NOT ALONE IN THE DARKNESS | ANNUAL REPORT OF THE “CON-NECTION” FOUNDATION | 2019 | MOSCOW 2020
Part of the text of our 2019 report is printed with invisible ink. It can only be read with an ultraviolet flashlight or lamp.

Why did we do it? It is sometimes difficult for the wards of the Foundation to obtain any information due to their health characteristics. They need help for this. A ray of light in the dark kingdom for them is not a metaphor, but a reality.

Aim a beam of ultraviolet light on the part of the page where the flashlight is depicted and read the hidden text.

Understanding and patience – those are things, which people who cannot see and hear lack the most.

This is something that we all often lack.
Computer literacy and social rehabilitation courses, centers for accompanied accommodation and advanced training of tactile sign interpreters, training of teachers in the regions and the creation of a library of methods, a school of leaders for parents of children with disabilities and adults with disabilities, working with the professional community in the field of culture - all these are elements of a large puzzle called a system of support for people with simultaneous hearing and vision impairments. A puzzle that is persistently and successfully built by organizations that are part of the “Con-nection” constellation and expand the scope of assistance to other categories - the blind, deaf, people with mental disabilities, etc.

We celebrated our 5th anniversary with a whole series of big events. For the first time, we held our international conference together with partner universities outside Moscow. Huge resonance in the creative environment was made by the forum-festival of social theater, one of the participants of which became a nominee for the “Golden Mask”. The forum of all our regional partners, who returned home inspired and enriched with new horizontal ties, became a kind of “troop review”. We launched a digital transformation of all internal business processes in order to reduce administrative costs. The smart gadgets went to serial production and on sale - the “Robin” walking-stick and the “Charlie sound-to-text” device. A literary competition among the deafblind and a unique exhibition “A touching story” in the Historical Museum on Red Square went off with a bang. Our training programs ventured out into the FSU, and the Fund entered the governing bodies of Deafblind International.

Leap year 2020 is definitely becoming a year of change. But thanks to your help, warmth, friendly participation and close teamwork, I am sure that this will be a change for the better. Only for the better. Definitely for the better.

Dear friends!

It’s risky and presumptuous to say this, but I still think 2019 was a year of relative stability for all of us. The “Con-nection” Foundation, like a large ship, has gained full speed and went all year without any special incidents and loss of pace.

The important thing I want to note is the tendency towards independence.

Non-profit organizations established by our Foundation are gaining weight and become not only full-fledged players in the social field of helping people with simultaneous hearing and vision impairments, but also in general, they become centers of expertise, competencies, creation of scientific developments as well as an approach to helping deafblind people.

At the same time, the activity of the deafblind experts themselves is growing. In our mailing list, lively debates, discussions, opinions were expressed throughout the past year on how to make the life of the deafblind better and how the deafblind themselves can help others. This, in my opinion, is a rather rare occurrence - not only to receive help, but also to provide it themselves.

The new year 2020 presents us with special challenges. They are associated with changes in the world and in the non-profit sector as a whole, as well as with the fact that we have long ago established for ourselves the cornerstone - to become a con-stellation of full-fledged active units, without making a distinction - a legal entity or an individual who works for the benefit of society...

I am sure it will work out.
“REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT” PROGRAM

4,213 слепоглухих находятся в базе Фонда
(747 – несовершеннолетние)

All-Russian census of the deafblind

In 2019, more than 200 people with simultaneous hearing and vision impairment were identified and added into the Foundation’s database.

For comparison, in 2018, thanks to the census, the Fund obtained 422 new wards.

In total, more than 5,100 deafblind people have been enumerated. But due to natural loss (and most newly enumerated deafblind people are elderly people) the database is smaller and reflects the real number of our wards today.

Leisure centers

In 2019, the wards of the Foundation visited 40 leisure centers located in 26 regions of the country. Another one, in Kazan, started working in test mode.

A leisure center in Omsk began its full-fledged work.

Leisure centers offer wards a varied program. In 2019, people with simultaneous hearing and vision impairments went on excursions, participated in master classes (for example, they learned how to make round dance dolls), visited menageries and tactile gardens, rode boats on rivers and, of course, held many events within the walls of the leisure centers and libraries.
Teaching the deafblind

In 2019, 123 deafblind people from 23 regions took training courses in three centers:

- House of the deafblind in Puchkovo (Moscow);
- “Integration” Association (Novosibirsk);
- Center for medical and social rehabilitation “Pyshma” (Tyumen region).

The most demanded course is computer literacy training. 85 people passed it. Any of our wards between the ages of 18 and 65 can get additional education in the centers of the “Con-nection” Foundation.

Accompanied accommodation

In 2019, the construction of the multifunctional center “House of the Deafblind” in the Leningrad Region was in full swing (opening is scheduled for the summer of 2020). Residents of the “Quiet House”, our pilot project for accompanied living, will move there.

Up to 12 deafblind people will live in the “House of the Deafblind”. For comparison, only 6-8 people permanently lived in the “Quiet House”.

In total, in 2019, there were 20 people in accompanied accommodation at the Fund, and 21 of our wards passed the educational accompanied accommodation.

