



Natasha was 18 years old and had cerebral palsy. Most of her life was spent in bed, she had severe deformities and was malnourished. She lived at Yelatma, the orphanage for older children with disabilities. Now that ThePromise is helping the children here, we hope that, with your help, no child will ever have a life so devoid of hope and joy.



How you can help

- **You can become an Angel for ThePromise by completing the form overleaf**
- **You can make a one-off donation**
- **You can organise an event for ThePromise**
- **You can undertake a Charity Challenge. Please visit www.charitychallenge.com**
- **You can leave a legacy. Please call us on 020 8737 2987**

Thank you for helping ThePromise

Please give me back my future



For Russian children with special needs

Registered Charity no. 1098771
Telephone: 020 8737 2987
www.ThePromise.org.uk



Why ThePromise is needed

For a disabled child in a Russian orphanage, life holds few prospects and little joy. Their daily experience is limited to the four walls of the institution, and often, to the confines of their bed. Because of a lack of resources and training, even those children who live at home have hardly any education and only minimal therapy.

Research shows categorically that if children are denied one-to-one interaction, human touch and access to play, they will grow up lacking self-esteem, without a sense of their identity and might never feel secure – all essential elements of a child's development.

This is what is happening to disabled children in Russia today.

What ThePromise is doing

We have introduced a widely-acclaimed pre-school education system, designed specifically for children with disabilities, called Portage, into institutions and the community in the Ryazan region of Russia (180 km south-east of Moscow). Using this system, each child's special needs are analysed and special games and activities devised to boost all areas of their development.

We trained 10 Portage workers at the Ryazan Baby Home, caring for 40 disabled children aged 0-4, and our results show that the average rate of developmental progress for children having Portage increased by 3.6 times. Several children have been adopted, others are on the adoption register and every child has made truly remarkable gains in all areas of their development.

News of our groundbreaking work spread within the region and we were invited to establish a Portage programme in an orphanage for older children (4-18) at Yelatma. 10 Portage workers work with 30 profoundly disabled children, classified as ineducable by the authorities. Here is the greatest need for



This is **Angelina**. She had been diagnosed as autistic and never spoke or played with toys. She found it hard to connect with adults and children. After 6 months of Portage, she was speaking in complete sentences, laughing, playing with other children and is now enjoying life with a new adoptive family.

our work as many of these children have spent their lives in bed and have no self-help skills at all.

We have also set up a community Portage project in the city of Ryazan to support families with disabled children at home, to try and prevent children being taken into state care. We train volunteer students from the University who provide loving support for the children and families they work with.

ThePromise also

- Lobbies local and national government for more community support and rights for disabled children
- Provides specialist equipment such as seating and sensory toys to support a child's learning
- Set high standards and aims to create a model of good practice which could be applied in other areas of Russia.

ThePromise holds the needs of the child at the heart of all we do. We need your support to continue our innovative and life-changing work.

What your gift can do

- £15 gives a child two weeks of Portage
- £25 buys a special sensory toy for sound or vision development
- £120 pays the monthly salary of a Portage worker
- £300 trains and supports a new Portage worker

Yes, I would like to become an Angel for ThePromise

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Email (for ThePromise Post) _____

To (name of my Bank) _____

At (address of my Bank) _____

My Bank Account No: _____

In the name of _____

My Sort Code --

Please pay the account of ThePromise at The Co-operative Bank PLC

Account No: 65107760

Sort Code: 08-92-99

£15 per month

£25 per month

Other amount per month £ _____

This amount is in addition to or replaces an existing amount

Starting on _____ and thereafter on the same date every month until further notice (please make this date at least one month from now)

Signed _____ Date _____

I confirm that I am a UK taxpayer and that ThePromise can claim tax on all my gifts.

To qualify for Gift Aid, what you pay in income tax or capital gains tax must at least equal the amount we will claim in the tax year from your donations.

I'd like to make a donation and enclose:

A cheque Postal order CAF voucher

made payable to ThePromise. OR please debit my

Visa/Mastercard CAF Card Switch/Maestro

Card no: _____

Valid from: Expiry date: _____

Issue no: (Switch or Maestro only) _____

Please give your name and address above.

My phone number is _____

Please send this form, with your donation, to ThePromise, 181 Jersey Road, Isleworth, Middx TW7 4QJ. 020 8737 2987. Thank you.

To find out how you can help visit: www.thepromise.org.uk