

MiraMed Institute



Annual Program Report 2006

Who we are

MiraMed Institute is a 501C3 nonprofit public charity, registered with the U.S. government. The organization is also registered in Russia as a representative office of a nonprofit charity. MiraMed Institute is accredited by the United Nations with Special Consultative Status in the Economic and Social Council. MiraMed conducts programs in partnership with over 100 NGOs in 35 regions of Russia, CIS, Baltics and Europe with an annual operating budget of 1.8 million USD.

Our Mission

To provide programs of social protection, education, training and self-sufficiency and advocacy for orphans, disadvantaged children and young adults in Russia; to provide direct humanitarian aid, medicine, food and supplies to orphanages in need; to educate and advocate for the elimination of sexual trafficking of girls and young women from Russia and the former Republics and to assist in their rescue, return and rehabilitation.

Our Programs in 2006

Counter-trafficking in the Former Soviet Union

- Trafficking prevention campaigns
- International rescues and repatriations of trafficking victims
- International toll-free, Russian language help-lines
- Police and government training and cooperation
- Coalition building between NGOs, government agencies and law enforcement
- Moscow Child Rescue Project – Working with police and shelters to rescue and assist child trafficking victims in Moscow
- Working with police and prosecutors to write curricula and textbooks on trafficking

Social competency training for at risk youth in the Former Soviet Union

- Life skills training to orphans in over 70 orphanages
- Survival guides for 10,000 street children and orphans in Moscow and St. Petersburg
- A monthly “We Can Do It!” child centered newspaper distributed to 3000 kids/month
- “Listening to Children” – training shelter and orphanage staff in a child centered approach to institutional care
- Publishing books on working with child victims of severe forms of abuse including prostitution
- Training programs for shelter staff and police in working with child victims of violence
- Prevention of abortion and abandonment – community support for single teen mothers.

HIV/AIDS preventive education

- Award winning NAVIGATOR program is the first recommended for Moscow schools
- “We Can Do It!” risk behavior prevention program reaches 2500 orphans this year
- “Secure the Future!” – a program for educating parents, teachers, psychologists and social workers on HIV and drug use prevention
- “You Have a Choice!” is a classroom drama chronicling the difficulties faced by teens living with HIV.

Tolerance education

- “Theater for a Change” performs classroom dramas for 10,000 teens each year on various issues of tolerance
- “Colors of Russia” – a volunteer program of concerned citizens working together paint over hate graffiti in their communities
- “Advocacy Coalition” – a multi-regional coalition of NGOs representing disenfranchised groups working together on common issues of at-risk populations.



MiraMed Institute

2006

December 1, 2006

Letter from Dr. Juliette M. Engel, Founding Director

Dear Colleagues, Sponsors and Friends!

2006 has seen a steady increase in interest from Russian government agencies in all of our programs – from prevention of trafficking, rescue, repatriation, and assistance for trafficking victims, to support for young single mothers, training of juvenile and criminal police, and reforming the system of identification and services for trafficked children in Moscow.

This year also saw us move into the Muslim world, with counter-trafficking projects in Tajikistan and growing partnerships with law enforcement and non-governmental organizations in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan, Turkey, and United Arab Emirates as part of a Swedish and US-funded project of government and law enforcement training and transnational cooperation.



Highlights of the year include:

- Selection of NAVIGATOR, MiraMed's in-school HIV/AIDS prevention curriculum and life skills development program by the Moscow Department of Education as the best program for Moscow schools.
- The selection of MiraMed to designate and lead a team of specialists from government and NGOs participating in the multi-national counter-trafficking child project of the Committee of Baltic Sea States.
- Partnership with the City of Moscow and directorates of Moscow's three international airports to put up billboards alongside airport access roads and hand out booklets in passport control warning potential victims of the risks of trafficking and how to contact our helpline in case of an emergency.
- Having MiraMed and Angel Coalition representatives called to Washington DC twice during the year to testify to the House International Relations Committee of Congress.
- Receipt of MiraMed Institute's first direct appropriation from the U.S. Congress.
- Partnership with MTV in the development of materials for Russia and advertising the Angel Coalition international and national toll-free help-lines throughout Europe, Asia and the Middle East.
- A letter of appreciation from the Ministry of Interior acknowledging the value of police training conducted by The Angel Coalition in Moscow (1500 officers) and throughout the regions (900 officers).
- A visit to the Royal Palace in Stockholm and the opportunity to present our programs to Her Majesty Queen Silvia, Princess Madeleine and heads of many family foundations who make up the Founders and Board of World Childhood Foundation.
- The publication of four books on the treatment and rehabilitation of children who have been severely abused – the first of their kind based on Russian experience.
- The republication of the "Youth Survival Guide" for orphans and street children in Moscow and a new guide for St. Petersburg.
- Registration of our "We Can Do It!" monthly newspaper for orphans and distribution by the City of Moscow to 3000 orphans every month.
- The launch of "Through the Prism" – our third play focusing on tolerance which will reach over 10,000 students during the school year.

These highlights and much more are to be found in the following pages with photographs from the programs along with information about our staff, our sponsors and our Board of Directors.

Once again, I thank all of our sponsors, donors and friends who continue to keep our programs running and the dreams of thousands of children alive with your love and generous contributions. You are truly making a difference in the world – one child at a time!

Juliette M. Engel, MD

Moscow, December 1, 2006

Cover artwork
Lisa B, age 6,
Nizhny Novgorod.

Letter from Russia Country Director – Vladislav Suprunov

Dear Friends,

Over 10 years have passed since the Soviet Union collapsed, causing economic problems and poverty for populations in former Soviet republics, including Russia. Nowadays, our economy appears to be gradually stabilizing. This is true to some extent, but upon examination of statistics from various reliable sources, we still see a sad picture – the majority of the Russian population lives below the poverty line, causing the number of orphans in Russia to continually grow. Many thousands of Russian women and children are still being trafficked into other countries and the pandemic of AIDS continues to spread, especially among youth; and there are not enough nationwide programs working on any of these issues that collectively threaten to destabilize our section of the world.

The tendency of our population in such a situation is to put all responsibility on the government, letting them alone cope with the problem. However, they lack the tools and mechanisms to do this.

Thus, in the current situation, I see that the primary goal for NGOs like MiraMed, the Angel Coalition, Theater for a Change and Women and Children First is to continue their work on designing tools and mechanisms for assisting the population, while building bridges with the Russian Government to facilitate the implementation of successful practices nationwide. In fact, 2006 has been a breakthrough year in this regard for MiraMed Institute in Russia, in terms of both government recognition for its programs, and progress in organizational development.

I would like to give special recognition to our long-standing Russian partners, the Angel Coalition and Women and Children First, both co-founded and supported by MiraMed Institute, for their tremendous progress on the way to programmatic success and sustainability. In 2006, the Angel Coalition significantly increased their role in national and international arenas as the leading Russian NGO in the field of the prevention, suppression and combating of human trafficking. This year, Women and Children First has also been recognized by the Russian authorities as a leading NGO in the field of social adaptation for displaced and orphaned children, and in the field of HIV/AIDS prevention education for youth.

