

# INTO the HEARTLAND CAMPAIGN

**SITE: CHELYABINSK**  
**DISTRICT: URALS**  
**COLLABORATION LAUNCHED: 2015**

**JULY 20 – 30, 2016**  
**SURGICAL-EDUCATIONAL**  
**MISSION 2**



## THE HOUSEHOLD AND THE FAMILY

Vitaliy is a very calm baby. He sits quietly in his mother's arms looking up at the group of cardiologists examining him. Vitaliy's mother, Lyuba, is in her early thirties. She and her husband wanted a child for many years: Vitaliy is their first. The family lives in a village on the outskirts of Orenburg – a city more than 400 miles away from the Chelyabinsk Federal Cardiac Center (CFCC). Lyuba is now on an extended family leave due to her son's condition. At Lyuba's local hospital during post-natal checkups, the doctors refer to her son Vitaliy as their "mystery patient" because of his rare and complex form of congenital heart disease (CHD), which was very difficult to diagnose. Lyuba is learning a lot about her son's condition from Internet forums where Russian parents of children with CHD and pediatric cardiac specialists discuss where patients can get the best treatment for particular congenital defects.

## CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT AND MEDICAL HISTORY

Lyuba took care to attend all prenatal appointments; nothing out of the ordinary was detected in utero. Vitaliy was born at 37 weeks, underweight – less than 5 lbs at birth – and very blue. Vitaliy's mother describes his fingers as being almost purple in color. She immediately became suspicious that something was wrong. Despite his symptom (blue in color) and Lyuba's concerns, doctors at the maternity ward did not screen for a heart problem. After four days, Vitaliy and mother were discharged.

Their local pediatrician – likely unfamiliar with CHD – assured the family that any problems the baby had would go away once he grew. At one month, Lyuba took Vitaliy to a routine appointment at a larger hospital, in Orenburg, where doctors immediately admitted Vitaliy to the ICU. He was diagnosed with a severe heart defect, and promptly transferred to the CFCC. There, surgeons placed a pulmonary artery band – a first stage palliative operation to reduce symptoms and give Vitaliy time to grow. After a long stay, Vitaliy and his mother were discharged and told to return in several months for his second staged surgical repair. When the Heart to Heart team arrived to Chelyabinsk, specialists met to determine if Vitaliy was ready for his second surgery.

## CURRENT CONDITION

Vitaliy was operated on by the joint Heart to Heart–Chelyabinsk team on July 26 – undergoing a bilateral bidirectional Glenn. No cardiopulmonary bypass was used during the operation, allowing for a shorter recovery time in the PCICU. Baby Vitaliy spent less than 24 hours in the PCICU before being released to his mother on the ward. When we visited her in their room, Vitaliy was sleeping calmly.

Vitaliy's third and final planned surgery – the Fontan operation – will take place before he begins elementary school.

*Based on an interview conducted in Russian by Albina Popova, Heart to Heart staff.*

## PATIENT PROFILE

Child	Vitaliy N.
Age	6 months old
DOB	January 12, 2016
Weight	Birth: 4 lbs 15 oz Current: 12 lbs 5 oz
Home	Orenburg region
Diagnosis	DORV; TGA; upstairs-downstairs criss-cross straddling AV valve; s/p: PA band (2016, Chelyabinsk)
Open heart surgery	Bilateral bidirectional Glenn; tightening of the PA band July 26, 2016
Discharged from PCICU	July 27, 2016
Discharged from hospital	August 5, 2016