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BABUSHKA ADOPTION FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT 2009





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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

It's the end of 2009 and time to summarize the results of the passing year.

We continued to work for the welfare of our beneficiaries, having received and distributed from our sponsors € 80,000 as financial support for elderly people in Kyrgyzstan. We also distributed foodstuffs, coal and other humanitarian aid provided by our partners to the value of € 67,000.

We continued working for and with our Self Help Groups, having involved Asia Universal Bank (www.aub.kg) to finance the strengthening of the marketing capacity of our Batken SHGs. We also got support from the ICCO Foundation (www.icco.nl) to establish in Belovodskoe village five new Self Help Groups and a Resource Center for the elderly where old people can work and socialize. In addition, we took a very active part in lobbying for the interests of the elderly on local and national levels.

We were proud to show the quality of our work to journalists who highlighted our activities in mass media, including such respected news channels as Deutsche Welle and BBC World News.

All of this success would be impossible if we did not have the support of the babushka sponsors, the Board, partners and friends. I'd like to thank everyone, including our Australian Volunteer, Natalya Wells, who has contributed greatly to the development and success of Babushka Adoption Foundation. I look forward to our cooperation with supporters and partners continuing in the future so that we can bring more good things and services to our beneficiaries. Our support is essential for the elderly especially in light of the global financial crisis and the coming tremendous (400%) increase in the prices for public utilities and electricity in Kyrgyzstan.

Aidai Kadyrova
Director



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERVISORY BOARD

Dear friends and sponsors,

Another year has passed in the life of all of us and most especially our lovely adopted *babushkas* and *dedushkas*. And now it is wonderful to be able to participate in celebrating a decade of caring and supportive work undertaken by Aidai Kadyrova and her team. Babushka Adoption Foundation started life in 1999 and has grown fantastically to date with over 600 sponsors supporting almost 1000 *babushkas*. Well done and thanks to Babushka Adoption Foundation and all you generous and caring sponsors.

I feel privileged to have joined the Board and to be able to join in the great work being done to make the lives of our dear grandmothers more healthy, comfortable and secure. The Board will continue to work closely with the Babushka Adoption Foundation team during 2010 and together we will make certain that sponsors are kept regularly aware of where their money is going and what happiness and relief is being brought to the *babushkas*. 2010 will be a year for growth in our activities and will require an even more innovative and bigger effort from the team.

The cost of living in the Kyrgyz Republic, especially for social services, has risen dramatically over the past decade and so it is even more important that we dig deep into our pockets and purses for the dedicated team of administrators and carers at Babushka Adoption Foundation to continue providing that little extra to help our senior citizens.

Thanks very much to all our sponsors and supporters, and best wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours aye

Stephen J Avalyan Newton
Board member 2009 - 2010



HISTORY OF BABUSHKA ADOPTION FOUNDATION

The economic and social crisis in the Kyrgyz Republic after independence (1991) affected the older generations particularly harshly. Many aged people lost their life savings and found it difficult to adapt to the new social and economic conditions. The aged pension has not kept up with the cost of living.

The elderly in Kyrgyzstan have suffered most from the 'transition' to a market economy with the wholesale collapse of social services and the widespread migration of the working age population to Russia and other neighboring countries for better employment opportunities. Many elderly people, who in Soviet times contributed to social security for many years, now find themselves in an extremely miserable situation, living on the verge of starvation. Life is especially difficult for those who have lost their family members and have no family network willing to support them. Pensioners in Kyrgyzstan frequently look back to the Soviet period as a golden era as the former system provided them with a secure retirement through a good pension and social services. Now the elderly have little commitment to the present system, or even the prospect of a brighter future through democratic and economic reforms.