2006 has been a challenging year for all international and foreign NGOs operating in the Russian Federation. In January, the Russian Government passed new legislation that came into force in April which was cause for concern in the NGO community in that it requires all international and foreign NGOs already operating in the Russian Federation to re-register with the federal government and to submit detailed work-plans and financial information. Fears have been raised that this will be a way of screening out human rights groups and NGOs supporting political opposition. Additional panic was raised when each of the first 60 NGOs to submit their papers were rejected. We are one of many foreign NGOs trying to cope with this challenge and as of this writing, are in the midst of the re-registration process. As you will see throughout this Program Report, MiraMed has been constantly improving relations with government level agencies, including the Ministry of Internal Affairs in spite of the political problems.

I feel optimistic that once the hurdle of re-registration is surpassed, MiraMed Institute will continue to grow in influence and advocacy for populations at risk.

Vladislav Suprunov

Moscow, December 1, 2006



Meet Eric Schempp – MiraMed's new program director

Eric Schempp replaced Robert Aronson as program director in November of 2005. Although Eric is new to the position, he is no stranger to MiraMed, our programs, or to Russia.

Eric first came to Russia in 1999 as a United States Peace Corps Volunteer, and worked in the small town of Lodeynoy Pole (located a few hours north of St. Petersburg). He eventually became involved in the nearby Svir Stroi orphanage, which is where we found him. With the support of the Peace Corps, we were able to move him to Uglich, where he finished out the rest of his service working alongside and supporting MiraMed programs in the Uglich Orphanage.

We kept in touch with Eric over the years, and he even returned to Russia one summer and volunteered in our Women and Children First program. When he came to Moscow looking for a job, we quickly swept him up. Eric has now been with MiraMed over a year, and is doing an excellent job managing our Theater for a Change program, developing strategic growth objectives for MiraMed and building miramedcards.org, our online catalogue of holiday cards painted by children in our programs.

We are proud to have Eric as part of the team and if you haven't visited the MiraMed Online Holiday Card Catalogue, please take a look at: <http://www.miramedcards.org>.

Welcome Eric!



Eric Schempp hard at work in Moscow.



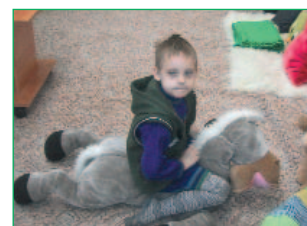
MiraMed Institute initiates Moscow Child Rescue Project for children trafficked to Moscow

According to Moscow police, up to 30,000 children have been trafficked into Moscow for prostitution, begging, and petty crimes. Many of these children are from former Soviet republics, and many do not speak Russian. Their first point of contact with authorities is the juvenile police. From there, the child is transferred to a medical facility, then a shelter, and finally to an orphanage. At no point in the current system does the child receive any psychological, medical, or emotional assistance. Most disappear back into the streets during the process.

In May 2006, MiraMed Institute received funding from the World Childhood Foundation to expand the Moscow Child Rescue Project. Partnering with Angel Coalition and Women and Children First, MiraMed began the complex process of coordinating the work of the agencies involved in the care of trafficked children in Moscow to create child-friendly environments and improve the level of care.

The Angel Coalition began by signing an agreement with Moscow's Main Department of Internal Affairs for the long-term provision by the Angel Coalition of professional trainings for law enforcement officers who work directly with child victims of violence. During 2006, 1500 Moscow police officers received 4 hours of training during a series of bimonthly sessions which are scheduled to continue through 2007. In addition, two rooms were allotted to the Moscow Child Rescue Project in the Police Center for the Temporary Care of Minor Delinquents. These rooms are currently being remodeled; one will be a sensory room, where children can go for relaxation therapy, the other is to be a child-friendly interview room where the professionally trained psychologist/interviewer will work with the child while police, social workers, psychologists, and cadets watch from the other side of a one-way mirror. In addition, video equipment is being installed so that the sessions can be recorded and used in court without requiring the child to testify.

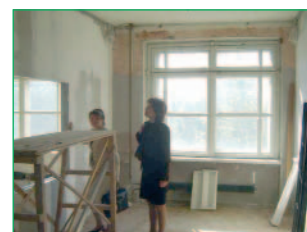
Women and Children First signed agreements with city authorities to establish a model program for therapeutic treatment of abused and traumatized children at two shelters and two orphanages in 2006-2007. A room at Krasnoselskii Shelter has been equipped to create a friendly environment with special toys to help children talk about their experiences. Space at a second shelter was allocated in September and is currently under renovation. Practical training for 16 psychologists is being conducted weekly by Women and Children First trainers at the Krasnoselskii shelter, and will continue through 2007. Work with children using the new facilities has already begun. In October, 60 caregivers from 13 city shelters took part in a 72-hour training course. This training is essential, as child protection personnel currently have no special training in working with abused and traumatized children, and there is little literature on these issues.



A little girl trafficked from Tajikistan to Moscow for prostitution finds solace in the new child-friendly therapy room at Krasnoselskii Shelter



Psychologists are being trained to use puppets and toys in their interview and therapy techniques



Remodeling of the Moscow juvenile police detention center into child-friendly interview environment

Moscow expands Babushka Brigade

During 2006, the city of Moscow assumed full funding responsibility for the very popular MiraMed program for prevention of abortion and abandonment, which the city has renamed "Stork" (formerly Babushka Brigade). When the program was started in 2002 with support from the World Childhood Foundation, no one in the city government was addressing the problem of the growing population of single teenaged mothers, who represent 20% of live births in Russia and contribute to the increasing numbers of babies abandoned to state institutions. Without hope of family support or work opportunities, teenaged mothers who do keep their children face extreme poverty.

Mothers, babies, and babushkas on a mushroom expedition



MiraMed provides free strollers and high chairs



Mother and baby – one less abandoned child

The Babushka Brigade began as a small program in one room of a community center in the south of Moscow – expanding within a very short period of time to bring new life and energy to the entire community. Tsarytsino Community Center pensioners quickly stepped into their roles as village elders – the “*grandmas*” and “*grandpas*” who share their life skills, cultural knowledge and parenting experience with both the babies and the teenaged mothers. Working in conjunction with psychologists, teachers, social workers, and a neighboring church, the community created a “village” in which to raise the children who would otherwise have been aborted or abandoned to state institutions.

The program was so popular that the city studied it and has replicated it in four other community centers. Additionally, the local government hosts a bi-monthly television program dedicated to community parenting and the work of the Babushka Brigade.

It is MiraMed’s goal to create successful and popular programs that can be replicated, adopted, and funded by Russian sources – in this case, the city of Moscow.

