD. Anna Stepanovna had been looking for ways to more directly support FINIST, but she was not permitted to provide them with unrestricted funds or funds for salaries. When she learned about the SMD-FINIST marketing agreement, she recognized that she could fund FINIST by purchasing SMD wheelchairs and support SMD at the same time. Our efforts to ensure that FINIST would have a sustainable source of income actually helped promote the market for wheelchairs in a way we had not foreseen.

Around this same time, the various regions within Russia were gaining more autonomy from Moscow. This change was felt in the Department of Social Protection, where greater decision-making authority was vested in the regional departments. This shift allowed Anna Stepanovna to argue against purchasing Stavrovo-built wheelchairs. A compromise was reached whereby the Novosibirsk Regional DSP agreed to continue to purchase outdoor lever drive chairs from Stavrovo but would purchase "active" wheelchairs as they saw fit.

The existence of such a strong ally in a key governmental position (Anna Stepanovna is third in command at the regional level) was a real stroke of luck. WMC then made every effort to cultivate and develop this relationship. In August 1995 WMC brought Anna Stepanovna to San Francisco and Minneapolis in conjunction with Connect US-Russia, the Novosibirsk Sister City Project. The trip was paid in part by SibMedDesign, with the understanding that the Department of Social Protection would purchase SMD wheelchairs.

But this trip was not a payoff to Anna Stepanovna for her support to our project. Rather, it was an effort to convince her that people with disabilities, organized along the independent living center model, could and should run their own organizations and receive support from the government. Prior to her visit, Anna Stepanovna had been skeptical that such an approach was possible. Like many Siberians, she wanted "experts" to do everything. For WMC, this methodology meant the continued disempowerment of people with disabilities and a prescription for failure. But ten days in the cradle of the independent living movement transformed Anna Stepanovna's mentality, and she returned to Novosibirsk like a new convert on a mission from God.

401, SMD, and Competition in Wheelchair Production

From the beginning, the differences between 401 and SibMedDesign were as great as their chairs were similar. 401, although now private, was and is still considered to be part of the "state structure." The wheelchair factory is only one small part of the larger helicopter repair facility. It is not autonomous and is entirely dependent on the central factory administration. The wheelchair unit at 401 cannot purchase equipment without permission from the chief engineer. For example, when WMC offered to purchase an American-made heliarc welder in exchange for a certain number of wheelchairs, 401 never acted on the offer. Those in charge of 401's wheelchair unit were secretive, only partially cooperative, and at times expressed anti-American and anti-semitic sentiments. In the project's first year they resisted all consumer criticism.

Compared to 401, SMD seemed like another world. SMD was a private partnership that had been founded by the heads of two cooperatives within 401 which 401's chief director, Vladimir Kostian, had shut down in 1991. They were some of the best and brightest, the risk takers and independent thinkers. They began to produce a better wheelchair than 401, and most importantly, they were willing to listen to the criticisms and suggestions offered by the wheelchair riders. They developed a close relationship with FINIST, and have helped WMC and FINIST time and time again, often without any expectation of remuneration.

When faced with SMD's competition, 401's first thought was to force SMD to change their design by claiming SMD had stolen it from 401. The crisis was resolved when 401's chief engineer for the entire helicopter facility saw the superior SMD chair and told the 401 wheelchair designers that they would be wiser to spend their energy on producing a better chair rather than fighting SMD.

As the "new kid on the block", SMD tried to cooperate with 401 by pooling resources to purchase wholesale quantities of plastic caster wheels and tires. This cooperation was short-lived, and Wheeled Mobility Center's efforts to promote further cooperation were rebuffed by 401.

Part of WMC's original plan had been to provide vocational training and employment for people with disabilities in the wheelchair factories. This would not only provide jobs but would involve wheelchair riders in the process and improve the quality of wheelchair design and manufacture. But when both the 401 and SMD wheelchair factories were located in inaccessible buildings, WMC encouraged FINIST members to set up a formal program of wheelchair testing. FINIST wheelchair riders made a list of all failures in both the SMD and 401 chairs, and brought this list, with their suggestions for improvements, to 401's and SMD's attention. SMD responded positively to these criticisms, both out of good business sense and a sincere desire on the part of SMD's Alexander Afonin to do the right thing. 401, however, refused to accept the criticisms. When it became clear that 401's chairs were clearly inferior to SMD's, 401 stopped production of adult chairs and became the sole producer of children's chairs and other walking and standing aids. This move to children's

chairs was designed not only to avoid competition with SibMedDesign, but also to avoid criticism from wheelchair riders. Children are usually too young to understand what is good and not good in a wheelchair, and even when they do understand, are usually unable even to articulate their point of view let alone forcefully advocate for it. Thus, 401 could pitch the wonders of its wheelchairs to the unknowing parents of these children without fear of the criticism they would receive from adult wheelchair riders.

And criticism was heaped upon 401 by the bucket. FINIST members were so angry that 401's wheelchair designer, Yevgeny Skvortsov, and business manager, Vladimir Khromov, would not listen to them that they told television reporters. They even threatened to take back all 401 wheelchairs purchased by the municipal administration and have the media film them dumping the chairs in front of 401. This plan was abandoned, if it ever was serious, when Kostian got wind of it and threatened to send goons to vandalize SMD if this event occurred.

The existence of more than one factory did have a positive effect on the quality and variety of wheelchairs and other rehabilitation equipment produced. Fierce criticism of 401's chairs by FINIST members and Social Protection's subsequent support to SMD spurred 401 to improve the quality of its chairs. They renewed production of adult chairs and also began to produce a series of walkers, standers, and other rehabilitation devices copied from Swedish designs. They even entered into a marketing agreement with the All-Russia Society of the Disabled (ARSD) to sell 401 wheelchairs, in imitation of the agreement between SMD and FINIST. Today, there are two functioning factories in Novosibirsk producing decent equipment for people with disabilities. It is mainly the low quality of available materials which prevents these chairs from competing on the world market.

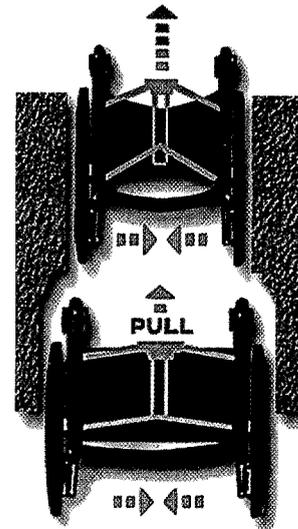
NGO DEVELOPMENT

When we began the project in 1993, we assumed that FINIST was more capable than it really was. We had chosen to work with FINIST because they had an already developed relationship with 401 and because of all the disability organizations we knew of in Novosibirsk, they were the least connected to the government. In fact, FINIST had been formed by people dissatisfied with the ARSD, the quasi-official disability organization.

We initially planned to spend the bulk of our efforts on developing the economic side of FINIST, thinking that the social/political side would develop rather naturally. But Novosibirsk's disabled population faced a set of economic, social, and juridical conditions quite unlike those faced in most developing countries where WMC had worked before. In Russia there is a well developed architectural infrastructure that is uniformly inaccessible to wheelchair riders. Wheelchair accessible public transportation is virtually non-existent. Laws guaranteeing the rights of people with disabilities were not enforceable under the post Perestroika Russian legal system. The above is not simply a list of separate and distinct problems. The lack of progress in each of these areas over the last 25 years had made it difficult to solve any one of these problems without attempting to solve them all. Left alone

The Incredible Shrinking Wheelchair

AT LAST... A WHEELCHAIR THAT CAN SQUEEZE THROUGH NARROW HALLWAYS, TIGHT DOORWAYS, INTO SMALL ELEVATORS, KITCHENS AND TINY BATHROOMS. The self-narrowing "Dynamica" wheelchair by SibMedDesign of Novosibirsk, Russia makes an active, independent, and productive lifestyle possible.



**COMPACT
PORTABLE
ATTRACTIVE
COMFORTABLE
ONE-YEAR WARRANTY
TESTED TO
INTERNATIONAL (ISO)
STANDARDS**

Wholesale pricing available on orders of 50 or more. Credit available to groups or organizations with orders of 10 or more. For more information, or to place an order, contact the official dealer:

**Novosibirsk Regional Center for
Independent Living "FINIST"**
15 Frunze Street
Novosibirsk, Russia 630091
Tel: (383-2) 24-03-55
Tel/Fax: (383-2) 24-38-01

OTHER FEATURES:

- TRUELOCK™ mechanism securely locks chair open or closed.
- Adjustable footrests, armrests, seat back and rear wheel position.
- Push-button removable rear wheels.
- Easily fits in trunk or back seat of small car, in closets, even onto shelves!
- Powdercoat paint finish twice as hard as enamel.
- Lightweight: from 19Kg to 21Kg depending on size and options.



ПОРТАТИВНЫЕ КОЛЯСКИ ДЛЯ АКТИВНОЙ ЖИЗНИ

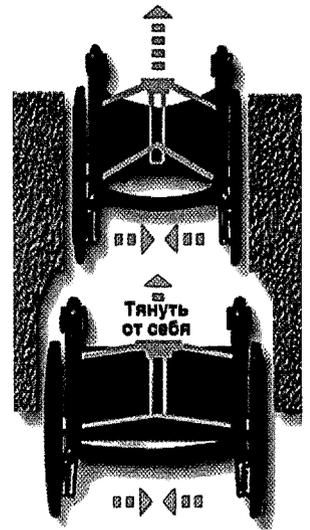
ОСОБЕННОСТИ КОНСТРУКЦИИ:

- Возможность быстрого снятия и установки ведущих колес позволяет погрузить коляску в автомобиль и выгрузить ее обратно без посторонней помощи.
- Замок конструкции TRUELOCK™ надежно фиксирует коляску в собранном и разобранном состоянии.
- Превосходные функциональные качества и идеальный баланс коляски, обеспечиваются легкой регулировкой задних колес.
- Положения подножек, подлокотников и спинки сиденья легко регулируются для удобства и комфорта.
- Легкая складная конструкция позволяет перевозить коляску в багажном отсеке небольших легковых автомобилей. В сложенном виде коляска занимает очень мало места и легко умещается в небольшом шкафу.
- Коляска окрашена способом порошкового напыления на полимерной основе, что по износостойкости превосходит окраску эмалями в два раза.
- Надежные, бескамерные передние колеса снижают риск проколов.
- Вес коляски от 19 до 21 кг., в зависимости от комплектации.

НАКОНЕЦ ...СОЗДАНА ИНВАЛИДНАЯ КОЛЯСКА, В КОТОРОЙ МОЖНО ПЕРЕДВИГАТЬСЯ ПО УЗКОМУ КОРИДОРУ, ПРОХОДИТЬ СКВОЗЬ УЗКИЕ ДВЕРНЫЕ ПРОЕМЫ И МОЖНО ПОМЕСТИТЬСЯ В НЕБОЛЬШОГО РАЗМЕРА ЛИФТ, КУХНЮ ИЛИ ВАННУЮ КОМНАТУ.

Благодаря уникальной конструкции коляски "Динамика" разработанной специалистами СибМедДизайн (Новосибирск) позволяющей изменять ширину коляски не покидая ее, становится возможным вести активный, независимый и мобильный образ жизни.

КОМПАКТНО
МОБИЛЬНО
ЭСТЕТИЧНО
УДОБНО
НАДЕЖНО
ОДИН ГОД ГАРАНТИИ
ИСПЫТАНО В
СООТВЕТСТВИИ
С ТРЕБОВАНИЯМИ
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫХ
СТАНДАРТОВ (ISO)



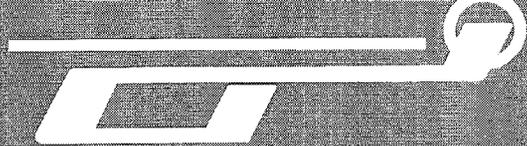
ВАРИАНТЫ

- Ширина сидения варьируется в пределах 340 - 460 мм.
- Задний ограничитель наклона против опрокидывания.
- Два варианта ширины передних колес.
- Мягкие или твердые подлокотники коляски.
- Широкий выбор светлых и прочных красок.

Льготные цены при заказе 50 и более колясок. Возможен кредит для групп и организаций с заказами 10 и более колясок. Для дальнейшей информации и заказа колясок обращайтесь к официальному дилеру:

**НОВОСИБИРСКОЕ ОБЛАСТНОЕ ОБЩЕСТВЕННОЕ
ОБЪЕДИНЕНИЕ ИНВАЛИДОВ
ЦЕНТР НЕЗАВИСИМОЙ ЖИЗНИ "ФИНИСТ"**

Россия 630091 г. НОВОСИБИРСК ул. ФРУНЗЕ 15,
Тел: (383 2) 24-03-55
Тел/Факс: (383 2) 24-38-01



*Совместное предприятие
АООТ "Новосибирский
авиаремонтный завод" и
Новосибирского городского
общества инвалидов*

1 Коляска взрослая

Предназначена для активного передвижения людей с ограниченными или полностью нарушенными двигательными функциями ног.

Используется как для передвижения в квартире, так и по дорогам с твердым покрытием.

