

INTO the HEARTLAND CAMPAIGN

**SITE: ROSTOV-ON-DON
DISTRICT: SOUTHERN
COLLABORATION LAUNCHED: 2009**

**SEPT 29-OCT 16, 2010
SURGICAL-EDUCATIONAL
MISSION 2**



PATIENT PROFILE

Child	Valeria V.
Age	1 year 6 months old
DOB	March 16, 2009
Weight	At birth: 7 lbs 12 oz Current: 24 lbs
Home	Divny Rostov Oblast 10 mi from Rostov-on-Don
Parents	Anastasia, 25; Boris, 24
Diagnosis	Pulmonary atresia, ASD S/p Right modified BT shunt (2009, St. Petersburg)
Open heart surgery	Takedown of right modified BT shunt, pulmonary val- votomy, bidirectional Glenn October 9, 2010
Discharged from PCICU	October 12, 2010

THE HOUSEHOLD AND THE FAMILY

Valeria is her parents' first child. Her mother, Anastasia, is 25 years old, and stays at home to take care of her. Her father, Boris, is 24 years old; he supports the family by working at a window-making factory. The young family lives on their own in an apartment in the small town of Divny near the Rostov-on-Don Cardiac Center. When she can, Valeria's maternal grandmother helps her daughter with the baby.

CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT AND MEDICAL HISTORY

When Valeria was born, she was blue. Upon examination, the obstetrician detected a murmur and telephoned Dr. Larisa Zhivova, the lead pediatric cardiologist at the Rostov-on-Don Cardiac Center. The next day, Dr. Zhivova went to the maternity ward with a portable echo machine and, after conducting an echocardiogram, Dr. Zhivova diagnosed Valeria's serious congenital heart defect.

Dr. Zhivova explained that Valeria would need a two-staged repair. Because the team at the Rostov-on-Don Cardiac Center was not yet advanced enough to perform the procedures, Dr. Zhivova referred Valeria's family to Children's Hospital No. 1 in St. Petersburg – Heart to Heart's flagship program. The chief pediatric cardiac surgeon there, Dr. Vadim Lubomudrov, agreed to perform the first procedure in St. Petersburg. He successfully placed a shunt in Valeria's heart.

A doctor from the Rostov-on-Don Cardiac Center accompanied Valeria and her parents to St. Petersburg, to observe the entire operation and post-operative care. By improving the flow of blood from the body to the lungs, the shunt allowed Valeria to thrive, meaning she could develop fairly normally, and grow big and strong enough for the second repair within a year or so. Post-operatively, Valeria spent eight days in the PCICU and then 10 days on the pediatric ward. Valeria's parents paid for the family's travel expenses: Valeria's surgery was sponsored by a Russian charity organization with which Dr. Zhivova has developed a close relationship.

CURRENT CONDITION

Valeria is now a year and a half old. Anastasia comments that before Valeria's first surgery, the baby was often tired and irritable. Valeria has grown since her last surgery, and looks healthy at 24 lbs. Anastasia is sure that Valeria's condition has improved steadily over time. However, she continues to cry a lot and still does not sleep well.

The joint Heart to Heart-Rostov team performed Valeria's open heart surgery, and the positive results were immediately visible. Now, even when Valeria cries, she does not turn blue anymore!

Based on an interview conducted in Rostov-on-Don, in Russian, by Josie Everett, Heart to Heart executive director.