

March - April 2005 News from American Ukrainian Medical Project (AUMP)

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Equipment Shipment Arrived

Just last week we learned our container has arrived in our consignee's city of Chernihiv. At last some \$232,000 in medical equipment and supplies has arrived for use by our participating hospitals across Ukraine. Very soon they will be busy unpacking everything for some time to come!

Along with the equipment went a stack of translated technical and operating manuals to help them use, service and repair the various machines. For this we are very grateful to our many translators who helped us render the manuals into Ukrainian, Russian and in some cases both languages. Without them our donations of equipment would be worth much less.

Our good news may be somewhat eclipsed by last week's visit of President Viktor Yushchenko to America. As wonderful as the new positive momentum and energy for Ukraine is, there remains an enormous amount of work to be done to address a medical system which suffered greatly for most of the 20th century. It follows that a poor medical system results in poor care for a nation's citizens. AUMP, its donors and its participating hospitals are working to change that.

Ukraine Visit Planning

With the arrival of our container and its cargo in Ukraine it will soon be time to conduct another symposium there. Questions are sure to arise and we need to train personnel on several completely new machines. An AUMP hallmark is to continue building upon the training we have provided in the past. To support this work AUMP is busily applying for grants and sponsorships. As an international charity this can be surprisingly difficult to accomplish, however.

e-Commerce Update

A number of charity shopping portals on the Internet have closed recently. One that remains open also happens to have a very generous offer for anyone considering signing up for DVDs by mail with Blockbuster. Each new subscription can result in \$14.40 for AUMP at no additional cost to you. For more information, log onto:

<http://www.iGive.com/html/refer.cfm?memberid=265119&causeid=20140>

Ukrainian Language Translators Update

It gives me great pleasure to announce we have had several Ukrainian translators come forward to help with our new webpages and other documents. Welcome Maria, Rostyslav, Andriy and Lana! Your help is deeply appreciated.

An annual study by the Independent Sector calculates the value of volunteers at \$17.55 per hour in 2004. As many of us know, this number cannot be used for tax deductions and hardly makes a paycheck. But it does accurately reflect the value to our society provided by volunteers. When you consider the importance of specialists like our translators the number is probably too low. Interestingly, though, AUMP receives work from many of its volunteers which is better than what any salary could buy. It's what keeps us going and is one of the great perks of this work. Thank you all!

Another Move for AUMP

In the pursuit of "greener pastures" for AUMP and our still-needed professional lives we have pulled up from Denver and moved still further south and east. An opportunity was revealed in Branson, Missouri which we simply could not pass up. The "live entertainment capitol of the world" was not an obvious choice at first but it turns out to offer many pluses. Chief among them are friendly, hospitable people and reasonable living costs. It is said we are less than a day's drive from half the people in America. Therefore, Branson may just prove to be a very good vantage point from which to pursue our equipment donations.

Other pluses of the Show Me State have already become apparent. For instance, we have been given exemptions from charity registration by the Missouri Attorney General and sales tax by the Missouri Department of Revenue. There's nothing like an official welcome to help you feel more at home! With our move we have some new mail and phone contact information below. Our temporary website has been revised already.

Revised Subscriptions and Contact Information

Our newsletter is delivered to you in English free of charge. Ukrainian and Russian versions will soon be available from our volunteer translators at "Downloads" on our website. To continue your subscription you need do nothing to stay on our mailing list. If you wish to cancel your subscription, though, press "Reply" and enter "Unsubscribe" and your name in the message box. Anytime you wish to resubscribe contact us through www.aump.org Here is our mailing address:

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