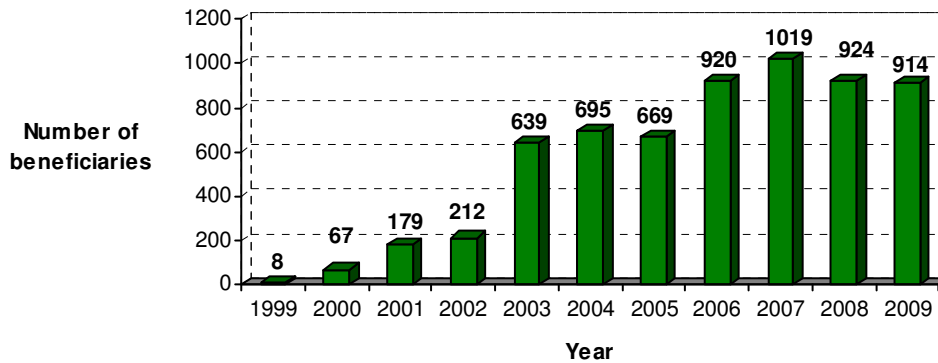


Babushka Adoption Foundation (BA) is a unique organization in Central Asia working with the elderly who suffer from a lack of social protection. Babushka means old woman or grandmother in Russian, and the male equivalent is dedushka. Babushka Adoption Foundation, a Kyrgyz charity non-governmental organization (NGO), was established in 1999 with financial support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The financial support provided by SDC came to an end in 2006. Since then BA has worked as an independent, sustainable, local charity NGO. Babushka Adoption Foundation is proud to mark its 10th anniversary this year. The organization operates in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, and in the Leilek district of Batken Oblast, the remotest and least developed region in southern Kyrgyzstan.

BA's primary program is a successful sponsorship program, whereby sponsors from Kyrgyzstan and overseas can provide monthly cash support, through BA, to an 'adopted' Kyrgyzstani elderly person. Over the years since BA's inception, the number of elderly persons who have been adopted by sponsors has grown tremendously.



Number of beneficiaries per year (1999 - 2009)



Babushka Adoption Foundation's vision is to improve the living conditions of elderly people in the Kyrgyz Republic, whereby they have sufficient social and economic means and access to adequate social services, so that they may live with hope and dignity. Our mission is to mobilize and increase opportunities for vulnerable elderly people and to improve their life situation through providing financial, social, psychological and educational support and services.

BABUSHKA ADOPTION FOUNDATION ACTIVITY IN 2009

In addition to the continuing rise in food and living costs, Kyrgyzstan, like everywhere else, also felt the cumulative effects of the global financial crisis. This is bad news for a country where over 80 per cent of senior citizens live below the poverty line. The Kyrgyz Social Fund estimated the minimum monthly cost of living in 2009 for senior citizens at 3,200 Kyrgyz som (approximately US\$73.00), while the average aged pension is only 2,120 som (approximately US\$48.00).

The activities of Babushka Adoption Foundation are aimed at improving the lives of the elderly in our country and helping them live more dignified and happy lives. Three primary goals were designed to achieve the ultimate objectives of the organization.

Goal 1: To alleviate the impact of poverty on vulnerable elderly people by providing financial and social services.



AID PROJECTS

Adopt a Babushka Program

In its ten years of operation, Babushka Adoption Foundation has operated a successful sponsor program providing monthly welfare cash transfers from sponsors around the world to the most vulnerable older people in Bishkek and the rural areas of Batken Oblast. The financial support provided through Babushka Adoption Foundation makes a significant difference to the lives of older people. The majority of older people supported by Babushka Adoption Foundation have no family network that supports them financially and socially. Until the end of 2006 beneficiaries received US\$10 per month from their individual sponsors. From 2007 this amount was changed to € 10.



Babushka Adoption Foundation maintains a database of elderly people in need of support. Governmental agencies (Social Protection Departments of Bishkek city and Batken region), local public councils (TOS), local territorial administrations (MTU) and non-governmental organizations refer vulnerable elderly people in need of support to Babushka Adoption Foundation for registration. In addition, elderly people who hear about the Foundation from our beneficiaries can apply for registration themselves.

