



Connecting Communities. Building Peace.



Connecting Communities -- Building Bridges



*Santa Clara/Moscow County Sister County Commission
and Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors welcome Moscow delegation*

World Services commends the Santa Clara/Moscow Sister County Commission for its commitment to international partnerships to advance peace and mutual understanding with the citizens of the Moscow region. Their "Building Bridges" initiative with Moscow social service leaders demonstrates the potential for Open World exchanges to enhance international partnerships.

[Moscow Independent Living Program for Youth modeled after Santa Clara County Program](#)

"The new [Building Bridges Project](#) had its genesis in 2009 when the Moscow Commission hosted both Ms. Klimkina, and Ms. Irina Ryazanova, Director of Big Change Charitable Foundation in Moscow. The ongoing relationship between the Moscow Commission and Ms. Klimkina and Ms. Ryazanova over the next two years led to a request for training to support Moscow's effort to transform its orphanage care system to a foster care system. The Moscow Commission, along with the local project partners, EMQ FamiliesFirst and Social Services Agency, is hosting Ms. Klimkina, and Big Change, as part of a 12-member social services delegation from Moscow, Nov. 5-9."

During the November exchange, Santa Clara County social service providers will benefit from cultural competency training by their Moscow colleagues in order to improve services to Russian children and families in Santa Clara County. The Moscow delegation includes social service leaders from throughout the region. These leaders will explore the tools to transform the Moscow orphanage care system into a foster care system.