

Summer and Fall 2006 Newsletter from American Ukrainian Medical Project

Connections Continue

Outside Commitments Up

Fifth Anniversary of AUMP

2006 has been a very busy for AUMP's co-founders. After a journey halfway across America and back in search of new connections and opportunities for themselves and AUMP, Russ and Terry Ayers are now right back where it all began. It certainly wasn't The Plan but it is how events unfolded.

The professional opportunities arose as planned and were instrumental in getting our 2005 Operation Provide Hope container loaded and on its way. The connections were another matter as the economies and other factors along the way were not supportive. Perhaps the strangest part of all, however, was the opportunity that brought us back to Seattle. It was the last thing we expected! Our revised – and for the foreseeable future, permanent contact information follows at the end of this message.

Connections Continue

All along the way AUMP has been busily working its American and Ukrainian connections in an effort to expand the scope and reach of our Project. Along the way it is quite common to share some information with an allied group which might be a better fit. Just such a connection was made this year.

After months of communications to reach Ukraine's First Lady and her Ukraine 3000 and Hospital to Hospital program we were invited to meet her during her tour of the US in June. Although we had to leave before meeting Mrs. Yushchenko, we did have an opportunity to discuss our project with her program's medical director. A few months later we related this to a representative of Children's Hospital in Seattle and within weeks some excellent, high-level exchanges were occurring between these organizations.

Now that we have returned to the backyard of organizations such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and a booming biotechnology industry we are cautiously optimistic that our odds of success for grant writing may improve. Being closer to Microsoft cannot hurt, either as donations from their employees open a huge door for AUMP to enter.

Outside Commitments Up

An unexpected consequence of our series of relocations and job changes has been an increase in time and energy devoted to career work. This has pulled some attention and energy from AUMP but it has by no means idled our Project. Instead, we've been working less publicly. This has also caused us to work with much more focus and deliberation with the time and resources available. It has been quite an adjustment and may have caused some concern. The Directors of AUMP are under similar time pressures as career and other changes have arisen in the past year. Of course we hope all of this will sort itself out in short order and is not instead a symptom of larger change in our lives and society. It is nice to be busy but too much is too much!

AUMP – Fifth Anniversary – Or Is It Eight?

Last August AUMP celebrated its fifth anniversary as an official, public charity organized under the laws of the United States and Ukraine. It was a nice milestone to reach and, as paperwork can often be, it was not until late 2005 that the Internal Revenue Service officially and conclusively agreed we were a public charity. Prior to that we had been operating as one under a “preliminary ruling”. This is actually quite common during a charity's startup phase while donor support and operations are under evaluation.

As many of you know, particularly among our Ukrainian friends and colleagues, AUMP was busy before it ever became an official entity. The Fall of 1998 when four new friends first met and agreed to form a joint venture is now eight years ago. It has been a long but amazing journey for us all. Along the way we've delivered over \$950,000 in supplies and equipment to Ukraine, received the priceless benefit of thousands and thousands of hours of volunteer time and commitment, and been able to reach hospitals in four cities and regions of Ukraine. Although it may not be all we can do, it is arguably much more than we could have foreseen in 1998 – or even 2001!

All of us at AUMP would like to give thanks to everyone who has helped us – and our Ukrainian partners during the past eight years. Together we have achieved a great deal while working on a shoestring. We look forward to what the next eight years might bring!

Subscriptions and Contact Information

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