

ThePromise Post



ThePromise has been set up to help children with special needs living in Russian orphanages. Our first project is to pilot an internationally acclaimed pre-school education system called 'Portage' in one 'baby home' in Ryazan. ThePromise is wonderfully supported in this vision by a growing band of fundraisers called 'Ellie's Angels' named in memory of Ellie Settelen, who helped inspire the birth of **ThePromise**. For further details of the work, please visit our website www.thepromise.org.uk

Hello Everyone

Welcome to the Summer edition of **ThePromise Post**. We have had a busy six months, and have lots to tell you about. Most importantly, we want to thank you for your fantastic support. We're now HALF WAY towards our target of £46,000. This means that we can turn our efforts to recruiting the people who will take our vision and turn it into reality.

We have now been able to send our first consignment of sensory learning toys to the children in the Ryazan baby home. The toys were carefully chosen, with expert advice from our Portage advisors here in the UK, so that they would not only provide immediate enjoyment for the children, but also be a valuable part of the equipment used by our portage-trained staff when they

arrive. The toys were chosen to encourage physical, sensory, and mental development, and included tactile squeeze toys, puzzles, obstacle courses and rolling tubes, as well as Dancing Deedle Dudes to make everyone laugh! It is so exciting to know that the children are already benefiting from your generosity.

Many thanks for all you do!



Some of the children from Group 6 with Sarah

Ann Keen Joins the Team

We are delighted to welcome Ann Keen MP as our first Patron. Ann is the Labour MP for Brentford and Isleworth, and PPS to Gordon Brown.

Before entering Parliament, Ann trained as a nurse, and became General Secretary



of the Community and District Nursing Association, and Head of Faculty for Advanced Nursing at Queen Charlottes Hospital.

We are enormously grateful to Ann Keen for lending her support in this way.

Reduce your Phonebill with ThePromise

We are now registered with telephone service **Affnicom**, which offers subscribers telephone calls at much lower rates than BT and donates a percentage of the saving to the **ThePromise**.

So you get cheaper bills, and the **ThePromise** receives a donation... much better than 'Talking for England'!

If you are interested, visit our Website for details, www.ThePromise.org.uk

Did you know?

...the difference your support will make? A donation of £50 will pay the salary of a portage worker in Russia for one month.....Sometimes it doesn't take too much to make a big difference.

ThePromise Marathon

Huge congratulations to Gail Jupp (left) and Phil Thurston (right) who ran the marathon for **ThePromise** this year. Phil raised an incredible £1,100.00 for us, finishing in 4 hours 32 minutes, while Gail finished in 3 hours 56 minutes and raised a staggering £1,445, £900 of which was raised through a raffle! Not bad for first timers! Well done to both of them! Their stupendous effort has raised enough to pay all the Russian portage workers salaries for a whole year! If anyone else is interested in running the Marathon for **ThePromise**, we hope to be registering as an official Marathon charity for next year's run.



Thank you!

Our warmest thanks go to some of our Angels and their friends who have put in so much effort to raise money for us.

Teddy Matters have donated a further £900, in addition to £2,900 they sent us last year.

The children at the **Sunday School at Dalneigh and Bona Parish church** in Scotland made a huge Christmas card and everyone in the church signed it as a Christmas greeting to each other, instead of buying their own cards, and raised £303.50 in the process.

And the **Campaigners Group** from this same church raised a further £120 by organising a 'Ceillidh'.



Cate Olson and Nash Robbins (above right) of the Much Ado Bookshop in Sussex, raised money during **Alfriston's Dickens Day** and donated over

£1,000. **Phil Thurston** raised £300 at his Christmas Party.

Clare Nash raised £250 hosting a Christmas Shopping Morning. **Meadows Montessori School** recently raised £159.00 from the parents at their Teddy bears Picnic Charity day.

Thanks also to **Brian and Francesca Mitchell**, who raised £120 by asking people to donate to **ThePromise** instead of buying Christening gifts for their twins, Nathaniel and Georgia.

Party Time!

If you would like to host an event to promote **ThePromise**, we now have a great video which uses footage taken by Sarah and Iona in the baby home in Ryazan, and also shows the Portage approach being used with children in the UK. We would also be happy to come and talk to groups of friends or colleagues. Shopping Mornings, Wine and Cheese evenings, Champagne and Canapés, Beer and Skittles: **ThePromise** is a great excuse for a party! !

 **Russian Ice Ball** 

You are warmly invited to a dazzling evening with a Russian theme

To Raise Money for **ThePromise**

On Saturday October 2nd 2004

At "The Rose Room" at Twickenham Rugby Club

Featuring **Alex Prior**

Enjoy excellent food and wine, music, dancing and entertainment, an auction, and an opportunity to win fabulous prizes. We are delighted that Alex Prior, the 11 year old singing sensation will be performing for our guests. Alex has been described as the 'little Pavarotti' because of the unusual power and beauty of his voice. He has won 7 junior singing competitions, and sings in 7 different languages! He was born and raised in England, but is of Russian and English heritage.

If you would like to come, either to join a table, or with a table of your friends, please e-mail us at post@ThePromise.org.uk for a ticket application form or visit the events page on our website: www.ThePromise.org.uk

Tickets are selling fast, and we would love to see you there, so please send your applications in as soon as possible. And if you, or anyone you know, might be able to offer a raffle or auction prize, we would love to hear from you, at the above e-mail address.

 

Avoid Tax... for ThePromise!

If your employer runs a Payroll Giving scheme, you can donate to **ThePromise** from your salary, before tax is deducted, so you get tax relief straight away. So if you are a higher rate tax payer, and you give £100, it only costs you £60. If your payroll department is not yet registered to run the scheme, they can sign up very easily by calling the Charities Aid Foundation on 01732 520019.

And this year for the first time, you can donate all or part of your tax repayment to **ThePromise** using your self-assessment form. All you need to do is enter our unique code (VAL72TG) and remember to tick the gift aid box so that we will receive the 28% extra gift aid.

And Shop for ThePromise too...

If you are an online shopper, you can donate a percentage of your purchases to **ThePromise**..

Go to www.UshopUgive.com

and select "**Promise**" as your chosen charity. A percentage of all purchases made through this website will then come to us. Many high street retailers are featured!

What better excuse to shop?!