

INTO *the* HEARTLAND CAMPAIGN

**SITE: SAMARA
REGION: VOLGA FEDERAL DISTRICT**

**OCTOBER 1-12, 2008
SURGICAL-EDUCATIONAL
MISSION VI**



PATIENT PROFILE

Child	Valya K.
Age	3 years old
DOB	August 4, 2005
Birth Wt.	6 lbs 5 oz
Current Wt.	26 lbs 6 oz
Home	Samara
Mother	Ludmila
Diagnosis	Swiss cheese septum
Procedure	VSD closure Mayo Clinic, July 26, 2007
Discharged	July 31, 2007

THE HOUSEHOLD AND THE FAMILY

Valya was evaluated by the Heart to Heart team in 2006 and was sent to the Mayo Clinic for surgery. Both the Heart to Heart doctors and the Samaran doctors felt that her complex defect, commonly known as "Swiss cheese VSD," could best be treated there. Valya didn't have many symptoms before surgery except shortness of breath, which Ludmila says was especially pronounced on the flight to the US for surgery. Thanks to Mayo Clinic's International Charity Program and the Russian Gift of Life, USA, Valya successfully underwent surgery at the Mayo Clinic in 2007.

CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT AND MEDICAL HISTORY

Ludmila and Valya are now old friends of Heart to Heart. Ludmila brought Valya to the Samara Regional Cardiac Center during Heart to Heart's surgical-educational mission for a follow-up examination, bearing a thank-you gift of chocolate. Ludmila came with one of her aunts; both of Ludmila's aunts care for Valya when Ludmila is at work. The aunts clearly adore Valya, and want to see her even on weekends when Ludmila is at home.

Valya is active, sociable, and has no restrictions in her activities. She gets colds and other childhood illnesses no more frequently than other children.

Valya started pre-school in September and enjoys it very much. She is already a great natural storyteller and exhibits highly-developed verbal skills. Ludmila asked Valya's teachers to watch out that other children don't push or hit her, but she did not request any other special treatment.

Today's echocardiogram showed that no further surgeries are required: Valya's little heart is in good shape. Valya doesn't remember anything about her operation or her trip to the US, but when she does notice her scar, she says "Mom, I fell down." Her mother simply asks, "When?" and accepts Valya's answer, "a long time ago."

Based on an interview conducted in Samara, in Russian, by Heart to Heart volunteer Natasha Lusin, PhD.