



Rotary against tuberculosis (November 5, 2009)

Tuberculosis does not know any borders – neither social, nor geographic. This is not only the disease of poor and marginal, infection of imprisoned. You can easily catch it just from sneezing in a bus or shop.

The popular newspaper «The Washington Post» recently published an article about disastrous situation of tuberculosis spread in Russia, and in particular in Amur region.

It is well-known without journalists what serious troubles tuberculosis makes in our country. As officials say, in Amur region tuberculosis sickness rate increases on 11 % in 2008. There are 157, 2 cases of tuberculosis per one hundred thousand of people. More than three hundred persons died. The index of death -35,1 cases per one hundred thousand of people - two times more than in Russia in general. And ten times more than in USA - American tuberculosis sickness rate is 8 cases per one hundred thousand of people with index of death – 0,2 %.

The members of Blagoveschensk Rotary club try to solve social problems. They help hospitals, orphan-asylums, social offices. Taking into consideration the fact, that the children tuberculosis statistics is shocking: more than 20 cases per one hundred (and among teenagers – 67 cases!), the members of Blagoveschensk Rotary decided to struggle with this terrible disease. «Rotary International» was the first organization of social serving. Today its members – successful businessmen and specialists gratuitously spend their time and money solving social problems all over the world.

The head of Blagoveschensk Rotary club Alexander Nazaruk says that any person, irrespective of social status, has the risk of catching this infection. But, unfortunately, the comprehension of this problem comes to people when they face it personally. Nazaruk knows a lot about tuberculosis, his relatives suffered from it. Only application to medical service on time and early diagnostics of disease allowed to cure it. «Trust in the necessity of struggle with this infection inspires our enthusiasm», says Nazaruk.

Blagoveschensk Rotary club commenced to resist tuberculosis spread in Amur region in August, when its members applied for simplified grant to RI District 5010 and bought the state-of-the-art tuberculosis diagnostic equipment for local hospital. The doctors of the hospital had told a lot about the necessity of acquiring these facilities long ago but only Rotarians interference gave the chance to solve the problem.

Now this medical equipment, which is single in Amur oblast, is extremely essential for the patients of tuberculosis clinic. Local doctors say they need more such equipments. By the way the price of one item is 250 thousand rubles (8.5 thousand US Dollars). Rotary Club

Blagoveschensk with support of local media claimed a project to raise money to purchase 5 more pieces of the equipment. District governor Bill Hopper, who visited the hospital in early November, expressed a support to the project. Bill said that the project can become successful PR project for Rotary in Russia.