Increasing role of MiraMed Institute in the work of the United Nations

With the passage of the United Nations Human Rights Council Resolution in 2005, many changes in Human Rights Reform are in process at the United Nations. MiraMed Institute, and the MiraMed UN Representative, Lois A. Herman, have been continuously monitoring these changes, and participating in increasing ways with the United Nations as a UN ECOSOC NGO. A MiraMed Delegation was very involved at the UN Commission on the Status of Women 2006, and hosted the Panel: Counter-Trafficking & Victim Assistance in Russia. MiraMed is now exploring possibilities for a Global Trafficking Tribunal.

MiraMed was part of the launching session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva in June and was represented on the only Gender Issues Panel at the Council: Women's Human Rights at Crossroads. The MiraMed UN Representative met personally with the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking, Sigma Huda, during the Human Rights Council, and maintains regular contact.

Ms. Herman provides comprehensive updates on UN Instruments and Documents, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Country Visits of UN Special Rapporteurs, UN Committees as the CEDAW Committee, opportunities for Resource Participation by MiraMed, news releases from MiraMed to the UN such as the MiraMed Trafficking Conference for Central Asia in Tajikistan.

MiraMed will continue to advocate for Trafficking to be a serious part of the UN Agenda and is planning a Panel at the UN Commission on the Status of Women 2007, for which the Thematic Issue is The Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination and Violence Against The Girl Child.

MiraMed initiates live transcontinental video teleconferences between US and Moscow office

One of the key elements for any NGO to achieve sustainability is regular communication between its managing staff and the board of directors.

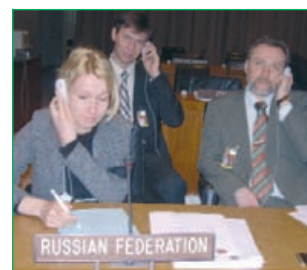
In June 2006, the Moscow office of MiraMed Institute organized the first live video teleconference with the board of directors in Seattle. For the first time ever, Moscow managing staff and members of the board had a chance to meet face-to-face. During the one-hour session, Moscow program managers presented major projects and activities, and discussed possible fundraising projects and legal issues related to re-registration of MiraMed Institute in Moscow.

In October 2006, the second live video teleconference with the board of directors was held. At that meeting, the key points in the agenda included fundraising campaigns, the status of MiraMed re-registration in the Russian Federation under the new NGO laws, and the organization’s financial situation for the next year.

Future plans are to set up a regular schedule for these meetings and to bring in board members and experts from the East Coast as well.



Lois A. Herman (right) with
UN Special Rapporteur on
Violence Against Women,
Yakim Erturk (center).



MiraMed and Angel Coalition
attend session of the
Commission on the Status of
Women in New York.

Summer volunteers in Kostroma – an ancient city on the Volga River

After spending 7 years working in the Svir Stroi Orphanage in northern Russia, MiraMed expanded the summer volunteer program to the ancient golden ring fortress of Kostroma, a small city located on the Volga River, 200 miles northeast of Moscow.

Olga Borisovna, orphanage director, welcomed Charlene Ivy Dobbins, Karen Imas, and returning volunteer Jody Payne with open arms. The volunteers spent the entire month of June living in the orphanage and working alongside orphanage staff.

The children had fun playing volleyball, soccer, and especially tennis with racquets that Karen brought. They enjoyed card games, visits to the nearby river, participating in the Orphanage Olympic Games, and playing on the computers that Jody brought. Charlene conducted arts and crafts classes that decorated the walls of the orphanage.

The volunteers not only grew close to the children of the orphanage, but to the staff as well. They experienced Russian hospitality first hand when they were invited to a Russian dacha for an outdoor fish bake, followed by an unforgettable night of dancing, laughing, and singing!



Children enjoy computer classes



Volunteers teach cooking class



Volunteers Jody, Charlene, and Karen join Eric Schempp for the bus trip to Kostroma



Oriflame of Russia used orphanage art to create a MiraMed charity bag for sale in their winter catalogue. Funds will go to support orphan education programs

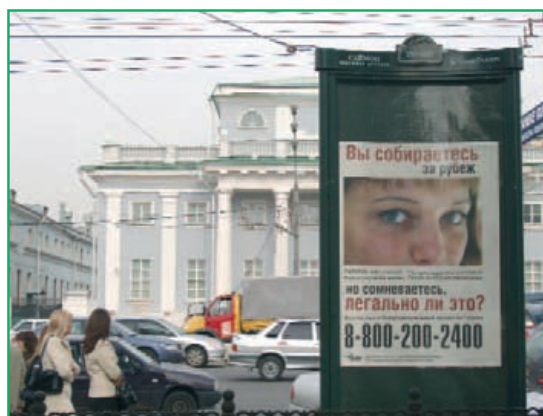
City of Moscow partners with Angel Coalition in city-wide counter-trafficking campaign

During 2006, MiraMed and the Angel Coalition worked closely with the Moscow City Duma, the Moscow regional government, and the directorates of the three international airports to develop a city-wide public information campaign focusing on the risks of answering ads to work abroad. By June, billboards lined the roads to Domodedovo Airport, followed in October by the other two international airports, Sheremetovo 1 and 2. Booklets designed and printed by the Angel Coalition are distributed daily in all three airports which contain information about how to prevent being lured into trafficking and on what to do if a person finds themselves in a trafficking situation.

Starting in October 2006, with the help of the Moscow City Duma, we were allocated pro-bono advertising space throughout Moscow and the Moscow Metrorail System. Posters were hung above the escalators in the six busiest metro stations and at bus stops along routes commonly traveled by students. Billboards hung throughout the city were more highly concentrated in regions of Moscow populated by young professionals.

This significant in-kind contribution from the city of Moscow represents a growing awareness of the issue of trafficking on the part of the city and an acknowledgement of the good work of MiraMed and the Angel Coalition.

Billboards on the roads leading to all international airports in Moscow advertise the Angel Coalition trafficking helpline.



Bus stop Sukharevskaya Square.

(lower right) Metro escalator at Chekhovskaya



Over 3000 people were reached during the anti-trafficking campaign along the Volga River

Between December 2005 and October 2006, MiraMed Institute, the Angel Coalition, and Project Keshet, together with European Women's Lobby (EWL) and the Coalition against Trafficking in Women (CATW), conducted an informational campaign aimed at preventing human trafficking in three cities on the Volga River where poor economic opportunities for women make them easy targets for criminal traffickers promising good jobs overseas.

The "Campaign on the Volga River" sought to change the community's attitude toward trafficking as an organized crime against women. Over 3000 people participated in the activities of the informational campaign, and over 7500 posters, stickers, and booklets with preventive messages and contact information for local hotlines and the Angel Coalition nationwide help-lines were distributed. The campaign received wide radio, television, and newspaper coverage, and it was clear to the organizers that the level of knowledge about trafficking among journalists has increased significantly in the past few years.

