

# INTO the HEARTLAND CAMPAIGN

SITE: TOMSK  
REGION: SIBERIA  
SITE LAUNCHED: 2006

APRIL 15-26, 2008  
SURGICAL-EDUCATIONAL  
MISSION III



## PATIENT PROFILE

Child	Artem T.
Age	8 months
DOB	August 22, 2007
Birth Wt.	7 lbs 3 oz
Current Wt.	15 lbs 14 oz
Home	Onokhoi, Buryat Republic, Siberia 986 miles from Tomsk
Mother	Olga, 22 years old
Father	Aleksandr, 25 years old
Diagnosis	Tetralogy of Fallot
Open-heart surgery	April 21, 2008
Discharged	May 5, 2008

## THE HOUSEHOLD AND THE FAMILY

Artem's parents, Olga and Aleksandr, are Russian, although their families have lived in the Buryat Republic—home to the largest ethnic minority group in Siberia—for several generations. Artem has a 3-year-old brother, Danil; Olga's mother lives nearby and is a devoted *babuschka*. Aleksandr works as a security guard. Olga tends a large garden that supplies the family with fresh produce in the summer and preserved fruits and vegetables throughout the winter.

## CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT AND MEDICAL HISTORY

When Artem was 3 days old, doctors in the local hospital detected a heart murmur that they could not fully diagnose. They referred Artem to a large hospital in Ulan Ude, the capital of Buryatia, about 20 miles from the family's home. Fortunately, cardiologists from the Tomsk Cardiology Institute regularly conduct an outreach clinic in Ulan Ude (almost 1,000 miles from Tomsk) to examine babies thought to have congenital heart defects. The Tomsk doctors diagnosed Artem with Tetralogy of Fallot, a serious but common defect that is highly treatable. However, before the doctors could schedule his first phase of treatment, Artem came down with pneumonia. It took him eight weeks to recover, throughout which Olga was able to stay with relatives in Ulan Ude. Just two weeks after finally returning home, Artem suffered a relapse. This was followed by a succession of respiratory illnesses. "It was awful," Olga recalls. "Somehow we survived."

The Ulan Ude doctors strongly recommended that Artem's surgery not be delayed, suggesting treatment at a cardiac center in Moscow. Olga and Aleksandr appealed three times to the Moscow cardiac center, in hopes that Artem's surgery could be included in their out-of-region quota. Artem's case was rejected each time due to his respiratory complications. Paying for transportation and housing in Moscow would have been a terrible burden for the family.

## CURRENT CONDITION

Olga and Aleksandr were ecstatic to learn that the Tomsk Cardiology Institute would treat Artem — and at no cost to the family. Aleksandr will stay with friends, so that he can provide support to Olga and the baby during the day at the hospital. Olga is especially delighted that the Heart to Heart team will oversee Artem's medical care. She is grateful to the Heart to Heart cardiologist who explains precisely what Artem's operation will involve, reassuring her that Artem is the ideal age for this operation. Olga responds, "I hope that the hospital in Ulan Ude will send all the babies with congenital heart problems to Tomsk."

*Based on an interview conducted in Tomsk, in Russian, by Heart to Heart volunteer Rose Glickman, PhD.*