

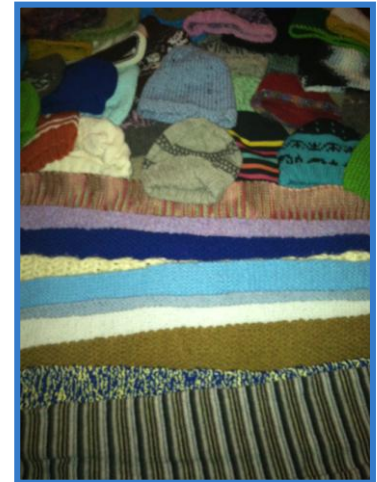
Happy National Volunteer Week! Bright Connections would not be growing at the speed that it is if it were not for creative, open-minded, hardworking volunteers. The number of people who want to help is inspiring and is continuously pushing the organization to achieve higher goals.

*Thank You Volunteers*

Opher Segev is Bright Connections' web designer and has done an amazing job creating and maintaining the Bright Connections' website. **Thank you Opher for all of your hard work!** See more of Opher's work here: [www.ophersegev.com](http://www.ophersegev.com)

## *Knitting Campaign*

Our first campaign was an absolute success....in fact, it was such a hit that we are going to make the knitting campaign an ongoing event. The knitting campaign asked knitters to make warm hats and scarves for the orphans who live through the very harsh winters of Northern Russia, often with no hats or scarves at all. Our volunteers were from all over the country and knitted and crocheted a total of 187 hats and scarves! These hats and scarves were then delivered to the orphans...not only will they keep the orphans warm, but they also let them know that somebody cares enough to make something special just for them! If you want to participate in this campaign please email [info@brightconnectionsinternational.org](mailto:info@brightconnectionsinternational.org) and ask for more details.



## *Meeting with the Orphanages in Kirov, Russia*

It was not always easy to travel to each

Bright Connections is now on Facebook.

“Like” us to stay updated on our progress and help spread the word!

orphanage, but it was quite an experience meeting the Directors and getting to talk with some of the orphans. The Directors are

EXTREMELY excited that we are going to be able to help them take care of the children by getting them much needed



supplies and helping them to maintain the orphanage buildings. Bright Connections has three orphanages that it is focusing on helping. All of the orphanages are in the Kirov Region of Russia and the common needs are clothing, school supplies, and building repairs. These orphanages are also the children's schools and when it comes to supplies such as paper and pens school always wins out over extracurricular use, so these extra supplies will allow the kids to be able to draw and not have to worry about saving paper for school-related activities only.



### *Tax-Exempt Status*

Bright Connections has been approved by the IRS as a public charity with tax-exempt status, operating as a 501(c)3 organization. The amazing part is how quickly the IRS accepted and responded to our application! This means that not only are all donations tax-exempt, but the organization itself is tax-exempt. Bring on the donations via the "donate now" button on our website and use your receipt to write it off come tax time!

### **Current Volunteer Opportunities**

Bright Connections offers volunteers a chance to gain experience in unique positions. All Volunteer positions are flexible. Please pass along this information to anyone who may be interested...for more information see our website:

[www.brightconnectionsinternational.org](http://www.brightconnectionsinternational.org)

- Fundraising Manager/Event coordinator
- Translators
- Community Outreach Volunteer
- Researcher

### **Ways for you to Help....**

- Spread the word...tell your friends and family about us; they may even want to sign up for our newsletter
- SHOP and EAT...Go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and shop as you regularly would online, only this time a percent of your purchase total will be donated to Bright Connections, just type our name in the charity box!
- Volunteer...see the box below or our website for more information
- Donate...we are currently working towards our goal of \$1,000 to buy school supplies including notebooks, pens, pencils, and paper for each of the three orphanages. Click the Donate Now button on our website to make a secure, tax-deductible donation through PayPal
- Give us your feedback...Bright Connections is a reflection of its' volunteers and community – if you have any suggestions for us please let us know by emailing [info@brightconnectionsinternational.org](mailto:info@brightconnectionsinternational.org)