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HZ RUSSIA GRANDFATHERS

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Handing down knowledge to the next generation

Story No.: 4318759

Restrictions:

Duration: 00:05:26:20

Source: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: 4 March 2021

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SOURCE: ASSOCIATED PRESS

RESTRICTION SUMMARY:

LENGTH: 5.26

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vichuga, Ivanovo Region, Russia - 4 March 2021

1. Various of Sergey Smirnov teaching children to make a birdhouse

2. SOUNDBITE (Russian) Sergey Smirnov, teacher, Grandfather Will Not Teach Wrong:

"My children are far away, my grandchildren are far away also, and I will teach these children here and maybe someone will also teach my grandchildren there."

3. Various of Smirnov and the children installing a birdhouse

4. Close birdhouse

5. Various of birdhouses in the park

6. Wide of park

7. Wide interior of Sergey Rodin at a craftsmanship lesson with pupils

8. Various of the lesson

9. SOUNDBITE (Russian) Sergey Rodin, teacher, Grandfathers Will Not Teach Wrong:

"They are making a vase for pencils, pens, dry flowers. This is the task, but it is not only a vase, but this is also an exercise for the development of fine motor skills of the hands, and for the development of imagination."

10. Close child making a vase

11. Close various of photos of pupils with teachers on the display

12. SOUNDBITE (Russian) Anna Belousova, pupil:

"I do not have a grandfather, but I come here to Grandpa Stas who can always help me and listen in any situation."

13. Various of Stanislav Potapov showing a boy to play checkers

14. SOUNDBITE (Russian) Stanislav Potapov, teacher, Grandfather Will Not Teach Wrong

"My whole life I worked at a machine-building plant as an assembly fitter. I retired and I received a proposal from the project Grandfather Will Not Teach Wrong. I decided to try it. It worked, so that's it, I come here with pleasure. Children also greet me with pleasure, I am happy for them, for their good mood."

15. Close hands holding wooden chips

16. Various of Stanislav Potapov playing with children

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"When it gets warmer outside, we will study the bicycle. Then I'll tell them about cars and we will develop further." Reporter: "what can be taught about the bike? Alexander Sykov: "How to oil it, disassemble and assemble it not everyone knows. Someone has a person who could tell them, but not everyone and I have a secondary technical education, I know all this very well. I will pass on my experience, especially since I have more than 40 years of driving experience. I have knowledge to convey to them, and I have something to tell them."

20. Wide sign Vichuga

21. Wide road with sign Vichuga

LEADIN:

A **Russian** scheme allowing the elderly to pass on their knowledge and skills to a next generation is so successful it's being expanded.

The project called: "Grandfather Cannot Teach Wrong" allows youngsters to learn skills and games they wouldn't come across at school.

Storyline

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At school you might not get the time to learn how to build a bird house, but these children are clearly interested and focused on the instruction given by Sergey Smirnov.

Smirnov is part of an organisation called Grandfather Cannot Teach Wrong.

The idea behind the project here in Vichuga, Ivanovo Region is to enable pensioners to convey their knowledge to the younger generation.

About a thousand children are involved in the project.

Some of them are from socially disadvantaged families, but in classes like these, they can play, make new acquaintances, or learn something handy.

Smirnov lives to far from his family to be able to receive lots of visits like this.

But he hopes that others like him will take care of his grandchildren, just as he shares his experiences and skills with the children here.

"My children are far away, my grandchildren are far away also, and I will teach these children here and maybe someone will also teach my grandchildren there," says Smirnov.

Sergey Rodin teaches fine art, but he's also lived a rich and varied life.

During the Soviet times, he served in an army in Afghanistan and was highly decorated.

When it comes to young children though, he likes to teach them other things which will help their development.

Rodin explains: "They are making a vase for pencils, pens, dry flowers. This is the task, but it is not only a vase, but this is also an exercise for the development of fine motor skills of the hands, and for the development of imagination."

Pupil Anna Belousova says: "I do not have a grandfather, but I come here to Grandpa Stas who can always help me and listen in any situation."

Before being allowed to volunteer, each applicant goes through a rigorous selection process including criminal record checks and health examinations.

The applicants come from all backgrounds.

"My whole life I worked at a machine-building plant as an assembly fitter. I retired and I received a proposal from the project Grandfather Will Not Teach Wrong. I decided to try it. It worked, so that's it, I come here with pleasure. Children also greet me with pleasure, I am happy for them, for their good mood," says Stanislav Potapov.

Alexander Sykov is already planning his summer lessons.

"When it gets warmer outside, we will study the bicycle. Then I'll tell them about cars and we will develop further." Reporter: "what can be taught about the bike? Alexander Sykov: "How to anoint it, disassemble and assemble it not everyone knows. Someone has a person who could tell them, but not everyone and I have a secondary technical education, I know all this very well. I will pass on my experience, especially since I have more than 40 years of driving experience. I have knowledge to convey to them, and I have something to tell them," says Sykov.

The project started as an experiment, by the region's Centre for Social Rehabilitation, but its success so far means organisers are hoping to recruit more grandfathers across the region making a total of 20 volunteers.

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