

# INTO *the* HEARTLAND CAMPAIGN

SAMARA PEDIATRIC SURGICAL MISSION IV  
SEPTEMBER 2006



## PATIENT PROFILE

Child	Vasya S.
Age	20 months old
DOB	February 7, 2005
Birth weight	6 lbs 6 oz (2kg 900g)
Current weight	22 lbs (10 kg)
Home	Togliatti
Mother	Lyuba, 31 years old
Father	Yura, 29 years old
Diagnosis	Valvar AS and sub AS; bicuspid aortic valve
Open-heart surgery	October 6, 2006
Discharged	October 19, 2006

## THE HOUSEHOLD AND THE FAMILY

Lyuba was born on a state farm in the small village of Morshcha. Lyuba and Yura live in a one-room apartment, separate from their families. They lived with Yura's parents until Vasya was born. Lyuba is on maternity leave, but she loves her job as a clothing designer and seamstress for a local atelier. She is a bright, optimistic, and charming young woman. Yura works as a design engineer at the AvtoVaz auto factory in Togliatti.

Vasya captured the attention of everyone on the unit. Beautiful, joyful, sociable, and exceptionally cute, learning new words every five minutes. His parents are besotted, as was everyone who laid eyes on him. It was difficult to believe that such a robust child could have such a serious heart condition. Lyuba thinks that the local staff is wonderful and is quite appreciative that Heart to Heart doctors are available to answer all of her questions. She seems trusting and calm. "By now I can't wait for the operation. We'll be so happy when it's over." Sitting in the corridor during the operation, the family all wept, including Yura.

## CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT AND CONDITION

Lyuba had a difficult pregnancy. Yura was in Italy on business for several months during the pregnancy. An ultrasound in utero revealed some defects and raised the possibility that Vasya's heart might be inoperable.

After the birth, the Samara cardiac center performed an angiogram. The parents were told that Vasya's valve problem would require him to take medication his whole life. The parents were in agony for the first year of his life, but now they are reconciled to the difficulties they face. They have succeeded in being optimistic. "Taking medicine," Lyuba says, "is like feeding to eat every day." She breast-fed Vasya for a year, and he first walked at 11 months.

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