



Interested in hosting a child from Chernobyl this summer?

Most of us recall the Chernobyl nuclear disaster of 1986, but may not realize how severely the people of the surrounding areas are still feeling the long-term environmental, health, and economic impacts of the accident. For the past nine years, the St. Francis Children of Chernobyl Ministry has been one of many organizations around the world reaching out to the people of Belarus by providing a summer respite program for children from the Chernobyl region.

Through the generosity of our parish and the larger community, children ages 7-15 spend six weeks (late-June to early August) with host families from St. Francis. While here, they receive free medical and dental care and enjoy healthy food and clean water. They travel with us to beaches, mountains and family reunions; learn to swim and bike; attend camps and Vacation Bible Schools; watch fireworks and movies, fish and catch fireflies; play Monopoly and video games; and participate in all the experiences of our summer. Their bodies grow stronger, and their spirits and minds are nourished and expanded by their exposure to our faith and culture. Most importantly, the children become treasured members of our families and our SFA community, and we develop lasting and supportive relationships with the children and their families in Belarus.

Planning is now underway for next summer's program. If you are interested in hosting a child next summer, or would just like to learn more about this ministry and how you can be involved, please join us for an information session on either January 24th OR January 30th at 7:00 in Anthony Hall, Room 405. Please RSVP attendance choice to Kate Hardy at 326-4119.