

# INTO *the* HEARTLAND CAMPAIGN

## TOMSK PEDIATRIC SURGICAL MISSION I

APRIL 2006



### PATIENT PROFILE

Child	Yana L.
Age	11 months old
DOB	June 11, 2005
Birth weight	Not available
Current weight	18 lbs 12 oz (8.5 kg)
Home	Tomsk
Mother	Olessa, 20 years old
Father	Oleg, 25 years old
Diagnosis	AVC, small vsd, common atrium
Open-heart surgery	May 12, 2006
Discharged	May 29, 2006

### THE HOUSEHOLD AND THE FAMILY

Olessa is a secretary at the Tomsk post-office, but will remain on maternity leave until Yana is stable. Oleg drives a post office truck. He attended university before serving in the army for 2 years; he did not to finish his studies. Now he earns 8,000 rubles/month (\$296), and they get 3,000 rubles for having a child with medical problems.

The family lives in a 3-room apartment with Olessa's grandmother and grandfather, Olessa's mother and her husband, and Baby Yana. Olessa's parents divorced when she was 1 year old. The apartment belongs to the grandparents who get pensions. Olessa and Oleg would prefer to live alone, but like many Russian families, their survival depends on sharing resources. Olessa has a 30-year-old sister who lives with her husband and one child.

We interviewed Olessa on the morning of Yana's operation, and learned that it was her husband Oleg whom we had seen every single day taking care of the baby. Olessa explained that Oleg begins work at 4 p.m., and therefore comes every day to spell her and to be with Yana. Until 2 months ago, the family paid for Yana's medicine themselves—slightly over \$7 per month (200 rubles)—because of some bureaucratic tangle. "I don't care about the money, I only want my baby to be healthy." Now the province reimburses them.

### CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT AND CONDITION

Yana's heart defect was diagnosed when she was 1 month old. On doctor's orders, Olessa stopped breastfeeding after a month, because Yana had difficulty sucking. The baby was scheduled for an operation when she was 4 months old, but it had to be postponed; she had frequent colds. Olessa has been extremely anxious about the possibility of losing Yana, "I cried and cried." Now she's feeling somewhat better because Yana is developing apace: she sleeps through the night, sits on her own, crawls, and will walk with help. Although Yana's breathing is labored, she has no cyanosis. Even after Yana stopped having frequent colds, she and the doctors decided to wait for Heart to Heart to come: "I know that American doctors are better qualified."

After the surgery, we met Olessa and Oleg in the corridor, where the surgeon was reporting on the operation's success. Both parents were crying with relief.

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