

# INTO the HEARTLAND CAMPAIGN

SITE: SAMARA  
REGION: VOLGA FEDERAL DISTRICT  
SITE LAUNCHED: 2003

OCTOBER 1-12, 2008  
SURGICAL-EDUCATIONAL  
MISSION VI



## PATIENT PROFILE

Child	Dasha D.
Age	5 years old
DOB	August 7, 2003
Birth Wt.	6 lbs 3 oz
Current Wt.	41 lbs 13 oz
Home	Samara
Mother	Irina, 39 years old
Father	Sergei, 40 years old
Diagnosis	S/p Tetralogy of Fallot (2005, Samara) Subpulmonary stenosis
Open-heart surgery	Resection of recurrent subpulmonary stenosis October 8, 2008
Discharged	October 14, 2008

## THE HOUSEHOLD AND THE FAMILY

Dasha's parents, Irina and Sergei, own an apartment in Samara. Sergei works in transportation, and Irina stays at home with Dasha. Sergei's son from his first marriage also lives with them. Sergei is an involved father, and Irina comments that Sergei has learned to cook because she and Dasha are often in the hospital.

Irina and Sergei also share with their extended family a dacha in the countryside, with a garden and a sauna. They spend as much time at the dacha as they can, and Dasha will recuperate there.

## CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT AND MEDICAL HISTORY

A prenatal echo showed the possibility that Irina's baby would have a heart defect. However, Irina opted not to have an amniocentesis because of the inherent risk. She gave birth at the Samara Regional Cardiac Center's maternity ward, where Dasha's serious but not urgent heart condition was immediately fully diagnosed.

Heart to Heart doctors examined Dasha when she was 2 months old. She was developing normally, and the doctors recommended surgery at a later date.

In 2005, when Dasha was two, the joint Heart to Heart-Samara team performed her first open-heart surgery.

## CURRENT CONDITION

At a routine examination in 2008, cardiologists discovered that a band of muscle had grown near the lower end of Dasha's heart and recommended a follow-up operation. The family was disappointed to learn this, but they were reassured by the Samara doctors' explanation. Irina was not comfortable talking about it to Dasha, who actually asked "Will I have an operation?" When Dasha realized that she would indeed be having another operation, her face showed seriousness and understanding uncommon for her age. {Dasha's 2008 open-heart surgery presented a valuable teaching moment. As it happened, the joint Heart to Heart-Samara team was being filmed for "The Heart to Heart Story," a short documentary produced by Outlier Films. You can see footage of the extraordinary teamwork in the operating room on our Web site: <http://www.outlierfilms.com/?p=57>.}

The day after Dasha's operation, Sergei makes chicken soup from scratch for her and brings it to the hospital. Irina laughingly says that she hopes not to see us again. "Nothing personal," she smiles. When we thank her for agreeing to our interview – as well as to multiple press interviews throughout the mission – she says that she has been happy to do it, that it has been "just a drop in the ocean compared to what Heart to Heart has done for my child."

*Based on an interview conducted in Samara, in Russian, by Heart to Heart volunteer Natasha Lusin, PhD.*