All applicants are registered by BA. In order to determine their eligibility for Babushka Adoption Foundation support, our social workers conduct needs assessments by visiting the applicants at their home. The assessments take into account the applicants' work experience, health condition, housing situation, family status and value of pension, and are then measured against Babushka Adoption Foundation's criteria:

- Aged over 65 years
- No family support (i.e. childless; have disabled or pensioned children; or children have left Kyrgyzstan and do not provide support)
- Pension equal to or below 1400 Kyrgyz som (~USD\$30) per month

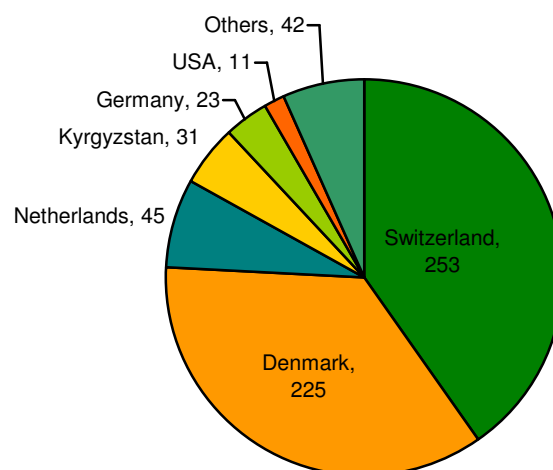
Profiles, comprising a photograph and a short biography in English, are created for those applicants who fit the criteria. These profiles are then made available to potential sponsors who are considering 'adopting' a babushka or dedushka. We regularly update the information in our database.



During 2009, 116 beneficiaries left our sponsorship program, 69 in Bishkek and 47 in Batken oblast. In that same period, we received 271 applications (205 in Bishkek and 66 in Batken) for BA support and assessed the living conditions and needs of 93 potential beneficiaries. Of these assessments, 90 people were approved and added to the database, resulting in a total of 153 people in our database awaiting sponsorship.

In 2009 Babushka Adoption Foundation supported 914 beneficiaries (614 in Bishkek and 300 in Batken oblast) through 630 sponsors. The global financial crisis had a visible effect on the number of sponsors, which declined instead of increased this year for the second year running. Fifty-four sponsors left our sponsorship program in 2009. However, Babushka Adoption Foundation received 31 requests for information about the adoption program, and from these inquiries 24 people became new sponsors in 2009. BA was successful in garnering support from Kyrgyz Members of Parliament, soliciting two high-profile sponsors: a deputy from the leading Ak-Zhol party and the leader of one of the opposition parties, Ata Meken.

A total of USD\$118,780 was distributed among the 914 beneficiaries this year. We also sent 349 renewal requests to sponsors, informed 116 sponsors that their beneficiaries had left the program, and confirmed receipt of sponsor money into our Swiss, Dutch, German and Kyrgyz bank accounts. Babushka Adoption Foundation sent confirmation to sponsors about receiving and delivering 33 parcels and additional monetary gifts to the value of USD\$3,930.



Sponsors (630) by country, 2009



To maintain a strong relationship with our sponsors we keep them informed about their adopted babushka by providing reports on their financial status, wellbeing and other matters throughout the year. At the end of 2009 we sent all our sponsors a New Year newsletter and a sponsor account statement by post.

As an important part of the sponsorship program, Babushka Adoption Foundation also works to establish close personal relationships between sponsors and their adopted babushkas to ease the feelings of loneliness and social isolation among the elderly. Our team acts as a bridge between sponsors and their beneficiaries by translating letters, helping beneficiaries send letters to their sponsors, delivering gifts and additional money from sponsors, and organizing meetings between sponsors and their adopted babushkas. In 2009 we delivered 42 letters from sponsors to beneficiaries, and translated a total of 212 letters between babushkas and sponsors. We organized 12 meetings of sponsors with babushkas. Our elderly people very much like to meet their sponsors and speak with them about their life stories.



Social aid

In addition to financial support, Babushka Adoption Foundation provides the elderly with social support. The Home Visiting Service has been operating since September 2001 and is currently financed by the International Women’s Club in Bishkek. BA social workers assist the most vulnerable elderly people with services such as grocery shopping, paying bills, assisting with personal hygiene, cleaning house, etc.

We also involve some of our babushkas in our social care activities. We have 10 babushkas who assist in distributing money to beneficiaries living nearby who are unable to come to the money collection points. This activity also promotes social interaction among the elderly.



