



World Forgotten Children's Foundation

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 6 No. 1

April 2010

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Help Us Spread the Word

Please forward a copy of this newsletter to your friends and colleagues and make them aware of the WFCF mission.

To be removed from the WFCF mailing list, please send a message to
help@world-forgotten-children.org

We Are All One

My morning routine begins with reading the daily passage from Eknath Easwaran's *Words to Live By: A Daily Guide to Leading an Exceptional Life*. Easwaran has taken excerpts from the Bible, Bhagavad Gita, and other holy texts as well as the writings of mystics and spiritual greats and interpreted those texts and writings in a way that is relevant to our everyday lives. Many times as I read and reflect upon that day's text, I am reminded that its relevance to me relates to my world as I know and experience it—a world of relative security, stability, comfort, good health and overall well-being. Remarkably, the same text can be relevant and equally powerful for those children WFCF seeks to serve, despite their physical and emotional disabilities and the seemingly hopeless conditions in which many of them live. What is the common thread? In my opinion, it's the unity of mankind at the deepest level, the God-source within.

When we see that everything in our universe is connected, even at levels that we cannot perceive, we realize living separately is a fiction. With this realization we no longer see the disabled and orphaned child who crawls around on hands and knees as a poor soul living in a foreign country, someone merely in need of our material beneficence or worse than that, as someone, so far removed from us and our world, to be ignored. Rather, seeing that child as a part of us we experience and embrace his suffering, fears, aspirations and hopes as our own, no longer detached and separate, safely removed from our comfortable existence. Viewed in this way, the disabled and orphaned child is not an object of our pity but one to whom we owe the same compassion and love as God, as we know God, shows to us. At the deepest level, her existence is intertwined with ours and the surface distinctions of skin color, geography, physical and medical health and capabilities, and possessions are meaningless. We are all members of the universe, none better or less deserving than any other.

Nonetheless, I feel an obligation as one to whom material possessions have been entrusted to recognize and fulfill the needs of others less fortunate. It's not out of pity that a sense of obligation arises; instead, it's because the pain and suffering experienced by orphaned and disabled children is a part of me. This is what I believe Jesus meant when he said inasmuch as you do it unto the least of these you do it unto me, the God-source within.

Many charitable organizations serving the needs of third-world children showcase examples of desperation and abject poverty, in every respect of those words. I would submit that we in the West judge poverty by material possessions, not by the heart or the soul. India has been referred to as the land where heart is king. What a marvelous observation! One billion people co-existing in one country on the strength of a heartfelt concern for one another, a concern that is oblivious to the color, religion, nationality, and other differences that tend to separate. Do you feel a hole in your soul? Do you see despair or hope in the eyes of suffering children—it's a fine line that divides the two, though viewed from our perspective it's usually the former. Will you join me in getting in touch with that part of your soul that sees the latter—hope—in the eyes of these children and acting on that heartfelt emotion? Thank you for your consideration and may God bless you.

By Gary James, Member of WFCF Advisory Board

www.world-forgotten-children.org

Providing Helping Hands to Less Fortunate Children of the World

How Diema's Dream Foundation (DDF) was founded

Mary Dudley was an American living in Russia engaged in charitable work at orphanages in Moscow, Russia while she was a resident from 1994 to 1997. During this time, she met a charming little boy named Diema at baby orphanage #17. Although Diema has hydrocephalous and is paralyzed from the waist down, his intelligence and sense of humor were the qualities Mary first noticed about him. During her many visits to the orphanage, Mary often spent time holding and playing with Diema.

When Diema turned 5, he was transferred to an asylum for older children. Although Mary tried to discover Diema's whereabouts, she was unable to obtain any information from the State. Through hearsay, Mary learned that Diema might be living at one of the worst asylums in Moscow. Heartbroken and refused permission by authorities to visit Diema, Mary was convinced that Diema would not survive long in this "death" house. Unbeknownst to Mary during her search for Diema, a secret film had been made documenting the horrendous living conditions in this orphanage. The film was shown in several countries in Europe and, as a result, the orphanage was closed. Leonid Mogilevsky, a Russian with a heart for disabled children, lobbied the government for permission to participate in caring for these children. Due to the tremendous outpouring of support in response to the airing of the film, funds were raised to temporarily support Leonid's program.

By word of mouth, Mary learned of a man who might know of Diema's whereabouts. That man's name was Leonid Mogilevsky, and Mary was soon to discover that Diema was not only still alive, but was safe and sound under Leonid's watchful care.

Diema was one of the "lucky" children to have been saved from certain death in one of Moscow's most brutal asylums. In finding Diema, Mary also discovered the selfless man working within the orphanage system to change the future for all Russia's disabled children. After Mary left Moscow, she found she could not leave the welfare of these children behind. Leonid and his volunteers, through their selfless and diligent efforts, with limited funding and many obstacles, were trying to save "one child at a time." Mary knew that she had to help. (Taken from DDF's website)

Recently the Advisory Board of the World Forgotten Children's Foundation (WFCF) approved funding in the amount of US\$6,000.00 to Diema's Dream Foundation ("DDF") for the purpose of purchasing ten (10) wheelchairs for children with disabilities at their orphanage. Diema's Dream was established in 1998 to provide financial, medical, and educational support for both physically and mentally disabled children in Russia. See the article "How Diema's Dream Foundation (DDF) was founded".

A few ways that *you* can help WFCF:

- Let your friends and associates know about WFCF
- Forward a copy of the WFCF Newsletter to friends and associates
- Encourage friends and associates to inform WFCF about appropriate projects to fund
- Consider including WFCF as a beneficiary in personal wills

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