

## The forgotten orphans of Russia

In Russia, handicapped children are often simply contained, and do not receive any mental or physical interaction to assist their development. They live in care homes under deplorable conditions, with no access to education or stimuli.

Sonja Dinner supports the most severely disabled orphans in St. Petersburg in one of four state homes, in collaboration with the partner-organization "Perspektivy". Children in this home receive specialised therapies, assistance in learning to speak, and are kept in clean, pleasant rooms with support from volunteers from the West - most of them from Germany - who work in collaboration with doctors and nurses from the state.

There is no tradition of philanthropy in Russia, not even in the Orthodox Church. Sonja Dinner hopes to change this by encouraging wealthy individuals at the yearly donor-gala to contribute money to "Perspektivy" - for the good of the children.