One of our Swiss sponsors, Mrs Lotte Lauper, donated additional funds for the use of the babushkas. This year BA organized an “Active Babushka” program in Bishkek with the funds. The program



involved a massage therapy course, a large group outing to a café followed by a walk in the park, and swimming sessions at a local indoor pool. These activities not only promote well-being, but bring elderly people together, which is important for the socially isolated.

Babushka Adoption Foundation, as an active member of AgeNet Central Asia Without Borders, participated in the bi-annual Heart to Heart charity activity as part of the celebrations of International Day of Old People on 1 October. In Bishkek BA organized a chess tournament for the elderly, and a lottery to raise funds for charity. In Batken oblast, the branch office opened bus stops for the elderly and raised almost 14,000 Kyrgyz som from local businesses for needy old people. Some BA beneficiaries were formally recognized by the local government during the Batken celebrations. Self-help groups in Batken oblast also organized a competition among themselves. BA also participates in the 20 May Heart to Heart Kyrgyz national charity day.



Humanitarian aid

Babushka Adoption Foundation works with other charity organizations to distribute humanitarian aid to senior citizens in Kyrgyzstan.



With the generous financial support of GTZ (German Technical Cooperation), Babushka Adoption Foundation implemented a Winter Program which provided needy people in Bishkek and Batken oblast with food packages and coal in the early months of the year. Among the recipients were BA beneficiaries and members of the Deaf and Blind Association. BA also provided hot soup from HelpAge International to the elderly during the cold winter months.

At the beginning of the year, BA received a shipment of 1000 Yaktrax traction devices to aid people's mobility in slippery and icy conditions. This donation was organized by Mr Jan van Bremen of Elnura Foundation (www.elnura.nl) and distributed by BA to its beneficiaries and other organizations that work with the elderly such as the Public Association of Social Protection of the Population and the Resource Centre for the Elderly (RCE).



During the course of the year BA continued to receive donations of clothes, bedding, and food from the International Women’s Club in Bishkek, Manas Air Base Outreach Service, National Red Crescent Center, Atuul, RCE, and Tien Shan Foundation. BA distributed these donations to the elderly as well as to other needy beneficiaries. A woman from the Netherlands sent handmade items which BA distributed to a children’s rehabilitation centre in Naryn (capital of one of seven regions in Kyrgyzstan).



As a member of AgeNet Central Asia Without Borders, Babushka Adoption Foundation received a portion of the public donations that were collected in AgeNet charity boxes in public areas. With these funds, BA provided toiletries and cleaning items to seven of the neediest babushkas.

Goal 2: To mobilize and empower vulnerable elderly people and their communities to achieve secure livelihoods

EMPOWERMENT PROJECTS

Kadyrluu Karylyk

To achieve more sustainable change with and for older people in Kyrgyzstan, Babushka Adoption Foundation in partnership with HelpAge International (HAI), the leading



organization working globally to promote the rights of older people in developing and transition countries, has been implementing this project funded by the European Commission’s TACIS Institution Building Partnership Program (IBPP). Kadyrluu Karylyk means “dignity in ageing” in the Kyrgyz language. This project aims to foster civil society activity and cooperation with government that



leads to realizing the rights of the elderly people in Kyrgyzstan for a dignified and secure old age.

In the framework of this project, Babushka Adoption Foundation organized an advocacy campaign focusing on particular issues of importance to older people, namely access to health services, age discrimination, and income poverty. In addition to existing 8 Self Help Groups BA was also able to establish 17 new Self Help Groups (SHGs) in Bishkek and Batken oblast. SHGs are a positive and long-lasting outcome from the project. These groups consist of 10-15 elderly people who meet regularly to discuss old people's needs and address the problems of social reintegration. SHG leaders received training in project development and management, budget development and monitoring, mobilization and coordination of volunteers, lobbying, attracting funding sources and networking. The project contributes to older people's social reintegration and participation as equal members of society.