Accompanied living areas (2019):

- “Quiet House” (settlement Pervomayskoye, Moscow);
- House of the deafblind in Puchkovo (Puchkovo village, Moscow);
- Apartments in Lyubertsy (Moscow region).

The Foundation’s specialists have prepared guidelines for accompanied accommodation, summarizing the five-year experience of our work.

Escort service

The Foundation’s escort services worked in five regions: Moscow, the Moscow Region, the Udmurt Republic, the Perm Territory and the Chelyabinsk Region.

In 2019, almost 1,250 people with disabilities used the Service. According to the law, they could write in the Individual Program of Rehabilitation (Habilitation) 240 hours (people with total absence hearing and vision) or 84 hours (people with residual hearing and vision) of tactile sign interpreting per year. In each of the five regions where our Service operates, the Fund in 2019 added 96 or 72 hours of tactile sign interpreting and support for each of the named categories of disabled people.

For comparison, in 2018, the Escort Service was “called” by 1223 people.

Since 2015, a total of 550 people have attended training courses at our sites.

IN 2019, WITH THE HELP OF REGIONAL PARTNERS, THE PROGRAM OF INDIVIDUAL TRAINING WITH THE BLIND-DEAF IN THEIR LOCATION STARTED.

More and more of our wards are entering universities and colleges. Nikolai Kuznetsov is studying at St. Petersburg State University. Albina Snizhko graduated with honors from the Moscow State Academy of Physical Culture in 2019. Alena Kapustyan in 2019 became the first deafblind student of the Russian State Social University.

In 2019, the “Con-nection” Foundation together with the Moscow State Linguistic University conducted courses and trained 32 tactile sign interpreters from different regions of the Russian Federation.
Employment

In 2019, the Foundation supported two projects for the employment of the deafblind:

- ceramic workshop of the “Krug” Creative Association (Moscow);
- creative workshop “Clover” of the “Integration” Association (Novosibirsk).

More than 30 people with simultaneous hearing and vision impairments were employed in the projects. The products of deafblind craftsmen and craftswomen can be purchased:

- in the “TOK” ceramics store: [https://toksale.ru/](https://toksale.ru/)

Media

In 2019, four issues of the only Russian magazine for the deafblind “Your Interlocutor” were published (editor-in-chief is the totally deafblind Natalya Kremneva).

In 2020, it is planned to introduce new columns and increase the circulation of the magazine.

Targeted assistance

In 2019, targeted assistance was provided to 259 applicants (including 100 children).

Medical services: 81 people.
Hearing and speech rehabilitation: 32 people.
Technical means of rehabilitation: 110 people.

The wards of the Foundation received assistance in 2019 under various articles.

Compensated and received:

- HEARING AIDS: 6
- LAPTOPS: 18
- VIDEO ENLARGERS: 6
- SMARTPHONES: 17
- AS WELL AS GLASSES, ACCESSORIES FOR HEARING AIDS AND COCHLEAR IMPLANTS, WALKING STICKS, BRAILLE WATCHES.
Other activities

Seminar “Acquaintance with ElBraille” (Fryazino, May 27-28, 2019)

A seminar for teachers of computer literacy, some of whom are deafblind themselves, was held in Fryazino in cooperation with “Elita Group” and “Istok Audio” companies.

Number of participants: 23 people.

Forum of regional activists in the field of work with young people with simultaneous hearing and vision impairment (Istra, November 9-11, 2019)

The event was attended by the coordinators of leisure centers, specialists in work with deafblind children, volunteers, parents and deafblind themselves.

Number of participants: 101 people.

Volunteer internship

Together with the Association of Volunteer Centers, the “Con-nection” Foundation conducted an internship for 15 volunteers from ten regions of the Russian Federation.

Summer School “Digital Transformation of the Charitable Sector”

In 2019, we took part in the All-Russian Summer School “Digital Transformation of the Charitable Sector”, jointly conducted by IBM and the HSE for Russian NGOs.

During the summer school, a neural network model was tested, which makes it possible to identify deafblind people in a statistical database.

Within the framework of the forum, participants presented projects that they are going to implement in 2020. The winners were the #СибирьЭтомы team with the ИС#Сибири project - a platform for the exchange of information among all Siberian deafblind people. The winners, as well as awardees, received funds from the foundation to implement their ideas.

“REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT” PROGRAM
“Con-sent” Association was founded in February 2018. Its goal is to unite people with hearing and vision impairments and organizations that support them.

In 2019, the Association has implemented a number of projects:

Legal support service

In 2019, 24 deafblind people received legal advice from our lawyer Dmitry Balykin.

Remote computer support service

The service began operating in 2019. In a team - three technical specialists and one curator. 21 deafblind people used the services of consultants for working with PCs and gadgets.
The organization supports families with children and adults with simultaneous hearing and vision impairment.

In 2019, three new branches of the Community were opened: in the Omsk and Lipetsk regions, as well as in the Krasnoyarsk Territory. Today the Community includes 38 regional branches covering the whole of Russia.