Выпускается четырех типоразмеров по ширине сидения (спинки):

- 375 мм,
- 400 мм,
- 425 мм,
- 450 мм.

Вес коляски - не более 16 кг.
Размер основных колес - 24" (622 мм).
Размер передних колес - 6,5" (160 мм).
Максимальная нагрузка на коляску - не более 120 кг.



2 Коляска подростковая

Предназначена для активного и пассивного передвижения детей в возрасте от 5 до 12 лет.

Используется для передвижения в помещении и по дорогам с твердым покрытием.

Быстросъемные основные колеса - 20" (500 мм).
Передние колеса - 6,5" (160 мм).
Вес коляски - не более 12 кг.
Ширина коляски - по желанию заказчика.

Коляска приспособлена для использования совместно со столом (фото 6) во время занятий в школах-интернатах, детсадах и т.д.



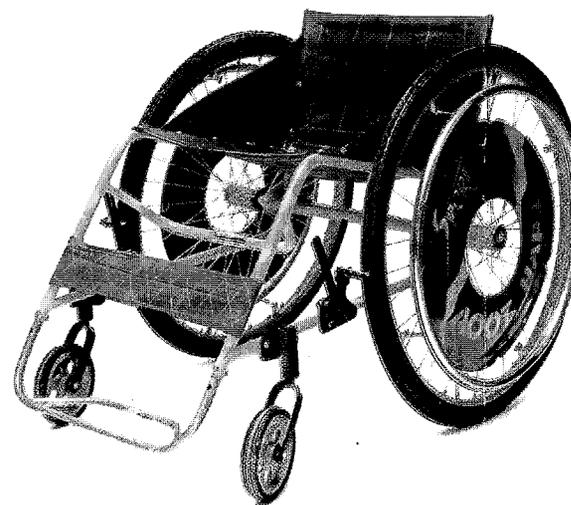
3 Коляска спортивная

Предназначена для игры в баскетбол или теннис в закрытых залах (помещениях).

Размер основных колес - 24" (622 мм). Колеса быстросъемные.

Размер передних колес - 5-6,5" (125-160 мм).

Вес - не более 12 кг.



4 Коляска прогулочная



Предназначена для пассивного передвижения детей в возрасте от 2 до 12 лет. Преимуществом этой коляски является быстрое и компактное складывание, что необходимо при транспортировке в общественном городском транспорте.
Ширина коляски - по желанию заказчика.
Вес коляски - не более 8 кг.
Колеса - 6, 5" (160 мм).



6 Стол-пар

Предназначена для занятия детей-инвалидов чтением, рисованием и т.д.

Может применяться с подростковой коляской (фото 2).

5 Стул-кресло на колесах

Является транспортным средством для передвижения как детей-инвалидов, так и взрослых по квартире. Имеет четыре самоориентирующихся колеса, что позволяет легко маневрировать в пространстве помещения.

Имеется ступенчатое регулирование по высоте.

Ширина, глубина и высота спинки - по желанию заказчика. Все зависит от грузоподъемности.

Диаметр колес - по желанию заказчика - от 60 мм до 125 мм.





7 Стол-парта складная

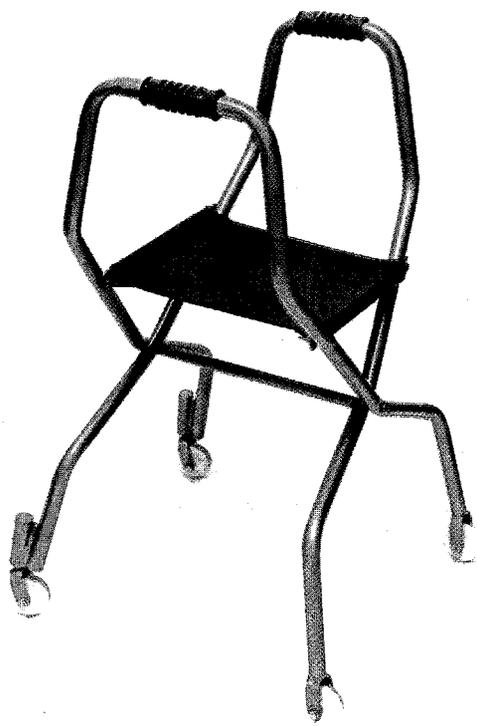
Предназначена для занятий детей как с нормальными, так и с ограниченными функциями передвижения.

Имеется регулировка по высоте столешницы, а также спинки и сиденья.



9 Ходунки

Предназначены для обучения навыкам ходьбы. Имеется регулировка по высоте. Выпускается как в бесколесном варианте, так и с двумя колесами и двумя упорами. Ширина и высота - по желанию заказчика.

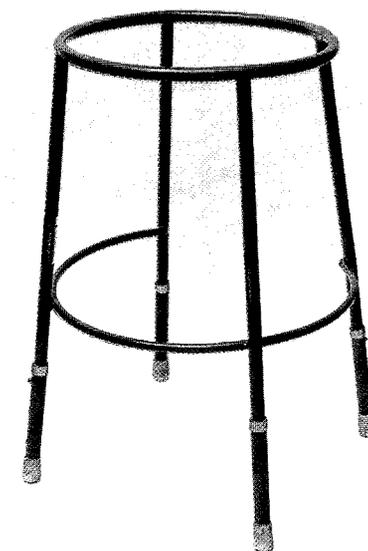


8 Ходунки специальные

Предназначены для передвижения людей с неполным ограничением двигательных функций ног. Высота и ширина - по желанию заказчика. Имеются сиденья для отдыха и передвижения.

10 Манеж

Предназначен для обучения навыкам ходьбы. Имеется регулировка по высоте. Выпускается как в бесколесном варианте, так и с двумя колесами и двумя упорами. Размеры - по желанию заказчика.



Выпускаемые инвалидные коляски различных модификаций имеют универсальный характер. Коляски "активного" типа, которые могут служить как комнатные и прогулочные. Коляски складные облегченного типа с убирающимися подлокотниками и легкоъемными колесами.

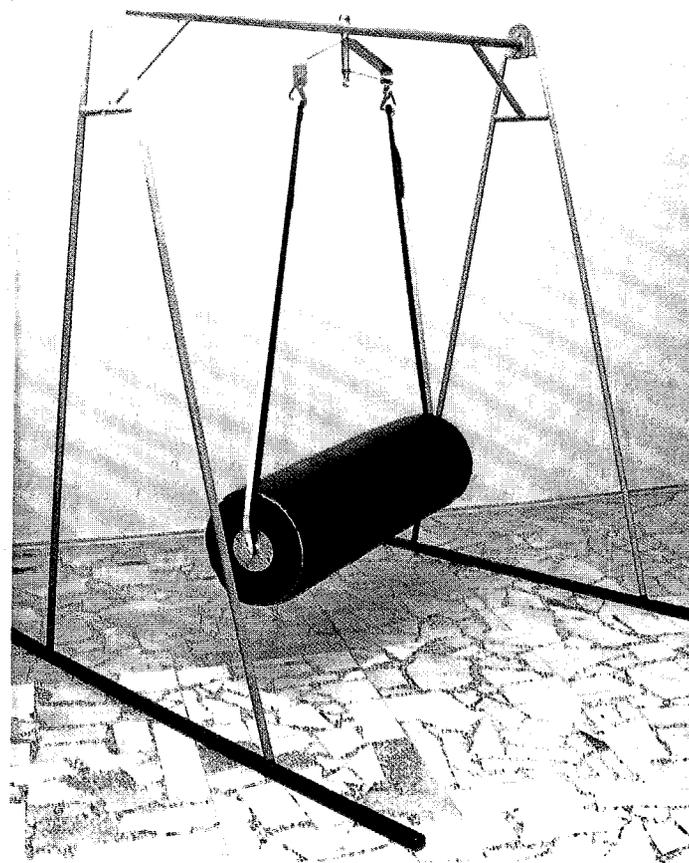
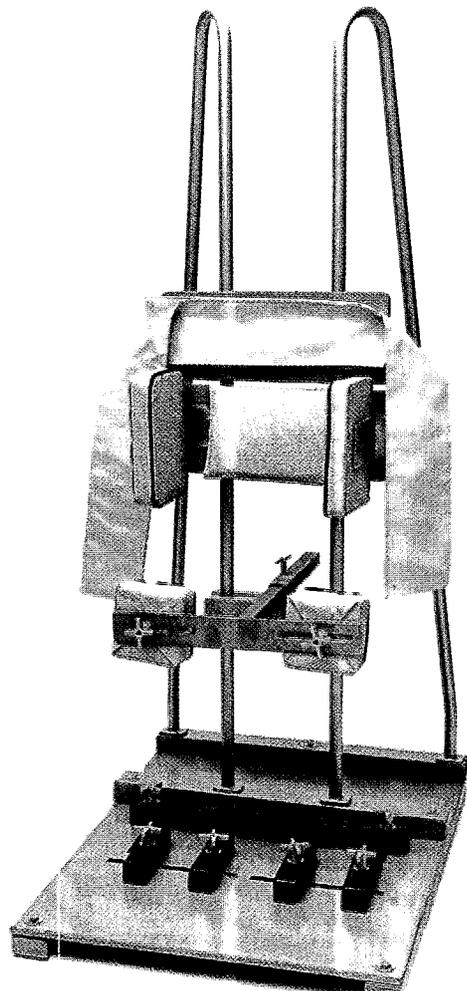
Универсальное приспособление позволяет легко изменить геометрию коляски в сторону уменьшения внешних габаритов.

11 Тренажер вертикализации

Предназначен для обучения навыкам стояния.

Может применяться для детей и взрослых ростом от 90 см до 180 см.

Габаритные основания (площадки) - 180 × 610 мм.



12 Тренажер качели

Предназначен для тренировки вестибулярного аппарата детей с поражением центральной нервной системы, а также для установки навыка сидения (мягкий валик).

Габариты основания - 2000 × 1500 мм.

Россия, Новосибирск, 630021
Телефоны: (3832) 28-96-79,
28-96-63,
28-01-98

Факс: (3832) 25-36-79

© МАСТЕР

1. Коляски выпускаются пяти типоразмеров с различной шириной сидения.

Типоразмер №

Ширина сидения мм.

- | | |
|----|---------|
| 1. | 340 мм. |
| 2. | 370 мм. |
| 3. | 400 мм. |
| 4. | 430 мм. |
| 5. | 460 мм. |

2. Оснащена складывающимися подножками лёгкосъёмные.

3. Рама «Воласки» специальной конструкции позволяет уменьшить ширину коляски не касаясь её (при проезде узких дверных проёмов, лифтов, уличных тротуаров). Механизм коляски самофиксируется как в сложенном, так и в разложенном положении, что исключает самопроизвольное складывание на ходу и раскрытие при переносе.

4. Коляска оборудована адаптером, позволяющим изменять положение основного колеса, а также угла наклона спинки +2%.

5. Высота подножки, подлокотников легко регулируются. По желанию клиента устанавливаются ограничители опрокидывания коляски. Изменяется наклон спинки от 7% - 10% и передние колёса двух типов (различной ширины).

6. Коляска выпускается двух модификаций, с передними и задними основными колёсами и с жёсткими и мягкими боковинами.

7. Вес коляски от 19 до 21 кг., в зависимости от размера и комплектации.

Новосибирский областной спортивно-реабилитационный клуб инвалидов-колясочников «ФИНИСТ».

Расчётный счёт 003700168 в Новосибирской дирекции Мосбизнесбанка.

Клуб «ФИНИСТ», официальный дилер производственно-комерческой фирмы «СибМедДизайн», представляет коляску «КОЛИН»

Комфортно
Мобильно
Надёжно
Удобно



ПОПРОБУЙ И СРАВНИ !

Окраска.

Коляски фирмы "СибМедДизайн" окрашены способом порошкового напыления на полимерной основе, что по износостойкости превосходит окраску меламиноалкидными эмалями в несколько раз.

Складывающее устройство.

Россия идёт своим путём. Наши автомобили всегда делались для дорог, а не дороги для автомобилей. Так и коляски фирмы "СибМедДизайн" сделаны для наших малогабаритных квартир, а не квартиры для людей с инвалидностью.

На этих колясках люди с инвалидностью впервые получили возможность передвигаться по квартире без ограничений. Проезд в ванную комнату, туалет, на кухню и на лоджию или балкон уже не является непреодолимым препятствием. Благодаря оригинальному складывающему устройству, позволяющему изменять ширину коляски не покидая её, для людей передвигающихся при помощи такой коляски, стало возможным путешествовать железнодорожным транспортом, попадать в ранее не доступные места, посещать кабинеты чиновников, к которым они не имели доступа из-за бастионов узких лифтов и дверных проёмов.

Колёса.

Надёжные, лёгкие, безкамерные, пластиковые передние колёса снижают риск проколов во время прогулок и путешествий, избавляют от поиска остродефицитных камер и покрышек. Легкосъёмные задние колёса коляски людям с инвалидностью-автомобилистам помогают быть полностью независимыми. Возможность быстрого снятия и установки колёс позволяет погрузить коляску в автомобиль и выгрузить её обратно без посторонней помощи.