The two-year Kadyrluu Karylyk project came to an end in June 2009. The activities of the advocacy campaign in the first half of this year included:

- February: Kadyrluu Karylyk Project Coordinator, Erkin Omorov, and HelpAge International Project Manager met with Member of Parliament Mrs Gulnara Derbisheva.
- 31 March: BA organized a roundtable in Bishkek to discuss laws pertaining to the Elderly. The roundtable was attended by Members of Parliament, representatives from the Ministry of Labour and Social Development and the Kyrgyz Social Fund, BA partner organizations and SHG leaders.
- 7 April: BA organized a roundtable in Isfana, Batken oblast, to discuss laws pertaining to the Elderly.
- 14-15 May: Final Conference in Bishkek, attended by representatives of the European Commission; Kyrgyz Republic Parliament; Ministries of Public Health and Labour and Social Development; Kyrgyz Social Fund; partner organizations; the Self Help Groups; and the media.
- May: BA submitted a final report to the European Commission on the project implementation.
- 17-19 June: BA participated in a seminar on Older Citizen Monitoring held by HelpAge International
- June: BA and HelpAge International staff evaluated BA's performance in implementing the two-year project.



Self Help Groups

The former Batken Branch Office Director established eight trial Self Help Groups (SHGs) in Batken oblast. A further 17 SHGs were established during the two-year Kadyrluu Karylyk project financed by the EU, and now the 25 SHGs continue to thrive, especially in Batken oblast. In May, a SHG Best Practice Manual was developed among SHG leaders and distributed to all SHGs. This manual will be an important tool in the establishment of new SHGs planned for 2010.

Several SHGs in Batken oblast have procured or were donated old chaikhanas (tea houses) that serve as important public meeting places in Central Asian culture. Members of SHGs have helped clean these chaikhanas to enable regular gatherings of the elderly. At these chaikhanas, elderly people can socialize, discuss relevant issues, and gain information about their rights and availability of social services.

Babushka Adoption Foundation successfully applied for and received grants from Asia Universal Bank (AUB) for the development of SHGs in Batken oblast. These monies were distributed by BA and GTZ staff in November, and will be used by the SHGs for development and marketing training, and to repair and renovate the chaikhanas.



Another grant was received from Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO, the Netherlands) to establish five new SHGs and a resource centre for the elderly in Belovodskoe in Chui oblast. Babushka Adoption Foundation contracted the Kyrgyz Swiss Agricultural Program to undertake an agricultural business assessment in Belovodskoe to assist in determining the most appropriate agricultural activities for the elderly.

In Bishkek, the medical SHG organized a roundtable and sent a report of the proceedings to the Ministry of Public Health. Between March and December, eight SHGs participated in a pilot project funded by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to enhance community policing for the elderly.

In addition to promoting civic action among the elderly, the SHGs also aim to develop sustainable income-generation projects.



Help to Help Themselves

With funding from GTZ, Babushka Adoption Foundation continued to participate in this project which provides start-up materials for sustainable income-generation activities among the elderly. Last year four SHGs in Batken oblast received sewing machines and kitchenware. These SHGs are now earning a modest income from their activities. The profits are used to run and expand the small businesses and are also donated to the very needy old people in their community.



In November, GTZ and BA staff distributed 17 sheep in Batken oblast to BA beneficiaries who are able to care for and raise livestock. The sheep provide a source of income for the owners through the sale of milk and wool and the breeding of sheep. This project is self-perpetuating as the first generation of lambs is passed on to other needy elderly people. Dr Kurt Wagner, GTZ Kyrgyzstan Country Director, and Jonathon Hornbrook monitored and participated in the *Help to Help Themselves* project implementation in November.





Goal 3: To build Babushka Adoption Foundation into a strong and sustainable organization with secure funding resources, committed and capable staff and volunteers, and good local and international partnership.

ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITY

Since 1999, Babushka Adoption Foundation has been working on strengthening its managerial and organizational capacity and expanding its fundraising activities, in order to become less dependent on external support. BA organizes fundraising and public relations activities and maintains strong partnerships with local and international organizations, civil society organizations, local government organizations and regional networks.

This year the Batken Region Office was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from the Head of the Batken District Administration for the organization's considerable contribution to social and economic development and improvement of lives of vulnerable people in Batken Region.