Overall, 1095 people completed campaign surveys. Results show an increased awareness in the population about human trafficking and how to better ensure one's own safety following the campaign, as well as a decrease in the number of women expressing a desire to go abroad, particularly in hopes of finding a spouse or a job.



Representatives from Project Keshet, Angel Coalition, and Janice Raymond of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, meet in Moscow



Campaign posters

Featured on HBO and MTV

During the World Cup Soccer Tournament in Germany this past summer, prostitution was featured as prominently in pre-game advertising as were schnitzel and beer. In Russia, the Angel Coalition saw a marked increase in advertisements recruiting young women for illegal jobs in Germany – clearly destined for slavery in Germany's "legal" brothels.

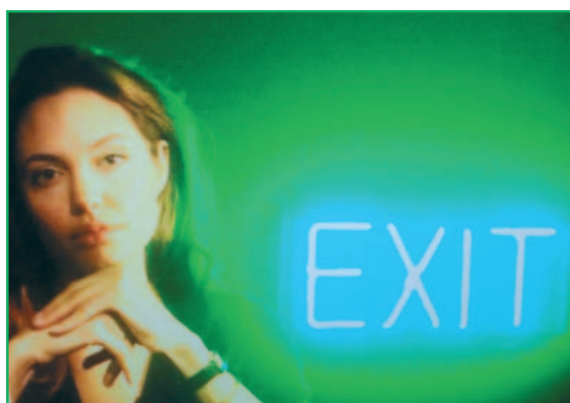
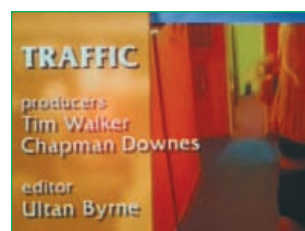
Concerned that sporting events could contribute to an increase in human trafficking, HBO aired a feature in August 2006 on Russian women trafficked into Germany. The special program offered an inside look at German brothels, including an interview with a brothel manager. German police admitted on camera that a minimum of 20% of all prostitutes in German brothels are slaves forced by criminal gangs to use false passports, and to prostitute themselves under threat of violence and death. The special featured interviews with Russian trafficking survivors, Dr. Engel, and Angel Coalition staff.

Likewise, MTV has taken to the airways with a number of very effective Russian-language television spots featuring Angelina Jolie and broadcast in Europe, Russia, and the Middle East. The spots feature the Angel Coalition national and international help-line numbers, and have resulted in a number of calls for help from Europe and the Middle East.

As part of the campaign, MTV sponsored the MTV Europe Foundation EXIT Tour 2006, an 8-week performance tour, visiting different countries in Eastern Europe. The tour came to St. Petersburg, Russia on September 8, 2006, and one of the main organizations assisting in promoting this stop on the tour was the St. Petersburg Crisis Center for Women, a MiraMed partner.



From one of the EXIT videos



Angelina Jolie introduces the trafficking issue on MTV as part of a series of short subjects called EXIT



The Angel Coalition's Irina Veselykh on HBO

Collaboration with Russian and international law enforcement: 2000 police officers trained, 29 victims rescued in 2006

The Angel Coalition now works in close collaboration with governmental agencies and law enforcement involved in counter-trafficking in Russia and abroad. Collaboration includes exchanges of information about victims, searches for missing persons, investigating traffickers, and the repatriation and rehabilitation of victims. In 2006, there were 29 cases of repatriation of Russian victims as a direct result of cooperation from international law enforcement.

In addition, the Angel Coalition has ongoing working relationships with law enforcement agencies and counter-trafficking task forces in the following countries: Turkey, United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.), Holland, Germany, Belgium, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Italy, Israel, Georgia, Uzbekistan, Japan, and many others. Notably, the Angel Coalition has recently established contacts with key agencies within the United Arab Emirates, and has been invited to go there for further dialogues and to visit Russian trafficking victims in prisons there. U.A.E. is a prime destination for victims from the former Soviet Union.

The Angel Coalition has been increasingly active in training law enforcement, and is working with the Ministry of Internal Affairs on a chapter entitled "The repatriation and rehabilitation of human trafficking victims" for the textbook "Human Trafficking: Prevention, Discovery and Investigation" intended for Russian prosecutors and criminal investigators. The Angel Coalition has also developed training aimed at informing law enforcement agencies about the problem of human trafficking, the necessity of observing and protecting the rights of trafficking victims; and about changing the stereotypical attitude towards victims of human trafficking (especially women who have been victims of sexual exploitation).

During 2006, 1500 police officers participated in four hours of training in Moscow, and 900 participated in regional trainings. When law enforcement officers were surveyed about whether or not such trainings are needed, 100% of respondents supported this program and thought it should continue in 2007.

Law enforcement breakthroughs in central Russia and Siberia

The Angel Coalition, in cooperation with MiraMed Institute and Kvinnoforum of Sweden, conducted landmark roundtables and working sessions with law enforcement in three major Russian cities: Nizhny Novgorod, Irkutsk and Chelyabinsk.

One highlight of the program was a workshop led by Major Giuseppe Battaglia from the Organized Crime Division of the Carabinieri General Headquarters in Rome, in conjunction with Russian police and prosecutors from Nizhny Novgorod. The Russian police and prosecutors were working on an actual trafficking case involving a trafficking survivor who had been recruited as a governess in Italy and forced into sexual slavery. The result was a breakthrough in cooperation between Italian and Russian law enforcement including police and prosecutors.

In Irkutsk in June 2006, Russian and Swedish experts met with over 60 senior investigators from different prosecutors' offices throughout the area, and 90 police cadets and functioning officers, representing more than 20 regions of the Russian Far East and Siberia. The issues discussed ranged from prostitution and its moral assessment, to trafficking as a consequence of the social and economic discrimination of women in Russia. The dialogue was mutually beneficial for both the Russians and the Swedes. This event was a useful and practical exercise in providing law enforcement with awareness and skills to be carried with them into the field.



Law enforcement training session, June 2006



Juvenile police training session in Moscow, September 2006



Radjabmurod Tolibov – deputy director, the Office of Defense and Law and Order, Tajikistan



Major Giuseppe Battaglia, Organized Crime Department of Carabinieri Headquarters in Rome



Cem Kolcu, director, Office on Illegal Migration, Criminal Police of Turkey

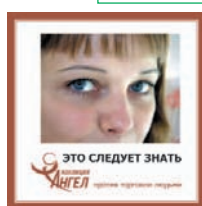


Nikolai Khomiakov, senior officer, Department of Criminal Investigations, Ministry of Internal Affairs of RF

Samples of MiraMed's 2006 publications



Counter-trafficking resource books including “Repatriation, Rehabilitation Protocol for Trafficking Victims” and “Counter-trafficking Protocol and Plan of Action for the Russian Federation”



