

## Hospital Administrators Exchange Views

“Our minds were opened to new possibilities...”

—Sergiu Ungureanu

World Services was delighted to host a Community Connections “Hospital Administration” delegation of ten professionals from throughout the Republic of Moldova May 12—June 2.



*Delegates toured Wisconsin’s capitol with Dick Sweet from the Wisconsin Legislative Council and met with Anthony Palese, aide to Rep. Schilling. They were joined by UW Madison graduate and Moldova native Larisa Midoni. Pictured L-R Front: Cebotaru, Gordienco, Hincu, Buzuc; Middle: Cotovan, Godoroja, Ungureanu, Palese; Back: Lutjen, Monafu, Florea, Sacun, Midoni, Rosu*

Community Connections, managed by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and administered by World Learning, is designed to promote public diplomacy through the exchange of cultural ideas. It seeks to establish and strengthen links between U.S. communities and those in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan Republic, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

The professional program was evaluated by delegates to be interesting and useful. World Services extends thanks to professionals from Gundersen Lutheran; Franciscan Skemp-Mayo; Scenic Bluffs Community Health Center; Veterans Memorial Hospital, Waukon; Mayo Health System—Rochester; Health Traditions; University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute; Wisconsin Hospital Association; the La Crosse County Medical Society; Wisconsin Legislative Council; Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality; and the University of Minnesota-Rochester.

Twelve families invited the Moldova delegates to share their daily life and experience American life first hand, creating lifelong memories and dispelling myths about America. Local hosts engaged guests in volunteer activities such as a youth fishing derby on the Mississippi and also experience cultural events such as an art show at the Pumphouse.

**Thank  
You !**



*La Crosse’s Premiere Extended Stay Hotel  
Ph: 608-785-1110*

World Services is grateful for the generosity of Candlewood Suites in supporting this Community Connections exchange, providing the professional interpreters with an extended stay room during the three week program. After a rigorous day of Romanian and Russian interpretation, the interpreters appreciated the opportunity to relax in La Crosse’s newest hotel!

## Plan Ahead for Open World Hosting 2011



World Services invites U.S. sister city programs to serve as host coordinators for the 2011 Open World Program. Sister city organizations find this a rewarding way to “refresh” and enhance their international partnerships. Currently, World Services is gathering interest and will contact interested groups in coming weeks as the grant proposal is developed. Please contact World Services at 608-781-4194 or [info@wslax.us](mailto:info@wslax.us) if you have questions regarding Open World hosting opportunities. *Thank you!*

## **“Our Lifestyles May Be Different But Our Values Are The Same...”**

**— John Koehn, Newton Daily News**

“...We all believe it’s important to be engaged in your community. We know life is far more enjoyable when you’re able to laugh”, continues the local news editor after meeting with Open World delegates from the Newton, Iowa Sister City of Smila, Ukraine.

Hosted by the Newton Sister City organization (Organization Promoting Everlasting Neighbors—OPEN), visiting educators were impressed by the flexibility of Newton’s education system and commitment to success for each student. The delegates commented “I like that students are very open and very willing to share their opinions.”

Newton and Smila youth chorus directors will explore potential collaboration between the Iowa Youth Chorus and the Centre of Children and Youth Creativity in Smila. Planning will continue this summer in Smila when



*Pictured L-R Olena Sukhotepla, facilitator; Newton Mayor Chaz Allen; and delegates Tamara Kozubenko, Inna Hayday, Valentyn Borodiy, Viktoriya Pidmohylna and Svitlana Lisova—Photo courtesy of Newton Daily News*

a delegation from Newton travels to Ukraine.

In addition to the professional program, Smila delegates joined Newton citizens in a special event commemorating the historic link-up of American and Ukrainian

troops of the Soviet Army on the Elbe River Bridge. The April 25, 1945 meeting of the two Allied armies in Germany was an important step to the end of WWII.

Тихоокеанский мост  
Pacific bridge



### **San Diego-Vladivostok Sister City Society**

An unexpected “window to the world” is now open to low income California elementary students as a result of a 2008 Open World exchange. The “Pacific Bridge” project launched by Open World alumni and their colleagues in San Diego opens the students’ world to view Vladivostok, Russia for students from the Barrio Logan neighborhood under San Diego’s Coronado Bridge. Even before the exchange San Diego

students were studying Russian language and history each Monday and Thursday after school with their special principal Fernando Hernandez. The Open World exchange made these lessons come to life for the students, and made Russia “real”. Open World delegates Larisa Karpacheva, Tatyana Kuleshova and Svetlana Aleksandrova were inspired to connect their students in Vladivostok with the elementary schools in San Diego. Vladivostok and San Diego youth all gain perspectives on life in a different culture, and this Sister City partnership is now working to further develop the “Pacific Bridge” project with internet capabilities .



**Connecting Communities.  
Building Peace.**

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For more information, contact World Services at 608-781-4194 or visit us on the web at **www.wslax.us**

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