

### Script

You're watching UNICEF Television.

A day in the life of Alexei Petrushevski is not for the faint of heart....

Before the morning's out, he'll have been to four meetings and fielded at least fifty phone calls. Combining determination, charm, bullishness and sheer enthusiasm, Alexei fights for the most defenseless citizens of the Central Asian Republic of Kyrgyzstan.

In six years, a thousand homeless or troubled young people have passed through the Bishkek Centre for Street Children.

**SOUNDBITE (Russian) ALEXEI PETRUSHEVSKI, Director, Bishkek Centre for Street Children:** "It fills me with joy when children come and feel happy here as if they're at home. If they feel as if they're part of a family, then I think all the hard work isn't wasted."

Alexi wants his wards to regain self-respect, a sense of belonging and some hope for their future.

**SOUNDBITE (Russian) unidentified ward:** "For a start I feel at home here. It was a really good idea to create such a place that can help people."

**SOUNDBITE (Russian) unidentified ward:** "He's a very, very good and kind person and the social workers are good people, too. They are doing all the good work they can possibly do."

This is very much Alexei's project – he started it and while others stop down to sleep or eat – Alexei keeps on going.

**SOUNDBITE (Russian) Yelena Gavrilova, Child Rights lawyer:** "I can tell you honestly that he's the right person at the right time. What's more, he's got a natural instinct to fight for children's rights.

Still going well into the evening, Alexei takes one of his wards to visit her grandparents. It's an all-to-common story – her parents both died from alcoholism ... her grandparents are sufferers, too.

### Shotlist

1. Wide shot, city street
2. Close up, Petrushevski talking and driving
3. Close up, Petrushevski changing gears
4. Close up, Petrushevski talking
5. Various, Petrushevski in office
6. Med shot, Petrushevski speaking at meeting
7. Med shot, colleague listening
8. Med shot, colleague talking
9. Med shot, colleague listening
10. Med shot, Petrushevski talking
11. Wide shot, dining room in Bishkek Centre for Street Children
12. Close up, cups on table
13. Various, children eating
14. **SOUNDBITE (Russian) Petrushevski:** "It fills me with joy when children come and feel happy here as if they're at home. If they feel as if they're part of a family, then I think all the hard work isn't wasted."
15. Pan, bedroom in centre
16. **SOUNDBITE (Russian) unidentified ward:** "For a start I feel at home here. It was a really good idea to create such a place that can help people."
17. **SOUNDBITE (Russian) unidentified ward:** "He's a very, very good and kind person and the social workers are good people, too. They are doing all the good work they can possibly do."
18. Med. shot, girls working on project while singing
19. Close up, girls embroider
20. Med. shot, Petrushevski in classroom
21. Med shot, boys listening
22. Wide shot, Petrushevski in classroom
23. Wide shot, Petrushevski at outdoor café
24. Med shot, child rights lawyer at cafe
25. Close up, coffee cup
26. **SOUNDBITE (Russian) Yelena Gavrilova, Child Rights lawyer:** "I can tell you honestly that he's the right person at the right time. And he's got a natural instinct to fight for children's rights
27. Med shot, Petrushevski and girl enter building
28. Med shot, stairwell
29. Med shot, entering apartment from behind
30. Various, girl with grandparents
31. Close up, dirty pots and pans
32. Close up, dirty pan and ashtray
33. Med shot, girl hugging grandfather with

SOUNDBITE (Russian) PETRUSHEVSKI: “Children are supposed to be happy. There shouldn’t be anything in this country that abuses them or undermines them – not in this country and nowhere in the world.”

But there are rewards. The former street children put on a concert for war veterans that shows what talents they hide.

SOUNDBITE (English) Tim Schaffter, UNICEF, Kyrgyzstan: “It’s so wonderful to see that there are people who are willing to put not just the time but the heart and soul into and other children have said there’s nothing he wouldn’t do for children there. So to me, Alexei is a true champion, a true hero for children.”

And as Alexei trains another group to take part in a skating spectacular, he can reflect on work that makes him – on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention of the Rights of the Child – one of its heroes.

SOUNDBITE (Russian) PETRUSHEVSKI: “A skating rink is a bit like life itself. You never know how suddenly you’ll fall down and break everything. And they behave on the ice as in life. They fall down, they get up.

For UNICEF television, this is Peter George in Kyrgyzstan. Unite for Children.

grandmother fore

34. SOUNDBITE (Russian) PETRUSHEVSKI: “Children are supposed to be happy. There shouldn’t be anything in this country that abuses them or undermines them – not in this country and nowhere in the world.”
35. Med shot, children in school uniforms singing at presentation
36. Med shot, war veterans listening to concert
37. Med shot, Petrushevski and children listening
38. Med shot, children singing
39. Med shot, veteran singing along
40. Med shot, elderly women veterans
41. Various, boys dancing and acrobats
42. SOUNDBITE (English) Tim Schaffter, UNICEF, Kyrgyzstan: “It’s so wonderful to see that there are people who are willing to put not just the time but the heart and soul into and other children have said there’s nothing he wouldn’t do for children there. So to me, Alexei is a true champion, a true hero for children.”
43. Wide shot, kids on skating rink
44. Wide shot, Petrushevski from behind watching skating rink
45. Wide shot, Petrushevski throws cap on rink
46. Wide shot, girl fetches cap and returns it
47. Wide, skaters
48. Close, cap
49. Close, Petrushevski
50. SOUNDBITE (Russian) PETRUSHEVSKI: “A skating rink is a bit like life itself. You never know how suddenly you’ll fall down and break everything. And they behave on the ice as in life. They fall down, they get up.
51. Wide shot, boy fetches cap, falls, gets up

3:50

**Script**

Same as above

**Shotlist**

Same as above