



**Just Imagine.....**

.....a few years ago the world's worst nuclear accident happened in a town near you. For weeks the wind blew the radioactive fallout all over the land you live in and now you and your family have to live with the consequences.

The earth is polluted and you know the food your children are eating will slowly poison them. You cannot afford to buy food from outside the area, because the economy has collapsed. Nobody wants to come to you, and the world won't buy what you make. Every time you see your child drink, you watch them swallow more poison.

Your children are lucky, because they can go to school, unlike the ones in the crowded local hospital who are suffering from cancer and leukaemia. Some of them were born with no eyes, and have never seen the toys they play with. Others have tumours that are beyond treatment – not that there are enough drugs anyway.

As you look at your child's classmates each day, you know that only 1 in 20 will grow up healthy. Will your child be that lucky one? You hope and pray each day that they will be spared but what will happen to their friends? With a bit of luck most may see their 30th birthday before the poison finally claims them. There is nowhere you can go, there's nothing you can do. All you can do is make the most of your time together.

You know that if your child could have a holiday away from home, breathing clean fresh air, and eating clean food it would greatly boost their immune system, but you are dependent on the kindness of someone you don't know to provide this for your child.

**Just imagine..... Close your eyes for a minute and imagine your life begins like that.....**



**Our group of happy children in 2015**

**In 2015 we continued our much needed help to the children of Belarus with a group of 19 coming to our area for convalescing from the terrible nuclear contamination that affects their lives. For many it's still just a terrible story or a fading memory but for families in Belarus the disaster is an everyday reality. So let's try to make every year a special year for more of these unfortunate and sometimes forgotten children by giving your support**

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*“Offering Hope to Live”*

# **Chernobyl Children Life Line Pinxton & East Derbyshire Link**



**You can make a difference  
to the life of a child.....  
HOW?**

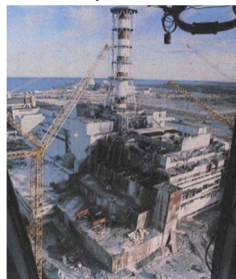
**Read this leaflet to find out  
more about hosting a child**

**To find out more .....**

## THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE DISASTER

Can you remember the **Chernobyl nuclear disaster** back in April 1986? The population of Belarus can, and as such the Belarussian people are suffering more than ever from the legacy of the world's worst nuclear disaster'

**On 26th April 1986**, the fourth reactor at the Chernobyl Nuclear Plant, 12 km south of the Belarusian border, exploded. Belarus was the country hit hardest by the disaster, with **75%** of the fallout landing on its territory affecting around **90%** of its area. Vast numbers of people in Belarus still live in contaminated areas with no access to clean food. The health deterioration in the post-disaster period is characterized by a persistent growth in the morbidity rate among children, as well as among pregnant women and women of child bearing age. It is currently estimated that it will take **over 400 years** to reduce the contamination in Belarus to an acceptable level, but it will take 100's if not 1000's of years to totally rid Belarus of the radioactive contamination created by this, the world's worst nuclear disaster.



**By 1990, 2-million people, 20% of the country's forests, and well over 250,000 hectares of agricultural land had been contaminated.** It is estimated that today more than 2-million people in Belarus still live in contaminated areas – there is no access to “clean” food. People still cultivate their fields, herd cattle and eat the contaminated produce of their labours.

Many children exposed to Chernobyl's radiation developed thyroid cancer. In 1988, 83 children were revealed to have thyroid gland problems. In 1989 the number was 807, and in 1990 it had risen to 9,924 and so on. The people of Chernobyl were exposed to radioactivity 90 times greater than the Hiroshima bomb. In addition, “Solid” Cancers can take 30 to 40 years to develop, thus we can expect an increase in this type of cancer when people who were young or born at the time of the disaster reach their 30's & 40's.

Thankfully, the Chernobyl nuclear plant was closed in December 2000 and many people have already forgotten Chernobyl, after all, it was around 30 years ago. What people do not realise is that it is successive generations that are suffering. For the first time in history, more people are dying than are being born. The life expectancy of a Belarussian is now shorter than ever. **It will take many hundreds of years for the country to be free of the harmful effects of excessively high incidents of radiation related illnesses.**

The emerging picture of the impact on the children born subsequent to the disaster is beyond comprehension. The rise in childhood cancers is phenomenal with many birth deformities. Today, **90% of Belarussian children have been contaminated and the gene pool of Belarus is under serious threat.** Doctors and scientists are now also discovering that many of the children are ingesting so much contamination from nuclear isotopes and heavy metals that there is a steep rise in reported cases of intestinal cancers and heart defects. Post mortem examinations on children are revealing that their organs resemble those of 70-year old people rather than young children.