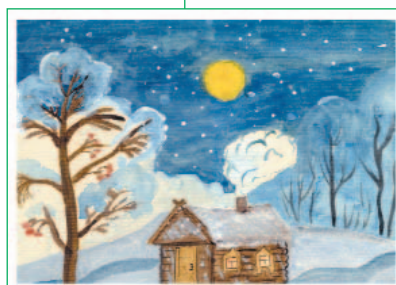
Angel Coalition booklet being distributed in Russian international airports; billboards throughout cities and approaches to airports, metro posters



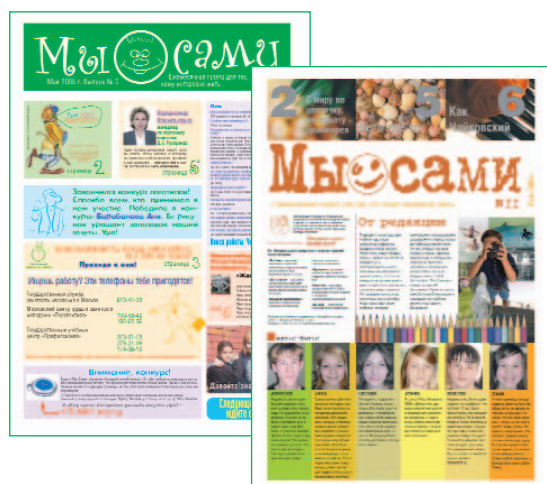
A guide to using film as a tool for the Listening to Children program



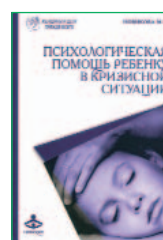
“Youth Survival Guides” for orphans and homeless children in Moscow and St. Petersburg (5000 published for each city)



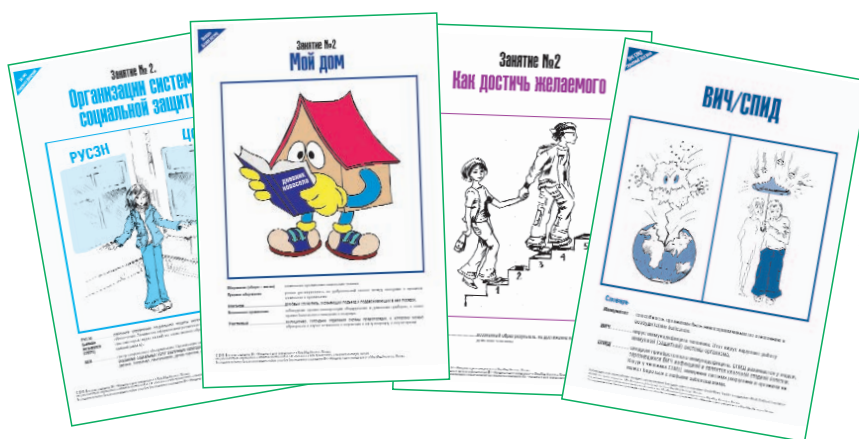
Orphan art which is turned into beautiful holiday cards remains MiraMed's primary fundraiser for supporting orphanage programs. To view the cards and shop the catalogue, go to <http://www.mirameds.org>



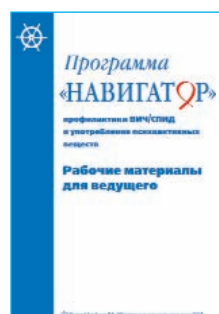
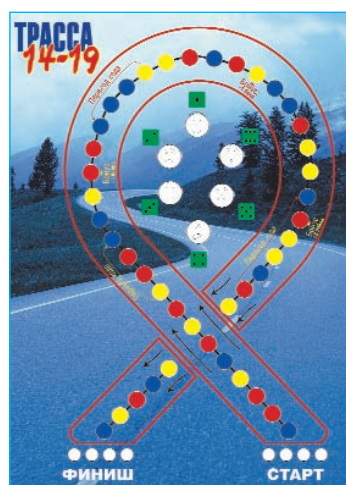
The “We Can Do It!” newspaper written by and about orphans is licensed in Moscow and distributed to 3000 orphans each month by the city administration.



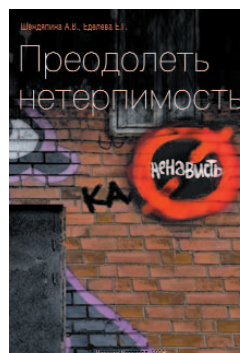
Many books were published in both Moscow and in Nizhny Novgorod on working with abused and traumatized children – particularly those who have been sexually abused



“We Can Do It!” workbooks form the basis for lessons on social competency being taught at orphanages throughout Russia. There are 82 workbooks divided into topical life skill-building blocks.



Brochure and educational materials for Theater for a Change students and volunteers.



Navigator – MiraMed’s prize-winning HIV and drug use prevention program recommended by the Moscow Department of Education.



MODAR Founder Gulchekhra Mirzoeva greets participants in native Tajik dress



Tajik girls are considered prime targets for brothels in Russia, Turkey, Iran and U.A.E



K.U. Mavlonova, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan and A.R. Azimov, Chairman, Interdepartmental Commission on Combating Human Trafficking, open conference in Dushanbe

MiraMed Institute co-sponsors landmark conference in Tajikistan – September 15-16, 2006

After two years of organization and planning, MiraMed Institute, in partnership with long-standing Tajik NGO partner MODAR (Mother), the Presidential Administration of Tajikistan, and Swedish NGO Kvinnoforum, sponsored a landmark two-day, high-level counter-trafficking conference in the mountainous Central Asian Republic of Tajikistan.

Tajikistan, formerly part of the Soviet Union, is a major sending country of trafficked women and children for prostitution and begging, and of men for labor. Russia is a receiving and transit country for trafficking victims from Tajikistan. Tajik victims are transported through Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan to destination countries Iran, Turkey and United Arab Emirates.

Tajikistan is a Muslim country and trafficking from Tajikistan occurs predominately throughout the Muslim nations of Central Asia and the Middle East, as well as the Russian Federation. Trafficking is carried out by Muslim mafias and family groups, as opposed to the Ukrainian, Russian, Bulgarian and Albanian mafias who traffic prostitutes to Europe from Russia.

The conference, "Preventing and Combating Human Trafficking – Exchange of Experience, Development of Strategic Approaches, and Strengthening of Cooperation" represents the first time that NGO, governmental, and law enforcement representatives from key Muslim countries came together for working sessions on transnational trafficking with a focus on Tajikistan; mechanisms of criminal recruitment, transport and sale of victims, law enforcement operations, and evaluation of regional laws.

Government and NGO participants came from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Afghanistan, and Turkey. In addition, American experts were present, including Dr. Laura Lederer, Senior Advisor on Trafficking to the U.S. Under-Secretary of State on Global Affairs; Dr. Donna Hughes, a leading global authority on trafficking; Dr. Juliette Engel, and Lois A. Hermann from MiraMed. Representatives from Swedish police and international embassies in Dushanbe were also in attendance.

