

Ecologia Trust Annual Report 2004

Ecologia Trust has been exclusively involved in the development of Kitezh Children's Community in 2004, largely thanks to the grant from the Community Fund (now the Big Lottery Fund). Our successful application for a further three years' funding enables us to put the Kitezh fostering model on the map in Russia.

The Guide for Foster Families written by Dmitry Morozov was launched in September. It describes what has been learned in the 12 years of Kitezh's experience of caring for orphan children.

Kitezh-Orion: the vision to build a new fostering village for orphans was conceived early in 2004 and by the end of the year came to fruition, spearheaded by founder Dmitry Morozov and a group of enthusiastic youngsters. The first house was built in the same year. We hope to raise the money to install electricity soon and make it habitable by spring 2005 and to build a second house there next year.

The Kitezh Centre in Moscow has raised awareness of and support for Kitezh amongst the ex-pat business community as well as some Russian companies. Kitezh has made a significant impact on federal and local government with visits by the Minister for Social Affairs and the Governor of Kaluga Region followed by tangible support from Kaluga Administration.

Highlights of 2004 from Kitezh Centre: The year began with the arrival of Rosie Swale Pope, the round-the-world runner whose presence in Moscow in March produced a flurry of fundraising activities, notably a Fun Run across the city to the British Ambassador's residence. In June the internationally renowned concert pianist, Martin Berkofsky gave a benefit recital for Kitezh at the British Embassy. In July the children were mascots for the teams at the Russo-British Chamber of Commerce's annual rugby tournament and Kitezh benefited from funds raised. August provided another fun day out for the kids at the St Andrew's Society Summer 'Stramash'.

In Kitezh, having said goodbye to the Prince's Trust team, they welcomed the Moscow Hash House Harriers, a Moscow running club, who arrived for a weekend of running in the surrounding forest areas.

It has been an eventful year, one that Kitezh has benefited from and enjoyed immensely. In addition to raising funds for Kitezh and Orion, these events provided the Kitezhans, especially the children, with unforgettable experiences and many new friends. With the continued funding for Kitezh Centre, we hope to build on the experiences of this year and, with the help of our new friends, continue to provide the best possible for our children.

Training: Three Kitezh adults travelled to Britain for training in art therapy, child psychology and to visit Camphill School and Charterhouse therapeutic communities. Three youngsters also benefited from training: Maria Pichugina, the future head of Orion, took part in the Ecovillage Training at the Findhorn Community. Yegor Lukyanov took part in a Findhorn Experience Week after spending two months with the Fisher family in Macclesfield, where he went to a local school, had a part-time job and perfected his English. Valya Kanukhina participated in a two-week youth leadership programme at the Findhorn Foundation that she has put into practice in her leadership role with the children at Kitezh. Therapeutic education consultant and mentor, David Dean paid two visits to Kitezh in 2004. He was pleased to note that his recommendations for Community Meetings, parents and children support groups and supervision for the adults bore fruit, with evidence of the adults' commitment to becoming a professional therapeutic community for children. In October the whole adult population of Kitezh played the Transformation Game with Liza Hollingshead, a team building workshop that allows the adults to focus on each other and clarify their vision for the future.

Volunteers: Steady interest in volunteering continues, with excellent feedback from Kitezh and the eleven volunteers this year. The children are unafraid of foreigners and confident in their spoken English; the volunteers also grow in self-confidence as they take on responsibilities, create events and become an integral part of family and community life.

Distribution of Funds (excluding funded projects) in 2004:

Donations & Volunteers' contributions transferred to Kitezh and Orion:	34,180	65%
Travel costs	3,514	6%
Ecologia Trust running costs:	12,770	23%
Cost of Generating Funds:*	3,103	6%
Total	<u>£52,364</u>	

* Ecologia Trust aims to keep its annual running costs below 25% of income from donations and volunteers, excluding grants.

Kitezh-Orion Funding Needs for 2005

Orion:

Build 2 new houses	£35,000
Install electricity & gas supply	£ 5,250
Support 2 families in Orion for first year	£ 6,000
Equip classrooms – computer, desks, white boards etc	£ 2,000
12-seater Minibus for transport between Kitezh & Orion	£ 5,500

Education Fund for Students studying to return to work in Orion:

9 students in 2005, (4 have free tuition.)	
Food & Accommodation £150/ month = £1,800 per year each	£16,200
Tuition x 5 students @ £1,000 per year	£ 5,000
Transport from Moscow to Kitezh-Orion	£ 1,000

Kitezh:

Carpentry workshop to build furniture: machinery, tools	£ 5,000
Fire extinguishers & equipment	£ 1,000
Radio Phone station (urgent!)	£ 600

School:

Martial arts equipment – mats, protective clothing	£ 1,000
Photocopier	£ 800
White boards, text books, scientific literature	£ 1,000
Digital video camera	£ 1,000

Families:

Upgrade existing Families' Houses:	
Lukyanov: convert 2 nd floor for more children and art room	£ 3,950
Terentyev: build extension for kitchen, install shower	£ 2,800

Summer holidays for 40 children:

Canoeing, hiking, seaside holidays – transport & food	£ 4,000
Camping equipment: Three rubber rafts	£ 600
Sleeping bags	£ 500

Guesthouse:

Finish 2 nd floor – insulation, furnishing	£ 6,000
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Reedbed waste water systems in Kitezh and Orion:

building materials, hire excavator, local labour	£20,000
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