The annual congress of the Community was held on November 11, 2019 in Istra with the participation of 20 delegates from 20 regions of the Russian Federation.

**Mom’s school**

In 2019, 45 families became participants in the project in the Trans-Baikal Territory, Sverdlovsk, Novosibirsk, Nizhny Novgorod and Volgograd regions. 50 children with simultaneous hearing and vision impairments (two of them are from boarding schools) attended “Mom’s school”.

During each shift, families received consultations from special education teachers, psychologists, physiotherapists, listened to lectures, took part in trainings and master classes. Based on the results of each “Mom’s School”, practical recommendations for providing assistance were developed for each child.

For comparison, in 2018, four “Mom’s schools” were held, 38 children attended them together with moms (and sometimes dads).

**“School of Leaders for Moms”**

The objective of the course is to acquaint participants with the basics of the work of NGOs, to teach the features of office work and accounting, to help draw up a project so that it falls into the logic of state programs, etc.

In 2019, a face-to-face session of “School of Leaders for Moms-2019” was held, in which 22 mothers of deafblind children took part. As well as the extramural session of “School of Leaders for Moms-2020” (30 parents trained).

For comparison, in 2018, 25 people were trained at the School of Leaders.
Work has been done on the brand of the “Con-nection” Academy (creation of a logo, website, etc.), documents have been prepared and submitted for licensing an educational institution.

The license to carry out educational activities was obtained on January 14, 2020.

**Diagnostic training**

The Diagnostic Education System is a comprehensive assessment of the child’s condition by specialists and the preparation of recommendations for his education and rehabilitation.

In 2019, the program was implemented:

- in Moscow (10 children from Novgorod, Ivanovo, Khanty-Mansiysk, Orenburg, Omsk regions, as well as St. Petersburg took part in it);
- in Volgograd, Yekaterinburg and Nizhny Novgorod (10 children in each);
- in St. Petersburg, Kazan and Kirov (3 children in each).

In total, 49 families took part in the program in 2019.
For comparison, 30 families received diagnostic training in 2018.

**Early assistance**

The project started in 2019. “Early assistance” specialists supervise the children personally, visiting the families of the program participants on a weekly basis. Supervision takes place every two months, the purpose of which is to control the provision of corrective assistance.

Four families became the first participants in the program. Specialists have been monitoring two children since February, and two more since November 2019.

**Child-parent psychological support groups**

The goal of the project is to teach parents to interact with the child with correctional and educational goals, to form their interest in the personal development of the child, and also provide psychological support to a family with a disabled child.

In 2019, a field session was held in Nizhny Novgorod (participants: 10 families, August 17-24), as well as work with two parent groups at the Yaseneva Polyana RC (participants: 4 families, January 18-19).

Based on the results of seminars (“School: how to survive in it? For parents” and “Inclusion”) a training video was recorded and posted on the website of the “Con-nection” Academy: https://deafblindacademy.ru/
Schools and camps

Summer School (Gelendzhik, June 24 – July 3, 2019)
- took place for the fifth time;
- topic: “Technical and alternative means of communication”;
- 70 people took part (including 15 families, 15 volunteers and 20 specialists)

Winter School (Moscow Region, January 25 – February 2, 2019).
- took place for the fourth time;
- topic: “Adaptive physical culture”;
- together with the Lesgaft National State University of Physical Education, Sport and Health (St. Petersburg);
- 59 people took part (including 20 specialists, 10 young deafblind people and 10 volunteers).

Integration camp (“Yaseneva Polyana” RC, June 3-7, 2019)
- took place for the third time;
- 35 people took part (30 deafblind and 5 ordinary children).

Weekend camp
- Kazan (June 28-30, 2019, with the participation of 10 deafblind people);
- Chita (August 9-11, 2019, with the participation of 10 deafblind people);
- Novosibirsk region (September 27-29, 2019, with the participation of 10 deafblind people).

Additional education (for people with simultaneous hearing and vision impairment)
In 2019, 82 adolescents and 52 deafblind adults received additional education.

10 additional education programs for children and 5 programs for adults have been developed.

Under the vocational guidance program, one ward of the “Con-nection” Foundation began training in massage courses, and four entered the Technological College #21.

Within the framework of the project “Interaction with educational institutions”:
- five seminars and 24 consultations were held in Nur-Sultan, Yerevan, Tbilisi and Baku;
- agreements on mutual cooperation were concluded with eight organizations, including the International Academy of Management and Technology INTAMT (Germany), Scientific and Educational Foundation “Synergy” (Kazakhstan), Moscow State Linguistic University, etc.

Training of specialists

Specialists for working with the deafblind
Advanced training with severe multiple developmental disorders” in the Sergiev-Posad boarding school (Moscow region) were attended by 60 people. 20 people mastered the course “Adaptive physical culture” at Lesgaft National State University (St. Petersburg).

During the year, we held 10 seminars / lectures for specialists and developed five training programs.

Volunteers
In 2019, four sessions were held to train volunteers in the Russian Federation and abroad:
- Chita (Russia) – 22 people;
- Yerevan (Armenia) – 40 people;
- Nur-Sultan (Kazakhstan) – 35 people;
- Tbilisi (Georgia) – 23 people.