Tajik participants included the Deputy Prime Minister, Chief of the Presidential Interdepartmental Commission on Combating Trafficking, Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Court and Prosecutors Office, and Deputy Ministers of Justice, Labor, Internal Affairs, Education, and Religious Affairs. A total of 86 participants worked intensely for two days to develop a Memorandum and Plan of Action for Counter-trafficking activities in Tajikistan and to propose a revision of the Tajik counter-trafficking legislation that has proven ineffective for prosecutors.

International help-line call volume doubles in 2006

In the first ten months of 2006, the number of calls to the Angel Coalition Trafficking Victim Assistance Center in Moscow doubled in comparison to the same period in 2005. Of these, 78% of callers requested information on how to safely travel abroad, while 22% of calls were from trafficking victims and those desperately seeking help for trafficked relatives. Some of the cases assisted by the TVAC include the following: A victim's sister called us on the help-line asking us to help free her sister who was being held in an underground brothel by traffickers in Greece. The victim had managed to call her sister, who threatened to commit suicide if she wasn't rescued soon. Thanks to cooperation from NGOs and police in Greece, we were able to save this girl and shut down the criminal operation.

In another case, a mother called saying her daughter had allegedly been taken from a Russian village to Moscow to work for a Swedish company, and gave us a Moscow address. We asked the Ministry of Internal Affairs' Investigative Committee to verify the location and safety of this girl and were told that the address was nonexistent. The victim was eventually able to call home and communicate that she was not in fact in Moscow, but in another Russian city, and gave the address. She and a few other young women were about to be sent to Turkey. We passed the data along to the Police Investigative Committee who put the apartment under surveillance, freed the young women and arrested the traffickers.

Currently, the help-line telephone number is being advertised on billboards, metro placards and bus station posters throughout Moscow as well as on MTV in Europe, Russia, and the Middle East.



Dr. Engel testifies before the House International Relations Committee in April, 2006



Angel Coalition trafficking survivors testify in an emotional session in June, 2006



WCF Director Jenny Chambers presents the results of the Navigator pilot program at the Bristol Myers Squibb "Secure Futures" booth at World AIDS conference in Toronto



Navigator workbook for kids

Congressional testimony

Dr. Engel and the Angel Coalition were called to Washington twice in 2006 – in April and in June – to give testimony to the House International Relations Committee on trafficking of Russian women to Germany for prostitution. Prostitution is legal in Germany and Netherlands, and tolerated in Belgium. As a result, these are the most common destinations for women trafficked for prostitution from Russia to Western Europe. According to German police, a minimum of 20% of all prostitutes in those countries are foreigners being forced to work against their will and are tightly controlled by Russian and European mafias who provide the women with false passports. If they attempt to go to the police, they are arrested for having a false passport and returned to the traffickers. Their situation is desperate. Those who do not cooperate are beaten or killed.

The U.S. Congress wished to make a strong statement against the possibility of increased trafficking to provide sexual services to the tens of thousands of soccer fans who flooded into Germany for the World Cup. Testimony from Dr. Engel and two trafficking survivors who are now on staff at the Angel Coalition helped reinforce these concerns.

HIV prevention program for schools wins Moscow city competition for schools

MiraMed's prize-winning HIV prevention program NAVIGATOR won recognition from the Moscow Department of Education as an innovative new program for school-aged teens in Russia's battle against drug and alcohol abuse and HIV/AIDS.

The HIV epidemic and drug abuse continue to have a devastating impact on Russia's youth. According to federal statistics on the HIV epidemic in Russia, there are 300,000 people living with HIV, of whom 80% are youth between the ages of 15 and 30. The number of youth who are drug users is approaching 4 million.

The NAVIGATOR program helps teens to form positive values, particularly concerning their own health and family life, and to teach them essential life skills to steer clear of risky behaviors and situations (for example: the skill of making and carrying out decisions, the ability to maintain boundaries, to say "no" to deal with stressful situations, to take emotional pressure without turning to drugs or alcohol.)

The program includes training for parents as well as for teens, in order to help the parents provide their children with appropriate support and information.

Results for year one of the pilot (funded by Bristol-Myers Squibb Health Foundation) showed that after participation in the program, teens' attitudes to their own lives changed significantly. Many teenagers now acknowledge that "the best way to prevent HIV" is to keep "a healthy lifestyle" "fidelity" and "abstinence" in mind.

The curriculum will undergo further development in 2007, and we aim to roll out the curriculum in many more schools in 2007-2008.



Navigator booklet for parents



"All of my friends need to go through this course so that they can change how they look at their lives and their health", Sveta, age 15

"This project is great, it really helps us get it", Sasha, age 14



Orphanage staff receive training diplomas at the MiraMed National Training Center. This certification results in a pay raise from the city of Moscow

Demand grows for MiraMed social competency training program “We Can Do It!”

In August 2006, the Moscow Department of Education recommended that all Moscow orphanages should conduct the We Can Do It! social competency training program. Specialists from 60 orphanages enrolled for professional training at the MiraMed National Training Center in September. The MiraMed National Training Center is run in partnership with Women and Children First.

A wide professional training network has now been created spanning Moscow, St. Petersburg, and three other regions of the Russian Federation. This network of dedicated creative professionals is helping to promote best practices, bringing essential life skills training to over 2000 orphaned teens.

Following the success of the MiraMed We Can Do It! program for teens aged 14-16 years, we received requests from institutions and government agencies to develop programs for younger age groups. This work has already begun, with a comprehensive review of existing programs for younger children. Funding support is provided by World Childhood Foundation and Oriflame, Sweden.



Film, film, film

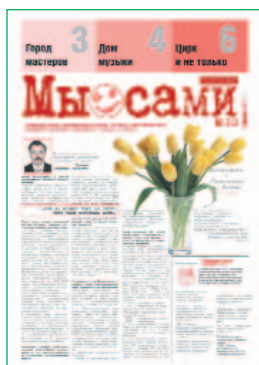
“Listening to Children” project promotes child-centered care in institutions

Silence is not golden when it stifles a child's development and defines his or her relationship with adults. Vulnerable children living in orphanages or temporary shelters oftentimes have few experiences where they are listened to by adults. Life in children's homes and shelters is highly regimented. Children have few opportunities to express their opinion, to make choices, or to be creative.

These are all important elements of growing up for every child. Adults responsible for protecting at-risk children often forget that children need to feel understood as well as to receive care. The Listening to Children project aims to help children and adults communicate better and raise awareness of the issues that are important to vulnerable children. Using creative interactive media such as a newspaper for children, talk shows, film making, and a film discussion club, children gain confidence and skills to express their ideas and feelings on those issues which are most important to them.

Each month, 3000 orphans receive the “We Can Do It!” children's newspaper. Many of the children and their caretakers have become involved in writing materials for the newspaper. “Should I tell my classmates I am an orphan?” was one of many topics covered by the newspaper and discussed in talk shows held by MiraMed's trainers in orphanages. Through the spring months, children and specialists in orphanages helped select films for “Film, Film, Film” a guide to using films for discussions with teens. The first edition was printed in August. Psychologists and caretakers from 30 orphanages attended trainings at the National Training Center to learn communication skills for their everyday work with children.

