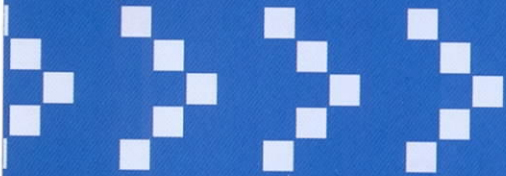


# The Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore



## SOUNDINGS

The happenings in and around the Port

### VOLUNTEERISM

#### Boy Scout's Playground Project Delivering Joy to Russian Orphans

It's not exactly a traditional "Sweet 16" party, but children at Hospital No. 20 in the Siberian town of Krasnoyarsk will happily join Alex Griffith for his birthday celebration this summer.

Teams of volunteers — including businesses with ties to the Port of Baltimore — have helped Alex realize his dream of providing playground equipment for the Russian orphanage where he stayed before being adopted by a Maryland family. He has planned the "dedication" of the playground for August 12 — the day he turns 16.

Working toward the goal of earning his Eagle Scout badge as a member of Boy Scouts of America Troop 809, Alex logged hundreds of hours sending e-mails, raising funds, coordinating volunteers and assembling the equipment (which then had to be disassembled for transportation).

"Several times I wanted to quit, but I didn't," Alex said. "I just visualized watching the children jump on it!"

In late April, a container holding the playground equipment was loaded by Rukert Terminals Corporation onto the *Valga*, an Atlantic Ro-Ro Carriers vessel. Two weeks later, the shipment arrived in St. Petersburg and then traveled by rail to Krasnoyarsk.

Dartrans, Inc. CEO David Rice offered his company's support as a freight forwarder and customs broker, managing all domestic and international shipping logistics and arranging transportation and shipment at no cost. "Packing and shipping cargo like a fully disassembled playground is a complicated job, both in terms of the logistics as well as the paperwork," Rice said. "Dartrans was



Alex Griffith, second from left, talks to the media in April while at Rukert Terminals Corporation.

happy to be able to take those worries from Alex and his team."

Dwight Griffith, Alex's father, said Rice's help was just what the project needed. "Alex could have planned this all he wants, but we needed somebody to move (the equipment)," Griffith said. "David spent almost five months helping us — God knows how many hours. ... He even personally came out to Jarrettsville in Harford County the day we loaded the container to help us pack it properly, and even physically helped with the loading. He went far and above the call of duty."

Hale Transportation provided trucking and drayage, Western Fumigation serviced the container and Terminal Shipping Co. acted as the shipping agent. Alex also thanked the Bel Air Rotary Club for its support.

Alex will be joined on his trip to Krasnoyarsk by his father, two fellow Scouts and Scoutmaster Dave Kraft. 🌐

BILL MCALLEN