Also, 25 volunteers took part in the “Winter School” and “Summer School”.
A total of 145 people completed the training courses.

ACADEMY SPECIALISTS HAVE PREPARED THREE TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR VOLUNTEERS
**Respite care**

“Respite care” is a project that gives parents an opportunity to take a break from caring for a deafblind child around the clock. Provided in eight regions of the Russian Federation.

Respite care project was included in the TOP-100 of the best projects of the Presidential Grants Fund, implemented in 2017.

Families with deafblind children can receive 360 hours of respite per year; The “respite” can be used at a time (15 days), or it can be used for a day or two per month or 8 hours per week.

In 2019, 74 families took advantage of “Respite care”. For comparison, in 2018, “Respite care” was provided to 50 families in Moscow and the Moscow region and the same number of families in the other regions.

In 2019, 115 professional parents and professionals were prepared and trained.

Scientific activity

**Conferences**

* I international scientific conference “Education and development of children with sensory impairments” (Novosibirsk, April 2-4, 2019)

The Forum was attended by 1,018 people from Russia, France, Croatia, Italy and Armenia.

* II All-Russian conference “The experience and role of NGOs in the field of protection and well-being of childhood: uniting efforts” (Solnechnogorsk, November 10-12, 2019)

* X All-Russian Exhibition-Forum “Together for Children!” National priorities. Decade of Childhood” (Kaluga Region, October 1-3, 2019)

* II International Youth Conference dedicated to the problems of deafblindness (St. Petersburg, November 23-27, 2019)

**Discussion club**

The “Con-nection” Academy discussion platform was founded in 2019.

Its goal is 1) to attract specialists from various fields of science and practice to discuss issues of social and cultural rehabilitation, integration and labor of people with hearing and vision impairments; 2) generating new ideas; 3) the formation of an expert and professional community.

In 2019, 10 meetings of the Discussion Club were held. More than 200 people took part in the discussions.

**Mentors and teachers**

The aim of the project is to support young scientists conducting research in the field of deafblindness.

In July 2019, the training of the next stream of participants (16 people) was completed. A new course of 15 young scientists was recruited. The first two sessions were held, at which the participants presented the topics of scientific research and began their implementation.

The number of scientific publications of the project participants (29) turned out to be significantly higher than the planned indicators (six).
Publishing activity

A library has been formed on the Academy website, where you can get acquainted with all the books published by the Foundation since 2015, as well as by our colleagues on the topic of dual sensory disorders.

Books published in 2019:

- textbook “Tactile sign pedagogy” (edited by professors T.A. Basilova, E.L. Goncharova, N.M. Nazarova);
- manual “Methodology for diagnostic teaching of children with dual sensory and multiple developmental disorders” (authors A.Yu. Khokhlova, I.V. Moiseeva, A.S. Kurennaya);
- manual “The ABC of sensitive hands” (author Y.D. Krylatov);
- workbook “Formation of initial educational skills in children with multiple developmental disorders” (authors A.Yu. Khokhlova, A.S. Kurennaya);
- audiobook A.V. Suvorov “Meeting of universes, or Deafblind aliens in the world of sighted and hearing” (professional actors and employees of “Con-nection” Foundation);
- collection of abstracts on the results of the II International Youth Conference on deafblindness;
- manual “Ceramics as a means of sensory integration” (authors Yu.B. Kryvelyova, M.I. Pukach, K.V. Levashova);
- allowance “Psychological examination of a deaf child of primary school age” (authors Yu.Z. Zamaletdinova, I.V. Moiseeva, A.Yu. Khokhlova).

Development of a network of resource centers

In 2019, the “Con-nection” Foundation opened five resource centers in Voronezh, Obninsk, Rostov-on-Don, Tula and Yalutorovsk (Tyumen region).

In total, at the beginning of 2020, there are 15 RCs for the deafblind in Russia.

110 people are involved in the training system for specialists working with the deafblind from 40 regions of the country.

As part of the comprehensive training of RC specialists in 2019, the following events were carried out:

Education

- training “Behavior correction in children with dual sensory disorders”;
- session “Technologies for accompanying children with simultaneous hearing and vision impairment” (February 9-23, 2019, the number of participants — 38 people from 19 regions of the Russian Federation);
- professional retraining course “Tactile sign pedagogy” with a volume of 500 hours (April 11-25, 2019, the number of participants — 28 people from 15 regions of the Russian Federation);
- recording of a video course of the second level of training of the Perkins School for the Blind program.
  - The course will allow you to get acquainted with one of the best foreign rehabilitation practitioners online.

Internships

- 10 specialists were sent for an internship in the Netherlands (March 18-30, 2019);
- one specialist was sent for a 9-month internship in Boston (USA) for training for the Leadership in Educational program;
- 10 specialists visited the Perkins School for the Blind (USA).
Key achievements

- Winning the “Best Biomedical Project” nomination of the Startup Rally competition at the Biotechmed Forum (September 16-17, 2019, Gelendzhik). Also, “Sensor-Tech” won the special nomination from the “Shvabe” Holding (the possibility of organizing serial production).

