

**WAYS YOU CAN  
HELP TODAY**

1. **Spread the word... tell your friends about us and 'like' us on Facebook.**
2. **Donate - any dollar amount can make a significant impact in these orphans' lives!**
3. **Volunteer - check out our website for a chance to be a part of the Bright Connections team**
4. **Hold your own fundraiser for Bright Connections!**

**DONATIONS TO THE ORPHANAGES**

Your donations are now being used to purchase schools supplies, clothing and sports equipment for the orphanages. The director of the Orichevsky orphanage emphasized the importance of art and school supplies to us, saying "the children are constantly asking if they can draw or color, but all of the paper we have must be saved for school work, so we have to tell them no." Bright Connections' supporters have enabled

the orphanages to have hundreds of additional notebooks that will be specially allocated to use for art projects and drawing. Additionally winter has arrived in Kirov, the region where the orphanages are located, and warm clothes and winter shoes are essential to the kids' health and their ability to enjoy the winter, after all you can't make a snowball without gloves!

You have already made a

huge difference in these orphan's lives, and As the holidays approach, Bright Connections is focused on making the orphans' Christmas day one of joy, rather than a reminder of the traditional family life that they lack. Please visit [www.brightconnectionsinternational.org](http://www.brightconnectionsinternational.org) to join us in brightening their Christmas.

**BRIGHT CONNECTIONS IN THE NEWS**

*Beyond the Headlines* is an online news source offering Russian news in English. Bright Connections was also featured in the *Marin Independent Journal*, a local Northern Californian newspaper both online and in print! The exposure has helped increase Bright

Connections' exposure and brought attention to the needs of orphans. To read both of these article visit the Media section of our website. If you know of a magazine or newspaper that may like to write about Bright Connections please let us know!

**A HUGE THANK YOU TO THE RUSSIAN AND GERMAN HOUSES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT!!**

The Russian and German Houses at the University of Vermont raised over \$300 for Bright Connections! The two Houses held a cook-off (Russian versus German food) and all proceeds went to Bright Connections. This money will be used to purchase needed supplies for the orphanages such as warm clothing and school supplies. Thank you to both houses for using your creativity, time, and energy to help brighten orphans lives!!

## OUR LATEST PROJECT: PROJECT TRAVEL

Project Travel is a new project that many of Bright Connections volunteers from Russia and the U.S are working on. This travel website has information on traveling in Russia, given by Russians who know the cities best. The best part about this site is that it will bring together Russian and Americans and any profits that come from advertisements on the site will go back to the orphanages! The site will also help

raise awareness about Bright Connections . We are excited about this project and believe that it is a great way to promote traveling and cultural understanding, while helping the orphanages.

### BRIGHT CONNECTIONS PARTAKES IN INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Bright Connections joined forces with the Russian Cultural Association at UC Davis to be a part of the Russian table at the International Festival in October. Over 3,000 people attended the Festival where food, dance, and cultural information on many countries was presented.

Like Bright Connections on  
Facebook  
to keep up  
on the latest news!



**Winter is the hardest season for the orphanages.**

**Kirov is located in Northern Russia and also borders Siberia, a combination that means snowy, freezing nights for the kids and limited time outside. Additionally, the winter season means the holidays, one of the happiest times for most children, but a lonely time for the orphans who dream about having a Christmas celebration with their own family, a feast, and maybe even new toys. Bright Connections is collecting donations to purchase items to be given to the orphanages during the holidays. You can directly brighten an orphan's life today by donating on our website: [www.brightconnectionsinternational.org](http://www.brightconnectionsinternational.org)**



Wintertime at the bare playground at the Belaya Kholunitsa Orphanage