

# INTO the HEARTLAND CAMPAIGN

**SITE: KALININGRAD  
DISTRICT: NORTHWESTERN  
COLLABORATION LAUNCHED: 2013**

**SEPTEMBER 18–28, 2013  
SURGICAL-EDUCATIONAL  
MISSION 1**



## PATIENT PROFILE

Child	Katya S.
Age	5 years old
DOB	December 7, 2007
Weight	Current: 42 lbs
Home	Kaliningrad
Parents	Yulia, 27; Denis, 29
Diagnosis	Tetralogy of Fallot with inlet VSD. S/p LBT shunt (2008, Moldova); systemic-pulmonary shunt (2010, Moldova); RVOT reconstruction (2013, Kaliningrad)
Diagnostic cath.	September 23, 2013

## THE HOUSEHOLD AND THE FAMILY

Katya's parents are not originally from the Kaliningrad region. Yulia, her mother, is from a small town in Moldova – a former Soviet republic which became an independent country in 1991. Denis, her father, is from Bashkiria, the largest autonomous republic in Russia (population 4m). They moved to Kaliningrad in 2012 in search of better housing and employment. They now live in an apartment inherited from Katya's grandfather. Yulia is a caregiver at an orphanage; Denis is an accountant. Yulia and Denis love Kaliningrad – both the location and the people.

## CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT AND MEDICAL HISTORY

Katya was diagnosed with Tetralogy of Fallot in a Moldovan cardiac center when she was 2 months old. She had her first cardiac surgery there 9 months later. Despite the intervention, Katya did not develop normally. Instead, she grew weaker, blue (cyanotic), and short of breath. Doctors advised her parents to seek treatment abroad.

When Katya developed new symptoms, her parents took her to a regional children's hospital. Initially, doctors refused to operate on Katya, in view of their lack of expertise with her relatively complex heart defect. However, in February 2010, they performed the surgery.

Once the family had relocated to Kaliningrad, Katya became a patient at the new federal cardiac center, where she was examined by Dr. Vyacheslav Belov, the chief pediatric cardiac surgeon. In May 2013, he performed her third surgery, to alleviate her symptoms and reverse some of the unintended consequences from previous procedures. In Katya's case, three disparate medical teams, not in communication with one another, tried their own approaches. Dr. Belov requested that Heart to Heart thoroughly review Katya's cardiac history and analyze her current condition to determine her best course of treatment.

## CURRENT CONDITION

Despite her severe heart defect, Katya is exceptionally clever and curious and makes friends easily. She appeared calm and comfortable on the ward, even when her parents could not be there. Although Katya has not yet been allowed to attend school (common for children with heart defects in Russia), she is a strong reader.

After examinations and case reviews with Heart to Heart's team of specialists, a surgical approach was agreed upon. Dr. Belov will soon perform what we anticipate will be the last open heart surgery needed to give Katya a fully functioning heart.

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