

Russia With Love -- Annual Report January 2015

The inter-confessional Russia With Love project is co-sponsored in Ann Arbor by Journey of Faith Christian Church and St Vladimir Russian Orthodox Church. The current members of its Steering Committee consists of people from the Disciples, Orthodox and Presbyterian church communities in Ann Arbor. Members of the Ann Arbor church community are invited to participate in the Steering Committee.

Our goal is to help the Russian Orthodox Church during a difficult period of instability and by doing so to establish long-term ties between American Christians and Russian Christians. Along this line, our committee solicits monies to support a joint Danish Lutheran/Russian Orthodox outreach to the needy in Moscow. These monies go towards pre-and-post natal care for expectant and new mothers, emergency medical assistance, assistance to help families avoid evictions, monies for food for the poor, help to Sunday schools and other needs. In addition, Russia With Love has initiated and supported medical exchanges between institutions in Russia and the University of Michigan medical complex. It also has taken initiatives to promote student exchanges with Russia. With more funding we hope to continue these efforts.

Over the course of 2014 Russia With Love received a total of \$11,195.38 from donations and supporters. Of the \$7,256.45 in our account at the beginning of the year, \$2,986 was set aside to help finance a summer of intensive English for Andrey Terekhov, a 16 year old Russian high school student whom Connie Meyer, the Danish Social Worker with whom we work in Russia, had recommended we help study here. In addition to the money set aside for the student, Russia With Love received an additional \$3,000 for its 2014 summer student exchange to cover its total cost of \$5,986.

Aside from the monies set aside for designated purposes, Russia With Love had \$7,250 available over the course of the year for supporting Connie Meyer's and Fr. Pavel' Vishnevsky's outreach to the needy in Russia. That represented just a little over half (7 months) of our monthly goal.

All of this would not have been possible without generous support from the Anderson Family, the Disciples Week of Compassion, Journey of Faith Christian Church, St. Vladimir Russian Orthodox Church and the help of faithful respondents.

For this coming year, we hope to strengthen our efforts to help the church in Russia in our own community and among our own church organizations. Part of the focus of our Russia With Love program during 2014 was on exploring possibilities of initiating student exchanges largely with Russian Orthodox schools. Along the lines of the latter endeavor, Russia With Love with the support of our church sponsors has initiated a request to the national organizations of the Disciples, the Orthodox Church in America and the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad to form an inter-confessional consortium to assist us in finding sources of funds to help finance two way educational exchanges. We hope to pursue this to a successful conclusion in 2015. Also we are hoping to bring Connie Meyer and Father Pavel Vishnevsky here during the course of 2015 for a program with the Ann Arbor church community on the needs and possibilities in Russia to which our efforts are directed.

Russia With Love Steering Committee

\$4,125.45 Balance in Account 10-20-14

+ 100.00

4,225.45

- 2,664.00

- 1,050.00

511.45

- 120.00

391.45

+2,213.00

-60.00

2,544.45

+2215.00

\$4,759.45 Estimated in Account 12-31-14

2014 Giving to RWL
Expenditures--Student

\$ 170.00

\$1,050.00

2,405.00

125.00

1,750.00

525.00

242.38

2,213.00

1,550.00

\$8,980.38

Expenditures--Moscow Project

\$5,986.00

2,050.00

1,050.00

2,050.00

1,050.00

\$7,250.00

Total Expenditures 2014

Moscow Project \$7,250.00

Student 5,986.00

\$13,236.00