Итоги.

Преимущества складывающего устройства, легкосъёмных подножек, подлокотников и задних колёс увеличивается и тогда, когда в коляске отпадает необходимость. В сложенном виде коляска занимает очень мало места и легко умещается на антресолях, на полке или в шкафу.

Коляски фирмы "СибМедДизайн" прошли тестирование и опробирование в клубе инвалидов-колясочников "ФИНИСТ" в течении двух лет и получили **отличную оценку экспертной группы инвалидов-колясочников.**

За время, с учётом результатов испытаний были внесены конструктивные изменения, что улучшило качество, надёжность и внешний вид колясок. Так были усилены подножки, изменён адаптер заднего колеса, улучшен стояночный тормоз и добавлены жёсткие вставки боковин, изменена конструкция передних колёс.

Производственно-коммерческая фирма "СибМедДизайн" тесно сотрудничает с клубом инвалидов-колясочников "ФИНИСТ", который является официальным дилером фирмы.

Клуб "ФИНИСТ" предлагает коляски двух модификаций, пяти типоразмеров. По желанию заказчика могут быть установлены ограничители наклона против опрокидывания, передние колёса различной ширины, изменён угол наклона спинки сидения.

Упаковка: картонные коробки, полиэтиленовые мешки.

Гарантия 1 год.

Коляски продаются:

-физическим лицам - за наличный расчёт;

-юридическим лицам - за наличный и безналичный расчёт при условии предоплаты партиями до 50 штук.

Предприятиям и организациям предоставляется ссуда на срок до двух месяцев для приобретения партии колясок из 10 штук.

Адрес:

Клуб инвалидов-колясочников "ФИНИСТ"

630091 г.НОВОСИБИРСК, ул. Мичурина 14,

тел.24-03-55, тел./ факс 24-38-01;

р / счёт 003700168 в Новосибирской дирекции Мосбизнесбанка.

to run its own course, the evolution of disability rights and the independent living movement in Novosibirsk would be long, slow and arduous. The movement needed a jump start.

We took as our model the independent living center (ILC), which was first established in 1972 in the US and has since spread to many other countries throughout the world. The ILC is a non-residential service and advocacy organization run by and for people with disabilities. An essential characteristic of the independent living center model lies in its philosophy of uniting together people of many different disabilities.

We knew this concept of cross-disability organization would not be readily accepted. In Novosibirsk, just as throughout the world, disabled people have historically been divided along disability lines, with separate organizations for blind people, for deaf people, and for people with physical-motor disabilities. This natural tendency to organizational isolation was magnified by the bureaucratic character of organizations formed during the Soviet period and the bureaucratic model followed even by newer organizations. The result had been to promote competition instead of cooperation and significantly weaken the disabled community's ability to gain its fair share of the public resources.

One key feature of the independent living center model we promoted in Novosibirsk which differs from the US model is a disabled women's program, now known as ARIADNA. We realized early on that the existing organizations of people with disabilities in Novosibirsk were extremely bureaucratized. We also recognized that the women members of each of these organizations were by and large excluded from leadership positions. We felt that women of all disabilities could come together in a powerful grassroots movement which would be felt in all of the existing organizations. We believed that ARIADNA could provide the opportunity for disabled women activists to develop their leadership abilities so they could take their rightful places as leaders of the entire disabled community and could be a force for uniting people with differing disabilities at the grassroots level. (See section on ARIADNA, below).

FINIST History and Organizational Development

FINIST was founded in April 1990 as a sports and recreation service organization for people with disabilities. It was run by President Vladimir Krivenkov and his bookkeeper, Tonya Ivko, out of the second floor of the Spartak municipal sports stadium. There was no elevator, which effectively eliminated wheelchair riders from active involvement in the organization's management. That is the way Krivenkov wanted it.

In the early Spring of 1994 we began to organize the wheelchair riders to get involved in FINIST. Krivenkov resisted. A long and bitter struggle ensued. The wheelchair riders managed to get a downstairs office, with a ramp from the outside and a wheelchair accessible bathroom. But Krivenkov remained president and maintained his upstairs office, with the organization's phone, fax, and computer. The new FINIST members formed a "working group," akin to an executive committee. The new group was hostile to Krivenkov who they

felt was exploiting them, getting money, and doing nothing. They were also hostile to disabled persons who did not use a wheelchair because they had so much resentment about always being excluded from inaccessible activities. They felt that wheelchair riders needed their own organization to defend their interests.

In early summer of 1994 Krivenkov decided to write a new constitution for the organization. This document would have changed FINIST from a sports club into a broader service organization with a profit-making arm. More importantly for Krivenkov, it would have given him absolute control over all aspects of the organization except for sports. He hoped to get his new constitution rubber stamped by the general membership, most of whom were not involved in the Club's activities, uninformed, and could be counted on to vote the way he recommended. Krivenkov's attempt to stage a preemptive coup was immediately opposed by the "working group" which included elected members of a FINIST Council and other activists. To counter what came to be known as Krivenkov's "Stalin Constitution," Semenko drafted a more democratic constitution which gave power in the organization to the membership. This draft constitution, however, favored wheelchair riders (kolyasachniki) over people with mobility impairments who did not use wheelchairs, the "oporniki" or crutch-users. The "oporniki" were upset because they felt they were being unfairly excluded. After a few months this issue was resolved by defining "wheelchair rider" as anyone with a lower extremity disability who "might" need to use a wheelchair.

In September of 1994, The FINIST Council learned for the first time that Krivenkov and Ivko had been receiving salaries from WMC. They also learned Krivenkov and Ivko could not account for \$4000 of Social Protection funds. FINIST members voted to relieve Ivko of her duties as bookkeeper because she had listed the missing funds as spent on the purchase of stock in a private company, although there were never any stock certificates. Krivenkov claimed that he did nothing wrong, distanced himself from Ivko, and let her take the fall. Semenko found a professional and impartial accountant, Nadia Bonifatova, to replace Ivko.

At this time, WMC-FINIST relations hit a low point. Prior to establishing the council, the new activists had been told virtually nothing by Krivenkov about the WMC-FINIST agreement. They were very suspicious and assumed that WMC project managing director Krizack was somehow in cahoots with Krivenkov. For the next six months, tensions within the club, and between WMC and the FINIST Council, remained very high. Council member Stas Pachgin went on the warpath to draft a new agreement between FINIST and WMC. Krivenkov became passive aggressive, refusing to do even the least little thing without prior approval of the Council. Volodya Poleshuk, who had been the first to oppose Krivenkov, was confined to bed for 2 months with a pressure sore. His own lack of diplomacy also prevented him from winning support in his struggle to oust Krivenkov. Slowly, and with a great deal of ambivalence, Victor Semenko began to emerge as the leader of the anti-Krivenkov, pro-independent living group. Victor would show a great deal of energy, but he had a tendency to go into hibernation, once for as long as a month, when things got too hot or didn't go his way.

In March 1995 Victor Semenko and Zhenya Zelentsov arrived in California for one month to work with WMC. Krivenkov took advantage of their absence to mobilize his support in the disabled community, particularly among the founding members of FINIST. Grigorii Vasiliev, a paraplegic ex-police officer who had gone on a hunger strike in 1989 to force the government to set up FINIST, jumped to Krivenkov's defense and wrote a stinging article in "Golas," the Department of Social Protection's newspaper, attacking the FINIST Council as usurpers of power who had been corrupted by American money. Around this time a rumor was floated that WMC project managing director Krizack was a CIA agent who had come to spy on the 401 helicopter repair facility.

But Semenko and Zelentsov had become exposed to the independent living center concept and the US disability rights movement while in the US. Semenko's wariness toward WMC and Krizack rapidly dissolved. A fired up Semenko returned to Novosibirsk.

Vasiliev argued that FINIST should remain a sports club. He demanded a recall of the council and a new vote of the membership. He was technically correct that the council was an illegal body because they had failed to officially register their new constitution in September 1994. But the reform-minded activists had done an effective organizing job, and when the new vote was taken, Vasiliev lost his seat on the council. Four other members in his faction resigned from the organization. The Council was increased from five to seven seats, two were occupied by women, and the only council member in Krivenkov's faction was Krivenkov himself. Semenko was elected chairperson of the Council. The Council then abolished the position of President, and made Krivenkov the executive director, formally subordinate to the council. In reality, Semenko and Krivenkov were both executive directors, thus continuing an untenable situation which has been described as "dual power" in comparison with the political situation in Tsarist Russia after April 1917. Krivenkov held this new position because the new council was neither strong enough nor willing to remove him from power. They also were trying to pattern their organization after the US non-profit model in which there is an executive director, without fully understanding that model. This situation of "dual power" continued to exist until December 1995 when Krivenkov stepped down as executive director so he could manage FINIST's computer training school which has been set up with a grant from the Minneapolis sister city project.

In November 1995 FINIST voted to change its name to the Novosibirsk Regional Non-governmental Organization of People with Disabilities, Center for Independent Living "FINIST."

Disabled Women's Program

One of the keys to WMC and FINIST progress has been the Disabled Women's Program. Initially, many disabled women said that they did not need their own organization because they had the same problems as disabled men. It took well over six months for this attitude to begin to change. Then, the disabled men didn't want the disabled women to compete with

them for available funding. A compromise was reached whereby the disabled women's program would be considered the disabled women's sector of FINIST.

The men's opposition to a disabled women's program stimulated a discussion within the Wheeled Mobility Center about whether or not to promote ARIADNA as an independent women's organization. In the end WMC decided that the semi-autonomous relationship between ARIADNA and FINIST was the most appropriate form.

We were trying to organize all disabled people, not just disabled women, so even if we would not have been able to transform FINIST from a sports club into a vibrant independent living center, we would have wanted to set up a new, all-inclusive cross-disability independent living center. Since all indications were that the existence of a Disabled Women's Program within FINIST was both realizable and would strengthen FINIST, we felt it would be counterproductive to set up an entirely independent disabled women's organization.

While ARIADNA needed to be able to operate so that disabled women leaders could develop without being hampered by domineering men, it would have been disastrous for them to separate from FINIST. First, as people with disabilities, disabled women have much more in common with disabled men than they have differences. Every issue that we would consider a woman's issue is significantly impacted by issues of concern to all disabled people, such as architectural barriers, inaccessible transportation, and horrible public attitudes toward people with disabilities. Only by working closely together with FINIST (and other disability groups) would the disabled women be able to solve even those problems which impact exclusively, or predominantly, on women. We wanted the Disabled Women's Program to develop women leaders who could lead the entire disability rights/independent living movement and ensure that FINIST and other organizations would take women's issues seriously. Finally, if only from the practical perspective of sustainability, it appeared unlikely that the disabled women could develop an economically viable independent organization. FINIST was earning money selling wheelchairs and engaging in other income generating activities. The women should have access to those funds as well, but they wouldn't if they were a separate organization. Autonomy within FINIST would help women leadership develop. Separation from FINIST would lead to further divisions among the disabled community just when we were trying to bring different disability groups together (e.g. the Library for the Blind). It would have been the beginning of the end for ARIADNA, and in the end, those who had left FINIST and incurred the anger of those who stayed in FINIST, would be forced to come back to FINIST on their hands and knees (figuratively, of course). Siberians are big on saving face, and it might have taken a long time for them to swallow their pride and rejoin. In the meantime, not just the disabled women but the entire disabled community would suffer.

In May 1994 WMC brought Lyuba Ievinsh to the US for 2 weeks. Lyuba is now the outreach coordinator for the health clinic. In September 1994 WMC brought Larisa Tokareva to the US. Larisa later was chosen as ARIADNA's first president. Olga Manaeva



ДИАЛОГ

Информационный бюллетень

Новосибирского областного спортивно-реабилитационного
клуба инвалидов-колясочников "Финист"

№ 1

лето-осень

1995

8 На заседаниях Совета

* 29 июня на заседании Совета присутствовал Марк Кризак. Он говорил о необходимости разработать стратегию Клуба на ближайший год. Деятельность Клуба показала, что имеющиеся ресурсы исчерпаны, пришли новые люди, проявившие себя, как лидеры. Одна из первоочередных задач - найти более просторное помещение. Сейчас уже можно говорить о преобразовании Клуба в Центр независимой жизни. Несомненно, это - перспективная цель, но людей, которые могут и хотят работать в Центре, надо начинать искать. На данный момент "Финист" более организован, чем ранее.

* 13 июля обсуждалась Компьютерная программа. Это совместная работа Клуба, предприятия "Дельта" (поставка компьютерной техники) и USSR-CONNECT (некоммерческая организация, США, штат Миннеаполис). Программа предусматривает обучение инвалидов с последующим трудоустройством.

* 21 августа состоялись выборы Управляющего комитета отдела "Оборот-Финист". Комитет будет представлять ссуды на приобретение реабилитационной техники, приспособлений и оборудования, в том числе: инвалидные коляски, протезно-ортопедические изделия, средства передвижения и иные, облегчающие жизнь людям с ограниченными возможностями. Заявки принимаются как от физических лиц, так и от юридических на конкурсной основе и рассматриваются Управляющим комитетом.

