

Community Connections Program Update



Піттсбург-Донецьк
Pittsburgh Council for International Visitors
June 1999



Representatives of Pittsburgh Legal and Business Communities to Visit Ukraine

PCIV has received word of the approval of a grant from the US Information Agency's Office of Citizen Exchanges to continue our participation in the Community Connections (CC) Program for the 1999-2000 year. Pittsburgh's ties with Donets'k continue to deepen and broaden with each passing cycle, and a new facet beginning this year will enhance the effectiveness of this valuable program even further.

For the first time since its inception, the CC Program will involve speakers from the US travelling to Ukraine. PCIV will send two professionals from Pittsburgh to Donets'k in September of this year for a five-day program of lectures and visits to local organizations.

Representing the Pittsburgh business community will be **Rhonda Coast**, founder and president of *International Development Resources*. Ms. Coast founded her company to facilitate cross-cultural understanding by providing orientation to US citizens preparing to work abroad, as well as foreign citizens coming to the US. She has worked with three groups of CC Program participants so far, helping them to understand potentially puzzling aspects of American culture (such as the frequent use of baseball metaphors and how Americans live by the clock!)

Ms. Coast will deliver three lectures concerning the following topics: the development of small business; business etiquette and business infrastructure; business and women and the feminist movement.

Susanne Cook, a partner at the law firm, *Cohen and Grigsby*, will represent the Pittsburgh legal community. Her area of specialization is the legal structure governing international joint ventures, a topic that she has discussed with three groups of business people from Donets'k.

Ms. Cook will also deliver three lectures. They will cover the topics of joint ventures, ethics and the law, and the development of small business.

During their stay, both women will observe the daily operations of local businesses, much as participants of the CC program do while in the USA. Since 101 residents of Donets'k have visited Pittsburgh through nine cycles of the CC program, Ms. Coast and Ms. Cook are certain to receive many invitations for such visits. Their trip will demonstrate how much Ukrainians and Americans have much to learn from one another. Щасливої Дороги!



Soon to visit Donets'k:
Susanne Cook (l) and
Rhonda Coast (r)

Future Groups from Donets'k

July 13 – 28, 1999

Local Government
(Ukrainian speaking, 2 wks)

October/November, 1999

Entrepreneurs
(English speaking, 4 wks)

January/February, 2000

Journalists
(Ukrainian speaking, 3 wks)

April/May, 2000

Entrepreneurs
(English speaking, 4 wks)

July/August, 2000

Environmentalists
(Ukrainian speaking, 3 wks)

Hosting Opportunities

Homestays offer Pittsburgh area families the opportunity to interact with our visitors by hosting them in their homes. They are asked only to provide a private bedroom and occasional meals. No driving is expected of hosts.