

**A little
help—a big
difference**

Support for Kids Organization, Inc

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Special points of interest:

- We are ready to start our first project
- Support for Kids Organization is now incorporated
- Successful fundraising
- Legends and facts about Georgia

The First Big Project

In our first issue we told you about some terrible conditions the kids are living in. Besides the deteriorated buildings, leaky ceilings and cracks, lack of heat, running water and electricity, in almost every orphanage we visited there was also a lack of personal space for the kids. The only thing you can call “personal” was a bed that looked like a remnant from the World War I. In most places the kids share one locker for their limited amount of clothes and their personal hygiene items, like a toothbrush and

a towel , they keep under a pillow.

Unfortunately we can not help with major improvements yet (fixing the buildings, putting water pipes, etc.) but we thought that we can get these kids some new beds and some personal lockers. While we were in Georgia this summer, we visited local furniture manufacturer and got a quote for building the beds, night stands and small dressers. At that time we were asking to build 40 such sets.

We were a bit concerned about lockers and nightstands, since there was not enough room for all this furniture for each kid.

After returning back, Mike decided to search for the alternative *continue on page4*



Overcrowded bedroom with old beds

Letter from the founder

Dear readers and supporters,

In our first issue we highlighted how our organization was born and what has been done in a short period of its existence.

We have promised you to deliver the news and accounts of our projects. The biggest news is that Support For Kids Organization is now incorporated and we have started our first big project.

Thanks to all our supporters and I would like to wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

Ani Mdivani-Morrow

The First Fundraising

It came the time to do the first fundraising for our first big project—40 beds for one orphanage. It is a big project and we realized we could not accomplish it by ourselves. We needed your financial support.

I, personally, never have asked anybody for money, and now, in these tough economic times, to make these requests was even more uncomfortable. But, we have made the commitment to improve the lives of these kids and facing a broken promise was even harder.

So here we were—sending donation requests to some businesses, to our friends, to friends of our friends, to everybody we could approach.

We had selected the Tom Ham's Lighthouse restaurant with their famous Sunday champagne brunch as the venue for our first fundraising.

The pressure was tremendous. On one

hand we had to guarantee 40 people in order to have this nice room with private patio overlooking the San Diego Bay, and on the other, to do all the necessary preparation which included setting up silent and live auctions, (I actually studied

online how to prepare for and run a silent auction) selecting and tagging the items, collecting and packaging the raffle prizes,



Room with the view of San Diego bay

Our Amazing Auctioneer

Thanks to our amazing auctioneer and long time friend, Dallas Woodring for his outstanding performance. He was not a formal snooty auctioneer (believe me, most of them are very snooty, especially in the art field and their slight British accent is a "must" to

have), but a true professional with a great sense of humor who filled the room with laughter and managed to raise \$ 5925!

Our amazing auctioneer...filled the room with laughter and managed to raise \$5925

Dallas, thank you so much for your hard work and all your support.



Dallas is asking for a higher bid

Art at the Auction

Being in the art business for over 15 years, people were expecting to see good art and I did not want to disappoint them with my selection. That is why I was even more careful in selecting what to offer.

First of all, I wanted it to be

good, unique and Georgian.

One of the artists presented, Otar Megrelidze, is not only extremely talented as a creator, but his art is on the same wall with Vincent van Gogh's "Sunflowers" in one



Tamuna's art

Japanese collection. He also did the illustrations for my first book "Fluto's Adventures". The other young artist, Tamuna, is famous for her whimsical and naïve style and childlike innocence

The First Fundraising

Continue from page 2

selling brunch tickets and making the guest list and registration form, preparing for a Power Point presentation (I have to admit that technical side is not my strongest virtue and up until recently I was trying to stay away from the “thing” called “computer”). I was trying not to overlook even the slightest detail of the event; I just wanted it to be as perfect as possible.

October 4th was approaching faster than the increase in numbers of our registered

guests. I was in such a desperation that I probably annoyed everybody around me with my endless counting and re-counting, e-mail announcements and reminders, constant re-confirmations and questions to my friends if they could bring somebody with them.

Finally, the Big Day arrived and the 55 supporters of

this great cause filled this beautiful room. We were

speechless, we were not expecting the response and the event turned out to be a pleasant surprise for everybody and we hope it will be the beginning of the path to our success

of improving lives of the little Georgian orphans.



Very quite during my presentation

Our Sponsors

I might sound like one of the Oscar winners during award ceremony with their endless “thank you’s to everybody, but I have to list at least few of them.

First of all, Mark Allen for his outstanding support, Carol Bjorsness who flew from another state (she is



the one who was forcing you to buy the raffle tickets); Nancy Rau, Joseph Maiorano, John Lingham, Andrea Gravatt, Nancy Stewart, Sharron Rowley, Richard Monje, Valerie and John Botte, Mary Smith, Di- anne Wagner for their generous contributions,

Irene and Eteri Djobadze for believing in my project, Nino Kapanadze, Chris Hodge, LaVon Eblen, Bud and Ellie Russell, Levan and Nino Dar-jania, Marina Morrow for welcoming all of you, Channel 10, San Diego Zoo, Sea World, Pasquale’s, Ladeki’s Restaurant group, Global Laser, H&M Landing, Smith Optics— thank you, thank you, thank you all.

Art at the Auction

shines through her artwork and that makes her art even more pleasant.

Works by famous Georgian graphic artist and illustrator Lali Lomtadze were presented as well.

There were other important artists and artwork during

this auction and almost every piece was offered was much below its actual retail value.

We hope that you are pleased with what you acquired.

I will make sure that in the

future events we will add some unique pieces of jewelry, as well as more authentic arts and crafts from the rich and vibrant Georgian culture.



Silent auction items



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-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

Skull Find Shakes Up Theories on Early Humanity

Remains found in Georgia suggest mankind's evolution had Eurasian chapter

Theories of human evolution have been thrown into disarray by ancient human remains found in Georgia, the *Independent* reports. The skulls, unearthed near Tbilisi, are from 1,8 million years ago, 800,000 years before modern humanity's ancestors were believed to have first moved out of Africa. The find, scientists say, suggests our ancient ancestors evolved into modern hu-



David Gareji

mans in Eurasia before migrating back to Africa.

Researchers believe the early humans found had brains around half the size of those of modern humans, walked up-

right, and were proficient tool makers.

Source: *Independent (UK)*, Sept.9 2009

So far, the oldest Homo erectus find outside of Africa was unearthed in 1991 near the Georgian village of Dmanisi, and carbon dated to 1.8 million years ago.

Some recent discoveries point to even older dates for the Homo erectus fossils in Java, approaching 2 million years of age. But until the radio-carbon dating comes in, we'll stick with Georgia as the first whistle-stop on the travels of Homo erectus.

Continue from page 1 **The First Big project**

to the nightstands and lockers. And, thanks to his sailor spirit or sailor moment, he found the perfect solution— Mate's Twin Bed which is a combination of all 3 things: bed, nightstand and a storage.

Right now we are in process of sending the drawings and the plan to our furniture manufacturer in Tbilisi, Georgia. Hopefully, they will be able to build them and deliver to the kids by Christmas.

