

**A little
help—a big
difference**

Support for Kids Organization, Inc

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First Fundraising Results

As you all already know, our first fundraising was very successful and we raised almost \$9000!

\$5925 from the auction (Dallas, thank you again for your amazing effort), \$2750 from the brunch ticket sale and around \$300 from the raffle sale.

Came the time to deal with accounting (not very pleasant thing),

sending receipts (hope everybody received them, if not, please let me know), and wire money to our bed manufacturer.

We were so happy to have enough funds that our first big project— 40 Mate's beds for the Di-

phanage could be accomplished.

Thank you, thank you, thank you all for your support.

**Almost \$9000 was
raised from our first
fundraising**

Special points of interest:

- 40 beds will be delivered on December 12th
- Cargo with 387 pairs of shoes and 200 pairs of jeans headed towards LA
- Sweaters for kids
- Birthplace of wine

The Bed Project is Underway

Due to a more complicated bed design, the cost of making the Mate's beds was much higher than original estimate for the regular beds. But, we decided to go along and order good quality and much more useful furniture. \$6000 was sent along with the contract to deliver 40 beds by De-

ember 20th. I would like to thank you our Georgian manager— Manana Sikharulidze for her hard work coordinating this project (handling bank wire transfers, contracts, delivering funds, checking the status and updating us with the progress of this project). I also would like to men-

tion, that she works on volunteer basis and like us, she is not paid for it. Thank you Manana.

Also, a special thank you to Nino Kapanadze and her father, who arrange the original contact with this manufacturer, he was checking constantly the process

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Chinese experience

After sending \$6000 to the bed manufacturer we still had money left (almost \$3000) and instead of reimbursing all our expenses we decided to spend this money on something that kids could enjoy during the cold winter—to get them warm boots.

And here is Mike again spending hours and hours searching for good and cheap supplier of kids boots and shoes. Finally he found them in China (not hard to guess).



Since most of the wholesaler companies sell their products in large quantities, we were not able to select just certain number of boots, we had to



buy them by cartons.

We were going through their online catalog to select the models and sizes (I have the list with sizes for every kid in 4 orphanages).

During our almost daily correspondence with Chinese we were asking them about shipping cost to Georgia. but since the order was not complete, they could not give us a quote. Finally we made our



selection and wired the money.

The cheapest way to ship these goods was via sea container and to keep the cost of these boots as low as possible, we decided to add more shoes and also jeans since we already had this 25 cubic foot container. We end up buying 387 pair boots/shoes and 200 pairs of jeans.

After almost a month of communicating back and forth with them, we found out that the goods can not be shipped LCL to Georgia (LCL is another shipping term that we learned during this experience) and the closest and the cheapest port where the cargo could be shipped was Istanbul, Turkey.

The bed Project is underway

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to make sure that they are built properly, that they will be durable.

So far everything went according the schedule and all 40 beds should be delivered on December 12. They will be transported un-assembled (once again due to the very complex design) and they will be put together in the orphanage.

I wish we were there to see the faces of these kids, but hopefully the director of the

orphanage and Manana will take a lot of photos.

Meanwhile, for those of you who had not seen the picture of the beds in the previous newsletter (November issue), here is the bed we ordered.

We are so excited to be able to give to these kids a true joy of Christmas, let them believe in Santa and all the goodness that surrounds this wonderful time of the year.



Chinese experience

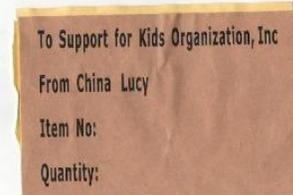
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We managed to find a shipping agent in Istanbul who would have delivered the goods to Georgia except we needed the Chinese to make in the shipping document to the final destination - Georgia, not Turkey. Otherwise we had to clear customs in both countries and that might take more than month and be too expensive.

I don't want to bore you with all the problems and frustrations we were facing during this month, the bottom line was that Chinese refused to make this shipping document the way we asked (and it should have been that way since Turkey was a transit country). At some point we asked to cancel the order

completely, but of course they refused to do that. Instead of losing this money, or have the goods shipped to Turkey where we have to pay also warehouse fees to store them, Mike decided to ship this container here, to California. The cost of shipping here was the same as the shipping charge to Turkey (that did not make sense at all). At least now, we can control the goods and hopefully will find solution to how to ship the boots to Georgia. We were already paying from our pockets, but the cost of keeping these goods in Turkey, where we don't know anybody, could have been a huge waste and unacceptable. In about 20 days the container with 387 pairs of

boots and 200 pairs of jeans will be in Los Angeles.



If any of you knows or have any suggestion how to deliver these shoes and jeans to the Georgian orphans, please let us know. We are thinking to contact some local charitable organizations who might help with the shipping. We would love to help American orphans as well, kids are kids regardless where they are, here or in Georgia so it is possible that the shoes, etc stay here.

“You Wish” fleece sweaters

One day I was passing by newly opened store in our neighborhood. I decided to check it out even though I am not in mood for shopping lately. In any case, I was wondering aimlessly among the isles when a couple things caught my eye—a price and colors. Oh, I forgot to mention that I was in children's section of the store. I saw these adorable kid's sweaters and could not help myself picturing Georgian orphans

wearing them.



The only problem was there were only few of them on the rack. I called the manager and asked if there were more of these sweaters in other stores and left my phone number asking her to call if more of “You Wish” ones show up. A couple weeks later, I had 47 of them. I just hope that most of kid's wishes will come true the same way mine did to get them these sweaters. I am hand carrying them to Georgia.



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

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

Letter from the founder

Dear readers and supporters,

If you read this newsletter you will understand why this issue has been delayed. As I promised, I wanted to give you a detailed account what is happening.

During our boot/shoes/shipping saga, we also found out that in order to receive humanitarian goods in Georgia, our corporation has to be officially registered there. The list of all the documents required for this process need to be apostilled here (something new every day). Anyhow, we are working on it and my unplanned trip now scheduled for January 6th.

The next issue of our newsletter will be in February 2010 and hopefully I will bring more good news and trip adventures.

In this Holiday Season, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to those who made our progress possible.

This is the perfect time to thank you and to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with happiness, love and prosperity.

Let our wishes come true.

Sincerely,

Ani Mdivani-Morrow

Georgia up-close - Birthplace of Wine

Since wine is only the fermented juice of grapes, wherever grapes grow some kind of wine is almost inevitable. But the earliest evidence of the selective cultivation of wine grapes, points to the

fertile valleys of Georgia as the origin of the wine industry. Grape seeds found there have been carbon-dated to between 7000-5000 BC, and identified as the cultivated form of the true wine grape.

Further evidence of early wine production in Georgia includes the discovery of 7000-year-old *kvevri*, or clay wine jars. These jars pre-date the amphora or pithos of Greek wine culture, and are even deco-

rated with grape motifs, underscoring their claim to priority.

Wine culture came together with the birth of Georgia. Grape seeds dated back to 7-6 thousand years BC and 3000-year-old huge clay jugs from ancient settlements prove these assumptions.

