

**A little
help—a big
difference**

Support for Kids Organization, Inc

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Special points of interest:

- Successful trip
- FedEx is our sponsor
- Future plans
- Legends and facts about Georgia

Letter from the founder

Dear readers and supporters,

Nothing can be as rewarding as to see the actual results of your hard work.

In the previous issues you read about the difficulties we had to face with the shipping of the boots, shoes and jeans we bought for the kids. Actually, not that it was difficult as much as it was expensive.

At the very beginning of the formation of Support For Kids Organization, Inc. we decided that the maximum amount of funds raised at our fundraisers and through your contributions would go directly to the kids.

We work very hard and try our best to stick to our promise and we will continue to do so with your support.

During my January visit to Georgia, I knocked at the doors of every government official who might have helped us [and even some would not] with the shipping. Upon my return, I received a hopeful e-mail from the Department of Social Services and Child Protection Agency. Now I can definitely assure myself that this trip was worth it because they are going to help.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for believing in us, for believing in our cause, for your continued interest, for your moral and financial support.

My best wishes for the very
Happy St Patrick's Day!

Sincerely,
Ani Mdivani-Morrow



The Shipping Problem Is Solved!

You probably heard many times: “Persistence, persistence, persistence”. Well, finally it’s paid off—our shipment of boots/shoes and jeans will be on the way to the kids very shortly. So there is a big chance (and the hope) that the kids actually enjoy warm boots while it is still cold in Georgia this winter.

How long it has been? Three-four months? It seems that we have been dealing with the shipping issue forever and probably most of you are tired of listening to the same problem over and over again. C’mon, how hard it can be to ship stuff to another country, not that we were trying to ship it to the Moon.

No, it is not hard; actually it is very easy as long as you pay for it. We know you have heard it all before but we want to assure you that we are extremely careful with the funds raised with your generous donations. We do research, shop for the best deals (we did this prior to our order for bed manufacturing, buying goods in China, etc.). We were doing the same with the shipping. But regardless of the way of transporting (unless you are able to fill a huge sea container with the goods), the cost of each item would have been as high as some designer shoes. It would have not made sense at all.

After all this time searching for a solution, contacting various charities, asking for help, sometimes even annoying people with constant complains about this problem, we almost gave up - it seemed impossible. But we kept up hope.

The next week after my arrival back to USA, here it came - the e-mail from the deputy of Child Protection Agency of Georgia that they could assist with the shipment (free of charge) except we had to deliver the goods to a shipper in New Jersey and also we had to reduce the number of boxes a bit (not the weight) because of the limited space in that sea container going to Georgia.

That seemed incredibly easy and doable; the main problem — overseas shipping—was solved!

The first step was to re-pack these 380 pairs of boots and shoes and 200 pairs of jeans totaling 26 boxes (oh, I forgot to mention, that while I was gone, Mike bought 180 knitted wool kid’s hats and 180 gloves which added another 3 boxes).



Almost the next day after this great news ,we drove to Ramona (all this time the goods were stored in Mark Allen’s office—thanks Mark).

I was fully equipped with new boxes, a huge roll of clear grocery bags from Vons, permanent markers, labels and packing tapes. The plan was to re-pack 380 pairs of boots and joggers from their individual boxes into plastic bags, label them (convert American sizes to European sizes) and pack all of it into fewer boxes. By the end of 2 exhausting trips (and Raquel’s help) we managed to squeeze everything into 23 manageable size boxes.

The next step was to find a cheapest way to ship them across the country. And here is Mike again calling and e-mailing to various shipping and freight companies to get a reasonable quote for our 1000 pound freight from San Diego to Elizabeth, New Jersey.

The Shipping Problem Is Solved!

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After a several days of trying, we realized that it might not be as easy as it seemed at the beginning.

For example, the UPS quote was almost \$680 (with their 80% discount for charities). But we still patiently were waiting for the “verdict “ from FedEx Freight. A few days ago we finally received a call from FedEx that they would ship it for us for free from San Diego to Newark as long as we deliver and pick up the boxes to and from their shipping docks. This was incredible news—FedEx, thank you, thank you, thank you!