* 30 августа принято решение о создании юридической фирмы. Фирма предполагает оказание юридических услуг инвалидам на льготных условиях.

* 12 октября принято решение провести общее собрание членов Клуба в первой декаде ноября, на котором будут обсуждаться следующие вопросы: "Переименование Клуба в Центр независимой жизни", "Довыборы в Совет Клуба в связи с самоустранением Сергея Мещерякова", "Результаты работы предприятия клуба "Финист" (директор Ярославцев Сергей Робертович)".

В номере:

На заседаниях Совета

Клубная хроника

Первый этап Медицинской
программы завершен

Две недели в Финляндии

Клубная хроника

* Пять дней провели 13 членов Клуба на берегу Телецкого озера. Суровая красота природы Алтая, горный воздух, каша с дымком - и уходят проблемы, забываются болезни. Пусть на время, но как здорово почувствовать себя частицей природы. Такое событие произошло впервые, и, конечно, не доставало опыта. Но лишения походной жизни компенсировались. Надолго останутся в памяти живописные берега озера и перекаты непокорной Катунь, прозрачная свежесть утра и взметнувшееся к небу пламя костра.

* Северная трибуна - заветная мечта Клуба. Но не такая уж призрачная. Переговоры с мэрией по ее реконструкции, хоть медленно, но продвигают нас к цели. В июле, августе и сентябре состоялись встречи, в которых приняли участие Животрев Николай Дмитриевич, вице-мэр по социальной политике, Серикова Вера Николаевна, председатель Комитета по социальной политике, Липатов Михаил Тимофеевич, директор стадиона "Спартак",

Петухова Анна Степановна, начальник отдела по работе с ветеранами и инвалидами областного управления социальной защиты. В настоящее время в мэрии подготавливается решение "О создании на базе стадиона "Спартак" реабилитационного центра для лиц с ограниченными возможностями".

* Возобновились тренировки по сидячему волейболу. Проводит их тренер Школы спорта для инвалидов, мастер спорта по волейболу Наталья Анатольевна Иванова. Опытный тренер - работала со здоровыми людьми и с незрячими. Занятия проходят интересно, команда дисциплинирована, есть взаимопонимание.

* Есть возможность отдохнуть и пройти курс лечения в санатории "Краснозерский". Это единственный санаторий в нашей области, приспособленный для спинальных больных.

Внимательный персонал, уникальное диагностическое оборудование, минеральные грязи, отменное питание. Путевка предоставляется бесплатно на 42 дня. Клуб организовал три заезда. Недовольных нет.

* Установлены деловые контакты с библиотекой для слабовидящих. Планируется создание Информационного центра, где будет сосредоточена информация по социальной, медицинской, психологической реабилитации. Кроме того, библиотека обязуется доставлять книги на дом членам Клуба и их детям.

* 36 тысяч женщин приехали на Международный женский форум в Пекин. Среди них была Попова Любовь Трофимовна. Она представляла интересы женщин с инвалидностью, работала в секциях "Насилие над женщинами", "Экология", "Конверсия и женщина".



Первый этап Медицинской программы завершен

7 июля 1995 года подписан договор по Медицинской программе между Клубом, Центром передвижения на колесах и больницей №6. Это итог огромной работы, начатой в феврале 1995 года, когда Марк Кризак, в очередной раз посетив наш Клуб, известил, что получен грант на организацию медицинского кабинета для профилактики и лечения больных с нарушением опорно-двигательного аппарата и просветительскую работу по медицинским вопросам.

Сложности возникли на первом этапе работы по программе - поиск медицинского учреждения, на территории которого предстояло организовать медицинский кабинет. Многочисленные переговоры с руководством областной клинической больницы, НИИТО и рядом других учреждений ни к чему не привели.

В это время к работе подключилась Попова Любовь Трофимовна, врач-хирург. Целеустремленный поиск, подкрепленный ее многолетней практикой, увенчался успехом - главный врач больницы №6 Мельников Виталий Иванович предоставил возможность организовать медицинский кабинет.

Сейчас медицинский кабинет оснащается оборудованием для диагностики и лечения. Составлен перечень медицинских принадлежностей по каталогу американских фирм и направлен Марку Кризаку. Экспертная оценка некоторых образцов медицинских принадлежностей была проведена членами клуба.

В ноябре этого года медицинский кабинет начнет прием первых пациентов. Инвалиды с нарушением опорно-двигательного аппарата пройдут углубленное медицинское обследование с последующим диспансерным наблюдением, при необходимости возможно лечение в стационаре. Договором предусмотрена доставка нуждающихся в больницу не менее трех раз в неделю.

В штате Медицинской программы работает три человека: врач-координатор, врач-терапевт, диспетчер. Для обследований будут привлекаться узкие специалисты: невропатологи, урологи, гинекологи.

Желающие пройти обследование могут обратиться к Иевиньш Любви Вилениновне, диспетчеру Медицинской программы. Им будет назначена дата посещения кабинета и предоставлен транспорт.

Сотрудничество с больницей в перспективе предусматривает создание реабилитационного центра. Сейчас АООТ "Новосибирский металлургический завод" строит для больницы шестизэтажный корпус, где и предполагается разместить центр. Рабочая группа по Медицинской программе готовит документы и имеет возможность получить дополнительное финансирование через благотворительные гранты на создание центра реабилитации спинальных больных на базе новой поликлиники больницы №6, стоматологическое лечение инвалидов, оборудование санатория для лиц с поражением опорно-двигательного аппарата (на базе санатория "Краснозерский").



Две недели в Финляндии

Весной Клуб получил приглашение из Центра независимой жизни "Порог" (Финляндия) с 6 по 16 июля посетить страну, познакомиться с жизнью инвалидов, их проблемами и достижениями.

Кандидатуры для поездки обсуждались на общем собрании Клуба. В группу из 10 человек вошли активные, заинтересованные люди. В их числе были Надежда Ярцева, Людмила Дворникова, Станислав Пачгин, чьи впечатления о поездке предлагаем Вашему вниманию.

НАДЕЖДА

Мы, группа инвалидов-колясочников клуба "Финист", в июне посетили Финляндию с целью изучения опыта движения инвалидов за независимый образ жизни. Финансовую поддержку оказал Центр передвижения на колесах (США).

Программа обучения была интересной и насыщенной. Обсуждались вопросы создания в Новосибирске Центра независимой жизни, как сделать полноценной жизнь человека с ограниченными возможностями.

Много интересного и полезного мы узнали о Финляндии. Это небольшая страна: в ней проживает 5029060 человек, из них инвалиды составляют 10 процентов.

Семинар подготовили и провели инвалиды из Центра независимой жизни "Порог". Эти замечательные люди на колясках рассказали о трудной и упорной борьбе в течении 20 лет, сколько мужества потребовалось им, о результатах упорной, настойчивой работы. И они достигли цели - люди с ограниченными возможностями живут так, как хотят: без посторонней помощи могут поехать в любую точку города (коляски с электроприводом), пользоваться городским транспортом, который оборудован подъемниками. Даже в метро есть лифт. Улицы городов, а мы посетили Хельсинки и Ярвинпяя, приспособлены для передвижения на колясках - есть пандусы. Люди с ограниченными возможностями стали свободными, независимыми гражданами своей страны.

В этом мы убедились, посетив дома, где живут люди, имеющие тяжелую форму инвалидности. Они, при необходимости, могут обратиться в муниципалитет и получить помощника. Если помощник не устраивает, инвалид вправе отказать ему. Но это случается редко, так как сейчас в Финляндии трудно найти работу, и люди дорожат рабочим местом, По-

мощник сопровождает инвалида всюду, если это требуется. Услуги оплачивает муниципалитет.

В Хельсинки есть специальные инватакси, то есть такси с подъемником. Заказ можно сделать по телефону. Половину расходов оплачивает муниципалитет.

Инвалиды в Финляндии получают пособие, обеспечивающее прожиточный минимум.

Посещение дома обслуживания (интерната) произвело неизгладимое впечатление: он не похож ни на один из наших домов для инвалидов. Люди в нем имеют собственные отдельные квартиры, могут создавать семьи. Есть столовая, плата за питание небольшая. Проживает в таком доме около 60 человек, они так же получают пособия. Желающих жить в доме обслуживания больше, чем он может вместить, поэтому люди ждут очереди.

В один из вечеров меня и Людмилу Дворникову пригласила Леена Хахле на вечеринку домой. Встречали радушно. Квартира удобная, уютная и доступная для коляски. В квартире есть все, даже компьютер.

Мы хотим создать такой же центр в Новосибирске, чтобы инвалиды могли жить полноценной жизнью. И приглашаем к сотрудничеству всех, желающих оказать реальную помощь.

ЛЮДМИЛА

Из Новосибирска мы прилетели в Санкт-Петербург, где нас ждал автобус, доставивший группу в Финляндию. Меня удивило, насколько он был приспособлен для погрузки людей на колясках. Приспособление очень простое: два рельса, которые водитель укрепляет на нижней ступеньке автобуса. По этим

25

рельсам закатывается коляска в автобус.

В Ярвинпя нас поселили в училище для инвалидов. Идеально чистые комнаты приспособлены для людей с ограниченными возможностями, то есть все сделано так, чтобы обходиться без посторонней помощи. Например, у кровати можно поднять изголовье для человека, которому тяжело сидеть. Двери открываются при помощи дистанционного управления. Просторная столовая, где так же можно обслужить себя самостоятельно, "шведский стол". Питание было отменное: разнообразные фрукты, овощи, молочные продукты. Везде мы встречали доброжелательных, улыбающихся людей, спокойных и неторопливых.

Через неделю мы поехали в Хельсинки. Там жили в школе-интернате для детей-инвалидов. Это - пятиэтажное здание, все комнаты просторные и чистые. Имеется лифт, в который входит две коляски. Очень удобная кухня: посудные шкафы опускаются на любой уровень при помощи кнопки, электроплиту и мойку так же можно регулировать по высоте. Выключатели расположены низко. В городе много мест, где можно отдохнуть. Так, Центр обучения имеет сауну, бассейн, залы для спортивных игр.

Я думаю, что со временем и наш город станет доступным и удобным для людей на колясках.

СТАНИСЛАВ

Люди с ограниченными возможностями в Финляндии полностью независимы. Это во многом определяется законодательством. Государство предоставляет им равные права с другими членами общества.

Интересен опыт в области финансирования общественных организаций людей с ограниченными возможностями. Раз в год отправляют проекты и программы развития на конкурс в государственную монопольную Ассоциацию игровых автоматов, которая 60 процентов своей прибыли выделяет на финансирование этих программ. В основном проекты и программы направлены на развитие социальной сферы, облегчающей жизнь людей с ограниченными возможностями.

Свидетельство тому - город Хельсинки полностью доступен людям, передвигающимся с помощью коляски.

ВНИМАНИЕ !

С 3 по 13 ДЕКАБРЯ Управление социальной защиты администрации Новосибирской области проводит декаду инвалидов.

В программе:

- спортивные соревнования по волейболу, дартсу, настольному теннису;
- фестиваль народного творчества;
- ярмарка предприятий общественных организаций.

По всем вопросам обращайтесь в районные отделения ВОИ.

УСПЕХОВ И ВЕСЕЛОГО ПРАЗДНИКА !

came to the US on a World Institute on Disability (WID) training. She is now editor of "Dialogue," the FINIST newsletter. ARIADNA has been the unequivocal leader both within FINIST and the disabled community as a whole in the effort to unite people with disabilities. They made an alliance with the Library for the Blind to implement the health project, and their meetings are open to disabled women of any disability. They have made special efforts to reach out to deaf women.

ARIADNA began its serious development under a second World Learning grant to set up a disabled community health clinic. It also organized the AXIS Dance Troupe visit to Novosibirsk in June 1995. AXIS is a San Francisco Bay Area based modern dance troupe which integrates disabled and non-disabled dancers including wheelchair riders. The women organized publicity, workshops and performances. They sought funding from local Novosibirsk businesses.

The AXIS Dance Troupe visit generated a great deal of very positive publicity. FINIST has now formed its own dance company and during the official Russian Week of the Disabled in December 1995 performed "The Firebird."

Disabled Women have been very active in developing new FINIST activities, either for ARIADNA or for FINIST as a whole. In the Spring of 1995, ARIADNA members wrote a successful grant proposal to the Global Fund for Women. Dr. Lyubov Popova attended the UN Beijing Women's Conference. Two teenage girls, Natasha 16 and Zhenya 17, attended a Mobility International USA training in Eugene, Oregon in Fall 1995. This training was highlighted in the PBS series "People in Motion" which first aired in April 1996. ARIADNA raised part of the travel costs themselves through the business community. Olga Manaeva, virtually single-handedly, put out the first FINIST newsletter. Katya Merkulova has emerged as a competent and prolific grant writer who has written one proposal to set up a women's information bureau and one to the European Community for extending our Disabled Community Health Clinic project after it ends in September 1996.

