

A little help—a big difference



Support for Kids Organization, Inc

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Dear readers and supporters,

Before starting this issue, I looked at the previous ones and realized that in the last 2 newsletters I was talking about natural disasters that recently seem to strike our world on a regular basis. First it was tragedy in Japan, then flooding in the southern states and now tornados. Seeing the devastating images of Joplin and other Midwest places one might assume that maybe it really is the end of the world? Once again our thoughts and prayers are with the victims of the latest tornados and floods that hit our country.

Along with these natural disasters, the news stations are busily broadcasting about political unrest and riots all around the world.

In these cases the victims are people like us including children. Unfortunately, humans can't prevent or withstand the forces of nature but it is definitely in man's power to resolve the political problems peacefully without confronting one another, without costly and unnecessary wars, without tremendous casualties and human suffering.

I hope you had a great Memorial weekend and that we always thank and remember all the brave men and women who defended our country, our freedom and our future. Let us hope there is a day when they do not have to go to war.

Once again, thank you for your continued support and your interest.

Sincerely,

Ani Mdivani-Morrow



Accident - unexpected slow-down

This might be the first issue where the main news has nothing to do with the kids or with our organization. This time it is about me, your servant. The only reason I am bringing this news to your attention is because it affected very seriously Support For Kids Organization, Inc. by slowing down our work.

On May 6th I fell 8 feet from a ladder. I was taken to the emergency room followed by 3 days of hospitalization. Diagnosis - fractured spine (L1 compressed to half a size), crushed heel bone and sprained wrist.

You might wonder what I was doing on an 8 foot ladder? You might even consider that it was my excuse to quit the City of San Diego 2010 Redistricting Commission (in the previous issue I made the remark that being one of the commissioners is a little more work and stress than I anticipated.). But seriously, this was not the case.

I don't want to go much into the details of how I was on that 8 foot ladder all alone, but I have to admit that it was all my fault. To my embarrassment, I also have to admit that I am extremely stubborn, even though in my defense I called it 'persistence'. I like to do almost everything by myself and since I want them to be done 'my way', I thought that it will be easier to do things by myself rather to explain to somebody how exactly I want them to be done. Another bad thing about me is that I am very anxious to finish - whatever can be done today, I like to finish it that day and not postpone it for later time regardless how tired I might be.

It was late evening, we were both tired of fixing something but I just wanted to be done with the project and I asked Mike to go to his room out of the dust for a little while and that I would not go to the top of the ladder alone ... Well, 20 minutes later he heard the crash that shook up not only our building, but the structures 100 yards away.

I broke the rule—nobody goes to the top of the ladder unless somebody is holding it. Why did I do that? Because of my persistence or stubbornness? Whatever the reason is, it was my fault and now not only I have to pay for all the pain, 3 months of cast and associated discomfort, but I made the life of my loved ones as painful by taking care of me for a very long time.



As you can see from the picture, my activities are very limited. I have to wear this torturous body armor all the time (it is looks like one of the inquisition tools, or a bulletproof vest, or maybe even the latest Avant-garde fashion trend). The only time I can relieve my body from it is in bed, but I have to be on my back which is almost as bad as wearing these braces. I can't sit in a straight position for more than 40 minutes, I can't bend, or stretch or reach whatever I drop on the floor.

I have to be in my body armor until the end of June at least and the foot cast should stay through mid August.

It's so depressing being so useless and to be such a burden for Mike. He is an unbelievable care taker combining duties of a cook, a nurse, a house cleaner and a babysitter with such skills, patience and love. Thank you Mike.



Accident (*continued*)

Now I am already worrying about my upcoming trip to Georgia. I have a ticket for September 2nd and I have no idea how I will stand such a long flight. Besides, my doctor told me that I probably will not be able to walk freely for almost 1 year. One of the main reasons for my trip is to see the kids in various orphanages (as you already know most of them are in far - hard to reach areas) and deliver the goods I managed to ship.

By the way, 3 huge boxes were added in addition to my shipment of winter coats which were already shipped separately as I had mailed them just a few days prior to my accident. I feel so good that at least this part was taken care of and that my accident will not delay the shipment schedule and that Mike does not have to worry about them on top of his care giving duties.

