



NEVER FORGOTTEN

CHERNOBYL
CHILDREN
INTERNATIONAL



HERE, ADI ROCHE,

Founder and voluntary CEO of Irish charity Chernobyl Children International, reflects on the 30th Anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster and how The Ireland Funds have saved lives by helping Chernobyl's children in need.



L to R: Brian Gaynor-Long, Adi Roche, Bono, Olivia Gaynor-Long, Ali Hewson

Funding to support one year of the "Flying Doctors" mission was raised by The Ireland Fund of Monaco Gala in October, 2015. Adi Roche and CCI patron and board member Ali Hewson were presented with the 2015 Princess Grace Humanitarian Award in recognition of their incredible achievement in helping CCI raise over €100 million since the disaster.



ONE BY ONE AND HEARTBEAT BY HEARTBEAT

Adi with Baby Rositslav



THIS PAST YEAR

has been the most extraordinary year for Chernobyl Children International (CCI) and it all began with The Ireland Fund of Monaco honoring Ali Hewson and I with the Princess Grace Humanitarian Award in October 2015.

26 April 2016 marked the 30th Anniversary of the Chernobyl Nuclear disaster, the world's worst nuclear disaster. There may be an impression that Chernobyl is something which happened a very long time ago and no longer poses a threat to the world but the reality of the situation is very, very different. Chernobyl is not something from the past, Chernobyl is forever. The impact of that single shocking nuclear accident can never be undone; its radioactive footprint is embedded in our world forever and countless millions of people are still being affected by its deadly legacy. We here at CCI make it our mission not to abandon these future generations.

The 30th Anniversary year has been a deeply rewarding year for the organization, Ali and I were given honorary doctorates from the University of Limerick and we received the Alumni Award from the World of Children Organization in New York. Also, I have been awarded the Freedom of the City of my hometown of Cork. All of these awards are opportunities for us in CCI to highlight the children behind the work. These children are helpless and forgotten and many live isolated lives abandoned in children's institutions across the effected countries of Belarus, Ukraine and Western Russia.

In this 30th Anniversary year of the 1986 nuclear disaster, with the eyes of the world fixed firmly on the role of Ireland in the provision of humanitarian aid to the affected regions of Chernobyl, we are redoubling, recommitting and rededicating ourselves to some of Europe's most deprived and helpless children.

In April, I had the wonderful privilege of speaking in the General Assembly Chamber of the United

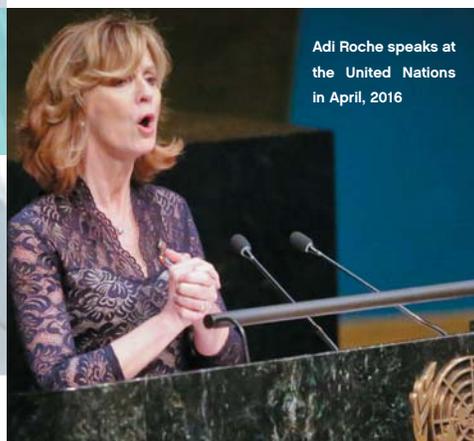
Nations to deliver an unprecedented and historic address to the UN on the Anniversary of the Chernobyl. It was the first time an ordinary person, a non-diplomatic, non-political person, addressed the house of the UN. I gave the evidence of my heart to tell all present of the tragedy and suffering I have seen in the Chernobyl regions and to ask that we all relight the beacon of hope, in the heart of hope, to the UN to send a light out to the victims of Chernobyl, proclaiming loudly that you are not alone, you are not peripheral, we are your brothers and sisters, and we share in your suffering. We can all make a difference, no gift is too small, no helping hand unwanted. Our charity's motto is 'one by one and heartbeat by heartbeat'—these children will survive and thrive; but we must all have the courage to envision and create a better world.

At the same time I spoke at the United Nations, an Ireland Funds cardiac 'flying doctors' mission to Kharkiv in Eastern Ukraine was finishing. Another 35 children's lives were saved, training and development of local surgeons had taken place and medical equipment had been received all thanks to your generous grant.

Behind the speeches and the awards are the children whose lives are saved because someone somewhere decided to listen, among the endless tragedies that plague the world someone hears the story of Chernobyl and thirty years later still cares. This year that organization is The Ireland Fund of Monaco. The grant that Chernobyl Children International has received from you has allowed us to put in place additional critical lifesaving missions to Ukraine to save the lives of children with congenital heart defects, who cannot live with their condition and will die without your intervention.

The greatest award that we in CCI have received is the hope of knowing that people still care about the isolated, the marginalized and forgotten children of Chernobyl.

THANK YOU IRELAND FUNDS FOR STILL CARING.



Adi Roche speaks at the United Nations in April, 2016



Yaroslava (9 months) and Matvej (8 months) two of the 35 children that benefitted from The Ireland Fund of Monaco-funded "Flying Doctors" mission to the Ukraine.