The refugee school in Moscow

Six more weeks, then what?

We were very pleased to receive a special grant, from New Earswick Meeting, to support the Refugee School in Moscow.

The “Kids are Kids” Integration Centre serves about 80 refugee and migrant children, who have arrived from a variety of places including Africa and the Middle East. The Centre helps the children integrate into Russian life. It runs activities for preschoolers, classes in Russian for school students, and a full teaching curriculum for children who are excluded from state education because their parents have no Moscow registration.

Recently the Centre has struggled to find funding to cover costs. Friends House Moscow helps as much as it can. The special grant (from a legacy) of £3,000 was enough to keep the Refugee School running for another six weeks, until the start of the summer.

Now the money has run out, and there is a desperate need for more funds to help the School to continue. Please do what you can to help us find extra sources of income to help the School.

Advice for conscripts and conscientious objectors

On the Move

Gyerman and Nina, our Friends who run the advice service for conscientious objectors and conscripts, have a new base of operations.

They have moved out of the city of Kazan into a village in Tatarstan (the Russian region of which Kazan is the capital).

They are continuing their work to advise young men who want to do alternative service instead of joining the army. Gyerman gives two or three consultations daily. Nina also works with individual applicants, helping them in difficult cases.

Gyerman notices a new tendency. Enquiries don’t come by telephone so often. The younger generation prefer internet communication, mainly Vkontakte, the Russian social network. Meanwhile the older generation, such as conscripts' parents, still use the telephone.

Because of the move out of Kazan, the advice office (for which FHM provided rent) is no longer needed. FHM will continue to support this work with help for technology to make the advice service run smoothly and efficiently.
Publishing in the Russian language

FHM at QUIP

Our Friend Natasha represented FHM at the 2018 conference of QUIP (Quakers Uniting in Publications). The theme of the conference was “Writing at the Edge: A look at the edges we encounter as writers and publishers”. It was held this year in the UK from 26 to 29 April at Glenthorne, the Quaker centre in the Lake District.

QUIP (www.quakerquip.com) was begun informally in 1983 by a small group of Quaker publishers and booksellers, and is now an international network of over 50 Friends organizations and individuals concerned with the ministry of the written word. Members work together to achieve common goals:
> accessible centres for the distribution of Quaker publications
> a website listing of all Quaker publications currently available
> cooperative publishing to provide needed, good books at lower prices

> a forum for the exchange of editorial concerns
> education of members in the conduct of sound and ethical business
> increased awareness of Quaker publications in the broader religious book market
> annual meetings for education, business, and encouragement of faith in worship.

Natasha brought with her examples of the seven Russian language books that FHM has recently produced in printed format. We also have a much more extensive library available online.

Remembering Eleanor

We were saddened to hear of the death in March of Eleanor Barden. Eleanor (of Northampton Quaker Meeting in the UK) was a mainstay of Friends House Moscow for many years. She was its long-time Treasurer, and was involved in an enormous number of FHM projects.

Eleanor also founded her own travel company, Goodwill Travel, that tried to strengthen ties between ordinary people in the USSR and in Britain - an opportunity that had become possible with perestroika under Gorbachev.

Goodbye Eleanor, may you rest in peace.

* A personal memorial to Eleanor from Sergei Nikitin can be found on our website in the News section.

FHM supports projects that promote peace and transform lives in the countries of the former Soviet Union.

Join us in our work

Please donate to Friends House Moscow

Donate online at www.friendshousemoscow.org or send donations to:

In Europe: Friends House Moscow
In North America: Friends House Moscow Support Association
Unit 14451
PO Box 60253
PO Box 6945
Palo Alto, CA 94306, USA
London W1A 6US, U.K.

Donations to the U.S. address or online in US $ are tax-deductible on U.S. tax returns.

Can you volunteer to help? Thank you!

Could you help publicise our work and raise funds? Email info@friendshousemoscow.org for details