

Levin-Romanov Family

Father: Alexei Levin
Mother: Yulia Romanova
Child: Maxim (boy – 4-22-05)

Date of visit: September 2007

Report: Alexei and Yulia live with their son in one small room of a communal apartment. They share a common kitchen and bathroom with three other families. The room is too small to fit a bed for Maxim – he shares a bed with his mother, and Alexei sleeps on a fold-out chair.

Alexei is a taxi driver, but he has not been able to find work. He is registered with the unemployment bureau. He is hopeful that they can provide him with free courses to obtain a second license as a truck driver. Alexei thinks it would be easier to find work as a truck driver.

Yulia used to work as a seamstress in a factory. In the summer of 2006, she was in a car accident and was very badly injured. She suffered multiple broken bones, and has been through multiple surgeries. Only in March of 2007 was she able to begin walking again. In September, she had yet another surgery – the doctors removed a plastic support that they had earlier inserted next to her ribcage. Because of her injuries, Yulia walks with a cane and is unable to stand or sit for long periods of time. This means she has not been able to return to work. With both parents out of work, the family is struggling to meet basic needs. They have spent all their resources on Yulia's health care costs.

Maxim is healthy and attending daycare. His parents placed in him daycare after his mother's accident, because Alexei was working odd jobs and unable to stay at home to care for him. Daycare in Russia is government-sponsored and relatively inexpensive, but Alexei and Yulia can barely make the monthly payments. They don't want to take Maxim out of daycare, as he might lose his place there. Then Yulia would not be able to return to work. Yulia is hopeful that her injuries will continue to heal, and that eventually she will again be able to work as a seamstress.

Yulia and Alexei contacted the City Social Center to request help for their family. The social workers referred them to our fund. Beginning in October, the Levin-Romanov family will receive monthly gifts of groceries, plus a one-time gift of winter clothes for Maxim.

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Maxim with Yulia (before the accident)

Dates of visits:

January 25th,
February 21st,
March 26th, 2008

Help received:

Groceries (monthly)
Medicine (March)

Report: This was the Levin-Romanov family's second quarter in the program. During this quarter, Yulia was able to find a job, working as a secretary in a company that sells windows. She was very glad to find a job where she would be able to sit all day, allowing her to work in spite of her injuries.

Yulia still has not undergone the next scheduled operation. The recovery period is two months, and with her husband in prison, she has no one to care for her. Yulia hopes that during the summer her mother will be able to care for her so that she can have the operation.

Maxim continues to attend daycare, and Yulia's in-laws help her with his care. Yulia, in addition to work, continues a correspondence course at the university. Alexei is already serving his time in the minimum-security prison. Yulia hopes that the new president will declare an amnesty for prisoners. Otherwise, Alexei is scheduled to serve five years.