Staff members

<p><u>Bishkek Head Office</u></p> <p>Aidai Kadyrova, Director</p> <p>Svetlana Mazentseva, Financial Manager</p> <p>Dinara Ryskulova, Deputy Director</p> <p>Saltanat Saparbekova, Program Coordinator</p> <p>Raihan Maldybaeva, Sponsor Coordinator</p> <p>Timur Imanaliev, Logistics Assistant</p> <p>Patygul Engerbaeva, Social Worker</p> <p>Ainura Kozukeeva, Social Worker</p> <p>Altynai Isaeva, Social Worker</p>	<p><u>Batken Branch Office</u></p> <p>Almaz Rahmanov, Branch Office Director</p> <p>Shahabitdin Irgashev, Driver</p> <hr/> <p><u>Volunteers</u></p> <p>Tavy Hornbrook-UK (since September)</p> <p>Natalya Wells-Australia (September – December 2009)</p>
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Advocacy

Babushka Adoption Foundation staff regularly attended the monthly meetings of the Club of Leaders, where Bishkek representatives of AgeNet Central Asia without Borders member organizations meet to discuss their current activities and future plans. AgeNet members support and participate in other member organization activities.

In April, BA staff participated in two roundtables on behalf of the elderly of Kyrgyzstan. The first was organized by Members of the Kyrgyz Republic Parliament to debate laws pertaining to the Elderly. The second, organized by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, discussed effective means of engagement between government and civil society.

In December BA staff attended a roundtable organized by the Resource Centre for the Elderly and the Mayor of Bishkek to discuss proposals to protect the elderly in light of the imminent price hikes in the cost of public utilities.

Aidai Kadyrova, the Director, presented a speech about BA's experience with Self Help Groups at the "Development of Elderly Self Help Groups in Kyrgyzstan and the Role of the State" conference held by the Public Association of Social Protection of the Population.

Partner Organizations

Babushka Adoption Foundation has sister organizations in Europe that assist in attracting sponsors and facilitating fundraising activities for BA in Europe. **Babushka Adoption Association** Switzerland was founded in 2002 and **Babushka Adoption Verein Deutschland** in 2008. Both these partnerships enable BA to operate local bank accounts for the convenience of Swiss and German sponsors.

Babushka Adoption Foundation began a partnership with **Elnura Foundation** (www.elnura.nl) in the Netherlands in 2004. Elnura Foundation helps to attract new BA sponsors from the Netherlands and draw attention to the plight of the elderly in Kyrgyzstan.

In order to develop closer partnerships with other social protection organizations in Central Asia and to combine regional efforts to improve the living conditions of many vulnerable elderly people in Kyrgyzstan, BA joined **AgeNet - Central Asia without Borders** (www.agenet.org.kg) in 2005. This regional network consists of 35 social protection organizations from CIS countries. One of the main aims of AgeNet is to promote the



Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. The organization works also with local and national governments and international organizations to ensure that ageing issues and the rights of elderly people are adequately considered in development policies.

Since 2005 Babushka Adoption Foundation has also worked with **HelpAge International** (www.helpage.org), a member organization of AgeNet Central Asia without Borders. Other AgeNet members that BA works with include the **Resource Center for the Elderly, Public Association of Social Protection of the Population**, and **Adventist Development and Relief Agency Kyrgyzstan**.

Since mid-2008, BA has been participating in humanitarian aid projects in close partnership with **GTZ** (German Technical Cooperation) in Kyrgyzstan (www.gtz.de).

Funding sources

Babushka Adoption Foundation's primary source of funding is derived from the sponsorship monies that are distributed to adopted babushkas. The Home Visiting Service continues to be financed by the International Women's Club of Bishkek.

BA also regularly applies for small grants to assist in the implementation of income-generation and advocacy projects. In 2009, BA was awarded two grants for Self Help Groups, one from Asia Universal Bank (AUB) and one from Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO). The ICCO grant also supports the day-to-day activities of Babushka Adoption Foundation.

BA applied for a grant in June from the European Commission Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development Program to implement a project to improve the social situation of elderly people and rural communities, but was unsuccessful in reaching the final round.

In 2009 BA submitted an advocacy-building project proposal to the US Embassy in the Kyrgyz Republic Democracy Commission Small Grants Program and another project proposal to the Dutch Max Maakt Magelijk Program for the establishment of eight resource centers for the elderly in Batken oblast.



