

Fundación Ruso-Riqueña Pro-Educación

Foundation for Education of Russian children living in Puerto Rico

Mission:

To be a cultural link between Russia and Puerto Rico for the children who were born in Russia and are growing up in Puerto Rico.

Philosophy:

Traveling from Russia to Puerto Rico is only the first step in the long road of multicultural upbringing that awaits Puerto Rican parents who adopt children in Russia and Russian parents whose children are growing up in Puerto Rico. To become confident and happy adults, these children need our love. They also need to know their roots and be able to shape their own identity. We hope that the Foundation will give our kids the best that Puerto Rico, Russia and the United States have to offer.

Focus Areas:

- Orientation for the families interested in adopting children from Russia
- Helping families to facilitate adaptation of their Russian children to life in Puerto Rico
- Multilingual and multicultural education for the children of adopting families, Russian families and mixed marriages.

Support Programs:

- Meetings of adoptive parents and parents considering adoption in Russia.
- Russian language and culture classes for the community.
- Spanish language and Puerto Rican culture classes for children and adults from Russia.
- Sports classes based on the Russian Olympic system.
- References to physicians, psychologists, teachers and translators.

Next steps:

- **LEGAL.** Define legal structure. **Status:** Incorporated as a non-profit & registered with the Department of State of Puerto Rico.
- **MEETINGS.** Form a group of parents interested in the concept. **Status:** Three meetings and a New Year celebration took place, uniting
 - parents of children adopted from Russia
 - parents of kids adopted from Bulgaria
 - parents of Russian kids and
 - parents who are in the process of adoption.
- **New Year Event for 2006:** planning is underway.
- **NEWSLETTER:** First version published in June 2006, November issue is in production.
- **LANGUAGE CLASSES:** In the New Year event, parents signed up for Russian language and culture classes for kids and adults. **Status:** A 3-month Russian language

and culture course for Puerto Rican parents was taught by Prof. T. N. Stoyanova. Russian adults are interested in Spanish classes.

- **BUDGET:** Define a budget and the basic infrastructure. Status: to be determined.
- **BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Define criteria for the members of the Board of Directors. Status: During an open meeting held on August 19th, 2006, we decided to structure the Foundation via different committees of interest (please see the PowerPoint presentation for more details). The leaders of each committee will also serve as Board members.
- **OUTREACH:** Work to reach out to other parents through networking and the media.
 - Work with the home study agency to reach out to parents who were not at the New Year event.
 - Work with the Russian Consulates and stateside adoption agencies to reach other adoptive families in Puerto Rico
 - Work with the media (the New Year event was covered in 2 national newspapers and 1 radio program; Primera Hora, a national newspaper, ran a 3-day special on the topic, focusing on Russian adoptions).
- **INTERNS:** Evaluate the possibility of attracting Social Studies students as interns.
- Look for similar examples in the USA (through the Consulates and the non-profit Families for Russian and Ukrainian Adoption).

Contact Information:

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