Plans for 2007 include a Listening to Children Conference to which we will invite politicians and policy-makers to join our dialogue with children, and where we will create a film showing life in orphanages through children's eyes.



Four examples of the newspaper which is distributed monthly by the city of Moscow

Developing new models of support for orphanage graduates “Step by Step”



Teenagers in transition.
Orphanage graduates continue classes in life skills development



Younger teens preparing
for transition from
orphanage life

For most of us, growing up is a process of gradually taking over responsibility for our own lives. For orphanage graduates, the transition is an abrupt one and often leads to crisis. From having very little control of their lives, with few opportunities to make decisions and be responsible, young people suddenly have total freedom yet little experience of how to cope with this freedom.

The Step by Step program focuses on helping young people to develop supportive networks and on training community center social workers, vocational school teachers, and orphanage staff on how they can best help orphanage graduates gain adult independence. This project, co-funded by the European Commission, places a strong focus on interdepartmental cooperation to create a unified system of support and training for orphans through the transition period. The project began when MiraMed partner Women and Children First signed a three-way contract with the Department of Education and the Department of Social Protection of Moscow to develop support services for orphanage graduates.

Throughout the year, 30 social workers from 13 Moscow community centers attended regular training seminars at the MiraMed National Training Center. The trainings covered a wide range of topics including the psychological effects of institutionalization, personal plans, needs assessments, and communication skills while working with young people, and legal issues. In September, as a result of this training, 13 Moscow community centers organized the first-ever Moscow “Open Door Day” for young people from orphanages to meet their future social workers. To test new working methods developed by Women and Children First, 6 pilot sites have been established at community centers, vocational schools, and orphanages for monitoring and evaluation.

MiraMed’s success in raising awareness of the needs of orphanage graduates has led to funding from the city of Moscow to support programs for orphanage graduates as well as new forms of cooperation between community centers and orphanages.

We believe that by working together we can help orphanage graduates to live healthy, happy lives.

“Theatre for a Change” debuts “Through the Prism” supports Volga Advocacy Coalition and celebrates Tolerance Day

In September, MiraMed’s NGO partner in Nizhny Novgorod, “Theatre for a Change” premiered the third in its three year series of tolerance dramas entitled “Through the Prism” – an original play focusing on the inner worlds of disabled people and orphans. As with the theater’s two first tolerance-oriented productions, “Enemy Within” and “You Have a Choice” this year’s play will reach 10,000 middle school students in the three largest cities along the Volga River in the Russian heartland: Nizhny Novgorod, Saratov, and Kazan.

As part of its program on tolerance in central Russia, MiraMed has sponsored the creation of the Volga Advocacy Coalition, a group of 11 tolerance-focused NGO’s (working on issues related to minorities, the disabled, persons living with HIV/AIDS, and orphans) which came together for the second annual Volga Advocacy Coalition conference in June. The result was that nine NGOs were the winners of MiraMed advocacy grants for their joint proposal on the future work of the coalition.

On November 16th, the theater collaborated with local schools in Nizhny Novgorod to celebrate Tolerance Day, the grand finale of a week full of tolerance-oriented events including dancing, acting, poster and essay contests, and national cuisine competitions. To top it all off, the theater performed for students, parents, teachers and USAID representatives from Moscow, who joined us for the occasion. To learn more about the Theatre for a Change, please visit <http://www.teatreperemen.org>



“Theatre for a Change” during a live classroom performance

Advocacy Coalition of the Volga Federal Region



The Colors of Russia – a community paints messages of hope



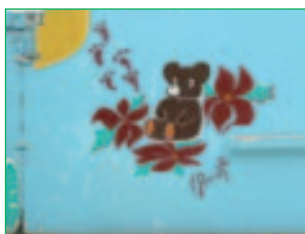
In addition to performing classroom plays on provocative social issues, Theatre for a Change and MiraMed staff work to create volunteer initiatives that inspire local social activism, such as “Colors of Russia”. It was a beautiful summer day in Nizhny Novgorod when people from all walks of life – students, children, parents, orphans, police cadets, and media – came together to paint over hate graffiti, swastikas and gang signs that have appeared throughout the city.

Groups were organized into teams, given spray paint, maps, and photographs of the most disturbing graffiti messages in Nizhny, and sent out to paint over “hate” with bright-colored pictures of flowers, boats, and animals.



The “piece de resistance” was a 200-foot-long wall, initially dubbed as the “wall of hate” and seen by thousands on a daily basis, which underwent a major transformation. It was painted sky blue and then decorated by the child artists of Orphanage No. 2 and the Palace of Culture with fairy tales, flowers, and messages of joy. Now as passers-by stroll along Nizhny’s main pedestrian walkway, the message is one of peace, tranquility, and tolerance.

This event received both regional and national television coverage, and is currently being replicated in other cities.



**“Colors of Russia” –
student volunteers painting
over hate graffiti in Nizhny
Novgorod as the
“wall of hate” becomes the
“wall of hope”**



Our youngest volunteer

MiraMed holiday card fundraiser

Since 2002 MiraMed has produced high quality, holiday cards made from paintings produced by children in our programs for businesses in the United States and the Russian Federation. Every year the cards have grown in popularity and now constitute our best source of fundraising for orphanage programs.

This year, under the supervision of our new program director, Eric Schempp, we created an online catalogue and card shop not only for winter holiday cards, but for the summer season as well.

Cards are sold in minimum lots of 500 and are personalized with the logo and private message from each purchaser. Once the card is sold, it will no longer be available for any other company to use.

Please visit the website at www.miramedcards.org to see if your business could be sending out the message of hope and love that comes with every card.



www.miramedcards.org

Major grants, donors – 2006

United States Department of State
Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons
Congress of the United States of America
United States Agency for International Development
World Childhood Foundation
Swedish International Development Agency
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
Kvinnoforum, Sweden
Bristol-Myers Squibb Health Foundation
Jocarno Fund
The Heimbold Foundation
Gerard Health Foundation
Virtuoso
Kids Dom
Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee
Everett Rotary Youth Foundation
Newport Covenant Church
Bodman Foundation
International Women's Organization, Moscow
Families for Russian and Ukrainian Adoption (FRUA)
Oriflame, Russia
Soroptimist International
UNICEF