Despite all the efforts made progress is slow to resolve the situation and further economic problems within Belarus are causing families great hardships resulting in a poor diet which further aggravates the health of the children causing further illnesses as a result. This situation along with all the other associated problems cause great psychological difficulties within the family life, often resulting in alcoholism, suicide or family break ups.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

The **Chernobyl Children Life Line** charity was formed to help the children of Belarus. There are many Links throughout the United Kingdom who raise funds to bring groups of children to the UK for respite care. It costs over £300 to bring a child to the UK which covers their air fare but is exclusive of the £86 visa charges and travel within the UK. The Links are all run totally by volunteers with all of their fund raising going towards bringing groups of children to the UK for a convalescing break, free from the contamination that has affected their lives so much.

The **Pinxton & East Derbyshire Link** was formed in 1996, successfully hosting its first group of children in the summer of 1996. Children of Belarus have been visiting the area for convalescing each summer ever since.

**OUR AIM IS TO HELP THESE CHILDREN BY BOOSTING THEIR IMMUNE SYSTEMS AND OFFERING THEM RESPITE FROM THE RELENTLESS BOMBARDMENT OF RADIATION.**



in the subsequent years. On returning home the children are also given a 2 years supply of multi vitamins to supplement their poor diet, offering some hope in their difficult lives.

### **YOU COULD GIVE A CHILD THIS OPPORTUNITY HOW?**

There are various ways in which you can help the **Pinxton & East Derbyshire Link**. You may like to:

#### **Become a Host Parent**

Age is not an issue and part time work is usually not an obstacle. A friendly and caring environment is essential and of course all of your family must agree.

#### **Support a Host Parent**

If you are not able to Host could you spare some time to help out on outings, perhaps collect and deliver children to and from outings for those Hosts who have part time commitments?

Look after the Hosts own children, for example on a Group outing, or whilst the Host takes the visiting Children to the Dentist?

#### **Support the Group**

Generally be available to help out on outings, event planning, finding people willing to donate essential items required and/or suitable outings.

Support Fund Raising Events etc.

#### **Donate Raffle Prizes**

Find all those unwanted gifts stuck in the back of a cupboard that could be utilised as raffle prizes to help us raise funds.

#### **Carry out a fundraising event on our behalf**

We are always open to new initiatives or ways to raise funds but maybe you or your group would wish to carry out an event on our behalf. – We are not doing a “one off” project as our work is ongoing, so we need to keep continuity for the future and help more of these unfortunate children.

## **Sponsor the travel costs for a child**

Maybe you, your organisation, your Club, Society or Company could make something special happen in a child's life by sponsoring a child's travel costs and give some hope in their lives

## **Support our work financially**

All help is truly appreciated by the group and as a totally voluntary charity you can be assured that 100% of your donation is used for its intended purpose and not frittered away on salaries and high on costs.

## **WHY NOT HOST A CHILD?**

Every child in Belarus is a deserving child, regardless of social background or family circumstances. The children who visit us are chosen by the education authorities in Belarus and now also Ukraine from among the most deserving children in each area.



Many of the children who come to Britain appear normal and healthy, but they are all subjected to the long term effects of levels of radiation at levels that would not be tolerated in the Western World. Their plight is often exacerbated by lack of medical facilities, contaminated food, shortage of medicines, poor nutrition, poor and overcrowded living conditions, unemployment, and difficult family circumstances. **The children we host will not be suffering from serious illnesses, and all are vaccinated against diseases like TB and hepatitis. Although the children are affected by the environment they live in, they do not carry any transmittable diseases or radioactivity.** This is a question that goes through all our minds but sometimes people are afraid to ask. Please be assured that they are normal children, but they are children in desperate need, just four weeks will not only improve their health but give them something to remember forever. These children will never have this experience again and will treasure these memories for the rest of their lives.

## **WHY NOT PUT A SMILE ON A CHILDS FACE?**

The Pinxton & East Derbyshire Link are looking for host families for the children visiting our area, it's a very rewarding experience. We have first-hand experience of hosting ourselves. The Link Chairman and other members have also visited Belarus on a number of occasions to see for themselves the situation and plight of these children.



There is a network of support for host families, you are never on your own. There is a programme of wonderful activities arranged for the children and their respective host families

who are encouraged to participate in the events we organise. Each group of children is accompanied with qualified interpreters and leader who is available should there be any language difficulties and will be on hand around the clock.

## **PLEASE CONSIDER GIVING A CHILD THE CHANCE OF A LIFETIME**

## **WE ARE WAITING TO HEAR FROM YOU**