

we all need a home



© 2001 Mai Ensmann

Russia Reindeer Herder's Home in Siberia

Reindeer herding is central to the lives of the nomadic Hanty and Nenets people of northwestern Siberia. They follow the reindeer throughout the year over the tundra and forests. The reindeer provide them with food and clothing.

During the Soviet era the reindeer herders were forced to join collective farms. After the break up of the Soviet Union, some native people chose to return to their traditional style of reindeer herding.

Lena and her husband Juri Vella, a poet and founder of an ethnographic museum, decided to reclaim his family's land eleven years ago. Despite ongoing court battles with a Russian oil company over land rights, they returned to the forest. They brought their families and a teacher for their grandchildren. In the forest the grandchildren receive their lessons while learning traditional ways of hunting, fishing and reindeer herding.

-- Mai Ensmann, *Peace Corps/Kyrgyzstan, 1994-96*

Russia (Russian Federation)

Capital Moscow

Population 140,041,247 (2009 est.)

Life Expectancy 66.03 years

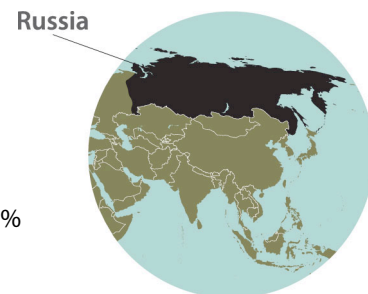
Literacy 99.4% (age 15 and over can read and write)

Languages Russian, many minority languages

Religions Russian Orthodox 15-20%, Muslim 10-15%, other Christian 2%

Government federation

Source: *The World Factbook, 2009*



This photo appears on the **we all need a home** International Poster, produced by the RPCVs of Wisconsin-Madison, 2009. For more information and to order a complete set of full-size posters, see <http://www.rpcvmadison.org/>