One interesting spin-off from ARIADNA is Svetlana Lyapunova, who was ARIADNA's first vice-president. Svetlana is a former municipal deputy. She is perhaps the most professional of all the people in and around FINIST, although she is also one of the most headstrong. Svetlana wrote an exceptional grant proposal which was one out of only five proposals funded in a competition by the Eurasia Foundation. There were fifty-eight proposals submitted. Svetlana has set up a new NGO called "FEMIDA" whose purpose is to provide legal assistance to nascent NGO's of all kinds in Novosibirsk. She is also active in trying to develop legal advocacy efforts on behalf of all disadvantaged groups. Unfortunately, Svetlana has chosen to go her own way and is no longer active in ARIADNA.

The women's program has shown growth and improvement since we first broached the idea in December 1993. Efforts to reach young disabled women and newly disabled persons, for which Larisa Tokareva and Olga Manaeva have shown real energy and creativity, promise a hopeful future to both ARIADNA and FINIST. Unfortunately, the political level within

ARIADNA remains rather low. Professional women such as Dr. Lyubov Popova and Yulia L'vutina, a lawyer, are active in FINIST but not in ARIADNA. This is probably because they personally have not needed an organization like ARIADNA to be successful. It may also be that ARIADNA suffers from an attitude present throughout much of Russian society that women's issues, activities and organizations have a lesser importance. Whatever the reasons, most disabled women see ARIADNA as a social, cultural, and sports organization, although ARIADNA has been active in peer education around women's sexuality and reproductive health through the Disabled Community Health Clinic.

It must be pointed out that ARIADNA has suffered from the manner of its birth. Unlike FINIST, whose present leadership emerged in the course of the organization's internal struggles and comprises the best activists, the ARIADNA leadership was handpicked by Wheeled Mobility Center as ARIADNA was first being formed. As new disabled women activists began to get involved, they were reluctant to challenge the current WMC-nominated leaders. It was only at the beginning of 1996 that ARIADNA's internal organizational life became more dynamic as the newer activists felt confident enough to assert themselves in discussions of ARIADNA's strategies and goals. WMC has tried to facilitate this development by making it clear that it is the ARIADNA membership, not WMC, which must choose the ARIADNA leadership.

Legal Advocacy

In 1993, the Novosibirsk disabled community lacked the legal basis for demanding and enforcing rights which disabled people in the United States now take for granted. Russian Federal law on disability was inadequate and unenforceable. Laws on the local level were concerned with entitlements, not rights to equal access. The general attitude toward people with disabilities was that they are and always will be dependent. Many disabled persons shared this attitude. Advocacy took the form of pleading, cajoling, and harassing various officials. It was often done individually, not collectively, and there was no guarantee of permanence. When a friendly official died or changed positions, the process of wooing a new official had to begin all over again.

At the project's close in December 1995, new laws had been passed on the federal level, but there still are no guaranteed enforcement mechanisms. There is now a much greater awareness in Novosibirsk of the everyday problems disabled people face which need to be addressed through legislative and executive action. There is a core of disability activists who now approach the problem as one of rights, not entitlements. Although a significant part of FINIST's advocacy continues to take the form of meetings with government officials, FINIST has begun to take on more formal law activities thanks to the efforts of a disabled lawyer, Yulia L'vutina, and disability activist Valentina Fedorovna Kuznetsova. In October 1995 Ms. L'vutina, who is a member of the FINIST Council, set up a law firm named "CONSUL" (Counsel). CONSUL is a for-profit arm of FINIST which provides legal representation for people with disabilities and disability NGO's subsidized from fees paid by non-disabled clients.

Юридическая фирма

630091, г.Новосибирск,
ул. Фрунзе, 15, Стадион "Спартак"
тел./факс 24-38-01

"Консул"

Р/С 600164001 в РКЦ
при ГУ ЦБ РФ МФО 224024
счет № 467-119

Юридическая фирма "Консул" - фирма, специализирующаяся на оказании правовой помощи инвалидам. Она была создана в октябре 1995 г. как постоянно действующая юридическая служба, осуществляющая правовую защиту инвалидов непосредственно силами самих инвалидов, а также дающая возможность проявления законодательной инициативы на местном уровне (а в последующем и на федеральном) с учетом нужд и прав инвалидов. Необходимость создания такой фирмы обусловлена правовой незащищенностью инвалидов, их правовой безграмотностью и отсутствием элементарных знаний своих прав, а также несовершенством законодательства, касающегося инвалидов.

Необходимым условием работы фирмы является оказание юридических услуг инвалидами, имеющими юридическое образование, так как именно инвалидам лучше других известны их нужды и наиболее проблемные, а кроме того это связано с тем, что фирма ставит перед собой задачу содействия трудоустройству инвалидов. В настоящее время в фирме работает пять человек, четверо из которых, в том числе директор фирмы, являются инвалидами. Двое из работающих в фирме юристов имеют высшее юридическое образование, один учится в юридическом ВУЗе.

Юридическая фирма "Консул" оказывает широкий спектр юридических услуг начиная от консультирования и кончая представительством в суде, а также предпринимает все возможные действия с целью совершенствования местного законодательства, касающегося прав инвалидов. Фирма оказывает юридические услуги как инвалидам, так и иным лицам. Для членов Клуба инвалидов-колясочников "Финист", в сотрудничестве с которым создавалась фирма, юридическая помощь оказывается бесплатно, для других инвалидов установлена 50-процентная оплата (за исключением консультаций по правам инвалидов, которые предоставляются бесплатно и составляют большую часть обращений), всем остальным лицам юридические услуги оказываются за плату.

В феврале 1996 г. представители юридической фирмы "Консул" выступили на радио в программе, посвященной ее деятельности. Количество последовавших после этого обращений инвалидов за разъяснением своих прав (около 200 телефонных консультаций ежедневно) лишний раз показало, насколько необходимо существование этой юридической службы.

Исполняющий обязанности директора
юридической фирмы "Консул"



Носивец Я.А.

CONSUL's formal functioning began on December 5, 1995, after it was licensed to provide legal advice and representation. For the period December 5, 1995 to May 20, 1996 the following statistics are available:

- 1,670 consultations were provided to people with disabilities. Figures for consultations to non-disabled persons were not available at the time of this report.
- 80 people came to the office on their own, the rest were phone consultations.
- 20 people received assistance in drawing up an agreement.
- 10 persons received assistance in filing claims for miscalculated pensions.
- 15 lawsuits were filed with the court.
- 2 reports were submitted to the police.
- 3 persons with disabilities were given legal representation as defendants in court.
- 3 people received help on housing-related issues
- 2 people received assistance with passport regulations.
- 5 people received help in handling conflict situations without bringing a lawsuit.

CONSUL held a call-in radio program on recent changes in the Russian Federation law on disability. They receive 10-15 phone calls a day and 2-3 people come on their own to the CONSUL office, which is located in a small room inside the FINIST office. This second number is low because of transportation problems.

The main issues people want help with in order of priority are:

- reimbursement for civil damages caused by individuals, businesses and military activities.
- conflict issues related to housing.
- work conflicts
- family conflicts
- other civil (non-criminal) law issues.

For quite some time, when WMC raised the issue of a disability rights campaign with FINIST members the response was one of general agreement without any idea of how to begin to implement such a campaign. The discussions invariably dealt with only general problems and philosophical issues. Because they saw no practical way of implementing a disability rights campaign, L'vutina, Valentina Fedorovna, and Alexander Logutenko (a 3rd year law student and one of the few quadriplegics we know of in Novosibirsk) opted for individual legal representation.

Although CONSUL provides assistance in general legal matters to individual people, there is a growing awareness of the need to provide representation and develop policy in areas of concern to the disabled community as a whole. Bit by bit, practical ways of beginning disability rights work have become apparent. First, FINIST activists recognized the importance and possibility of winning the establishment of an officially recognized committee of people with disabilities to serve in an advisory capacity to the city administration on

accessibility issues. CONSUL is also interested in promoting disabled candidates for local and regional legislative bodies.

In early 1996, ARIADNA and CONSUL discussed beginning a campaign to get equal funding for disabled women's sports teams. The women's teams are not funded to compete in disabled sports competitions in other cities, although the disabled men's teams do receive funding. In April 1996, following a FINIST lobbying effort spearheaded by Valentina Fedorovna Kuznetsova, the mayor of Novosibirsk issued an order allowing wheelchair riders who cannot use inaccessible municipal transportation to transfer their free pass to persons traveling for the purpose of providing in-home assistance.

GENERAL COMMENTS, CRITIQUE & PROGNOSIS

NGO Development

The WMC presence in Novosibirsk has had a dramatic effect on both FINIST's development and general disability NGO development in Novosibirsk. In July 1993 there was little grassroots activity within the disabled community. FINIST was a newly established disabled sports club run by one person. It had no outside board of directors. Its few members were inexperienced. It had poor accounting practices, no office rules, no personnel procedures, no job descriptions, and no significant dependable sources of income. In short, it lacked all of the indicia of a stable NGO.

WMC followed an organizational development strategy that we believe offered the best, perhaps the only, possibility of empowering people with disabilities. We could have, but we did not, substitute our efforts for the efforts of FINIST members. Meeting planned objectives was, of course, important, but empowering FINIST members to take a leading role in meeting those objectives was even more important. Without the members' active participation, we could not even hope that the project would be sustainable. We chose a dynamic, grassroots organizing approach which has led to a complete change in the character of our partner in two years. We have helped them assemble a group of serious, dedicated leaders who are now in a position to effectively carry out the remaining project tasks and lead the organization forward.

WMC developed a two-way mentor-protegee partnership with FINIST. We shared our experiences in the independent living and disability rights movements with them, and they educated us about the situation as it exists in Russia, thus allowing us to give them the best possible advice. We maintained frequent and regular contact with FINIST through our on-site representative, frequent site-visits by the project manager and other project personnel, and via e-mail.

We also held trainings in Novosibirsk, the US and Finland. Our efforts were always practical and goal-oriented. The visit of AXIS Dance Troupe was an opportunity for

ARIADNA activists to learn how to organize an event by doing it, to gain practical experience, and sometimes to make their own mistakes. We always tried to involve new members in activities. We developed alliances with other disability NGO's and the Department of Social Protection not around a program of abstract principles but in practical work toward common realizable objectives.

We held a formal grant-writing seminar and then over the next few months followed up by critiquing actual proposals that FINIST wrote. Visits to the US or Finland were used to expose the Novosibirsk activists to the concepts of independent living, to see the real results that people with disabilities can achieve. Those who we brought to the US became our first and strongest allies.

Today's FINIST is a transformed organization, almost entirely different from the FINIST of 1993. It is now the Novosibirsk Regional Non-governmental Organization of Disabled People, Center for Independent Living, "FINIST," and it is run by an executive committee elected by its general membership. It pays a professional accountant. FINIST has office rules and is currently developing its personnel policies. Although FINIST still has no outside board of directors, this is as much due to the lack of public support for the relatively undeveloped NGO "third" sector in Russia as it is to the inexperience of the FINIST leadership.

FINIST has an active women's sector, ARIADNA, which operates as a semi-autonomous NGO within FINIST. There is collaboration between the Library for the Blind and FINIST through the Disabled Community Health Project. FINIST has a newsletter "Dialogue," a legal arm, CONSUL, and a for-profit arm which earns money by selling wheelchairs produced in Novosibirsk. It has a wheelchair repair and auto repair shop which also fabricates and installs automobile hand controls.

Although we managed to accomplish a great deal, we are not satisfied with the cramped facilities available to FINIST in the Spartak Stadium, the inadequate transportation, the limited progress in architectural barrier removal, the slow development of personnel procedures and the late start up of the revolving consumer credit fund for wheelchair purchases.

The Need for Adequate Centralized Facilities

NCIL FINIST's expansion is jeopardized by the lack of an adequate centralized facility. The wheelchair repair shop had to be set up in a separate location twenty minutes away because there was inadequate ventilation for welding at Spartak. Until recently English and computer training classes had to be held on the second floor, although this was a great hardship to wheelchair riders who had to be carried up a flight of stairs and down again later. Now the computer classes are held at the Special Library for the Blind, a five minute walk from FINIST. Because of the lack of adequate facilities, the organization is limited in the number

of programs it can offer, in the new members it can integrate, and in the development of new leadership. This is why it has 86 formal members and 200 candidate members.

Since our project's inception in July 1993, FINIST has tried to win government approval to expand into an undeveloped area beneath the Spartak municipal sports stadium's bleachers. The so-called North Wing plan met with initial support from City Hall and our allies within the Regional Department of Social Protection who paid to have architectural plans drawn up. But in mid-1994 stadium management, which first had agreed to let FINIST have the space, began to back off. It is believed that stadium management was more interested in collecting the high rents that merchants from the nearby Central Market could pay for storage. The government sports bureaucracy was also pressuring FINIST to engage in more sports activities and fewer independent living activities. FINIST's use of a gym hall was curtailed because they were using it for meetings and not for sports. Plans to fund capital improvements at the stadium to accommodate the expanded FINIST organization have been stalled by a seemingly endless dispute between City Hall, stadium management and the Regional Government. The City says it needs to get the funds from the Regional Authorities, but the Regional Authorities won't give the funds without strings attached, and neither the City nor stadium management wants to give up any control. But NCIL FINIST activists continue to put pressure on the bureaucracy and the latest word is that as of May 30, 1996 the North Wing will be legally deeded to FINIST although FINIST must raise the funds for remodeling. If this is indeed true, then FINIST will be able to centralize and expand its activities and involve many more people.

