

# INTO the HEARTLAND CAMPAIGN

**SITE: KALININGRAD  
DISTRICT: NORTHWESTERN  
COLLABORATION LAUNCHED: 2013**

**OCTOBER 20 – 31, 2015  
SURGICAL-EDUCATIONAL  
MISSION 3**



## THE HOUSEHOLD AND THE FAMILY

Katya is a bright and creative 12-year-old girl. She is learning English from her grandmother who is an English teacher, and is able to answer many of our questions without the help of an interpreter. Katya is an only child. She lives in the Moscow region with her mother and father. Her mother is staying home with Katya for now to help care for her after her heart surgery. Although her mother is trained as an accountant, she designs furniture for additional income. Katya's father runs his own small computer repair business. Katya loves listening to music. Her favorite foods include pork and cheese. Her favorite subjects in school are algebra and biology. Katya adores her dog, Lucia, who she received as a Christmas present.

## CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT AND MEDICAL HISTORY

Katya's mother discovered her daughter had a heart defect when she was just three days old after Katya's pediatrician found a murmur. Over the next 12 years, Katya had over a dozen procedures performed for her heart defect including numerous stents and three open heart surgeries. Recently, Katya was referred for care to the Kaliningrad Federal Center for Advanced Medical Technologies, Heart to Heart's partner site since 2013. She and her mother traveled over 600 miles by plane to be treated by Dr. Belov and his team. Despite the challenges Katya has faced, her mother describes her as relaxed and happy.

## CURRENT CONDITION

The joint Heart to Heart-Kaliningrad team performed open heart surgery on Katya, placing a right ventricle-to-pulmonary artery conduit. The team also dilated a previously placed stent using a balloon catheter. Katya woke up in the PCICU soon after her surgery and stayed awake throughout the night. Having confirmed that she was recovering well, the doctors transferred her from the intensive care unit to the recovery ward the next day. Within a few days Katya was able to start walking around the hospital, though she still had some pain around the surgical incision. When asked if she was nervous before the surgery, Katya replied "not really." Her mother explained, "She's a very strong person."

Katya will need future interventions within several years to replace her valved conduit as it naturally wears out. Katya, like many children born with heart defects, will need to have annual follow-up exams performed by her cardiologist. In the meantime, she can return to school, keep learning English, and enjoy spending time with her family and friends.

## PATIENT PROFILE

Child	Katya K.
Age	12 years old
DOB	January 7, 2003
Weight	Current: 79 lbs
Home	Moscow region
Diagnosis	DORV, pulmonary stenosis, severe RVOT obstruction; s/p: multiple interventions
Open heart surgery	Right ventricle-to-pulmonary artery conduit, balloon dilation of PA stent October 26, 2015
Discharged from PCICU	October 27, 2015
Discharged from hospital	November 7, 2015

*Based on an interview conducted by Jenn Merket,  
Heart to Heart staff, with the aid of an interpreter.*