

nity. Take a harder look at what's going on with American Jews who don't talk about their needs, yet the need exists. Why do the Russians get a free ride?"

Sandy Hyman, director of Resettlement Service, says American Jews need to understand that the Russian Jewish community is "like any population. Some are good; some are bad. Some do not know how to deal with their freedom."

Local officials say Detroit's Jewish community offers

21 — arrived here from Uzbekistan three years ago. In the former Soviet Union, Mr. Krymgold was a construction supervisor. He is now a construction worker.

Mrs. Krymgold, a published playwright, was advancing in her career as a journalist and high-ranking public relations official for the Ministry of Agriculture. In the United States, she works in the records department of an insurance company.

The Krymgolds left, in

to a doctorate program in multimedia at Wayne State University. When the family has saved enough money, she hopes to return to school.

"When I came, I had too much ambition. I expected everything," she said. "Now I understand that nothing is wrong with the jobs we have. Without speaking the language well, what could we expect?"

All three Krymgolds found work within three months of their arrival here. Not all immigrants have been this

ed doctors provide about \$500,000 worth of free health screenings, mandated by the federal government, to more than 500 new Americans each year. The hospital and physicians contribute more time and money when a patient is diagnosed with a serious disorder.

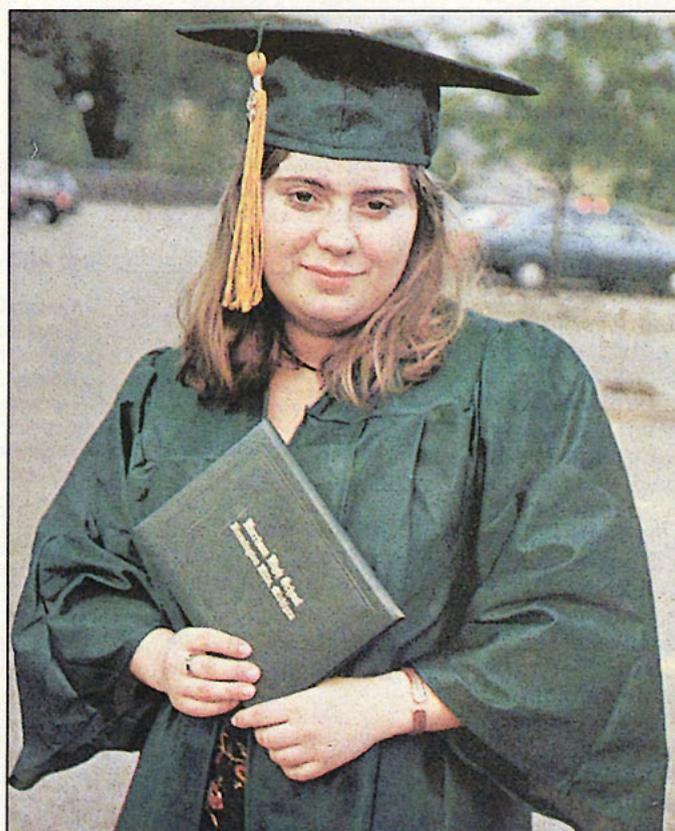
But making the diagnosis can be an arduous task.

"Many new Americans who have been hospitalized here for heart problems won't let us look and see if they have heart disease. Many are

express anxiety over radiation poisoning, but Dr. Feldman said it is too early to tell whether these individuals exhibit a higher cancer rate than individuals from other areas. The Soviet government kept bad health records with no baseline cancer rates for regions within its republics.

"My guess is that we'll never know," he said.

In recent years, several agencies and individuals have sought to make acculturation a personal, rather



New American Mera Polyakhovskaya with granddaughter Inna Zager, a recent high school graduate.

emigres much more guidance today than two decades ago. Between 1973 and 1982, when the first wave of 1,764 Jews arrived from the Soviet Union, outreach efforts were not well-developed. Many emigres settled in places like Troy and on the east side. They never established strong ties with the Jewish community and eventually assimilated.

Resettlement Service and programs like Neighborhood Project, which works with Hebrew Free Loan to assist first-time home buyers, have eased the burden of establishing residency. But hard economic times have made it increasingly difficult for new Americans to land professional positions in the job market.

The Krymgold family — Mikhail, Galina and Sergey,

part, to assure a better future for their son, who wants to become a doctor.

"A friend in the Soviet government told us not to bother applying for my admittance to medical school," Sergey said. "The government doesn't want to prepare Jews for success in Israel (and the United States)."

Sergey attends Oakland Community College. He tutors students in basic anatomy and physiology and has worked for a local physician. Recently, he began dedicating 13 hours a week to tutoring a blind college student.

Though somewhat disappointed with their current occupations, Sergey's parents say they are beginning to adjust. They recognize that success will take time. Mrs. Krymgold has been accepted

fortunate. The average time span for finding a job — any job — is seven months.

"The second wave of Russian refugees faces the same challenges as those who immigrated 20 years ago, but clearly there is a difference in economic environment," said Linda Remington, director of public relations at JVS. "The Russian refugees today must compete with larger numbers of unemployed Americans who are looking for new jobs, often following corporate downsizing or layoffs."

Employment is not the only challenge for emigres and the American Jews seeking to help them. Many Russians come here with medical problems, yet they are suspicious of American doctors.

Sinai Hospital and affiliat-

afraid of injections and catheterization," said Dr. Marc Feldman, director of Sinai's Primary Care Center and outpatient training site, where residents and physicians screen refugees.

"The new Americans are a very difficult group of patients to work with," he said. "They somehow think we're the government. Some yell and scream. The mentality of some is, 'I waited in line. I filled out the forms. I want you to declare me disabled so I can get government money.'"

Many refugees do not seem to understand that the private doctors caring for them are volunteering their services, Dr. Feldman said. "They're very ungrateful."

Refugees who come from areas near Chernobyl, site of the nuclear disaster, often

than institutionalized, process. One-on-one contact with refugees was a goal of Family to Family, established by JFS and the National Council of Jewish Women during the late 1980s. The program matched Russian and American Jews in hopes of building friendships and stronger religious ties. It also aimed to help new Americans find jobs.

But, by the early 1990s, interest in Family to Family began to wane. Directors say many Americans might have been frightened off by the time commitment the program entailed. Also, some Russians arrived with resumes in hand at the homes of their American families. A number of Americans began to complain that the emigres were aggressive and unapprecia-