- Participation in the largest international exhibition in Europe Rehacare International (Dusseldorf, Germany, September 18-21, 2019), dedicated to rehabilitation, integration and care.

- Participation in the National Forum of the Rehabilitation Industry and Universal Design “Hope for Technology” (Moscow, October 31 – November 2, 2019)

The exhibition was attended by about 50 thousand guests and more than 700 participants from 40 countries.

“ROBIN”

- In the near future the device will learn to recognize text;
- “ROBIN” neural network is being tested for recognition of signs, public transport and free seats in buses, etc. (the device is already able to recognize some road signs);
- Today “ROBIN” recognizes more than 50 objects;
- “ROBIN” can recognize faces - for this, you need to upload a photograph of a person to the gadget and assign a voice tag.

“CHARLIE”

- In 2019, a pilot testing project “Charlie” was launched at the multifunctional center of public services in Perm. The device was installed in a special window where people with hearing impairments are served;
- “Charlie” was tested at the branch of Sberbank of Russia in Moscow.

Smart assistant “Robin”

Smart assistant “Robin” helps the blind and deafblind to navigate in space, understand their surroundings and recognize the faces of loved ones.

In 2019, the serial production of the device (model “Robin 1.0”) was launched and the first commercial sales were made. In the middle of the year, the developers created a new version of “Robin 1.1”. Smart assistant. The main innovation is the turbo search function. The device lists objects in a distance of up to 10 m with an interval of 0.2 sec.

Speech recognition device “Charlie”

Speech recognition device “Charlie” allows the deaf to read what is being said. Deafblind people also use the device - it translates speech into text that can be read using a Braille display.

In 2019, the serial version of “Charlie” was released, which was acquired by the Bauman Moscow State Technical University, resource centers for the disabled and other organizations.
"Neurocommunicator" set

The three-year project of the “Sensor-Tech” Laboratory at the NTI (National Technological Initiative) for the development of the “Neurocommunicator” set has been successfully completed.

"Neurocommunicator" is a set of devices for helping deafblind people, as well as people with hearing and vision disabilities in communication, reading, surfing the Internet, etc.

It includes: a braille display, a speech recognition device, special headphones with special speakers and vibration motors for transmitting sound through the bone, a smart assistant, etc.

"Neurocommunicator" passed toxicological and technical tests, as well as tests for electromagnetic compatibility, a dossier was prepared and an application was submitted for registration of a medical device by Roszdravnadzor.

The science

- Completed a genetic project to find patients with retinitis pigmentosa (especially with mutations in the RPE65 gene). 100 patients underwent genetic testing.
- A project to study brain activity in blind people using a Braille display has been completed. The study participants included 10 blind volunteers and 10 people without disabilities. The results of the project will be reflected in a scientific article.
- In December 2019, the first lecture of the educational course “Gene therapy of hereditary retinal dystrophies” was delivered. The full cycle will consist of five lectures, which will be delivered by the country’s leading ophthalmologists and geneticists – they will tell about the results of the latest researches in the treatment of genetic eye diseases.

Ophthalmic VR Simulator

The “Sensor-Tech” laboratory has developed the world’s first VR simulator of eye diseases. This is software that allows users to understand how they see the world and what difficulties people with various eye diseases face. The simulator creates simulations of almost all existing visual impairments. Released in two versions: SeeMyWorld (PC version) and SMW Pro (smartphone version).

Anyone with the help of a VR simulator can "try on" bionic vision, as well as understand how people with certain eye diseases see the world.

In 2019, a professional version of the SMW Pro ophthalmic simulator was developed and launched as an iOS application. The application is distributed by paid subscription.
At the end of the year, the quest received two bronze awards at the international competition for the best digital projects MIXX Russia Awards.

“Information and Involvement” Program

“Connection” Prize

First “Connection” Prize awarded to people and project managers who have made a contribution to changing the life of the deafblind in Russia. Its laureates are:

- Alexander Silyanov (nomination “For contribution to the field of culture”);
- Natalia Kremneva (nomination “For the contribution in the field of support and protection”);
- Ivan Biryukov (nomination “For a systematic approach”);
- project “Marathon in the Dark” (nomination “For the best project”);
- Father Lev (Lev Arshakyan) (nomination “For dedication and loyalty to the charity work”).

Our trustees and sponsors have received special awards for the systematic support of the Foundation’s activities and its projects:

- Herman Gref;
- Alisher Usmanov;
- Sergey Slipchenko.

Online game

Created the world’s first online game about life by touch, simulating the perception of the world by people with simultaneous hearing and visual impairment.

To the International Day of the Deafblind (June 27) and the International Day of the Blind (November 13) joint actions were held with the social network “Vkontakte”. The online game has become available to all Vkontakte users. Users with the help of special masks could make their photo the way people with visual impairments see them.

