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## Local women to help children in need of care

Photo 1 of 2 | Zoom Photo +



TO APPEAR AT GALA: Miss Southcoast 2008 Molly Whalen, left, and Miss Bristol County 2008 Aly Levy, with Channel 5 Meteorologist, Mike Wankum at the CCP Goodwill Gala in May of 2008. At right, Valerie Amaral, Miss Massachusetts 2007, will be singing at the Chernobyl Children Project USA Goodwill Gala on March 20 at the Sheraton Braintree.

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BRAINTREE — Valerie J. Amaral, Miss Massachusetts 2007 and Molly Whalen of Middleboro will be participating in the Chernobyl Children Project USA Goodwill Gala on Friday, March 20 at the Sheraton Braintree at 7 p.m. The proceeds from the gala will help defray the cost of bringing over 100 children from the contaminated Chernobyl region to Massachusetts this summer for free medical care and American hospitality.

The Chernobyl Children Project USA is the largest organization in the U.S. that provides medical treatment and respite care for children from the Chernobyl-affected areas of Belarus, Russia and Ukraine. Based in Boston, Chernobyl Children Project USA arranges medical care in the U.S. for children suffering from a wide variety of ailments and places them with volunteer host families during their stay. The project has provided care for more than 1,500 children. Chernobyl Children Project USA has also provided equipment, supplies and training to medical institutions and personnel in the region totaling over \$6 million. Boston-area doctors and hospitals have performed surgeries totaling more than \$4 million. Each year, more than \$450,000 in diagnostic medical services are donated from 15 area hospitals. U.S. doctors also travel to the area to train their counterparts in the use of donated medical equipment, such as ultrasounds for diagnosing thyroid problems.

Since 2006, CCP children have spent summers with host families in Middleboro, Lakeville, Taunton, and Carver.

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