

# Russian Orthodox Church and social service



# Founders of the Diaconia Foundation

- Saint-Petersburg Diocese of Russian Orthodox Church, Moscow patriarchate,
- St. Petersburg Theological Academy , Russian Orthodox Church, Moscow Patriarchate
- Roman Catholic Parish of Saint Catherine of Alexandria in St. Petersburg
- Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Ingria on the territory of Russia
- Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Russia and CIS
- Church of Evangelical Christians in the Spirit of the Apostles

# Directions of activity

- Rehabilitation of people suffering from chemical dependency and work with co-dependents
- Work with HIV-infected patients, AIDS victims and their relatives
- Work with young people aimed at deviant behavior prevention
- Support and development of local diaconal initiatives and exchange of experience in the following fields:
  - Care to elderly
  - Service in hospitals and hospices
  - Work in prisons and rehabilitation of former prisoners
  - Work with children in difficult life situation

# Partners



## **International partners :**

- World Council of Churches (WCC)
- Finn Church Aid ( FCA)
- Church of Sweden (CoS)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- The Vishnevskaya-Rostropovich Foundation
- American International Health Alliance (AIHA)
- The “Population Services International” Foundation (PSI)
- Eastminster Presbyterian Church
- Finchley Parish Church (London)
- Religion and society in the East and West (Switzerland, WCC)

## **Partners in Russia:**

- Religious and non-profit organizations working in the social sphere
- “Master-mir” Limited liability company

# Current problems in Russia

According to the estimates of the Federal Department of Drug Control Policy, there are about 2,5 millions of drug-addicts in Russian Federation. The absolute majority of them (about 90%) are heroin addicts. Since 1990s drug addiction has become an epidemic and is a threat to national security of Russia. Russia is losing 30 000-40 000 young people per year because of heroin.



# Statistics on HIV infection

- 40 000 persons with HIV-infection were registered in St. Petersburg in the end of 2009 .
- Against the background of stabilization of increase of new cases of HIV infection since 2007 (the annual increase is 3 300 -3 400 cases a year), there is an increase of percentage of sexually transmitted cases. The maturing of people involved in the epidemic is registered in 2009 .



# Statistics on HIV infection

- There are people who are more than 30 years old and even 50 years old among the new cases registered in 2009.
- The percent of drug-addicts among the HIV-infected has reduced and is equal to 86 %.
- The percent of sexually transmitted cases among women registered in 2009 is equal to 66%.
- The vertical route of transmission has reduced and is equal to 5%.



# General scheme of rehabilitation

## Initial contact

street

Hot line

On-site consultations  
(programme unit)

(off-site)  
Consultations  
by phone

Detoxification

## Basic period From 6 to 18 months

Hospital based rehabilitation

Indoor  
rehabilitation  
centre «Poshitny»  
in the name of St.  
Seraphim of Vyrica

Svyatogorskiy  
Svyato-Uspenskiy  
monastery

St. Georgiy  
Parish

## Resocialization (1-3 years)

Social hotel  
Outpatient  
groups  
Hospital-based  
process since  
autumn 2010.

Adaptation  
apartment

## Support (accompaniment)

Family

Church  
community

Groups of  
"graduates" and  
groups of mutual  
support

Relapse

A network of cooperating organizations and structures of "Diaconia"  
Foundation

Consultations for co-dependents at Alexandro-Nevsckaya Lavra in "Voskresenie" ("Resurrection") consulting centre

Rehabilitation centre «Poshitny» in the name of St. Seraphim of Vyrica

- St. Georgiy Parish of Ivanovo-Voznesenskiy Diocese

- social hotel in the programme unit of Frunzenskiy District Complex Centre of Social Service Adaptation apartment of the "Diaconia"

- group of spiritual support at Alexandro-Nevsckaya Lavra  
- the "Kind miller" group



# Indoor rehabilitation centre «Poshitny» in the name of St. Seraphim of Vyrica



# Outpatient treatment stage

## Consulting and prevention centre :

- On-site (individual and in groups) and off-site (on the phone) consultations concerning non-medical rehabilitation of drug-addicts and prevention and treatment of HIV infection;
- Motivational consultations aimed at drug withdrawal;
- Psychological and social accompaniment of HIV infected patients and drug-addicts;
- Work with relatives aimed at overcoming of co-dependency and informational, psychological and spiritual support.



The centre is aimed at rehabilitation of male drug-addicts (including HIV-infected) of the age of 18 plus. The patients remain in the centre for 6 months. There are three main directions of work:

- psychotherapeutic, psychological, educational and other special activities aimed at help in the process of recovering from behavior dependencies,
- Spiritual education on the basis of the Orthodox Church,
- Occupational therapy





# Psychological component

Special psychotherapeutic work including elements from the “12 steps” programme is carried out by professional experts. A great attention is paid to creation of special psychological climate - psychotherapeutic community, which is one of the strongest factors of recovery. The process of formation of responsibility and discipline is being observed by the centre staff.



# Spiritual component of rehabilitation

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon:  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope  
where there is darkness, light  
where there is sadness, joy  
O divine Master,  
grant that I may not so much seek to be  
consoled as to console;  
to be understood, as to understand;  
to be loved, as to love;  
for it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to  
Eternal Life.  
(Ancient Christian prayer )





# Occupational therapy

«Labour is a knitting loom, which is knitting a human soul. Accuracy, carefulness, creativeness, honesty, patience are interlaced in the soul during the work. Work is a way of life... Work is God's blessing for those who know it; work is damnation for those who doesn't know and realize it».



# Resocialization of drug-addicts

- Complex (psychological , spiritual , social , occupational, family, household) adaptation of people with chemical dependencies.



# In “crisis apartments”



# Here is a list of regulations for inhabitants of the Adaptation apartment:

- To lead sober way of life without any chemical substances. To pass blood alcohol and drug tests upon request of the staff.
- To participate in events and actions of the rehabilitation program.
- To observe the daily schedule, to come back to the apartment before 11 p. m.
- To behave respectfully regarding other people living and working in the adaptation apartment.
- Observing personal hygiene and housecleaning according to the duty list.
- Smoking is prohibited in the adaptation apartment.
- Visits of girls are prohibited in the adaptation apartment.





# Christian Interchurch Diaconia Assistance Charitable Foundation

- Registered address: 192171  
Polyarnikov str. 17 -32 St.  
Petersburg Russia
- Address for visits: 191167  
Obvodniy Channel  
Embankment ,13Б St.  
Petersburg Russia.
- Tel./fax: +7 812 717 14 91
- E-mail: [dir@cidc-spb.ru](mailto:dir@cidc-spb.ru),  
[alena-ryd1@yandex.ru](mailto:alena-ryd1@yandex.ru)
- Web-site: [www.cidc-spb.ru](http://www.cidc-spb.ru)

