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Local man to take the gift of good health to Russian city

Hoopeston area residents are being asked to help provide the gift of health to some underprivileged people.

Ryan Standifer, a Hoopeston emergency medical technician, will leave May 10 for a two-week stay in Vladimir, Russia and he hopes to take medical supplies with him.

Things such as vitamins, bandages, peroxide, latex exam gloves and cotton swabs are desperately needed in the area., which is east of Moscow. "From what I've heard, they are so underprivileged," Standifer said. "If you're shopping and buy a bottle of vitamins, buy an extra one. They'll get good use out of it."

Standifer will be allowed to take two bags on the trip. One will contain his personal belongings while the other will contain medical supplies. Supplies collected above what will fit in the bag will be shipped to Vladimir, he said.

Items may be dropped off at Hoopeston city hall, 301 E. Main or donors may call Standifer at home at (217) 283-5435. Monetary donations will also be accepted.

The "work and witness" trip will allow Standifer, who will be part of group, to not only help provide medical supplies, but also to assist residents there in cleaning and fixing up medical and other facilities. The group will

work in hospitals, children's hospitals and orphanages while in Vladimir, he said.

Group members will also talk with residents about Jesus and provide bibles to them. "I talked to the Gideons and they're donating Russian bibles," he said.

Standifer learned of the trip through Paul Faye, a relative of Kenny and Wanda Kuhles, owners of Skater's Paradise in Hoopeston. Faye has taken part in earlier programs in Russia, which are sponsored by the Eastview Christian Church in Bloomington.

Through Faye, Standifer learned of the deplorable conditions in Vladimir. For example, a last-minute cache of pencils taken by a previous volunteer was very much appreciated in Russia. "You'd be surprised," Standifer said. "They don't have anything. Like for me to wear a fresh chance of clothes every day is unheard of."

After hearing about the project, Standifer decided to volunteer. "It's one of those things, I felt the Lord dropped the opportunity in my lap," he said.

To participate, Standifer had to raise \$1,500 to cover his living expenses. Members of the Westside Church of the Nazarene, where he is a member, donated the money in less than a month.

See RUSSIA on other side



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Police News



A 43-year-old Hoopeston woman reported Tuesday that her pager was lost or stolen between Jan. 25 and Feb. 8. The pager number has been deactivated.

Two vehicles were damaged Feb. 6. Police said a man reported Wednesday that the trunk lid of his Buick sedan and tailgate of his Chevrolet pickup were scratched while they were parked in the 600 block of West Maple.

Several items were reported taken Wednesday from a vehicle in the 300 block of East Main.

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Briefly

Coaches, board members needed

Coaches and board members are needed for the Hoopeston Girls' Softball Association. Anyone interested may call (217) 283-7641. The next board meeting will be at 6 p.m. Feb. 13 at the Multi Agency.

Concert cancelled

The Hoopeston Area Middle/High School mid-winter concert scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 13 has been cancelled.

Russia continued from other side

While he has participated in other witnessing programs before, Standifer said those have been limited to places like Chicago.

And while he is looking forward to the trip, Standifer admits there will be challenges. "I don't know a lick of Russian," he said.

In the Hospital



Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
Feb. 8

Admitted: Louis Danner, Everett Lane, Hoopeston; Marvin Umbanhowar, Rankin.

Discharged: none.

Weather



Cloudy, chance of rain today. High 47. Tonight, cloudy. Low 37. Tomorrow, cloudy, chance of rain. High 43, low 36

For the current weather conditions, call the Hoopeston Weather Line at (217) 283-6221.

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