Lack of Accessible Transportation

The main hindrance to the development of project activities was the lack of accessible transportation. Because neither the metro (subway) nor the public buses are wheelchair accessible, we had to rely on a bus furnished by the Department of Social Protection and individual people's cars, and now and then a van provided by SibMedDesign. Numerous times activities had to be canceled or postponed for lack of transportation. In October, FINIST activists worked with Anna Stepanovna of Social Protection to develop an annual \$8,000 accessible transportation line item in the proposed budget for Social Protection for the next five years. If funded, FINIST's transportation crisis will be eased.

Architectural Barrier Removal

Although the project managed to remove a number of architectural barriers, there are still no laws which mandate their removal nor formal government programs to do so. Instead, the barriers which were removed were usually in buildings in which FINIST or ARIADNA was expanding or conducting an activity. Spartak stadium's ground floor and the FINIST office are now accessible to wheelchair users. The Lazurniy Spa, where we held trainings, has a new wheelchair ramp. The Library for the Blind, where ARIADNA holds its monthly meetings, has a ramp and two (!) newly accessible and modern bathrooms. Polyclinic #6 also has a ramp and accessible examination room. Larisa Tokareva, head of ARIADNA,

was able to get her district administration to make two curb cuts in her path of travel from home to FINIST. Apart from this, few other architectural barriers have been removed, although Social Protection funded a study in early 1994 to make Central Novosibirsk accessible. However, with FINIST's recently established and very active legal arm, CONSUL, we expect the pace of architectural barrier removal to pick up.

Revolving Credit Fund

The primary purpose of the revolving consumer credit fund, as it was originally conceived, was to guarantee a market for wheelchairs. As actually designed by FINIST, its main purpose is the provision of any assistive device that a person with a disability might need. The credit fund was formally begun in late July 1995, so it did not have much time to operate. First, we had to help the factories produce a quality wheelchair. This stage was reached in June 1994. Second, WMC had to help FINIST put into place reliable accounting procedures before any money could be transferred. This process was completed in April 1995. Yet even when WMC was ready to proceed, FINIST couldn't develop our initial plans because they couldn't understand how such a credit fund would work. Their confusion was due in part to a lack of experience with this type of mechanism and sentiment against lending money for interest. WMC's original conception of the credit fund also contributed to the confusion. The fund, as originally conceived, would have lent money to individuals. FINIST could not understand how a revolving fund could be viable if it made loans to individuals most of whom had little money. Once FINIST gained the will to establish the fund, they decided to lend money only to individuals where an organization would guarantee the loan and to include the cost of operating the fund not as interest but in the sales price of the wheelchair. The initial funds were used to purchase wheelchairs from SMD. They are selling these wheelchairs and will loan the proceeds for all types of rehabilitation devices, not just wheelchairs.

Personnel Procedures

There was great resistance among many FINIST members until only recently to developing personnel procedures, including job descriptions, hiring and firing, discipline, and grievance procedures. Only after the repeated occurrence of problems which could have been avoided did the FINIST leadership learn the importance of personnel procedures. Interestingly, it was ARIADNA which developed the first job descriptions.

Today, FINIST's greatest weakness is that it is still more a collection of individual activists than a coordinated team. Like many efforts, building such a team takes time, and involves not only an understanding of the need for teamwork, but a willingness and ability on the part of particular individuals to work as a team. Being asked to integrate one's own efforts with the organization's efforts sometimes means being asked to subordinate oneself to the organization. Unfortunately, many people in FINIST feel that this "steps on their initiative," something which happened all too often in the past. In order to cultivate new leaders the

present leaders need to focus not only on achieving specific results but also on the process of achievement. Rather than merely command others to perform certain tasks, people in leadership positions must also learn how to include others in decision-making and how to work with those assigned to perform certain tasks in order to help them accomplish those tasks.

Replicability

WMC and FINIST have already taken the first steps to replicate this project. Two FINIST activists will speak at an independent living conference in Budapest in June 1996 on the topic "Building an Independent Living Center: The Lessons of Novosibirsk." It is WMC's policy to use our colleagues in Novosibirsk as much as possible in any of our future work within the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. WMC has also helped put an organization of parents of disabled children from Kazakhstan in contact with FINIST, and one representative of that organization will attend the FINIST-sponsored Disabilities Expo in Novosibirsk in August 1996.

Sustainability

WMC has left FINIST with a legally registered business arm. The business arm is an official dealer for SibMedDesign, one of the two wheelchair factories in Novosibirsk. FINIST receives 8% of each SMD wheelchair it sells as well as all those sold to Social Protection. Social Protection agreed to purchase 500 adult wheelchairs and 10 children's wheelchairs in 1996, 5/6 of SMD's annual single shift production. FINIST earned about \$10,000 in 1995 from Social Protection's orders and will earn about \$12,000 in 1996. This gives FINIST a definite, if modest, income to support its core operations.

Of course, income from marketing wheelchairs is dependent on the viability of the wheelchair factories, in this case SibMedDesign. SMD's viability will be determined in the first instance by the quality of its people. We were certainly very lucky to hook up with people of SMD's quality. Where 401 is a case study in the problems inherent in trying to convert a very small part of a much larger, state-owned plant to a private, diversified and non-military production, SMD is an example of how a small, new business can respond quickly and effectively. We have always been impressed by the entrepreneurial attitude of this truly privately owned company and their emphasis on producing a quality product.

But SMD's viability may be more dependent on the ability of governmental bodies at various levels to purchase their wheelchairs since the cost of an SMD wheelchair is about half the average annual income. To remedy this situation WMC has provided SMD with designs for a variety of adaptive devices such as reachers and bath seats which SMD should be able to produce and sell for less than \$50, thus allowing many people to purchase them without government assistance.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

ГОЛОС

ЕЖЕНЕДЕЛЬНАЯ ОБЛАСТНАЯ СОЦИАЛЬНАЯ ГАЗЕТА

9 марта 1996 г.

№ 11 (26)



Новости инвалидного движения КАК ЖИВЕШЬ, «ФИНИСТ»?

Давно не приходилось бывать в спортивно-реабилитационном клубе «Финист». И приятно было узнать, что в этой общественной организации произошли существенные изменения. Под занавес прошлого года организованы: хореографическая группа «Жар-птица» и вокальная группа «Горлица».

Нынче активисты клуба провели для девочек-подростков в школе-интернате для слабовидящих семинар на тему: «Физиология женского организма и сексуальные отношения», а также организовали встречу с пациентами НИИТО по вопросам социальной, психологической и медицинской реабилитации. Во многих делах «Финиста» активную роль играет женский сектор «Ариадна».

А жизнь продолжается. И каждый день свои повседневные проблемы: ремонт инвалидных колясок, то какие-то встречи в клубе, то очередные мероприятия (хотя они нередко на грани срыва — единственный автобус «Финиста» часто в ремонте).

С. СЕРГЕЕВ.
Фото А. Дробина.

В ДК им. Октябрьской революции состоялся актив работников социальных служб города. Открыл его зам. мэра города Н. Д. Животров.

С докладом об итогах за 1995 год и задачах на 1996 год выступила начальник управления социальной защиты населения города В. Н. Серникова.

В своем выступлении она под... моши. Это финансовая помощь бес...

«О социальной защите инвалидов в Российской Федерации» — так называется новый закон, подписанный Президентом Б. Ельциным 24 ноября 1995 года. Пока он напечатан только в еженедельной областной социальной газете «Голос» № 5 от 27 января 1996 года. Ну, как не вспомнить Советский Союз. Все законы, принимаемые Председателем Верховного Со-

«преподносить» и «сопровождать». Нужно просто создать условия, которых тот или иной инвалид сам своими силами, руками и ногами. Возьмем инвалида с парализованными ногами, но здоровыми руками, так называемого колясочника.

Он свободно может ездить по

Обсуждаем проект Устава ВО Закон хорош, да дела не

вета СССР, в обязательном порядке печатались сначала в центральной прессе: «Правда», «Комсомольская правда», «Труд», «Известия», а затем в областных, краевых и районных газетах. Уже не говоря о чтении полных текстов законов по радио.

Новый закон «О социальной защите инвалидов», в отличие от ранее предложенных проектов, более усовершенствованный. Чувствуется, что в его разработке принимали участие и сами инвалиды. Это прекрасно! Наконец-то инвалиды из «изгоев» становятся законно учрежденными полноправными гражданами, которые могут потребовать предоставляемые им льготы, в силу того или иного физического недостатка, на основании определенной статьи главы такой-то закона. И это не обидная благотворительность в виде какой-то подачки.

К сожалению, у большей части населения бытует такое мнение: если человека называют инвалидом, то он представляется им существом, которому все надо давать и преподнести. А некоторым даже положены «сопровождающие». Да ничего подобного! Не надо иногда «подавать»,

ему району и даже наведывать другие, но при условии хорошей тротуаров без порожков, лестничных ступенек, то есть с дусами. Только-то и всего. Такой валид может сам съездить в хлебно-продуктовый магазин, в аптеку, в почтовое отделение, в сберегательную банку и т. д. и т. п. Равно как: и в дворцы культуры, в театры, стадионы, в вокзалы.

Вся беда в том, что в домах, где находятся эти учреждения, просто, прямо на коляске не заезишь. Чаше такие «мелочи» у нас зафиксированы лишь в градостроительстве. Проще узаконить для инвалидов «няньку» — сопровождающего.

Наконец-то появляется закон, который должен облегчить жизнь инвалида-колясочника. Вот так и когда это произойдет? Я думаю, раньше, как «на ту осень — через восемь». На претворение закона в жизнь при нестабильных ценах нужны не миллионы и миллиарды, а триллионы рублей. Если денег не хватает даже на выдачу пенсий, не говоря о задолженности по заработной плате, начиная от работников правительства, то не учтите ли так, что закон «О социальной защите инвалидов» протиснется в очередной «прожект», к которому понадобится Президенту и

ки перенимают опыт и навыки взаимодействия с социально незащищенными людьми, говорили все выступавшие на этом активе: начальник управления социальной защиты Кировского района А. Г. Карпова, директор территориального центра межмуниципальной помощи М. В.



FINIST's wheelchair and auto repair shop is appropriately equipped and can help sustain the organization by keeping FINIST's own automobiles and wheelchairs running, but also by earning income for FINIST. Because the shop only recently began to operate, it is too early to give a prognosis. However, the shop is fabricating and installing automotive hand controls which, to our knowledge, are far superior to any others available in Russia. In the first two months of operation the shop repaired 1 wheelchair for a hospital, 5 wheelchairs for CIL Finist, 7 cars for people with disabilities, and designed and installed 4 hand control units for the cars of disabled people. They have decided to focus on auto repair because there is no accessible public transportation in Novosibirsk and people in wheelchairs can be mobile only if they have cars. If Social Protection can be convinced to purchase hand controls or otherwise support the shop, this could provide additional significant income to FINIST. Auto repair for the general public will be used to subsidize auto repair for people with disabilities

WMC has left FINIST with a legally registered for-profit legal services arm, CONSUL. CONSUL will pay 10% of any profit it receives to FINIST. However, since CONSUL will subsidize the cost of legal representation for people with disabilities, we do not expect it to bring in much profit to FINIST. CONSUL's greatest financial contribution to FINIST may not be in profit sharing but in leading the advocacy efforts to channel more government funding toward FINIST's businesses, such as the fabrication and installation of hand controls, the purchase of wheelchairs, and support to the disabled community health project.

CONSUL's efforts to get the government to remove architectural barriers and take other measures to ensure the integration of people with disabilities may be even more important to ensuring FINIST's sustainability because successful campaigns will bring in more members to do FINIST's work.

FINIST, especially its women's sector ARIADNA, has learned how to design projects and write grant proposals. This will help them garner new funds and develop their organizational strategy at the same time since it is often in the process of writing proposals that an organization reevaluates its direction and capacities. Although funding from US sources, especially the US government, is being drastically cut, the European Economic Community is preparing to step into the breach. Depending on the general political climate, the Europeans could be an invaluable source of near term funding for FINIST and ARIADNA.

Private Voluntary Organizations (PVOs) in the US benefit from a culture of charitable giving by the private sector. In this atmosphere PVOs can raise the bulk of their funds through grant proposals and solicitations. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the former Soviet Union are greatly restricted in this area, thus forcing them to be more involved in profit-making economic activity. Our own experience and what we have learned from the experience of other USPVO's working in the NIS lead us to conclude that NGOs in the NIS may not have the technical capacity to manage business activities. It may be wiser to do as we have done in Novosibirsk, that is, leave the business to the businessmen, with an arrangement that involves and financially benefits the NGO.

When NGOs do engage in a business activity, it is usually wise to maintain a close connection between the type of business and the broader mission of the organization. Otherwise, the organization might lose its perspective and become only a business. The business activities which FINIST engages in, wheelchair sales, auto and wheelchair repair, and legal services are all closely related to FINIST's mission of improving the status of people with disabilities.

