

## **A DAY AT THE BEACH in SAN DIEGO**

Pure relaxation and fun at the Beach Party and "cook out" for the children and host families' one week before their return to their homes in Belarus.

**Children of Chernobyl Foundation, San Diego**, is committed to helping the young victims who continue to suffer from the effects of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear accident. Each year between 8,000-10,000 children from the Chernobyl region are removed from their environment to spend part of their summer abroad. Although the Chernobyl disaster does not currently occupy the headlines as it did when the nuclear reactor exploded in the Soviet Ukraine on April 26, 1986, the aftermath of this catastrophe continues to have devastating effects on the people living in Ukraine and Belarus. Contaminated soil and waterways have contributed to poor nutrition and weakened immune systems in people living in the areas around Chernobyl, especially the children. One of the most predominant physical effects of the Chernobyl radiation on children is the profound increase (over 100%) in Thyroid Cancer, a disease rarely found amongst children elsewhere in the world. The corrupt political regime, poor economy, and compromised state of medical and dental facilities add to feelings of depression and despair amongst the people living in this region. The current economic situation of the region makes it nearly impossible for these people to relocate.

**The AALNC - San Diego Chapter** philanthropy project was devoted to assisting The Children of Chernobyl Foundation in providing special activities, financial support to assist in airfare expenses, and the donation of clothing, suitcases and personal care products for the children receiving respite care in San Diego this summer.

*"When you do things from your soul you feel a river running through you."*

*Rumi*