

# M. N. ADAMOV MEMORIAL FUND



## To facilitate support for talented blind people in Russia in the spirit of M. N. Adamov of St. Petersburg

We try to provide assistance that will make life easier for people who were born blind and those who lost their vision later, from kindergarten children to professionals. Our approach is through personal relationships. In the process, we want to increase support and resources within Russia for people with disabilities. We are dealing with many political, social and economic challenges. Of course, we are encountering medical problems as well.

We have met almost a hundred blind people in St. Petersburg. We work closely with programs that serve about a thousand people out of the 5000 blind and 6000 vision-impaired people registered in the city. We are also helping a tiflopedagogue who teaches kindergarten children in Essentuki.

We rely on couriers to take things to Russia. A class of Dartmouth students took toys. Six students from Duke University volunteered in summer 2008 working with a rehabilitation center for the blind. We respond to requests--we have sent about 125 graphite folding custom-length canes, 50 digital voice recorders to students to record class lectures, and 30 used computers. The people we help cannot afford to buy these things--a pension for a blind person is \$200-\$350/month.



Clay painting by Larisa Pavlova, blind artist, St. Petersburg, Russia

### Letter from Vladimir:

“I am a deafblind person living in Moscow. I have been working in one of the boarding schools for blind and visually impaired children. I taught computer science there. Since I wish to be helpful to Russian deaf and blind community I am studying psychology in one of the Moscow universities.

In order to be successful and productive blind people need a lot of things. They need good canes for mobility. They need computers with screen readers for their work and study. Of course, many of these things are available in Russia, but sometimes they are too expensive for the average blind person to buy or if the price is affordable the quality of the equipment is very poor.

Unfortunately, Russian folding canes are made of many short aluminum sections which significantly reduce the sensitivity of the cane. So my dream was to have a folding cane which would feel like a rigid one. Recently that dream was fulfilled by the Sussmans, who sent me a graphite folding cane

Two years ago, when I urgently needed a laptop which I could take with me wherever I went, they sent me one. Actually, my income is not big enough for me to buy everything I need for my daily life, work and study. So help of such people as Svetlana and Harris is extremely precious.

Their monetary support helped me to buy a better hearing aid which significantly improved my life. So I would like to thank them and all other good people in America, whose hearts are opened towards helping blind people in Russia. Most of us do not speak English so I am writing this on behalf of all of those who cannot express their gratefulness in your language.

Thank you very much!”

## We can give a person the ability to walk for \$30 — can you?

- ❖ help someone walk--\$30 for a cane, \$300 for 10 canes, \$3000 for 100 canes
- ❖ help a student study--\$45 for a digital voice recorder, \$450 for 10
- ❖ help a low-vision person see--\$10 for a 30x magnifier, \$100 for 10
- ❖ help students get a screen-reading program – \$1000 for a copy of russified JAWS software
- ❖ help a teacher attend professional training in Russia – \$350 for travel, room & board
- ❖ help connect a rehabilitation center for the blind in St. Petersburg to the Internet--\$50/month
- ❖ help us go to Russia to meet with blind people--\$1500 for a roundtrip ticket & visa



Oleg, a recent graduate of the computer classes at the Rehabilitation Center for the Blind, St. Petersburg. Accepted to the Medical College to study massage—with one of our canes.

**The MN Adamov Memorial Fund, Inc.** is the only group in America dedicated to helping talented blind people in Russia—registered in Massachusetts in 2005.

Founders and Directors:  
Svetlana Adamova Sussman  
Harris Sussman

**About us:** Svetlana Adamova Sussman grew up in St. Petersburg where we met when Harris spoke at an international conference at an old resort on the Gulf of Finland and she was an interpreter for the visiting Americans. Her father was a distinguished professor of physics at Leningrad-then-St. Petersburg State University. He was totally blind from the age of 2. After he died in 2005 we decided to help talented blind people in his spirit.

We are looking for partners, sponsors, patrons, angels...people to underwrite costs. We want to hear from you.

**Donations are tax-deductible** through the Carroll Center for the Blind--checks should be made to "Carroll Center for the Blind" and clearly marked **FOR MN ADAMOV FUND** -- mail to:

President  
Carroll Center for the Blind  
770 Centre Street  
Newton MA 02458

\*\*\*\*\*

**The MN Adamov Memorial Fund, Inc.**  
51 Craigie Street  
Somerville MA 02143 USA  
617-629-0048

[harris@sussman.org](mailto:harris@sussman.org)  
[ssussman@mit.edu](mailto:ssussman@mit.edu)

More information and to donate on-line:  
<http://mnadamovfund.org>