



A little help—a big difference

# Support for Kids Organization, Inc

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### Special points of interest:

- November 7th – please mark your calendar
- Trip Agenda
- Legends and facts about Georgia

## Letter from the founder

Dear readers and supporters,

Each and every issue of my newsletter should start with thanking you for your constant financial support and continued interest throughout the year even in these tough economic times. Whatever has been done so far, was achieved because of you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

As you all probably know from my previous newsletter, I am leaving for Georgia in 10 days for a month and in October you will have a little break from Support For Kids Organization Inc. news except one last reminder in the mid October to purchase your tickets for our second annual fundraiser in Tom Ham's Lighthouse restaurant which will be on November 7th 2010.

I will have just less than 3 weeks to prepare everything for this event - the raffle prizes, auction items and catalogs (both for silent and live auctions), sponsor banner, table signs, guest registry and guest's name tags, a lot of little things that might not seem important, but for certain, contribute to the creation of a fun and successful event. And of course, most importantly, I have to prepare the detailed report from my trip highlighting our achievements and success and what needs to be done in the future.

I do hope that you will try to help me to make these last 3 weeks before the fundraiser a bit less stressful by purchasing or reserving your tickets in advance. I know that most of you are planning to attend and forgive me if I sound too demanding, but I am trying to have a list of guests and the numbers ahead of time. It is already very stressful to gather 100 guests (we had to guarantee this number of guests in order to reserve the big room).

So please, mark your calendar for **November 7th, 2010**, spread the word, invite your friends to join us for yet another great event to support the kids.

I am so grateful to have friends and supporters like you.

Thanks as always,

*Ani Mdivani-Morrow*

## Roba is the student!

As you all probably remember, last January I decided to help one very motivated kid from Digomi orphanage who wanted to continue education in one of the very reputable colleges. He was highly recommended by the director of the orphanage where he spent almost all his life. I arranged for special tutors that prepared him for college entrance exams in 2 subjects. Prof. Nina Barnoff and Thea Barnoff both donated their time and effort to help him. On average, the tuition in each subject is around \$1000- \$1500. They both did it for free and I can't possibly thank them enough for their hard work and devotion to help this kid to achieve his dream. Thank you so much!

You probably also remember that in the past 2 issues of the newsletter I was constantly mentioning his name and asked for your prayers to help him to achieve his dream of becoming a student. It took almost a month for the final results. Even though he was sending me the e-mails after each exam, the scores did not make much sense to me (they have some strange grading system). After the final test, it was some kind of appeal process for the kids who failed (thanks God Roba was not one of them) that also delayed the final results. Getting the high score was the main key to avoid very high tuition fees (most of the colleges are private). Even though Roba's score was not high enough to get free tuition, he still might qualify for tremendous reduction of these fees because of his status.

We just have heard the great news - Robert (Roba) has been accepted and is the proud student of Georgian National University, which is very good private school. Congratulations to Roba, we all are so proud of you!

We have budgeted \$150 a month for housing (he has to leave the orphanage), plus \$400 one-time expense for school supplies and he will need to get the funds starting in September 2010.

In the previous newsletter I mentioned that unfortunately the practice of "roommates" is yet unknown in Georgia, so to find cheap housing for him is a bit of challenge and it will be a separate item in the agenda during my coming trip. I will do my best to find him a decent room preferably with some nice lady who will cook for him at least once in a while, where he can concentrate on his education and face the life outside the orphanage. He really deserves it.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

I will be sending the separate flyer in mid October. In meanwhile, please mark your calendar and purchase the tickets as soon as you can. I will really appreciate your early reservation. Here is the info:

### Annual Fundraising Brunch

**When:** *November 7th, 2010 from 10:30 AM – 2 PM*

**Where:** *Tom Ham's Light House Restaurant*

*2150 Harbor Island Drive, San Diego, CA 92101 Telephone (619) 291-9110*

**Price:** *\$55 per person or \$50 per person for table of 8, 10 or 12 people*

**RSVP:** *(858) 279-7339 or [ani@supportforkids.org](mailto:ani@supportforkids.org)*

## Plans during Georgia trip

The very first thing on my agenda upon arrival is to fly to that remote area of the country called Svaneti (where Mestia orphanage is located). The reason I have to hurry to get there, is that even in August there is a snow on the surrounding mountains and the weather there is not predictable at all even with modern satellite devices. In other words, it might start snowing any minute and this toy- looking airplane will not be able to handle the local weather conditions. When I received this photo from the local airline , the first respond came from my stomach..., but since there is no other way to get there besides 9 –12 hours drive in best case scenario (you might drive 5 hours just to find out at the foothills that the road is closed), I had no choice but to book the ticket for September 17th. These flights are only twice a week from the military airdrome outside the capital Tbilisi. The problem is that I will not be able to catch the plane coming back the same day—I have to stay till the 21st. So, there is a chance I might be stuck there for a long time and the chance of me becoming one of the resident of that orphanage is very real. I have to be there at least for 2 days to evaluate the condition of that orphanage, do the work order and hopefully find local contractor to do the job.



Besides this orphanage, I plan to visit the kids in 3 other orphanages and deliver the goods which are stored in the warehouse.

I also plan to take the team of doctors from Teddy Bear Project to one of these orphanages while I am there. I am not sure if I can accomplish this during my visit—the doctors are volunteering their time to this project and coordination of their free time and transportation might be a problem.

Less than flying on this funky airplane, I am looking forward to the meetings with government officials to seek their cooperation with 2 projects - the first is their cooperation for continuation of Teddy Bear Project and the second project, which is in a preliminary stage, to seek the participation and involvement of Georgian government in training for future employment of the kids who have to leave the orphanages . We are working with a Georgian Agricultural firm to set up a program for the older orphanage kids who must soon go on their own. The program would include summer camps and eventually full training in some phase of agriculture that would give them a livelihood. For a few months I have been communicating with one person in agro industry and his ideas are very promising. I will be checking on it while in Georgia and hopefully I will know more upon my return. If everything goes well we might be able to start a pilot program that will involve the most vulnerable age group in the orphanages, possibility of their employment and preparation for their independent future.

I also need to find a place for Robert. Once again, congratulations and our best wishes to Roba!

Hopefully I will survive the airplane ride and manage to do everything I plan for this trip .



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](mailto:ani@supportforkids.org)

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](http://www.supportforkids.org) donation page*

Please help

## Georgia up close - SVANETI

It's seems logical to introduce you in this issue to the part of Georgia where I 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, as 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!

