

Echo of Moscow radio in Perm
PRESENTS

Song: "Let mother hear me, let mother come, let mother find me, don't let her fail. It cannot be that children are lost; children cannot be lost..."

LOST CHILDREN

This program production is supported by the Transatlantic Partners Against AIDS NGO and the Kaiser Family Foundation

GD: Summer morning in June. Mommy and I are taking a walk. I am riding in my pram, calm and happy, because I am with the person closest and dearest to me – my mother; I am strongly attached to her and I need her very much.

...My pram stopped, but it did not worry me, because that happened before: I would sleep in my pram, and Mom would go to a store or chat with her girlfriends somewhere around. I stayed there quietly and waited for my mother, but she was not coming back.

A stranger looked into my pram. I got scared and started crying, but she took me out carefully and cuddled in her arms. I was scared anyway and worried a lot – where is my Mom? What is going on? They take me into a place I already know; I was there before to see doctors. A lady in white coat comes to me and calls my name, and takes me to the ward where I recently stayed with my Mom.

Grown-ups were coming to look at me and they were saying unfamiliar words: "foundling", "orphan", "abandoned".

And after a while I got a new, warm, cozy home with many brothers and sisters of mine.

MG: The story of 18-month old Andrey was told by the staff of the Children's Home #2. He was brought to the admission of the Regional Children's Hospital by a woman who found him on the steps of the hospital in a pram, with no documents. A hospital physician recognized the child and told his name and date of birth because a short time ago he stayed in hospital with his mother for treatment.

MUSIC BREAK – OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF GROWN-UPS

Presenter: We begin the series of programs to tell you how children born to HIV-positive parents live their lives.

For future reference: in Prikamye today there are 530 children born to mothers with HIV. Ninety one of them were born this year. ... Children are brought up without their parents' participation. It is worth mentioning that the majority of kids are healthy; their mothers' virus was not transmitted to them. As medics say, all these children who stay under constant observation of the best Prikamye doctors are in even better health than some "home-grown" babies are.

SOUND BIT – expert (Kolodkin)

There is some experience in Prikamye of adopting children born to HIV-positive parents. Unfortunately, for the most part OUR babies are taken overseas.

SOUND BIT – expert (Kolodkin) – *Rasha's story*

Main thing that ALL children need is a family, mother's warmth and care. And our kids whom the public opinion – maybe unconsciously – tends to identify as "embarrassing" human beings, even as outcasts, need family upbringing even more than other children.

SOUND BIT – expert (Kolodkin) - *how a family can positively affect a child's state of health.*

STORY OF A CHILD – TWO

DG: My brother and I lived with Grandma and Mom. Granny took care of us, but she had to work a lot so that we would not be hungry. We have not seen much of our Mother, and we never felt her love and care. She would live home often and for long, and when she was back, she would abuse me and my brother, fight with Granny, and disappear again.

When summer came, Mom came back again, and we had very happy days, because she was calm, did not fight with Grandma, and did not hurt us. And we all went to the dacha, as Granny said, to gain some health. My brother and I basked in the sun, ate berries, and Granny with Mom worked in the garden. The summer was almost over, and one day Granny said that it's time for her to go back to work, and it's time for us to go back to town. But Mom talked her into leaving me and my brother at the dacha, and said that she would take care of us. Granny was worried, but she believed Mom, and we stayed at the dacha.

Everything was great at first, and then we got some guests coming, and later Mom went to see them off, and did not come back for a long time, we waited and waited for her, and finally we fell asleep, we were scared and cold. We woke in the morning and started crying because we were cold and hungry. Mommy was back home, but she stayed in bed and did not want to get up and cursed us for not letting her sleep on. In the evening Mommy got up and left again, and forgot about us. We cried all the time, we would go out alone, stop by the neighbors, they were sorry for us, gave us food and promised to call our Granny.

When our Granny came back in a week, she saw us and started crying. She washed us, fed us, it was so yummy that I could not stop eating and kept asking for more. Then I got stomach ache and could not sleep. Granny packed out things and we went to the city. I could not walk on my own because my feet were swollen and all covered in scabs. And Granny had to carry me all the way.

MF: Three year old Yulia's story can be told in five lines. The girl was transferred to the Children's Home upon a request filed by her grandmother stating that the child's mother is a drunkard, a transient, does not foster nor care for her two little children. Grandmother discovered sick and starving kids at the dacha where they stayed without their mother's oversight for a period of one week.

SIGN-OFF TUNE – "Baby Mammoth"

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