Grant Administration/Oversight

Our efforts benefitted from the supportive assistance of World Learning (formerly Experiment in International Living), through whose hands our USAID funding passed. World Learning, especially our project officer, Margot Mininni, was especially adept at helping us network with other World Learning subgrantees and in giving us ideas and feedback on our efforts. John Owens, PVO/NIS project financial officer, showed great patience in explaining AID regulations and restrictions on the manner in which AID funds could be spent. Patty Donnelly at World Learning helped us wend our way through the maze of AID travel regulations. During the second year of our project, our Siberian partners returned from World Learning trainings in Russia with a noticeably better understanding of what it takes to build and run an NGO. World Learning's trainings also helped us better direct our own organizational development work with FINIST.

The partnership concept chosen by the PVO/NIS project is unquestionably a good one. The problem, however, is that there are a number of different partnership models, and the appropriate one depends on the actual partners involved. The PVO/NIS project seemed to promote an equality-between-partners model. Although the basic sentiment behind this model is laudable, implementation of such a model on principle may lead to undesirable results.

The equality model does need to be stressed in order to avoid the "ugly American" syndrome where well-intentioned Americans impose their ideas on their foreign counterparts. This is especially true in Russia where the national pride of even many anti-communists has been hurt by the breakup of the Soviet Union and the decline of Russia's international status. But there can be no real equality when one side has all the money, must be accountable for that money, and better understands the program of the joint project. In such a case, the best possible partnership relationship is a mutual mentor-protégé relationship as described earlier. Hopefully, as a project draws to a close, the relationship will in fact become much more equal. Indeed, one hallmark of a successful project is the ultimate realization of a truly equal partnership.

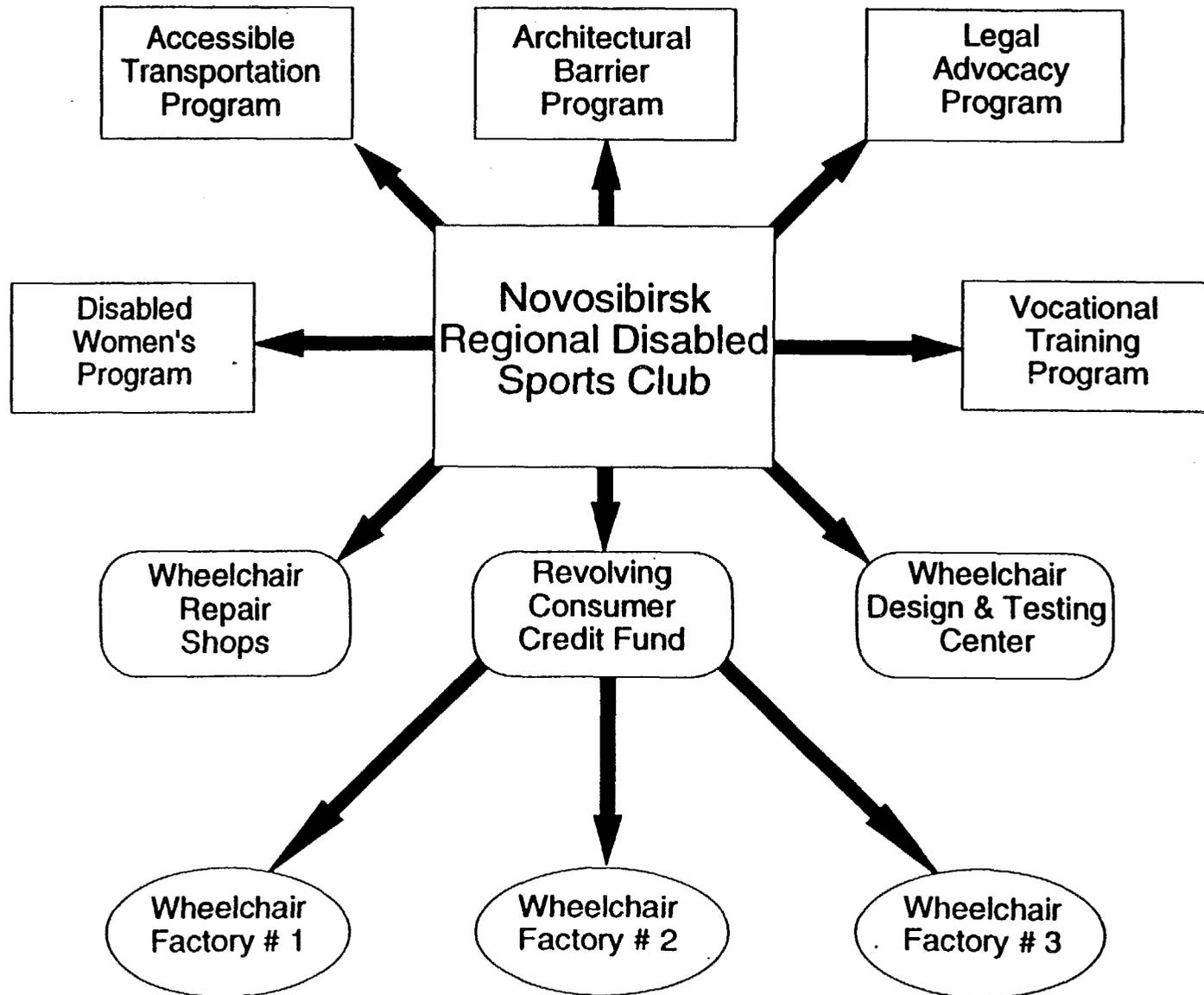
USAID

WMC project personnel had minimal contact with AID personnel over the course of this project. In our first two trips to Novosibirsk in July and December of 1993, project personnel stopped off in Moscow but found no one in AID available to meet although our

Wheelchair Building in Novosibirsk, Russia

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMS

As Proposed in 1993



BE

itinerary had been filed at least four weeks earlier and we had requested meetings. We did visit AID in Moscow once. Things improved in the second half of the project when a person from the Moscow AID office came to Novosibirsk twice. We cannot say whether AID could have provided any practical assistance to the project. However, it would have been nice to get their feedback a little more often.

DISABILITY, DEMOCRACY AND US FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

The success of our efforts in Novosibirsk leads us to the conclusion that promoting independent living centers ought to be a cornerstone of US foreign assistance because ILC's are a valuable and cost effective means of promoting American values and interests.

An Independent Living Center can advocate for many relatively inexpensive accommodations which dramatically improve the lives of people with disabilities. A few curb cuts, a ramp, the repositioning of furniture or equipment, and minor modifications to bathrooms can make a university or work place accessible. The result will be more educated, professional and experienced disabled persons who will be better able to compete on the job market. Every disabled person with a job is also a disabled person who can be removed from the welfare rolls. Independence in daily living also relieves friends and family members of the burden of caring for a disabled person. These people can then turn their attention to their own needs and be free to engage in productive labor.

By providing assistance to indigenous ILC's run by and for people with disabilities we promote the values of work, economic independence, personal autonomy, democracy and equality of opportunity.

The independent living movement seeks an end to the traditional view that disabled people should be objects of charity. Instead, it fights for equal opportunity by breaking down the barriers which prevent people with disabilities from competing on an equal footing with their non-disabled counterparts.

Independent Living Centers promote democratic values. Because ILC's are organized on the principle of self-help, they must be run by those they serve. In order to effectively serve the disabled community ILC's must be responsive to that community, and this can only happen if they are democratically run. This model is an example for other historically disadvantaged groups.

In countries with undemocratic governments, disabled people can often organize free from government interference because they are not viewed as a threat. In such situations, a democratic ILC, through the connections its members have with other individuals and organizations, can play an important role in promoting political participation and democracy in the society at large.

People with disabilities have historically been viewed with pity and even fear. They are often seen as "helpless" and "useless." But when people with disabilities begin to run their own organizations and take control of their own lives, when they ask not for handouts but for opportunity, they set a powerful example for all who would seek to improve their social and economic condition.

The ILC philosophy reaches a large number of people because people with disabilities helping themselves is a powerful image which receives positive media attention wherever it occurs. The efforts and activities of disabled persons organized through the independent living center has received a great deal of media coverage in Novosibirsk. This educates the entire community, promotes the values of independence and self-reliance, and leaves a positive opinion of the United States among a broad spectrum of the population.

The ILC which organizes people with disabilities on the basis of disability alone can be a powerful force for promoting tolerance and non-sectarianism because disabled persons are members of every national, racial, ethnic, and religious group, both sexes, and from every social strata and walk of life. The basis for non-sectarian organizational development is especially important in post-war societies and societies undergoing rapid social change where demagogues often appeal to national or racial prejudices and passions.

ILC's have an advantage for sustainability over other NGO's because providing some kind of assistance to people with disabilities has historically been a government obligation, to one extent or another, everywhere in the world. In many places ILC's can receive government support which will allow them to maintain their core operations. What is more, ILC's can provide those services in most cases better than the government could because people with disabilities know best what their own problems are and are more motivated than government officials to resolve them.

In most countries of the former Soviet Union disabled people receive a pension. If the disability is the result of a work place injury or military service, the pension can be substantial. These pensions can provide a disabled activist with a means of support which will allow him to volunteer at the ILC.

Most important for sustainability is that a person with a disability is working in his or her own immediate interest by participating in ILC activities. People with disabilities, with few exceptions, will be disabled their entire lives. They will continue to face innumerable daily problems because of their disabilities unless they change society. A person in a wheelchair cannot just "walk away," as can someone involved in an NGO which works for, say, improving the environment or a charitable organization which promotes the general social welfare. When the going gets tough, people with disabilities have little choice but to keep going.

People with disabilities can be organized by other people with disabilities because they share a common experience. Stairs pose a barrier to all wheelchair riders. They do not

discriminate on the basis of nationality. This shared experience makes it easier for disabled Americans helping build ILC's in foreign countries to overcome national pride and resentments which have sometimes limited the effectiveness of other Americans doing development work.

Every disabled Siberian we brought to the US for training was left with deep and favorable impressions of the widespread and tangible gains made by disability activists in the US. The experience of being able to live independently was just as important, sometimes more important, than the knowledge gained from the actual training sessions, making these visits extremely cost effective. In 1921 Robert Service returned from a trip to the Soviet Union and said, "I have seen the future, and it works." The Novosibirsk disabled activists who we brought to the US for training can truly say, at least with regard to independent living, that they have seen their future, and it works.

Our project has proven that it is possible for activists in the disability rights/independent living movement in the United States to help people with disabilities in Novosibirsk, Russia organize themselves into an independent living center which shows every indication it will remain an active participant in Novosibirsk life for years to come. This approach is a model which can and should be replicated throughout the world wherever US foreign assistance is used to promote democracy, medical relief, social justice and economic development.

Time Line of WMC project from July 1993 to December 1995

- July 1993 -** WMC assessment trip to Novosibirsk
- August 1993 -** Krivenkov, FINIST president, in car accident, out of commission for 10 weeks. SMD begins to install equipment for wheelchair production.
- September 1993 -** SibMedDesign (SMD) wheelchair factory vandalized .
- November 1993 -** Krivenkov and Tonya Ivko of FINIST attend Disabled Peoples' International meeting in Prague. WMC drafts model needs assessment survey. Purpose of survey is to learn needs of disabled population, advertise wheelchairs, inform community of FINIST's activities and find new FINIST members.
- December 1993 -** First WMC efforts to organize and mobilize FINIST membership. WMC proposes FINIST have a Disabled Women's Program and begin work on removal of architectural barriers. First contacts with Anna Stepanovna Petukhova, head of Veterans and Disabled Affairs at Novosibirsk Regional Department of Social Protection.
- January 1994 -** Anna Stepanovna funds \$2000 accessibility study of central Novosibirsk. SMD begins wheelchair production.
- February 1994 -** Disabled women gain access to weekly FINIST Sauna.
- April 1994 -** WMC wheelchair design training in Novosibirsk with SMD and 401. WMC western-style cost accounting training for wheelchair factories. Workshop for FINIST women on assertiveness training. New activists force move of FINIST office to ground floor of Spartak stadium over Krivenkov's opposition. Concrete ramp built into stadium. Social Protection allocates \$2000 to remodel FINIST office and adjoining bathroom. Women develop draft program. First FINIST executive committee, "The Working Group," formed.
- May 1994 -** Lyuba Ievinsh visits WMC in SF to learn about Independent Living. Larisa Tokareva successfully lobbies for two curb ramps in her district.
- June 1994 -** Olga Manaeva attends World Institute on Disability/All-Russia Society of the Disabled (ARSD) leadership training in Ufa. Wheelchair designer Ralf Hotchkiss visits SMD and 401 and meets with FINIST members. Novosibirsk Regional vice-governor gives \$2,500 to draw up architectural plans to remodel north wing of Spartak Stadium for

