

Madlen



Call for urgent aid - Help Chechen families

In 2001, Madlen Agajeva was found in a cellar of a bombed block of flats in Grozny. She had spent several days in the damp cellar - a starving and seriously ill child, suspended between life and death. Madlen, seriously disabled, has been suffering from the consequences ever since. She lives in foster care, but the family lacks the financial means to pay for her treatment. If her health is to improve, the girl needs to undergo physiotherapy in a specialised rehabilitation centre near Moscow.



Madlen is probably Chechen, but her birth mother remains a mystery. When three days old, she was discovered by Larisa Agajeva, a Russian living with her disabled grandfather among piles of bricks in somebody else's ruined house with a garden growing wild. "In a short time, I nursed Madlen into shape, but I haven't been able to cure her completely," Larisa wrote in a letter to the Berkat Association in 2003. "Regardless of our material situation, I'm trying to do my best as a mother, so that Madlen can stand on her own two feet and start walking. Once more I'm begging you to help me cure my child."

The family was supported by Ms Gabriela Stankova from the town of Liberec between 2003-2005, and later by Ms Julie Formanova from Prague. The 1,500 CZK (800 USD) monthly-contribution meant that Madlen could be treated in the rehabilitation centre, which, according to Larisa, helped her to start walking and say her first words.

By 2007, Madlen's health was reported to have improved, though not significantly. The doctors in Grozny say further development is possible, but to make significant progress, both physically and mentally, she needs further physiotherapy in the home in which she was treated before.

The cost of Madlen's treatment and stay in the home amounts to roughly 65,000-70,000 roubles (2,600-2,800 USD).

We have been saving for her treatment since the beginning of this year. For more information about Madlen, her account balance and diagnosis please contact **Ms Jana Hradilkova**, who has twice visited Madlen's foster family in Grozny, on **+420 608 829 535** or by e-mail: **kristanka@volny.cz**.

Please send your contributions to: account no. **911676001/2400**, E-banka, const. symbol 558, var. symbol 11113, SWIFT: EBNK CZ PP

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