Media

There were several publications this year about Babushka Adoption Foundation and its beneficiaries and projects in local and international media. Media coverage helps raise awareness of BA and foster trust in its legitimacy for overseas supporters who are unable to observe the work of BA for themselves.

BBC Central Asia came to Bishkek to record a news segment about Babushka Adoption Foundation. BBC interviewed BA staff, volunteers and beneficiaries, and also visited some beneficiaries' homes. The news segment will be aired on 27 December on BBC World Newshour, and a radio segment will also be broadcast.

- December, 2009: "...чтобы не было мучительно больно за..." – Delovye vesti magazine
- 25 November: "Европа баккан алатоолук "жетим" апалар" – http://www.azattyk.org/content/Kyrgyzstan_elderly_philanthropy/1839236.html
- 19 October: "Babushka adoption помогает пожилым людям в Киргизии" – <http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,4806473,00.html>
- 13 October: BA was featured on "Reporter's Diary" on Kyrgyz Republic Channel 5 television.
- 1 October: "В Кыргызстане только 2 из 100 коммерческих организаций согласились выделить деньги на стариков" – <http://www.24.kg/community/63499-v-kyrgyzstane-tolko-2-iz-100-kommercheskix.html>
- 7 August: "Adopt-a-Babushka program keeps some elderly Kyrgyz citizens going" – <http://www.eurasianet.org/departments/insightb/articles/eav070709.shtml>
- 23 June: "Helping beloved babushkas" - <http://www.intrepidtravel.com/express-blog/?p=176>
- 12 March: "Manas Airmen build bonds with Bishkek babushkas" - <http://www.manas.afcent.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123139631>
- 7 February: "'Яктрекс' кийип, тайгылбай" - Ata Jurt newspaper
- 21 January: "Action for the vulnerable in Kyrgyzstan" - <http://www.unv.org/en/what-we-do/countries-and-territories/kyrgyzstan/doc/action-for-the->



vulnerable.html

- 21 January: “Яктрекс, он же зимоход” - Vichernii Bishkek newspaper

THE SUPERVISORY BOARD

The Supervisory Board is the managing and supervising body of Babushka Adoption Foundation which was established in order to carry out internal supervision of BA activities. The Supervisory Board, comprised of members from the international development community and Kyrgyz citizens, continued to oversee Babushka Adoption Foundation’s activities and bolster the credibility of the organization. In 2009 the Board met quarterly.

In addition to Board meetings the Chair had bimonthly management meetings with Babushka Adoption Foundation Director, Mrs Aidai Kadyrova, to exchange information and provide advice and consultations.

Members:

Mr Jonathon Hornbrook (Chair)

Mr Boris Pilipenko

Mr Markus Müller

Mrs Jana Schuhmann

Mr Stephen J. Avalyan Newton

Mrs Natalia Slastnikova

Mr Martin Dawson

Mrs Djamilya Tchukurova

Mr Talay Asylbekov

Mrs. Nurjamal Bokoeva

FINANCIAL ACTIVITY

Babushka Adoption Foundation makes information about its financial activity available to our donors and sponsors, and for those who are interested in BA activities.

Babushka Adoption Foundation provides financial support (monthly payment and additional monetary gifts) to older people using contributions from individual sponsors of



elderly people. The money distribution process was monitored by Mr Jonathon Hornbrook, Chairman of the Board, Dr Kurt Wagner, GTZ Kyrgyzstan Country Director, and Ms Natalya Wells, volunteer.

In 2009, BA received from sponsors a total of USD\$118,780 for supporting the elderly through the Babushka Adoption program. Most of these funds were distributed directly to beneficiaries at the two-monthly money distribution. USD\$26,000 was used for running the adoption program, such as salaries for social workers who conduct needs assessments, office staff who translate profiles and letters, staff who deliver letters, parcels and money, and expenses such as postal and internet communication with sponsors, fuel and utilities.

International Women's Club of Bishkek donated USD\$3,912 for the Home Visiting Service. During 2009, BA staff also raised USD\$1,400 for its program activities.

Optima Audit LLC published an audit of the financial activity of Babushka Adoption Foundation for the calendar year of 2008 in March 2009, which has been made available on the website. The 2009 audit report will be available in early 2010.