- FINIST expansion. Social Protection takes \$16,000 it was going to give to municipal (ARSD) and gives it to FINIST to purchase a bus. Novosibirsk Technical Institute (NETI) begins designing electric wheelchair.
- July 1994 - Needs assessment survey redrafted by Olga Manaeva. 401 stops producing adult model wheelchairs and begins to produce children's wheelchairs in order to avoid competition with SMD. Krivenkov proposes new FINIST constitution giving him dictatorial powers.
- August 1994 - Working Group counters with its own, more democratic constitution. WMC receives AID grant to develop a disabled community health clinic in partnership with FINIST/ARIADNA. Many FINIST women will take on leadership roles over the next 18 months. FINIST changes name from Novosibirsk Regional Disabled Sports Club FINIST to Novosibirsk Regional Disabled Sports and Rehabilitation Club FINIST.
- September 1994 - Krivenkov and FINIST bookkeeper Ivko accused by working group of misappropriation of funds and suspended. Krivenkov takes ill and goes to Sanatorium for six weeks. Larisa Tokareva goes to Budapest for Rehabilitation International conference and then to California for 2-week independent living training. FINIST becomes official dealer of SMD wheelchairs. SMD agrees to pay salary of FINIST mechanic to make warranty repairs on SMD wheelchairs. Computer training and English classes started as beginning of vocational training program.
- October 1994 - Disabled Women's Program renamed ARIADNA and established as the "women's sector" of FINIST. By-laws drafted, Tokareva elected president. FINIST office remodeled to make room for wheelchair repair shop. Stas Pachgin attends World Learning conference in Moscow. Olga Manaeva attends World Institute On Disability leadership training in California.
- November 1994 - FINIST sets up legally registered for-profit arm and sells 26 SMD wheelchairs. Krivenkov and Ivko reinstated. Krivenkov named Executive Director. Social Protection prints 700 copies of needs assessment survey. Beginning of extensive phone survey conducted by FINIST member Valentina Fedorovna Kuznetsova. More than 400 people called.
- December 1994 - Anna Stepanovna (Social Protection) purchases 4 SMD wheelchairs and donates them to FINIST during Week of the Disabled. This is first time Social Protection has purchased wheelchairs not made at the

government factory at Stavrovo. SMD wheelchair brought to US for testing at University of Pittsburgh.

- January 1995 -** Anna Stepanovna of Social Protection orders 50 wheelchairs from SMD to be given to FINIST. 401 begins to produce adult model wheel chairs again. NETI produces first electric wheelchair prototype.
- February 1995 -** ARIADNA holds meetings with Women Entrepreneurs, and Women for Improvement. WMC presents three-day proposal-writing workshop to FINIST and eight other disability groups. Oleg Sitnikov, a paraplegic, volunteers to fix wheelchairs, then receives pay and a loan to buy a new SMD wheelchair. After learning about FINIST through phone survey, future FINIST leaders Dr. Lyubov Popova, attorney Yulia L'vutina, and law student Sasha Logutenko join FINIST.
- March 1995 -** FINIST executive committee member Grigorii Vasiliev publishes article in GOLAS, the regional newspaper for people with disabilities, condemning the "working group" as usurpers and WMC as corruptor. ARIADNA receives \$7000 grant from Global Fund for Women. FINIST men organize International Women's Day celebration at FINIST office. Thirty FINIST men and women attend. Victor Semenko and Zhenya Zelentsov attend wheelchair design and independent living training in California and bring two electric wheelchairs back to Novosibirsk. NETI produces second electric wheelchair prototype. Dr. Popova becomes coordinator of disabled community health clinic.*
- April 1995 -** Vasiliev demands new FINIST Council elections. Council expanded from 5 to 7 seats. Vasiliev fails to get reelected. 6 of 7 seats held by reform-minded activists. Two women elected. Semenko elected council chairperson. Position of president abolished. Krivenkov named to newly created position of executive director, subordinate to council. FINIST changes name from Novosibirsk Regional Disabled Sports and Rehabilitation Club FINIST to Novosibirsk Regional Disabled Sports and Rehabilitation Club of Wheelchair Riders FINIST. ARIADNA begins collaboration with Library for the Blind. ARIADNA monthly general meetings held in Library. This is first significant cooperation among organizations representing persons with different disabilities in Novosibirsk.
- May 1995 -** Vasiliev expelled from FINIST by a vote of 23-18. Four FINIST members resign in protest.

- June/July 1995- Eight FINIST members attend Independent Living Center training in Helsinki, Finland. AXIS Dance Troupe, an Oakland, California-based modern dance group which integrates wheelchair rider/dancers and non-disabled dancers, arrives in Novosibirsk for a week of workshops and performances. Much positive media coverage. AXIS visit organized by ARIADNA. Agreement signed with Library for the Blind to house Disability Resource and Education Center.* FINIST sets up wheelchair revolving consumer credit fund.
- August 1995 - Anna Stepanovna Petukhova of Regional Social Protection attends NGO-government relations training in San Francisco. Returns to Novosibirsk with the zeal of a new convert to independent living concept. Dr. Lyubov Popova attends UN international women's conference in Beijing.
- September 1995 - US-Russia Connect of Minneapolis, Novosibirsk's sister city, receives grant to develop computer training school for people with disabilities in partnership with FINIST. FINIST Dance ensemble formed, patterned after AXIS Dance Troupe.
- October 1995 - "DIALOGUE", first FINIST newsletter published and edited by Olga Manaeva. Yulia L'vutina establishes "Consul," as an autonomous legal arm of FINIST. Consul's mission is to provide legal services to people with disabilities subsidized by fees collected from non-disabled clients. WMC holds custom wheelchair seating seminar in Novosibirsk. FINIST prints first wheelchair advertising brochure, sells 20 wheelchairs. 2 Disabled teenage girls from ARIADNA attend MIUSA leadership training in Oregon. FINIST-government meetings result in accessible line-item in Regional Social Protection Budget.
- November 1995 - FINIST votes to change name from Novosibirsk Regional Disabled Sports and Rehabilitation Club of Wheelchair Riders FINIST to Novosibirsk Regional Non-governmental Organization of People with Disabilities, Center for Independent Living, FINIST, thus enshrining the concept of cross-disability organization. Disabled Community Health Clinic opens.*
- December 1995 - WMC helps SMD and FINIST produce Russian-English wheelchair specification sheet. Social Protection reports purchasing 500 wheelchairs from SMD during 1995 and signs agreement with SMD to purchase 500 adult wheelchairs and 10 children's wheelchairs in 1996. This is SMD's first order for children's chairs. Krivenkov resigns as executive director to manage computer training project. Yuri Borovkov chosen as acting executive director.

*Funded under separate health project grant from AID through World Learning.

46'

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Wheeled Mobility Center could not have implemented this project without the support and collaboration of the following individuals and organizations:

Phoebe Andris
Peter Axelson, Beneficial Designs
The Honorable Tom Bates
Shelley Bergum, Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Program
Cathy Cade
Center for Independent Living (CIL), Berkeley, California
Rory Cooper, Ph.D, University of Pittsburgh
Bruce Curtis, World Institute on Disability
Barbara Duncan, Rehabilitation International
Ethel Dunn, Highgate Road Social Research Station
Jo Ann Duprat, RN, Oakland Children's Hospital
Arlene Essex, San Francisco State University Foundation
Sonja Franeta
Global Fund for Women
Roger Gray
Dr. Robert Haining, Oakland Children's Hospital
The Honorable Loni Hancock
Susan Hartman, USA-Russia Connect
Ralf Hotchkiss
Dwight Johnson
Vivian Johnson
Megan Kirschbaum, Through The Looking Glass
David Landes, Computer Training Project
Enrique Madrinan, Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program (BORP)
Kathy Martinez, World Institute on Disability
Pam Mendelsohn, World Institute on Disability
Robert Metts, Professor of Economics, University of Nevada Reno
Jaimie Noon
Maria Oginsky, World Institute on Disability
Open Society Institute
Carol K. Oshinsky
Dr. Peter Pfaelzer
Brenda Primo, Director, California State Department of Rehabilitation
Suzanne Reier, World Institute on Disability
Tom Rickert, Access Exchange International
Elizabeth Schuster
Judy Smith and AXIS Dance Troupe
Ken Stein, Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)
Belinda Stradley
Paul Trudeau, Stanford Children's Rehabilitation Center
Winrock International
Sid Wolinsky, Disability Rights Advocates (DRA)
World Learning, Inc
Jean Ann Zollars, PT
and many, many others...

This is not just a wheelchair...

It is a vehicle for social change.



RUSSIA



"Since WMC came to work with us in Novosibirsk in 1993, it's as if we have awakened from a deep sleep."

Irina Arnautova

For people who cannot

walk, quality wheelchairs

are a basic need. With

sturdy, comfortable, and

lightweight wheelchairs,

people with disabilities can

begin to break down the

barriers which prevent

their full integration into

mainstream society.

People with Disabilities are a Powerful Force for Change in Russia

The **Wheeled Mobility Center (WMC)** at San Francisco State University is helping people with disabilities participate in the momentous changes now occurring in the former Soviet Union. Russia's disabled community is taking advantage of these changes to fight for its rights and improve its status. At the same time, nonprofit organizations within the disabled community are making their contribution to a new, more democratic Russia and a free market economy.

For the First Time, Quality Russian-built Wheelchairs

Since 1993, **WMC** has provided technical support to two privately-owned wheelchair factories in Novosibirsk, Russia's third largest city which is located in Western Siberia. The factories produce a variety of wheelchairs and adaptive devices. The most popular wheelchair can be narrowed by the rider, or an assistant, in order to pass through the narrow elevator and bathroom doorways which are standard throughout Russia.

As soon as quality wheelchairs became available in Novosibirsk, wheelchair riders could become active in their organizations. And they did. One organization, a disabled sports club called **FINIST (Phoenix)**, succeeded in getting City Hall to remove architectural barriers which prevented wheelchair riders from getting into the Sports Club's office. Once these barriers were removed, wheelchair riders and other people with mobility impairments began to participate in even greater numbers. The new activists started computer training and English classes. They set up a wheelchair repair shop, and they started earning money for their organization by selling wheelchairs made in Novosibirsk. They set up a revolving consumer credit fund to provide **loans - not handouts** - for wheelchair purchases.

Women with Disabilities formed a **Disabled Women's Program**, the first of its kind in Russia, to help develop leadership capacity and to address issues of particular interest to disabled women.

"WMC was the first to have confidence that we wheelchair riders could run our own organization. Now we are doing just that."

Larisa Tokareva,
President, Disabled Women's Program

A

Russia's First Independent Living Center

Today FINIST stands on the threshold of a period of rapid expansion in membership and is setting up the **Novosibirsk Center for Independent Living (NCIL)**, a democratic, self help and advocacy organization run by and for people with disabilities. **NCIL** is based on the independent living model developed and utilized in the United States since 1972. It will be the first independent living center in Russia. NCIL will continue FINIST's present programs which include legal advocacy, architectural barrier removal, accessible transportation, wheelchair repair, and a Disabled Community Health Clinic (DCHC). The DCHC project and a Health Resource and Education Center are managed by the **Disabled Women's Program**.

For more information about the *Wheeled Mobility Center's Russia Project* and other ways you can help, contact the project managing director at
Tel/Fax (510) 548-3652.
e-mail: krizack@sfsuvax1.sfsu.edu

You Can Make A Difference

You too can participate in the world historic events now occurring in Russia. Help people with disabilities buy wheelchairs so they can become active in the effort to gain full access to education and employment in the new Russia. A good quality **Novosibirsk-built wheelchair** costs only \$370, \$600 less than a comparable US-made wheelchair, and every wheelchair opens up a world of opportunity for its user.

Make a tax deductible monthly pledge, or a onetime contribution. Purchase a wheelchair for a specific individual, or make a donation to the FINIST wheelchair revolving consumer credit fund. Make your check payable to **Wheeled Mobility Center**, and earmark it "Russia Wheelchairs." Your donation will be transferred to the credit fund. To purchase a wheelchair for a specific individual, earmark your check "Russia Wheelchair for [name of individual and address]." When ordering for a specific individual, please add \$30 for each wheelchair to be shipped outside the Novosibirsk Region. If ordering within Europe, phone or fax FINIST at 7-383-224-3801.



Zhenya Zelentsov
Member, disabled sports club, FINIST





About the Wheeled Mobility Center at SFSU

Since 1980, **WMC**, led by Technology Director Ralf Hotchkiss, has provided training and technical assistance to wheelchair designers and builders in more than 20 countries. The majority of trainees are themselves wheelchair riders. More than 10,000 low-cost, high-performance wheelchairs have been produced, and over 200 wheelchair designer/builders have been trained. **WMC** also acts as a consultant to US wheelchair manufacturers and government agencies. The Russia Project was initially funded with grants from USAID through World Learning Inc. WMC's earlier work in the former Soviet Union was financed in part by grants from the Soros Foundation and Vietnam Veterans of California

*"I was imprisoned in my apartment for 32 years.
Now, thanks to WMC, I have a good wheelchair and a new life."*

*Valentina Fedorovna Kuznetsova,
Novosibirsk, Russia*



Marc Krizack
Russia Project Managing Director
Wheeled Mobility Center at SFSU
2233 California Street
Berkeley, CA 94703
USA