Together with RuHub, a competition was held, as a result of which eight users who passed “Life by touch” and posted the results with the hashtag #ThatSeeDaeblind, received HyperX gaming devices and autographed T-shirts;

Cybersport.ru, the largest Russian-language e-sports media, provided information support to the project.
“Co-creativity” contest

The first literary competition for the deafblind and for the deafblind “Co-creativity” was held. More than 60 people from all over the country and from abroad (Ukraine and Canada / Belize) took part in the creative competition. As a result of “Co-creativity”, a collection of the best works of the contestants “Sharp-eyed Heart” was published, as well as the author’s book of the Grand Prix winner Alexey Pizhonkov “Love rules the world”.

The winners of “Co-Creativity” are:
- Alexey Pizhonkov (poetry nomination);
- Sergey Novozheev (prose nomination);
- Elena Volokh (nomination “Essays / Journalism”);
- Anna Lukashenok (nomination “Works on deafblindness / deafblind people”).

“A touching story” exhibition

The State Historical Museum hosted an exhibition “A touching story”. The guests of the State Historical Museum studied 18 copies of archaeological finds and monuments of Ancient Russia and the Moscow kingdom (bas-reliefs, figurines, coins, etc.).

The tactile models of the exhibits were placed on stands with a built-in audio guide for blind and visually impaired visitors, as well as a video guide in Russian sign language for the deaf and hard of hearing people.

Music of gestures

Together with Odnoklassniki social network, the social project “Music of Gestures” was implemented. As part of the campaign, a set of songs appeared on the social network, which made it possible for users to understand how people with hearing impairments perceive music. We also created a set of stickers in sign language and an educational test that not only tested knowledge, but also told Odnoklassniki users about the world of the deafblind.

Project “Not Alone in the Darkness”

Together with “Gazprom Neft”, we have prepared a series of 12 videos about the Tyumen deafblind people as part of the “Not Alone in the Darkness” project. Our goal was to draw attention to the problems of the deafblind in the Tyumen region and in the Russian Federation as a whole, to increase the number of the Foundation’s audience in social networks, as well as to replenish the database of the deafblind.

Project “Ask a question to the deafblind”

Alexander Suvorov and Irina Povolotskaya within the framework of the project “Ask a question to the deafblind” answered 50 questions of our subscribers from Facebook, Vkontakte, Odnoklassniki and Instagram social networks in 2020, the SHM exposition will be supplemented by 30 replicas of historical artifacts created by the Research Restoration Laboratory “ArcheoLab” (with the support of the Presidential Grants Fund and the “Con-nection” Foundation); tactile exhibits will be included in the permanent exhibition of the museum.

In 2020, the SHM exposition will be supplemented by 30 replicas of historical artifacts created by the Research Restoration Laboratory “ArcheoLab” (with the support of the Presidential Grants Fund and the “Con-nection” Foundation); tactile exhibits will be included in the permanent exhibition of the museum.

We recorded and edited interviews with Alexander Suvorov and Irina Povolotskaya — and prepared 19 videos of their answers to questions sent to us.
Open House Day

For the first time, the “Con-nection” Foundation’s Open House Day was held. In the halls of “Consent HALL” we presented the main projects of the Foundation (from the “Sensor-Tech” technical device to the plays of “Inclusion”), held master classes, seminars and public-talks.

The Foundation’s partners took part in the Open House Day. “Ikraft” company carried out a free eye examination, and WIDEX advised on all issues related to the selection of hearing aids.

Anniversary of the Foundation

An evening dedicated to the 5th anniversary of the “Con-nection” Foundation was held at the Theater of Nations. At the event, the winners of the “Con-nection” award and the winners of the “Co-creativity” competition were awarded. In the second part, a festive demonstration of the play “The Touchable” was held, in which the roles of deafblind professor Alexander Suvorov and research assistant, poet Olga Skorokhodova were performed by President of the “Con-nection” Foundation Dmitry Polikanov and actress Elizaveta Arzamasova.

Lives Swap

A project was launched with the participation of bloggers and wards of the Foundation. In each episode, a blogger and a deafblind person meet and spend a day together — the social media star introduces the ward to his world and hobbies, and our ward shows how he / she spends time and what difficulties they face in everyday life.

Sport

Employees of the Foundation and our partners took part in Sergey Ignashevich’s charitable football tournament “Change the Game”. Participants actively promoted the fund rising on their personal pages in social networks. Through the efforts of three teams: the team of the NIVEA company, the male and female teams of the “Rehabilitation Industry of Russia”, we collected more than 300 thousand rubles.

At the tournament of the “runners for good”, volunteers Irina Salomatina and Andrey Butoyin (among 30 thousand “runners for good” from all over the Russian Federation) ran to support the wards of the Foundation and collected more than 40 thousand rubles.

Portmanteau film “Through the eyes of children”

The “Con-nection” Foundation became the general partner of the portmanteau film about the fate of children, which consists of four short films by Russian directors. The selection includes films “He’s Mine” (directed by Vladislav Rytkov), “Bunker” (directed by Dilorov Sultoni), “Mama” (directed by Vladimir Kott) and “Eva” (directed by Vitaly Manyukov).

Media and social networks

In 2019, 2,135 publications about the Foundation appeared in the Russian-language media (551 of them were related to the work of “Inclusion”). More than 40 press releases were prepared and sent out.

