

## Bailey's Hosts Open World Team from Russia

*Submitted by PP JoAnne Johnson and Patricia Borowski*

This September through the Open World Leadership Program managed by the Library of Congress, the Rotary Club of Bailey's Crossroads hosted a Russian delegation of six professionals from Ivanovo, Russia. We focused the weeklong activities on how the US addresses and responds to child and juvenile welfare, social, protective and rehabilitative services at the local and regional levels. Two delegates are Rotarians with the Rotary Club of Ivanovo; their club is currently rebuilding a church in their community. The other team members are leading government experts in the field of child services. Our own DG Ron Marion, BXRC officers, the Open World program team and special guests had several opportunities to learn from each other and exchange ideas on both improving child welfare, as well as increasing engagement in respective Rotary Club projects. Our visitors attended meetings with public and private schools, government agencies, our court system, law enforcement, policymakers, and community volunteers in NGOs, with Sharon Bolava, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, officials at Capitol Hill, including Congressman Moran, as well as with staff of the Virginia Governor and Attorney General in Richmond, VA. Cultural experiences included a visit to the International Children's Festival at Wolf Trap, the George Washington Masonic Temple, The National Cathedral of Washington, and the National Air and Space Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center. No visit is complete without shopping and our Russian visitors helped the US economy visiting several local discount stores and Potomac Mills. This was a very busy and intense week, but our guests advised the trip was more than well worth the lost sleep and tired feet. We too thoroughly enjoyed bonding with our new friends and colleagues from Russia.

For more information on the Open World Leadership Program, please visit <http://www.openworld.gov>.



Meet the Delegation:



Together with DG Ron Marion: Anna N. Filkina - Leading Specialist, Ivanovo Region Dep't of Social Services --- Sergey A. Kornev - Asst' Professor, Ivanovo State Univ., Russian Social Democratic Union Rotarian (Past President Ivanovo Rotary Club and AG of D2220) --- Olga Vitalyevna - Leading Specialist, Sovetskiy Municipal District Commission on Child Protection, Ivanovo City --- Ruslan Vakhayevich Umalatov - General Director, Evrika, LLC, Rotarian (President, Ivanovo Rotary Club)-- Nataliya Lvovna Yakimova - Head of Psych. Help Dep't, Psychological Counseling Ctr. For Children and Family --- Olga V. Ivanova - Finance Consultant, Antal Int'l, Ltd and OW facilitator.