

Fall 2005 News from American Ukrainian Medical Project (AUMP)

Another Move – The Circle Closes

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Another Move for AUMP

We have relocated AUMP yet again. In what can only be described as one of life's great ironic twists, AUMP's President, Russ Ayers, was offered an exceptional professional opportunity in Issaquah, Washington, so AUMP hit the road one more time. We've traveled halfway across the country and back to find ourselves just a few short miles from where we started from a year ago. Of course, none of these developments could have been known when we left and we are still a bit amazed at how events have unfolded.

Along the way we have met some wonderful people in Denver and Missouri (and all points in between), gotten to see and compare how three states work with charities, and become very proficient at packing and unpacking. We have also had a great lesson in how nice it is to return to the community with whom we have done so much since AUMP was founded. Our new contact information is revised once again at the end of this newsletter. Our contact information on the website is always current.

Equipment Shipment Complete

As briefly reported in August, in June our consignees and colleagues in Ukraine were busy unloading our container of medical donations. Trucks were sent from Kherson and elsewhere to collect the allocations for the various hospitals we are working with. It all went without a hitch.

In September it was our great pleasure to file our Distribution Report with Counterpart International. Thanks to so many who worked so hard, our shipment was a big success. A detail remains, however, and we are well into the planning on how to handle it. With so much new or previously unseen equipment in our shipment there is a great need to send a trainer to Ukraine. While we try to figure out how to raise funds for this we are

putting together another approach. We have a training video under development which we hope will provide some insight and assistance on the new machines. Like so many things, it may seem a simple matter but it is proving to be a larger technical challenge than anyone could have foreseen.

The history of AUMP is filled with instances where key individuals and organizations stepped onto the stage, played their part, and moved to the background again. Our upcoming training work is another of these instances where time and materials are coming together to help us develop some tools. What is still needed, though, is funding to support the travel which is an essential component of the training. As 2005 draws to a close we hope you will consider AUMP for your charitable giving. The need has never been greater, as you will read later on.

Website Translations Complete

Thanks to the help of some truly dedicated translators our website is fully translated and up to date. For the first time in our history we have reached the point where everything on our site is completely translated and edited. This feat is the result of hundreds and hundreds of hours of volunteer time, from our webmaster Philip to Kate, Oksana, Oleksander, Ravilia, Marina, Eugene, Olha, Maria, Tatiana, Ruslan, Michelle and so many others. Thank you! We hope you take as much pride in seeing your work on our site as we feel in having you as our volunteers. Again and again we are reminded how even the largest task can be made smaller when you have enough helping hands.

Financial Highlights

August 31 saw us close the books on our fourth fiscal year. With the shipment of our entire stock of medical donations our “book” assets are nearly depleted. We’ll always have our ideas, enthusiasm, connections and some of the best volunteers anywhere. The pursuit of funding is always more difficult. With our last move we are better positioned to pursue certain grants but our experience has been, sadly, that “non-crisis” international work such as ours does not qualify for most foundations’ funding priorities.

Just this week we read where Ukraine’s President has described the medical sector as “... one of the most disturbing problems”, citing cancer and heart disease as major causes of death and contributing to decreased life expectancy. For those of us working in Ukraine’s hospitals this is not news. The news is that the situation has gotten such high level attention. Now we will see what is done to remedy the situation.

Since the late 1990s we have worked in Ukraine to distribute improved technology and techniques for cancer and other disease diagnoses. We've enjoyed some great successes through our donors and collaborators, having distributed well over \$900,000 worth of donated equipment and supplies. The work is not done and the need has not diminished, however and we ask you to join us to ensure the donations which have been sent can be fully utilized. Won't you consider a cash contribution to help fund our upcoming training mission? You would be hard pressed to find a charity or cause which utilizes cash as efficiently as AUMP – our overhead and administration remains less than 1% of expenditures.

Subscriptions and Contact Information

Our newsletter is delivered to you in English free of charge. Ukrainian and Russian versions are available from our volunteer translators at "Newsletters" 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.ump.org If you know anyone else who may be interested in helping us to make a difference, please contact us. Here is our mailing address:

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