In 2019, the number of subscribers in our social networks increased by 2959 people. 1184 original posts were posted with a total coverage of about 500 thousand people monthly. Our social media audience has increased by a quarter.

Recognition of the “deafblindness” concept in 2019 increased by 8% (according to inFOM).

The Foundation’s page on the Vkontakte social network was verified and received a grant to promote posts.
“Inclusion”

Special look

In 2019, “Inclusion” organized the first in Russia forum-festival of social theaters “Special Look” (Moscow, October 28-31, 2019).

250 applicants from all over Russia applied for participation. The program included 12 best performances from six cities.

Performances

“Inclusion’s” repertoire has grown to 19 performances, including 9 premieres. We went on stage 78 times. For comparison, in 2018 we had 38 shows.


Events and facts

- the educational program of the festival consisted of 10 seminars and master classes;
- the performances were held at the largest venues in Moscow: the Theater of Nations, the Moscow Museum of Modern Art, the Vsevolod Meyerhold Center and the House-Museum of M.N. Yermolova;
- following the results of the forum-festival, a collection of cases “Social theater in Russia” was released.

11 раз мы показали спектакль «Прикасаемые / InTouch» — его увидели более 1500 зрителей (это рекорд)

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Premieres (plays and performances)

NOVOSIBIRSK SCHOOL:
“The shaman has three hands”; “About Light Laziness Me”; “Not strong”; “Lila”; “Alexander Sergeevich is with us” (performance).

SAINT PETERSBURG SCHOOL:
“Strider’s Nights”.

MOSCOW SCHOOL:
“A Life of Wonderful Things”; “Brod (sky). Sketches” (performance); “Dialogue with Color” (performance).

Theater schools

“Inclusion. School. Moscow”
The number of students with disabilities: 18 (the first stream graduated in May, students continue to attend school) and 15 (the second stream began classes in October). The total number of students in 2019 is 33 people.

In April 2019, the project “Initiative. Creation. Freedom” (with the support of the Culture Department of the British Embassy) was realized. Students studied new disciplines and presented eight graduation projects (the winner was Maria Chernov’s project “The Comedy Booth”).

“Inclusion. School. St. Petersburg”
Number of students with disabilities: 15.
Compiled and presented the collection “Inclusion. Professional Dialogue” — a methodological guide for an inclusive theater.

“Inclusion. School. Novosibirsk”
Number of students with disabilities: 12.

“Inclusion. School. Ekaterinburg”
Number of students with disabilities: 15.

“Inclusion. School. Kazan”
Number of students with disabilities: 14.

“Inclusion. School. Kaliningrad”
Number of students with disabilities: 25.
The school was opened in 2019 at the initiative and at the expense of regional partners.

Total number of students enrolled in “Inclusion” in 2019: 114.

In 2019, “Inclusion” conducted 13 sessions to disseminate teaching methods for actors with disabilities (5 in Moscow, 8 in other regions).
Fund development

Digitalization

- In 2019, we implemented a training project together with IBM, HSE and the Donor Forum and received a prototype solution based on artificial intelligence capable of looking for deafblind people in Russia in the future.

- Described and formalized a number of key processes, and also started a large project to automate internal financial processes in order to increase work efficiency and comply with best business practices.

Fairs

In 2019, the “Con-nection” Foundation took part in 17 charity fairs organized by our partners and charitable organizations. Each of which presented works by the deafblind (ceramics, jam, dried apples, candles made of wax, etc.).

- we held charity fairs for employees and guests of Philip Morris International, Henkel, NIVEA, KFC, RusHydro, Rosseti, Sberbank, Megaфон, Tinkoff, ASI, Montessori school, Vkusvill friends festivals, “Easter Gift”, etc.;
- fairs were held in Moscow, St. Petersburg and Yekaterinburg.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF DONATIONS AMOUNTED TO 1 MILLION 479 THOUSAND RUBLES.
Collaboration

RCG

In 2019, the Foundation launched a social digital project about the world of the deafblind.

The first online game about living by touch, the goal of which is to give everyone the opportunity to understand how people perceive the world with simultaneous hearing and vision impairments.

The project was implemented jointly with RedMe and ROOM485 companies (part of the RCG group of companies).

NIVEA and Dixie

“The care that unites us” — this is the name of the joint action of the “Con-nection” Foundation with the Beiersdorf company and the Dixy Group of Companies. During two months (from April 1 to May 31) a ruble from each product of the NIVEA brand became a donation and was sent to the project “Mom’s School”. Thanks to joint efforts, we have collected over 1 million rubles, which made it possible for mothers with deafblind children to take part in the “Mother’s School” project, to undergo full-time rehabilitation courses and receive personal support programs for their children.

SHM

In 2019, the State Historical Museum hosted an exhibition “A touching story”, composed of tactile exhibits with video and audio guide, as well as Braille inscriptions for the blind, deaf and deafblind visitors. The exposition includes 18 tactile exhibits – copies of iconic monuments of the era of Ancient Russia and the Muscovite Empire (from bas-reliefs to statuettes and coins).

