

## Comments made by Liza Ryabkina on 10/26/06 at the Kinasewich Fund reception

I just wanted to say couple words about Gene and what he has done for me. Most of you probably knew Gene a lot better than I did. However, we share something in common; he is the person who brought us all here tonight. He was a person who thought more about others than about himself.

I remember that one game when our Druzhba-78 team won... as we lined up and tapped our sticks on the ice trying to express how grateful we were to Gene, he was standing in stands and clapping to us, when we did nothing comparing to what he did.

Because of Gene I got an opportunity to get the best education. I'm going to a school that even most of people in the US don't get an opportunity to go to. In one and a half-years I have learned more at Berkshire more than I learned in eleven years at my school at home. Because of Gene, now I have an opportunity to go to one of the best colleges in the whole world. Because of Gene I got a chance in my life to be someone. To get a great education, to help someone the way he helped me, and no to be afraid that one day I will not be able to pay the bills the way a lot of people in Ukraine can't. They live day after day thinking of how they are going to feed their children. And I have been given an opportunity to explore things, to live a life, to study, and to discover multiple features of myself. Because of Gene I got an opportunity to get to know whole different culture and different view that different people have on life. But most important thing that he taught me was how to be a giving and caring person. I just hope that when I grow up that I'll be someone like him. Thank you for this chance.

Sincerely,  
Liza Ryabkina



*William Beckett, president of board introduces students, coaches, and school administrators at the 10/26/06 Kinasewich Fund reception.*

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