

Did you know...

- Over 1 million children live in institutions in Russia today.
- Orphans are becoming an increasingly at-risk group
- Young teenagers 'graduating' from orphanages often don't succeed in the adult world.
- AIDS in Russia is growing faster than in any other country.

Disturbing Facts

- Over 1 million children live in institutions in Russia today. (Many believe this number to be closer to 2 – 3 million.) In addition, approximately 1.5 – 3 million live on the streets.
- The situation for orphan children and children at risk is becoming worse and the number of these kids entering into the orphanage is on the rise.
- Survival statistics for orphans once they leave the orphanages are abysmal. Many directors, as well as officials claim that only around 10 – 20% of orphans "survive" within a few years of leaving the orphanages. By "survive" they mean not becoming a drug addict, a prostitute, a homeless person, or put in prison after they leave the orphanage.
- According to the Russian Procurator General, around 15,000 orphans "graduate" from the orphanages every year. Within a few years of graduation, of the 15,000 graduates, 30% will be unemployed, 35% will be homeless, 20% will have criminal records, and 10% will commit suicide.
- As the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Russia explodes (AIDS in Russia is growing faster than in any other country in the world), orphans become an increasingly at-risk group.

Of special concern are the young teenagers who are in the transition period of leaving the orphanage to enter into the real Russian world - often times, a world without hope for the Russian orphan. These children are often considered outcasts in their society, with little hope for further education or a secure job. Many times children are forced to leave the orphanage as early as age 15 due to overcrowded facilities.



Can you help...?

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Some people help through working with families at risk in Russia. Some give aid to orphanages. Some become temporary foster parents.

We help through finding permanent adoptive families for some children. Through ICANZ over 670 children from Russian orphanages have found families in New Zealand since 1992. We want to continue doing this.

Over the last two years we have had to go through a difficult expensive process to receive a permit to work as an accredited agency in Russia. Until this is finished, New Zealanders can no longer provide adoptive homes for Russian orphans.

Progress! 😊

This year the ICANZ application has completed the extensive documentation check with the Russian Ministry of Education and Science. We have made the changes required and are now about to embark on the last phase of the process, with 5 other Russian Ministries. We expect this process to take 4-5 months.

Can you help fund ICANZ, to help us continue to exist while waiting for this last phase? Any financial donation, large or small, will help. Donations of airpoints tickets or voluntary help at the ICANZ office would also help.

DONATIONS TO ICANZ -

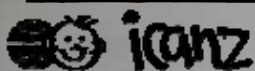
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Act no: 12 3077 0357634 04

Or, by cheque to our
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page on www.icanz.gen.nz

ICANZ is a registered charity with the Charities Commission and has donee status with the IRD. We will send a receipt for a tax rebate if you advise us of your address.



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