The partners of the project were the National Association of Assistive Technologies Market Participants “AURA-Tech”, the Scientific Research Restoration Laboratory “ArcheoLab” and the “Henkel” company.

3Z clinic

Thanks to cooperation with the federal network of 3Z ophthalmological centers, the wards of the “Con-nection” Foundation underwent free total eye diagnostics and were operated on by doctors of the highest category.

Among them are Albina Snizhko from Vorkuta — her clouded lenses were replaced with artificial lenses, as well as the artist Nikolai Lebedev with a congenital cataract, who underwent surgery on his right eye.

In honor of the 5th anniversary of the “Con-nection” Foundation, WIDEX held a campaign — when a deafblind person bought a hearing aid, he got the second as a gift, and he also received a 50% discount on individual earbuds.

Together with WIDEX, we carried out hearing diagnostics for our wards. Two of them, Alexey Chernikov from Moscow and Yadim Khaitetdinov from Ufa, received from the company two flagship hearing aids DREAM 440 and DREAM 220.

WIDEX
ESforce cybersport holding

On June 27, on the International Day of the Deafblind, an online game about life by touch and special masks appeared on the Vkontakte social network, which allowed people to understand how the deafblind see the world. Together with ESforce, we launched the #ThisSeeDeafblind campaign. Participants shared photos using masks in the story.

Informational support for the project was provided by the RuHub cybersport broadcast studio and the largest Russian-language media outlet about cybersport Cybersport.ru

“Russian Post” and IQ Media

Thanks to our partners, a social advertisement has appeared in the Moscow branches of the Russian Post calling for help to deafblind children and adults. A short video about the Foundation was broadcast on video panels installed in the postal network.

“Afisha Daily”

Bloggers and deafblindness are joint.

At the end of 2019, the “Lives Swap” project was launched and designed to draw attention to the blind and visually impaired, to tell about them and their inner world. In each episode of the project, the blogger and the deafblind “move” into each other’s bodies and try to live a “strange” life for one day.

The episodes of the project (implemented by our colleagues from RCG Group) are posted on the “Afisha Daily” sites.

At the moment, three episodes of the project have been filmed.

Achievements of the deafblind in 2019

Alexander Suvorov’s “Shlemofon” project won first place at the “Territory of Opportunities” hackathon. The developers of the device, which will help the deafblind professor to listen to music, received a certificate for 200 thousand rubles.

Irina Povolotskaya created a plastic master class “Dialogue with Color”. During the training, people learn to feel, communicate and convey colors through dance. Povolotskaya also created a poetical and plastic performance “(Brod)sky. Sketches”, in which the deafblind perceive the poetry of the Nobel laureate through body and soul.

Alexey Gorelov was the first in Russia and the fifth in the world to overcome the Olympic triathlon distance at the IRONSTAR competition in Sochi. Perhaps Alexei will become a new deafblind paralympic winner.

Irina Povolotskaya and Alexey Gorelov became laureates of the Moscow Mayor’s Prize in the name of Nikolay Ostrovsky in the nomination “For endurance, spiritual strength and significant achievements in various spheres of life”.

Alena Kapustyan became the first deafblind student of the Russian State Social University. The girl is studying to be a social worker, and in the future she plans to become a psychologist and enter a medical college as a massage therapist.

Albina Snizhko has a red diploma. She graduated with honors from the Moscow State Academy of Physical Culture in 2019.

In 2019, the Fund passed all audits, including audits of international companies. An audit commission was created with the participation of representatives of the Treasury and Sberbank of Russia.
Karina Zhakova became the third at the International Festival of Arts in Nessebar (Bulgaria). The Bryansk singer took bronze in the Variety Vocal nomination. In total, several hundred participants claimed the highest awards of the festival (2,5 thousand people participated in the selection) – singers, dancers, actors, musicians and artists from 11 countries.

Nikolay Minin, Anastasia Kungurtseva and Olga Bondareva took the entire pedestal of the Perm regional competition “Musical Palette” in the nomination of songs in sign language. In addition, Anastasia became the silver medalist of the regional competition of folk art “Ural open spaces”, and Olga Bondareva and Vladimir Zakatov took first places in the regional competition of readers “Literary Autumn”.

Deafblind artists from Solikamsk (“Nadezhda” choir, Viktor and Zainap Bebikovs, bard Yevgeny Fatyanov, reader Galina Mironenko, etc.) won a grant and toured 10 villages in Solikamsk urban district.

Alexey Pizhonkov from Kazan became the silver medalist of the All-Russian competition of amateur poets of All-Russia Society of the blind “Poetic battle”.

And also: Oksana Startseva from Novosibirsk became the winner of the zonal stage of the “Victory Salute” festival (Kemerovo). Anatoly Yankov from Yoshkar-Ola took first place in the city competition “Winter Fantasy”. And Alexey Smolentsev received a diploma “For many years of conscientious work, great personal contribution for creating favorable conditions for a productive life of residents of the Republic of Mari El with disabilities”.

There were many more achievements and names – we selected some of them, from different areas.
Our partners

Strategic partners

[Image of partners]
NOT ALONE
IN THE DARKNESS
NOT ALONE