

A little help—a big difference



Support for Kids Organization, Inc

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Letter from the founder



Dear readers and supporters,

Every day our lives are filled with many challenges and we might forget how blessed we are living in this great country. Sometimes we take for granted a lot of things that surround us and don't realize the importance of these comforts.

In this issue, I am taking the liberty to remind all of you to be proud to be an American, helping some kids thousands of miles away just proves the greatness of this nation. Each and every one of us should proudly

wave our American flag, protect and defend the core principles of this great nation.

Thanks as always and have a very Happy 4th of July!

Ani Mdivani-Morrow

Special points of interest:

- Happy 4th of July
- Teddy Bear Project
- Tests Schedule
- Legends and facts about Georgia



The Teddy Bear Project



Oh, it's so much fun, maybe I want to be a doctor

In the previous issue I mentioned one of my friends in Georgia, Dr. Tamara Rukhadze, who expressed a desire to participate and to contribute somehow in our mission of improving lives of the kids in the orphanages. She came up with an idea to have a group of volunteer doctors, who were willing to do the field trips, visit the orphanages and perform medical examinations of the kids.

The project has been approved by the Child Protection Agency.

You might ask why are we calling it a Teddy Bear Project?



Demonstration of the importance of brushing your teeth everyday



Let me check you out, Teddy

Well, generally kids don't like [afraid of] doctors and to make the experience more fun, she decided to demonstrate similar exams on the Teddy Bears first (this is mostly for the little patients), to show that they don't have to be scared, that it is not painful at all and that they can even enjoy the doctor's visit.

This project is a first step for routine medical examination of the kids in the orphanages. Most of the orphanages we visited had only part time nurse on duty and in case of emergency.

Clearly it is not enough. Kids in remote areas of the country probably have not seen the doctors at all. Despite the conditions they are living in, fortunately most of the kids looked healthy and hopefully after this routine medical examination no further testing or evaluation will be necessary.



Little Eto from "Satnoeba" orphanage

The Teddy Bear Project

On June 1st, an International Day of Children, the tent with a banner "Teddy Bear Hospital" was set on the grounds of the main campus of Tbilisi State University. The kids from 2 Tbilisi orphanages were welcomed for the medical examination in this festive and playful atmosphere. Each of them received a "goody bag" with items of personal hygiene and of course, small Teddy Bears.

I would like to thank the organizers of this event, first of all Dr. Tamara Rukhadze and her team from the faculty of Medicine of Tbilisi State University. I do hope that this project continues to grow and will move outside the city to cover the rest of the orphanages in the country. I do

realize that it is very difficult project as it is very time consuming and requires funding at least to cover transportation expenses, but the kids in the hard to reach regions are the ones who need most of the attention.

With your help as always, we intend to support this project by covering travel expenses for the doctors and by doing this we are helping the kids as they are the beneficiaries of this very important project.



Good Luck, Roba!



In the previous issue, I mentioned one kid - Roba, who is getting ready for entry exams to one of the most prestigious colleges in the country and a scholarship fund that one very dear friend offered for him (I still can not mention her name without her permission).

If everything goes well and Roba enters the college, we will set up the separate fund under my friend's name. He does not know about that offer yet. I do believe, that if everything goes well, this will be a great example and motivation for the other kids who want to pursue the same path - education and establishing themselves as equal and contributing members of society.

The first test is on July 2nd, then 6th, 9th and 14th. I have marked all these dates on my calendar and feel like I am taking these tests with him and you are welcome to join us. Please, pray for Roba's success. With his motivation and enormous desire to succeed in the future, let's wish him all the best. Good Luck, Roba!



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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 donation page

Please help

Georgia up close - Georgian Wheat

Despite the scantiness of its territory, Georgia provides a miniature model of the earth with vagaries of climate and soils. Strong climate fluctuations have encouraged a richness and diversity of vegetation. Of a total of 22 wheat species generally known in the world, 14 are registered in Georgia falling into tens of varieties. Five species of these 14 are endemic, i.e. native only to Georgia. Such a great diversity of wheat can be found nowhere else. Archeological digs in the south and eastern parts of Georgia brought to light 8 sorts of wheat cultivated in the 6th century BC. Comprehensive material derived from archeological excavations suggests that inhabitants of these areas used water to irrigate barren land and separated grain from straw by threshing the harvested wheat. The agricultural information for the Near East and North Iraq (known as the Fertile Crescent and the Cradle of Civilization) in the same period is less impressive: up to 5 types of cultivated species. This gives ample grounds to presume that the origin of many cultivated plants can be traced to Georgia.

Despite the country's voluminous array of natural vegetation, through forced agricultural collectivization, the long-upheld agricultural traditions and mixed variety of domesticated animals and crops sink into oblivion or got lost forever. Under Soviet directives wheat was completely withdrawn from Georgia's highland regions because its cultivation involved a full range of agro-technical difficulties. Regrettably, the only evidence of Georgian wheat qualities can currently be derived from historical, ethnographic and literary sources.

In the beginning of 20th century a superb quality of Georgian wheat attracted the attention of foreign researchers and was rapidly exported to Europe, America and Japan. While unique Georgian wheat is being driven to extinction in the country of its origin, other countries, meantime, continue to take pride in advertising Georgian wheat seeds as their own. The large scale transnational companies obsessed with a desire to open up new markets for their surplus products obstruct national production in other countries and try to bring Georgia into their sphere of influence and heavily dependent on export. But fortunately, today farming activities are boosted worldwide by a strong demand for ecologically friendly staple food. Georgia has a huge potential to produce ecologically clean and competitive agro products. The ecological rehabilitation of contaminated lands and the reintroduction of agricultural species and varieties, the origins of which can be traced back over millennia, would be greatly beneficial to both the health and welfare of generation to come.

Earlier it had been absolutely unforgivable to throw away bread. If we dropped bread accidentally, our grandmas and grandpas would insist on us picking it up, cleaning it and kissing it three times. Our forefathers cherished bread because of the sweat and toil wheat cultivation involved. Today one can get freshly baked bread from any supermarket without much trouble and without caring if bread is dropped, to pick it up, clean it and kiss it three times.

