



A little help - a big difference

Support for Kids Organization, Inc

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Letter from the founder

Dear readers and supporters,

It seems like it was a while since our April issue and I apologize for the delay.

As you may remember from the last newsletter, Mike and I are going to Georgia for almost a month in the beginning of September . This trip is just a few days away and we have been preparing and planning for it for a several months.

During our stay we are hoping to visit the kids of fallen soldiers again and deliver some of the goods to them; go to the areas where the big orphanages used to be, especially the one in the remote mountain area of Georgia - Mestia in Svaneti region. I am still in touch with the former director of that orphanage and she promised me to gather all the kids who remained in the area and organize the meeting with them. It has been 3 years since I last saw them . After the restructuring the Child care System and closing the orphanages, most of the kids were sent to foster care or some other institutions and I was not able to find them. I am so exited that after all this time I will be able to see at least some of them again, all grown-up teenagers.

You are probably wondering about our next fundraiser. Usually, at about this time of a year I am flooding your inbox and mailbox with the emails and the reminders to attend our Annual Fundraiser.

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In the past 5 years all of them were in October or the beginning of November, right after my return from Georgia and before Thanksgiving just to avoid the scheduling conflicts of a busy Holiday Season.

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Letter from the founder (continued)

A fundraiser takes a lot of preparation, coordination, mailing, sending of donation requests to businesses and waiting for their approval. Of course, not to mention the stress associated with it (to meet the guaranteed minimum of guests, etc). Most of it has to be done about a month before the event upon my return from the long and exhausting trip.

This year I decided to postpone our Annual Fundraiser and have it sometime in February or March of 2015. I don't want to waste your time and ask for your financial support unless I have a project in mind. Hopefully, during our trip, we will get a clear vision of what needs to be done and what are the needs of the kids we are trying to help.

Sometime in the end of October I will send you an announcement about our next Annual Fundraiser.

Thanks as always for your support and for your trust in our organization.

Sincerely, *Ani Mdivani-Morrow*

LEVAN GRADUATED!

Most of you probably remember our very special kid - Levan Chakhaia from Kojori Orphanage. By the time he turned 18 and had to leave the orphanage, he had no place to go, nor the means to survive but had a big dream to become a lawyer. 4 years ago when I first met him, he was just a nice kid with ambition who promised me that he won't let me down and that he will be an A student. He kept his promise and just a few months ago, Levan graduated from the law school of Tbilisi Humanitarian University!

He was very fortunate to have an even more special person in his life - my dear friend Sharron Rowley, a complete stranger who volunteered to sponsor him for 4 years of his study.

Levan is just proof of our motto

“A little help - A big difference”.

We have no doubt that Levan will make us all proud for our support, that once upon a time, long time ago we were part of his success.



Georgia up close - SVANETI

It's seems logical to introduce you in this issue to my favorite area of Georgia where we will be traveling. The fact that probably only 30% of Georgians ever have visited this remote area tells you how hard is to get there.

Located on the North West part of the country, this extraordinary and surreal land of towers, snow, craggy peaks, wine, and dancing; where gold was fleeced, where time has not merely stopped, but rather simply never existed. This is Svaneti - land of stunning alpine beauty, eerily set apart from Tbilisi and the modern world in its mountain setting.



In this region lies the village of Ushguli, the highest inhabited point in Europe, surrounded by 4 of Europe's 10 highest peaks of the Caucasus.

The Upper part of this region, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is dotted by medieval villages featuring dozens of evocative stone tower-houses, mostly built in the 9th to 12th centuries. The tower-houses served as both dwellings

and defensive structures, against occasional invaders and the much more commonplace blood feuds that would occur between clans in the isolated mountain villages. They were also being used to communicate. A fire was built in them to send messages from tower to tower.

During the numerous raids of various invaders, the Georgian kings hid sacred treasures and valuable manuscripts in Svaneti. Here are preserved the oldest Georgian manuscripts of the Bible along with the magnificent embossed icons - the most important examples of Georgian iconography.

Svaneti is too beautiful to be described. You have to see it!





Support for Kids
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A LITTLE HELP - A
BIG DIFFERENCE

Your tax-deductable financial gift is the most important action you can take to help this great cause. Please visit our site: www.supportforkids.org

Please help

Ralphs Community Contribution Program

A few years ago we signed up for Ralph's Community Contribution Program. It's very easy, you don't spend an extra penny, just shop as usual and percentage of your regular grocery spending goes to our charity. It is an unmatched opportunity for our supporters to strengthen their favorite charity. Support For Kids Organization, Inc is officially a participant of this program. Ralphs pledged to make the Community Contribution Program as easy to use and as effective as possible.



If any of you shops at Ralph's we would really appreciate if you register in this program. The new program year begins on September 1, 2014 and participants can start registering for the new term at the same time at www.ralphs.com or at the register starting September 1, 2014.

Even if some of you registered as recently as June, July or August 2014, you are required to register again beginning September 1.

For your convenience, step-by-step website registration instructions can be found at www.ralphs.com.

Please pass this information to your family and friends and I hope we can count on your participation.

