

# INTO *the* HEARTLAND CAMPAIGN

## TOMSK PEDIATRIC SURGICAL MISSION I APRIL 2006



### PATIENT PROFILE

Child	Katya K.
Age	1 year old
DOB	April 20, 2005
Birth weight	Not available
Current weight	13 lbs 3 oz (6 kg)
Home	Poselok Kapilovo
Mother	Valya, 22 years old
Father	Aleksei
Diagnosis	Tetralogy of Fallot
Open-heart surgery	May 8, 2006
Discharged	May 19, 2006

### THE HOUSEHOLD AND THE FAMILY

The twins' parents are native to Tomsk. Valya, their mother, is 22 years old. Valya, their mother, is trained as a large-animal veterinarian, but – given the difficulties of caring for the twins – she does not plan to return to work soon. Aleksei, the twins' father, works delivering furniture and earns barely \$450 per month (12,000 rubles). Even with a monthly \$110 allowance (3,000 rubles) from the government for Katya's medical problems and another \$11 (300 rubles) for each child, making ends meet is not easy.

So, soon after the twins were born, the family left Tomsk for Poselok Kapilovo, a tiny nearby farming community. Now they live with Valya's grandmother, who owns a 2-bedroom apartment in the village. The apartment does not have hot running water. The grandmother is 64 and still works as a janitor.

The family ekes out enough money to pay for a nanny who helps Valya with the twins during the day, when she is alone with them. "We just had to find a way to pay for a nanny even though our income is so small." Aleksei participates fully in caring for the twins when he is not at work.

### CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT AND CONDITION

Katya and her twin sister Lisa are their parents' first children. Although not identical twins, the girls bear a marked resemblance to one another – except for their size. At 1 year old, Lisa is twice Katya's size, weighing 26 lbs 8 oz (12 kg).

An ultrasound in the maternity hospital revealed that Katya has the second most common congenital heart defect, a Tetralogy of Fallot. Her retarded growth is a consequence of the defect, and the Heart to Heart cardiologists who examined her concluded that she should have an operation as soon as possible; she had five events of loss of consciousness in the 3 months before she was seen at the Tomsk Cardiology Institute.

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