I am trying not to get too depressed and realize that it could have been much, much worse. Actually I feel that I am lucky and I am grateful to my guardian angels. It was just a warning to slow down and not to be so stubborn “persistent”.

The 3rd Annual Fundraiser

Even in this condition I have to make decisions about our future plans. One of them is was to select a venue for our 3rd annual fundraiser. First we thought to go back again to Tom Ham’s Lighthouse, but the attitude of the management was very disappointing. Besides the fact that they raised the price for their brunch, they absolutely didn’t care to get our business after 2 years being their regular customers. So we started to search for other options. You might think what’s the rush to worry about an event which is in the fall, but in order to receive the donations from certain companies (for example the Disneyland), you have to comply with their requirements and submit the requests in a certain time frame indicating time along with the details of the event. Time was running out and we had no choice but to start searching for the new location.



Mike loaded me into the wheelchair (my new way of transportation) and we started our search. We looked at several possibilities—some of them were very good but were a way beyond our budget, some were eliminated because of the location and settings, the others lacked the parking. Finally, we discovered a catering company who offered their service including the location.

It’s in Marina Village on Mission Bay. It is right on the water, maybe not as fancy as Tom Ham’s but it is very private and has its own free parking. Even though it is fairly central location, it’s a bit hard to find if you are not familiar with Mission Bay. But we will post and let you know the directions how to get there in our flyers and invitation cards which we are in the process of making.

But for now, just please mark your calendar for our **Third Annual Fundraiser Brunch on Sunday October 30th, 2011** (the day prior to Halloween) in Marina Village (Catalina Room) on Mission Bay and it will be catered by Ranch Event Catering Company.

I will be posting this announcement in the remaining 4 issues of our newsletter and as before, I will be so grateful to your support and hope you will attend this event to help our cause and make the lives of the kids in need a bit better.



Support for Kids
Organization, Inc
P.O. Box 3242
La Jolla, CA 92038 USA

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 donation page

Please help

Georgia up-close : A very brief history of Georgian Independence

Much of Georgia's territory was fought over by Persian, Roman, Byzantine, Arab, Mongol, and Turkish armies from at least the 1st century B.C. through the 18th century. The zenith of Georgia's power as an independent kingdom came in the 11th and 12th centuries, during the reigns of King David the Builder and Queen Tamara, who still rank among the most celebrated of all Georgian rulers. In 1783 the king of Kartli (in eastern Georgia) signed with the Russians the Treaty of Georgievsk, by which Russia agreed to take the kingdom as its protectorate. In 1801, the Russian empire began the piecemeal process of unifying and annexing Georgian territory, and for most of the next two centuries (1801-1991) Georgia was ruled by Russia from St. Petersburg and Moscow.

Exposed to modern European ideas of nationalism under Russian tutelage, Georgians began calling for greater Georgian independence. In the wake of the collapse of tsarist rule when Bolsheviks took over and war with the Turks, the first Republic of Georgia was established on **May 26, 1918**. The country enjoyed a brief period of independence under the Menshevik president, Noe Zhordania. However, in March 1921, the Russian Red Army re-occupied the country, and Georgia became a republic of the Soviet Union.

In the postwar period, Georgia was perceived as one of the wealthiest and most privileged of Soviet republics, and many Russians treated the country's Black Sea coast as a kind of Soviet Riviera.



On April 9, 1991, the Supreme Council of the Republic of Georgia declared independence from the U.S.S.R. This day is marked as one of the most tragic days in Georgian history - this time the Soviet army used their military power against a peaceful demonstration.

As a kid in high school, I remember how we secretly were celebrating May 26, and how all of us were dreaming to regain the independence of our country from Russia for once and for all. Because of the tragedy on April 9th, and the fact that the formation of Georgia as a Republic happened on May 26th 1918, it was decided to mark that very day as Georgian Independence Day.



It is now almost 20 years since 1991, Moscow is still trying to manipulate and interfere with Georgian independence, but this is a topic of a separate chapter and I will not discuss it in this issue. Let's just hope that a new generation will never again experience the totalitarian rule, occupation and wars and will proudly carry on Georgian flags and preserve the independence of Georgia for ever and ever..