**FedEx
stepped in**

The only part that had not been covered, was a short distance between Newark and the shipper in Elizabeth , New Jersey . Again FedEx stepped in and offered to take care of that last ”leg” of shipment for \$150. Of course we agreed—basically this whole shipment was done for \$150.

I would like to express my gratitude to Natia Pirashvili from the Child Protection Agency of Georgia , who did an amazing job finding a shipping solution for us. Thank you Nati for your enthusiasm and for believing in our cause.

I guess patience and our persistence finally was rewarded.

This week Mike will deliver the boxes to FedEx freight dock (if he can find a pickup truck) and hopefully the shipment will be on the way to the kids.



I still can not believe that it finally happened!

Plans For The Next Fundraising

There are always an ongoing many needs in the orphanages and unfortunately majority of them require significant funds. We are working selecting, as our next project, something that we will be able to accomplish. For example, 3 orphanages we know of need a new gas stoves and major repairs on the bathrooms that we are getting estimates on now. Also, another orphanage that we helped earlier with mattresses, desperately needs new beds (maybe even more than the one that we helped already). They are in critical condition and now they have seen the coverage on Georgian TV about the other orphanage and how you and Support for Kids Organization Inc. helped with the beds.

As before, we will select one or 2 projects and will concentrate our efforts to make them happen.

We already have scheduled our next fundraising/gathering at the Brigantine Seafood restaurant in Del Mar on April 22, 2010. Lots more info to follow on that event in the April issue of our monthly newsletter and by email.



Support for Kids Organization, Inc

P.O. Box 3242
La Jolla, CA 92038 USA

Phone/Fax: 858-279-7339
Mobile: 858-344-0808
E-mail: ani@supportforkids.org

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Your tax-deductible 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 - Introduction of Christianity

St. George (300 A.D.) so-called patron saint of Georgia was a Palestinian or Turk who, according to legend, killed a dragon that terrorized a village in Lidya (northern Turkey). This feat of peacemaking instantly converted the 15,000 inhabitants to Christianity. His triumph of good over evil is also bears resemblance to the tale of Jason, who could gain the Golden Fleece only by slaying a dragon, this time with the aid of the princess Medea. What all the dragons and princesses have to say about Georgia, and the wild spirits loose in the Caucasus, is anybody's guess.

While St. George is the patron saint of other countries, he is not the patron of Georgia. The name of the country more likely comes from Kurj or Gurj, which the Arabs called the inhabitants of the area.

Still, his rescue of a pagan land from the tyranny of a dragon makes St. George an apt hero for Georgia.



St. Nino of Cappodocia(330 A.D.) Although Christianity was introduced to Georgia in the first century after Christ, it was not by an apostle or an army who converted the nation but by a slave girl. Nino was a virtuous (and doubtless beautiful) servant from Greece, or possibly Italy, who prayed to save the life of a child in the house where she served. The royal family of Karli (Eastern Georgia) heard of this miracle, and when King Miriam III himself became lost in a foggy forest, he tried a prayer to Nino's God. The fog lifted at once, and the impressed ruler asked the Christian emperor of Byzantium, Constantine, to send priests and bishops to convert the populace. Upon her death Nino was returned to Georgia and is said to be buried in Bodbe monastery located in the east Georgia, Kakheti.



Miriam III later united Kartli and Colchis with his kingdom in Eastern Georgia, and Christianity became the state religion of this expanded country. The adoption of a monotheistic Christianity allowed a model for a unified Georgian nation under a single king. It was a significant turning point, and Georgia found itself oriented toward Rome rather than Persia, West rather than East.

The Grapevine Cross also known as the Georgian or Saint Nino's cross, is a major symbol of the Georgian Orthodox Church. It is recognizable by its horizontal arms drooping a little. The legend has it that she received the grapevine cross from the Virgin Mary or, alternatively, she forged it herself and secured it by entwining with her own hair