



SUCCESS STORY

Community Connections

New NGO Supports Young Athletes in Khabarovsk



Yevteeva's initiative helped the Hockey Team Amur take part in prestigious tournament

Training:

Rights of the Disabled

CCF Group From:

Khabarovskiy Krai

Dates:

January 18 – February 8, 2007

US Host Organization:

International Visitors Council of Los Angeles

Host Community:

Los Angeles, CA

Success

Natalya Yevteyeva has earned the support of young athletes and parents in her home community of Khabarovsk, where she established Amur + to promote youth sports. Inspired by her youngest son and hockey enthusiast, Alexander, and with skills acquired from a 2007 Community Connections program on Rights of the Disabled, Yevteyeva is now busy organizing youth hockey programs and competitions.

Overview

Though founded only one year ago, Amur + has already provided opportunities for youth to compete for the Igor Larionov Cup in the International Children's Hockey Tournament in Moscow. Following the group's success in Moscow, Igor Larionov invited the Khabarovsk team to Yevteyeva's CC host city of Los Angeles, California, to take part in the Larionov International Children's Hockey Tournament held May 22-27, 2008. The Khabarovsk team competed admirably, taking home a bronze medal.

Yevteyeva's road to success was not an easy one, as official sports authorities in Khabarovsk demonstrated little support for Amur +, compelling Yevteyeva to more creatively advocate for the organization. Employing tools acquired during her CC exchange and from meetings with the Exceptional Children's Foundation, Yevteyeva promoted Amur + and received funding from private donors and the local business community who eagerly embraced her mission.

Natalya Yevteyeva looks forward to continuing her work with Amur + and fostering ties to similar organizations in the U.S. and across Russia. This work, she believes, will provide young people with important life skills and self-confidence for the future.