



Fall 2008 - Winter 2009

## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

**W**elcome to the latest edition of the KidsFirst Foundation (KFF) newsletter. Through your generous gifts, we have had an amazing year of helping kids in need around the world. This newsletter is designed to highlight the good work that we've been able to do because of your support.

Earlier this year, KFF donated its first playground in Tver, Russia. The response to this gift has been very rewarding and we plan to build more playgrounds in the future. We owe a debt of thanks to our good friends at WestPoint Financial Group for making this dream a reality, and you can read all about it in the story below.

We have continued to support tutoring programs for teenage orphans living in Russia and Kazakhstan. These partnerships have exceeded our expectations, and the youth certainly appreciate the hope and opportunity these programs provide.

Finally, your donations have also allowed us to continue providing grants to support

special needs adoptions, as well. As this newsletter went to print, KFF had just approved a grant to help a caring family keep several orphaned siblings together as a family. The parents didn't set out to adopt so many kids, but because of your support, our grant helped keep the siblings together. We'll tell you more about that story (and share some pictures, too) in our next edition.

Thanks, again, for helping us make a difference. Your support continues to put big smiles on the faces of some very needy kids. If you feel like spreading our good news to your friends and family, please forward this newsletter to them or point them to us online at [www.kidsfirst-foundation.org](http://www.kidsfirst-foundation.org).

Enjoy the newsletter and please contact me if you'd like to talk more about KFF.

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## CHECK OUT THE WORLD'S FIRST KFF PLAYGROUND

**E**arlier this year, the KidsFirst Foundation asked orphanage officials in Tver, Russia (120 miles NW of Moscow), how we could help improve the living conditions for orphaned children in that community. The officials expressed a need for an area where kids could exercise. So, KFF committed to oversee the purchase and installation of new playground equipment.

To fund the playground, KFF used a generous gift from WestPoint Financial Group. Last June, our friends at WestPoint raised \$32,000 through the company's fifth annual golf outing. These funds made our goal of building the Tver playground a reality.

"Many of the orphanages in the former Soviet Union don't have playgrounds," said Inna Pecar of the KidsFirst Foundation Board. "But the kids still need to get outside so that they can exercise and have some fun."

KFF hired a Russian playground equipment company near Tver to build the playground. Several pieces

of equipment were purchased, including sandboxes, slides, climbing bars, and much more.

"The response from the orphanage director was 'Yeah!,'" said Pecar. "They are just thrilled to pieces that the kids finally have a place to play. And they'll use this playground equipment year-round since the caregivers are used to bundling the kids up in warm coats so that they can play outside."

Funding for the playground is the latest of many generous contributions made to the KidsFirst Foundation by WestPoint Financial. To date, the organization has donated more than \$155,000 to support our mission.

"Our employees and associates are all about making a difference in the world," said Greg McRoberts, general agent with WestPoint Financial Group. "After we adopted our son, Owen, from Russia in 2002, we committed ourselves to giving back. Through our partnership with the KidsFirst Foundation, we are able to help orphans around the world have better lives."

## WAYS YOU CAN HELP

**D**o you donate annually to the United Way? If so, we have set it up so you can easily designate your contributions to support the KidsFirst Foundation.

If you are interested, simply list the Foundation and our account number (4167169) on your annual campaign contribution form.

You can also help us by visiting our web site at [www.kidsfirst-foundation.org](http://www.kidsfirst-foundation.org) and watching a new video we have produced. A generous donor has committed to donate \$1,000 if we can get 1,000 people to watch our video before New Years Day. Please watch the video and then share it with your family and friends.

# KIDSFIRST GARAGE SALE STORY

The Foundation received a generous donation from some very caring kids over the summer. This is a heart-warming story that's best told by simply printing the letter Leah Foutty sent us. The Foundation sends a big thank-you to this caring bunch. Enjoy.

Dear KidsFirst Foundation,

Our family held a garage sale in April and wanted to donate proceeds to your Foundation. We have two biological boys, Charlie (7) and Joey (5), and an adopted daughter, Ana.

The boys found a ton of toys and clothes for the sale. Also, the boys had a snack stand during our two-day sale.

They delightfully worked their stand and made over \$141, all of which they want to donate to the KidsFirst Foundation.

I've enclosed a picture of the boys at their snack stand and another picture of all three.

Sincerely,  
The Foutty Family

P.S. Ana was adopted from Orsk, Russia, June 14, 2006.



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### Father Frost Party | Sunday, January 11

Come join us for the first annual KidsFirst Father Frost Party. This festive celebration of the New Year is the biggest holiday in Russia. Our party will be done according to Russian traditions with a dressed up Father Frost and Snegurochka (his helper). We will be serving snacks and all children will also receive a holiday bag with Russian candy.

Come join us around the tree for singing, dancing and a great celebration. This special event will start at 11 a.m. at the Embassy Suites off Michigan Road near I-465 in Indianapolis. The exact street address for the hotel is 3912 Vincennes Road. For more information call (317) 843-2300.

### WestPoint Financial Golf Invitational | Friday, June 19

The sixth annual WestPoint Financial Golf Invitational will be held on Friday, June 19, 2009. The Trophy Club, located in Lebanon, Indiana, will host the event again and a portion of the proceeds will go to bring hope to orphans around the world.

## EVENT UPDATES

The Foundation would like to thank everyone who participated in our various fundraisers throughout 2008. Here is a quick update on what you helped us do.

### FIRST ANNUAL RUN/WALK FOR KIDS

On May 17, the Foundation held its first-ever run/walk for kids. The event was held at Fort Harrison State Park and the weather was picture perfect. Several KidsFirst families and friends participated and others sent in donations even though they weren't able to join us on the day of the event. Together, we raised nearly \$1,000 to help kids in need around the world.

### GUATEMALAN DINNER PARTY

In September, the Foundation held its third annual dinner party to raise funds to help orphaned kids. This year, the event theme was a Guatemalan dinner party and what an evening it was. From the atmosphere and the food to the special music and dancing, this event was a lot of fun.

We even had a special Guatemalan hat game where we auctioned off several great prizes, including a football autographed by several Indianapolis Colts players and package trips to vacation homes in Florida and on Lake Michigan.

The event brought in \$5,000, all of which will go to support an orphanage in Guatemala.

If you haven't made it to one of the Foundation's annual dinners yet, you need to make plans to join us in 2009.

**"I shall pass through this world but once, any good thing therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer it or neglect it for I shall not pass this way again."**

—Author Unknown

**FIND THE KIDSFIRST FOUNDATION ONLINE AT [www.kidsfirst-foundation.org](http://www.kidsfirst-foundation.org)**



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