

# Sunflowers Chernobyl Appeal Children's Charity

A voluntary charity helping Chernobyl children



Aughrim  
Ballinasloe  
Co. Galway  
[www.chernobylchildren.ie](http://www.chernobylchildren.ie)  
[info@chernobylchildren.ie](mailto:info@chernobylchildren.ie)

Annual Report to end of August 2017.

Directors appointed.

Pat Dillon, Aughrim Ballinasloe, Co Galway-----Chairperson  
Ita Byrnes Loughrea, Co Galway, -----Treasurer,  
Brendan Fallon, Aughrim, Ballinasloe Co Galway, ----- Child Protection And Good  
Governance.

The Sunflowers Chernobyl Appeal volunteers continue to work in the orphanage on behalf of special needs children who are victims of abandonment, neglect or abuse, improving living conditions, providing essential humanitarian aid such as therapeutic facilities, educational equipment / supplies, new cots, mattresses, clothing, footwear, toys and financial assistance to the institution children and children and families in the radiation contaminated areas who are living in bad circumstances. We were able to achieve most of our planned goals this year which included the provision of a new roof for the third house for independent living which we built outside the confines of the orphanage in the local village. The house was ready for the harsh winter weather and the residents who are now living there are doing well, they are now independent after spending most of their lives in the orphanage. They were the first people to start their training programme in life skills in the first two houses we provided to accommodate them on leaving the orphanage. They are now fully self-sufficient and have acquired employment in the area. Two of the residents applied to the courts for their freedom after passing assessments and exams to prove that they were

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Company Limited by Guarantee

capable of independence, which is a requirement in Belarusian law. As they move out of the houses they make room for other young adults who anxiously wait to leave the orphanage to take their place and begin their journey to full independent living. Thankfully our efforts in continuing to help maintain the houses makes this a very worthwhile project which will continue to change the lives of many children and help to stem the flow of young adults going to the nightmare scenario of spending their lives in adult mental institutions where they are sent from the orphanages on reaching adulthood. Unfortunately there are children who will never leave the institution because of their chronic physical and mental disabilities and we continue to provide them with aid as required. This year we were able to provide new custom made cots with wheels that are able to be wheeled through the doorways allowing the children to be easily moved around the orphanage for any purpose or to be taken outdoors for fresh air. This will be especially beneficial for the children who have never been outside their dull rooms since birth to up to 25 years of age. We have also supplied arts and crafts equipment for the very successful craft work room which we have supported for many years and have started the supply of classroom equipment and educational toys, learning aids. We are working towards arranging activities along with the 3 sensory rooms we installed and continue to add equipment that can add further therapy and stimulation for the children who are cot bound. We delivered humanitarian aid such as clothing. Footwear, medicines, nightwear, therapy and sensory equipment, tablets with educational programmes and games, cots, mattresses, educational and therapy toys. We hope to continue to carry on these projects and other in the next year, We also took a group of 12 children and a doctor, nurse and an interpreter to Ireland last Summer, The children stayed with voluntary host families to whom we are very grateful. We also thank all those who organised events and outings for the children. We thank our donors and volunteers without whom these projects would not be possible.

### **Good Governance Code**

The charity has adopted and complies with the principles of good governance in accordance with the Good Governance Code and has completed the Governance statement.

We can confirm that our organisation complies with the code for the community, voluntary and charitable section in Ireland.

Once again on behalf of the Chernobyl children thank you for your kind support and generosity.