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# WINDHAM

## Sister City Committee

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**DECEMBER, 2011:** Windham continues its relationship with our Sister City, Suzdal, Russia although there has been no travel this year between our towns. The economy and the lack of visa invitation letters have played a large part in this lack of travel.

However, because of the internet, facebook and skype, the lack of personal, physical interaction with our friends in Suzdal has not caused our relationship to suffer. Indeed, because of technology, we can be/and are in contact with our Suzdal friends any day that we wish. We are in contact with the happenings both happy and sad in the families that we know. By technology, it is wonderful to see the growth in many of the young students, who have traveled to Windham in years' past.

The Town of Windham's budget continues to support the orphanages in Suzdal with a \$500.00 yearly appropriation. In the past we have shared some of these funds with the hospital in Suzdal, which continues to greatly lack for upgraded spaces. The medical staff in Suzdal is highly talented and serves the population well in a very antiquated facility.

Since we have not traveled to Suzdal recently, we shall hold onto this year's donation until we can travel or when a trusted friend may travel here. The safest way in which to bring help to Suzdal is by personally carrying the cash to them.

Several people have donated fabrics to be carried to the quilters in the club called "Suzdal Swatch". We continue to have some handmade quilts that are available for purchase. Any proceeds from these sales will be given directly to the author of each quilt. It is terrific to see many of these women who quilt share their work and information on facebook.

We received Christmas greetings from Mayor Ivanov of the Suzdal Region, which is included in addition to this report.

In closing, I wish to share a quote from myself that appeared in an article in the Union Leader on 12/27/11 about the Russian Connection in New Hampshire.

"For 20 years it has been a very warm, very friendly relationship. We have learned that in things that matter, there are no real differences. Russian people love their children, and their grandchildren especially. They never forget birthdays or anniversaries and they celebrate wonderfully. I wish I could be there now."

*Barbara Coish*

Уважаемая госпожа Барбара! Дорогие друзья!

От имени администрации Суздальского района и от себя лично сердечно поздравляю Вас с наступающим Рождеством и Новым 2012 Годом! От всей души желаю Вам здоровья, счастья, благополучия и удачи! Пусть все Ваши мечты сбудутся и планы исполнятся!

С уважением, М.Н. Иванов

*Translation:* Madam Barbara! Dear friends! Of the Administration Suzdal area and on my own behalf warmly congratulate you on the forthcoming Christmas and new 2012 year! We wish your health, happiness, well-being and good luck! Let all your dreams will be fulfilled and plans running!

With respect, M. N. Ivanov