

Moscow, Russia's God's Love and Care Felt at Treasures of Heaven Camp

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A three-day Treasures of Heaven "camp" for special-needs children and their parents was held at the Eastern Europe sub-regional headquarters in Moscow.

The camp, which took place from 18 to 20 June 2021, was a real success. A total of 21 participants - 12 adults and nine children - came from different Russian cities: Moscow and the Moscow Region, Kaliningrad, St. Petersburg and Ulyanovsk.

And 28 volunteers came as staff - 16 people to help with the programs for children and 13 to cook on different days. This time the majority of them were Second Generation, which was especially important both for the participants and the volunteers (to develop their heart of service and unconditional love).

Mr. Jack Corley's deep and touching message via Zoom opened the camp activities. Galina Chernomorets, head of the sub-regional Blessed Families Department, greeted the participants and all the staff.

The volunteers' efficient help allowed the parents to focus on the programs, which all were aimed at recharging their batteries and enabling them to feel God's love and care. The parents testified afterward that all the camp events helped them find answers to important questions they had. The scheduled programs for the adult participants were:

- a number of discussions organized by professional coaches Dmitriy and Irina Guzeev, which were the highlight of the camp. These sessions helped the participants get insights and inspiration to move forward;

- an art therapy session led by Bayarma Efremova from the Blessed Families Department, which was very deep;
- a Zoom meeting with families from Europe and the United States who also are bringing up children with special health conditions. This meeting was organized by Lisa Janssen, the inspirational leader of the Treasures of Heaven community of Europe, and by Galina Chernomorets from the Blessed Families Department of the Eastern Europe sub-region;
- a fun program for parents and children held by the Second Generation Department of the Eastern Europe sub-region;
- and the closing banquet with touching and deep testimonies from the participants.

The children also had a good time. One of the Treasures of Heaven community members, Irina Getman, took responsibility for a diverse and fun program for them. There were different master classes (on crafts, sports, cooking, etc.) and - the most important - constant care from our wonderful volunteers.

The Second Gen helpers also attended a Zoom meeting which was held jointly by the Eastern Europe sub-region's Blessed Families Department and Second Generation Department and by Lisa Janssen from the European Treasures of Heaven community. Our young assistants could listen to European volunteers and talk about their own experiences.

One of our Treasures of Heaven community members, Zhenya Sula, was responsible for the menu and kitchen coordination. So, with the help and investment of so many people from our church elders and the community, we could hold a powerful program that filled and comforted the hearts of the parents. It also allowed our special children to experience brothers' and sisters' love during these three days. Special thanks to all those who offered their donations!

We really hope that next year we will be able to hold a five-day camp and get the same touching and loving support from our worldwide community.

By Tatiana Panichenko,
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