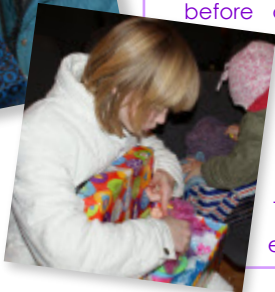
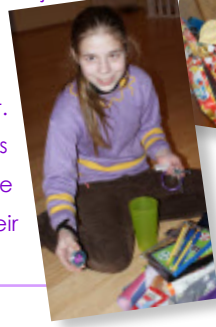




**Christmas shoe-boxes**

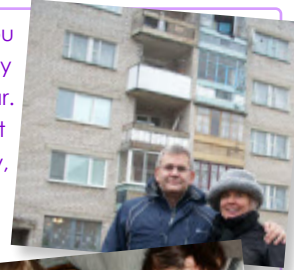


It's always a great thrill for children to receive a present but especially when you're an orphan and you weren't expecting anything at all. So, it was great when we were given 150 Christmas shoe-boxes just before our Christmas party. They came from Samaritans Purse and we know that many of you have helped with their project. Please be encouraged because it means so much to the children. It was our privilege to see their faces and to share in their excitement. Thank you so much.



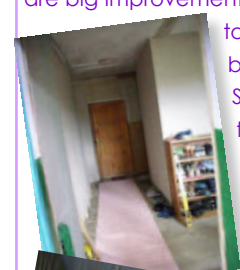
**Family Visits**

Visiting the families is always a pleasure and a privilege. The children are pleased to see you and the parents enjoy preparing a nice meal. Having been the 'guests' on so many occasions, it was our delight to host a number of the families over Christmas & the New Year. English food was a new experience for all of them and most things went down a treat, but it was always fascinating to see the boiled carrots left on the side of the plate. Apparently, they were a taste most children were not ready to try. It's not that they don't eat carrots but they would always be grated in a salad or preserved in oil. We played games, learnt some new Russian words, sang songs and had a lot of fun. It was great to get to know them all, so much more.



**Kindergarten Project**

The old kindergarten is rapidly being transformed into a beautiful family home and every time we visit, there are big improvements. The next stage of the project is to modernise the shower room, the boys bathroom and the lounge. Sergie [the foster father] and his friend, have been working really hard and their workmanship is excellent. Sergie & Valentina are very grateful for all the financial support that they have received. It's great to realise that this huge project will soon be completed.



**We value your support**

Recently, we were visiting one of the families and I was telling them what a wonderful change there was in the children. Girls who had been very shy and reserved were now happy and full of life. As we encouraged the parents, tears rolled down their cheeks because someone was acknowledging their hard work. It's a privilege to come alongside the families and to share their burden for the children. When we tell them about the support of people in the UK, they are overwhelmed and very grateful.



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**Contacting us:**

Top Kids  
PO Box 446,  
Torquay, Devon,  
TQ1 9AW

[info@top-kids.org.uk](mailto:info@top-kids.org.uk)

[www.top-kids.org.uk](http://www.top-kids.org.uk)

