The Dobro Society for Autistic Children's Care

The Dobro Society for Autistic Children's Care was founded in 1988 by parents of autistic children. Since the beginning the main goal of the Society has been to provide autistic children throughout Russia a basis to realise their educational rights, find a role in society, and develop the skills for a future profession. In 1989 a rehabilitation program was set up which paved the way for the first municipal day care center for autistic children which opened in 1994 with assistance from the Dobro Society. The Society has also focused its efforts on the improvement of educational programs, rehabilitation techniques and methods of medical treatment for children with autism. Thanks to the Society's team which is made up of qualified professionals in the field of child autism and devoted volunteers, the organization has implemented a program of scientific research on child autism; opened a free consultation service for parents; developed and implemented a training program for students of leading Russian teaching universities aimed at educating more specialists; created and supported the parents association in Moscow and started this work in other regions; published over 6 books and brochures for parents and professionals on child autism; started a campaign for the reconstruction of a new complex to be the national rehabilitation and educational center for autistic children in Moscow (reconstruction is nearly complete, design work and purchase of equipment are planned for 1998, and official opening is proposed for the beginning of 1999).

Furthermore, the Society maintains good relations and develops joint projects with different government ministries and institutions to support the reform of the social care system. The Society is funded primarily by local sources including social contracts with the Moscow Educational Department, federal ministries, individual and corporate donations. The Society is also a member of the International Association "Autism - Europe".

Causenera! Chacuso. Muse nougruses

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We are most grateful to the American Embassy, *The Moscow Times*, *The Moscow Tribune*, Starlite Diner, St. Andrew's Church, and the Jewish School Habad Lubavich for their support.

We would also like to thank our many friends in the Moscow community who have made anonymous donations.

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