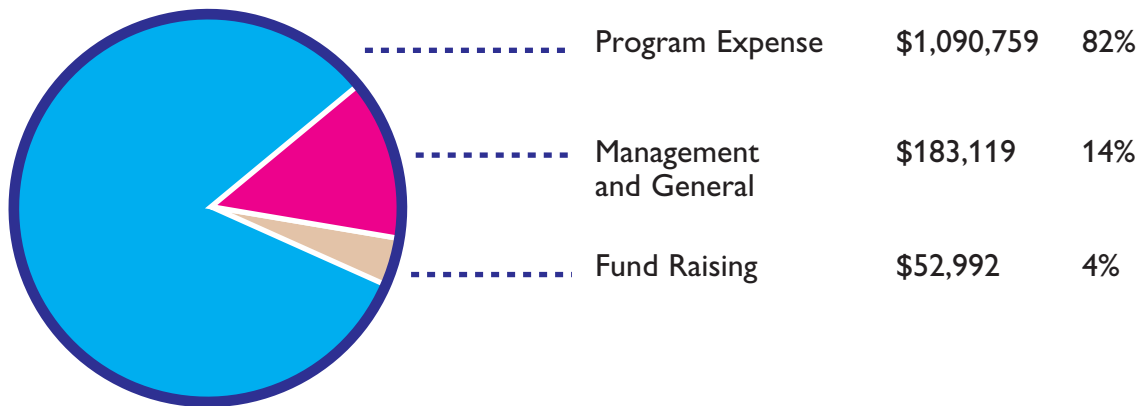
Sponsors 2006

Dekom Group of Companies	Gerber
ATON Capital	Radisson SAS
Proctor and Gamble	Evans
Medtronics	Aurora Russia
Severstal	IGT
American Chamber of Commerce in Moscow	Baker Botts, LLP
Alinga Consulting	Beatrix Real Estate
AIG Insurance	Hines Pokrovsky
Novi Community School District	Guarantee Bank

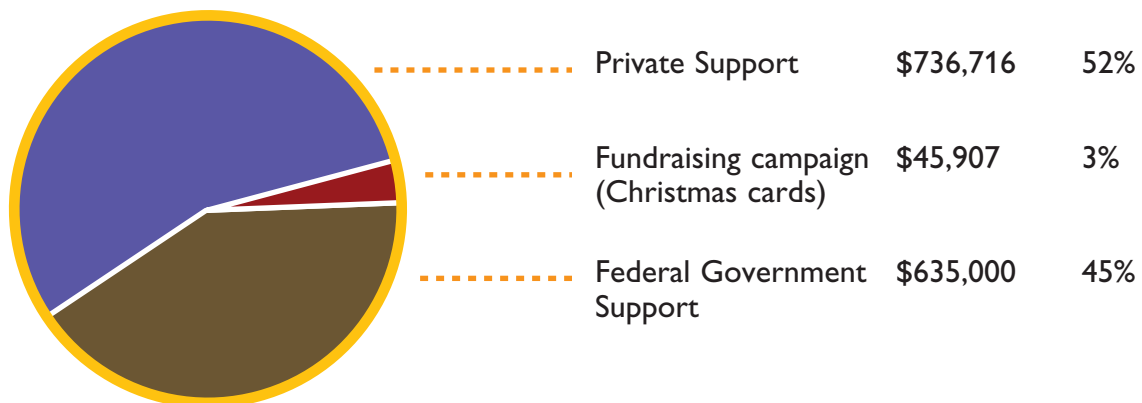
Estimated revenue and expense for 2006

(audited financial statements will be available in June 2007 and posted on our website at www.miramedinstitute.org)

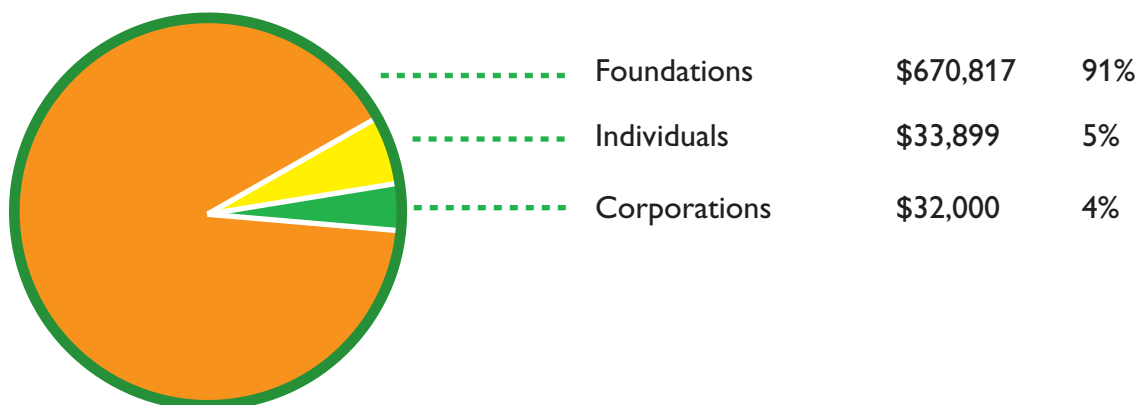
Total Expenses in 2006 \$1,326,870



Total 2006 Revenue \$1,417,623



Private Support



Our people

MiraMed Institute

www.miramedinstitute.org

Founding Director, **Dr. Juliette M. Engel, MD**
Program Director, **Eric Schempp**
Country Director – Russia, **Vladislav Suprunov**
Graphics Designer, **Dimitri Shinkarev**
Financial Director, **Murat Vafin**
Bookkeeper, **Alexei Suprunov**
Project Manager, Nizhny Novgorod, **Ilona Zubareva**
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Office Manager, Seattle, **Brad Angell**

Women and Children First

www.misami.ru

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Administrator, **Polina Naumova**
Director of Training, **Ekaterina Noineva**
Methodologist, **Elena Koblik**
Office Manager, **Roman Danilov**
Rehabilitation Project Coordinator, **Marina Novikova**
Educational staff of social workers and psychologists,
Irina Lisovskaya, Larisa Shapovalova, Evgeniya Sverdlina, Nina Delakova,
Elizaveta Rogozenkova,
Veronica Petrova, Irina Kazakova
Director of Single Mothers Program, **Natalia Novikova**
Assistant Director, **Yulia Koryakina**

Angel Coalition

www.angelcoalition.org

Director of Trafficking Victim Assistance Center, **Oleg Kouzbit**
Coordinator of Moscow Child Rescue Project, **Tatiana Uzakova**
Assistant Coordinator, Moscow Child Rescue Project, **Olga Shtul**
Attorney, Legal Curriculum Writer, **Afsona Kadyrova**
Hotline and Information Campaign Coordinator, **Alyona Arlashkina**
Director for Public Health, **Elena Yurova, MPH**
Translator and Technical Writer, **Elena Govrina**
Bookkeeper, **Marina Khabalova**

Theater for a Change

www.teatreperemen.org

Executive Director, **Anastasia Shendyapina**
Artistic Director, **Sergei Nuzhin**
Bookkeeper, **Irina Stepanova**
Technical Director, **Alexander Loginov**
Actors, **Larisa Nuzhina (Tryanina), Alexander Myasnikov, Tatiana Tikhonova**

UN Representative Interns and Volunteers

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Elizabeth Bowen, USA; Elizabeta Kaufmann, USA;
Gelena Gnezdilova, RF; Irina Veselykh, RF

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