



The Smile Report

The Newsletter of Felsted Aid for Deprived Children
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September 2008

Hello Everyone,

We are home again after another successful trip with over 3500 kilos of humanitarian aid to Chernigov, Ukraine. Our only problem was a slow puncture in our rear tyre which went down while we were on the dockside waiting for the ferry. Alan was very privileged this trip because he had an all female crew, Liz and Robyn, Linda, Jennifer and Pauline as navigator. The journey takes 4 days and we arrived on time with Liz and Linda having driven their vans all of the 1630 miles to the Revival Centre. Well done ladies a great achievement!

On a previous visit we had been asked if we could locate a knitting machine for a lady named Ulla. She had nursed her 14 year old seriously disabled son who was unable to communicate and was bedridden until January when he sadly died. The disability grant stopped but she still had another child to support. Ulla felt she could make some knitted garments to sell and so bring in an income. Thanks to "Workaid" who donated a refurbished machine which we took out to her. Of course as usually happens a boxful of

knitting machine wool came in as aid just before we left which we gave to her.

Another lovely moment came when Dr Natasha (Dr P's wife) asked if we could help one of the Revival Centre's longstanding staff who worked in the kitchens. Svetlana's 20 year old son who had been very seriously ill in hospital with abscesses on his liver which led to septicaemia. The family, friends and staff at the centre had all contributed to help pay for treatment but he was in need of a further 10 days medicine as he was not out of the woods yet. Two members of the team immediately put their hands in their pockets and gave her the £200.00 needed for the treatment. The next day she came to us and bought an apple cake and aubergine cake which she had made. She said "all I can do is cook and I made these for you to say thank you for my son".

Vitaly who is a direct victim of the Chernobyl disaster (his mother was 8 months pregnant at the time. The Government said she had to have a termination and so she ran away. She fell on a metal bridge and absorbed radiation) was finding it hard to use his

wheelchair due to his hands so we managed to locate a small motorised one thanks to The Red Cross in the UK which we presented to him. He was so pleased. They are unknown in Ukraine. He is a car fanatic and now says it is his Ferrari. We would like to get a Ferrari sticker for him if anyone has any

connections please.

Our next trip will be in October with 3 vans. We are in need of toilet rolls, sanitary wear, disposable nappies, disinfectant, toothpaste and toothbrushes, shampoo and soap as well as good children's clothes. Harvest festival is nearly here so perhaps schools, churches or other organisations can help as well as individuals. Of course we unfortunately also need money for the ferry and diesel.



Alan accepts a thank you hug with tears on your behalf

Thanks to all the people who have helped us we cannot do it on our own.

Very best wishes to you all

Alan & Pauline

