



# A Thankyou from Chernobyl

Tatiana Birch, Project Managing Trustee, from *The Chernobyl Relief Foundation* in the United Kingdom (CRF) thank Lions for their work in supporting this charity.

I clearly remember the moment when I realised what Chernobyl had done to humanity.

I am originally from Donetsk, the miners' capital in Ukraine. 30 years ago, day after day, train by train delivered the miners, including my friends and relatives, to Chernobyl.

More than 250,000 miners in the Donetsk are officially registered as Chernobyl victims or "liquidators". "Liquidators" were involved in building a temporary sarcophagus over the deadly reactor at the Chernobyl atomic power station to seal it off as well as building waste repositories and water filtration systems. At the

moment EBRD in cooperation with 40 countries spends 1.5 billion euro to build the new sarcophagus over the reactor. It is to be finished in 2017. Chernobyl is alive...

The Chernobyl Relief Foundation in the UK (CRF) for the Ukrainian children, is a registered English



charity No 1044411. It was founded by the Embassy of Ukraine to UK 21 years ago. CRF is an entirely voluntary organisation, like Lions clubs there aren't any paid positions or offices.

Twelve years ago, I joined CRF as a project managing trustee with an enthusiasm and a devotion to help Chernobyl children in Ukraine. My personal involvement is understandable: I had seen with my own eyes how the horror of Chernobyl had affected those around me.

CRF projects include raising awareness on Chernobyl issues and making the lives of the suffering kids brighter. Recently, more than 400 kids received respite holidays and treatment and thousands more received medication. It was independently estimated that CRF delivers humanitarian aid for half a million.

The hard work and pleasure of helping this organisation brought me an unexpected surprise, I was honoured by the state award of Ukraine for extraordinary achievements in charity activity to help Chernobyl children.

The purpose of this letter is to say without our Lions friends, and their continuous support and contributions my initiatives on the projects would not be successful.

Being a charter president of the Donetsk - Universal lions club in Ukraine, since 1997, I have been connected to Lions all my adult life.

I moved to England because I met Ian Birch, my meant to be husband. He was deeply involved into The British and Irish Multiple District 105 activities as an International Officer. Sadly, he passed away 2 years ago, but over the years he had introduced me to many amazing Lions in the UK.

My memories are full of sincere thanks to the hundreds of lions in the Lions Clubs both in UK and Ukraine. Amongst them Phil Nathan, Vic Trulluck, Tony Williamson and many, many others. Also, a massive thank you to the incredible support of: Lions club of Milton Keynes Central; Lancing and Sompting Lions Club; Yateley and District Lions Club; Donetsk Univerasl Lions Club, Ukraine and Kyiv Lions Club, Ukraine.

With their help, dozens of projects were successfully monitored and completed and a hundred tonnes of humanitarian aid were collected and delivered. This aid included medical equipment, wheel chairs, hearing aids, cloths, shoes, everyday essentials, and many other things that made the kids' lives easier in the disrupted region of the Ukraine. It gave them hope and they learnt about Lions Clubs International where ordinary people do extraordinary things!

I am very proud to be a Lion and I would like to wish you all a belated Happy Easter, good health and prosperity for you and your families. In Ukraine the Orthodox Easter is on Sunday 1st May 2016. We Lions in the Ukraine, still have the time for the

nationwide "twist" to do something nice for the Chernobyl children. I use the chance to appeal to the clubs to donate to the tail twister collection in April or May Lions club meetings. It does not interfere with club projects but can be a great help towards our CRF activities.

The third generation of Chernobyl children are still suffering, so our work is still as important as it was when CRF was founded. On behalf of the Ukrainian children and CRF I would like to thank one and all Lions who follow the internationally recognisable motto We Serve. It brings not only a huge relief for those who are in need, but it unites the people.

As well as Project Managing Trustee CRF Tatiana is the Charter President of Donetsk Universal Lions Club, Ukraine (1997), a member of the Lions Club of Milton Keynes, Chairperson of the Peace Poster contest committee, MKC LC.



Please visit [www.chernobylrelief.com](http://www.chernobylrelief.com) to find out more about CRF activities.

