

INTO *the* HEARTLAND CAMPAIGN

SAMARA PEDIATRIC SURGICAL-EDUCATIONAL MISSION V
SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2007



THE HOUSEHOLD AND THE FAMILY

Nikita's parents, Sergei and Anastasia, are a loving couple. They were friends in school and knew each other for a long time before marrying. Before Nikita was born, Anastasia worked as a writer of abstracts of inspirational books. Sergei was born in the Ukraine into a military family, and at 19, he enrolled in military school. He is now an army engineer with the rank of captain. Anastasia and Baby Nikita live with Sergei's parents in Chapayevsk, a small village near Samara, because Sergei is stationed in Saratov and can come home only on weekends.

The army gave Sergei a week off to be with the family before and after Nikita's operation. When we ask him if he ever thinks about leaving the army to take a civilian job that allows him to live with his family, he says yes, that he thinks of it often, but wonders what type of employment is available at a salary commensurate with his army pay.

PATIENT PROFILE

Child	Nikita Z.
Age	2 years 5 months old
DOB	April 12, 2005
Birth weight	7 lbs (3kg 170g)
Current weight	24 lbs 3 oz (11 kg)
Home	Chapayevsk
Mother	Anastasia, 25 years old
Father	Sergei, 26 years old
Diagnosis	Ebstein's Anomaly and Pulmonary Atresia
Open-heart surgery	October 2, 2007
Discharged	October 29, 2007

CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT AND CONDITION

A few hours after birth, Nikita was taken to the ICU in their village hospital. Three days later, he was brought to the Samara Regional Cardiac Center. His first operation was performed when he was 1 month old. The doctors suggested that it would be better to perform a palliative operation before attempting a complete repair. Although Sergei and Anastasia believe that Nikita has progressed in his development, they recognize that he is not at age level. He held his head up at age 6 months, sat at 1 year, and is not yet walking, although he seems eager to do so. He recognizes people and makes distinctions among them. He is responsive and smiles easily. Sergei and Anastasia are fiercely determined to give Nikita the best possible life. They have already consulted child-development specialists, who advise them on creating a stimulating environment for Nikita.

After Nikita's surgery, he was taken to the ICU with his chest still open. Three days later, Drs. Raff and Shorokhov closed his chest in the ICU. The surgery was successful.

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

Photo above: In Samara, Pediatric Cardiologists Laura Robertson and Mark Cocalis, both of UC San Francisco, review Nikita's echocardiogram on-screen. The heart of a child this age is barely bigger than a plum.