

Newsletter - No. 11 November, December 2002 and January 2003

First Children's Embassy in the World - Megjashi - 1992-2002

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1. Workshops in multiethnic elementary schools

From October, we started with implementation of our project "Workshops for Macedonian children of various ethnic origins focused on the creation of workshops to improve the comprehension, tolerance and respect between children of various ethnic backgrounds".

Equal in Development from Belgium finances this project. Our idea is to cover 15 preschool groups of children in 15 multiethnic elementary schools in the area of Skopje. The project is made of two components:

-**first**, through interactive and communicative games to acquaint the children with their rights and

-**second**, to provide the pedagogies in the schools to see the new methodology of learning that can improve their engagement in the civic society.

The coordinator of the project is Redjep Raimi who has long experience working as a teacher in elementary schools and trained facilitator for children's rights.

2. New Year at our Shelter

In December, we started with New Year preparation for displaced families who are still in our Shelter. They received wonderful donations and gift packages for children. The kids were especially happy.

We would like to use this opportunity to thank our donors: humanitarian Macedonian National Centre, Podravka, Rotary, Rotar AK, Pexim-Computers, Euro Computers System, Alex Prom, Travel Agency Aurora, American College "NOVA", Muzicka Mladina, Kraft-NELTKO, Reprint, Mayor of Municipality Centar, Mrs. Violeta Alarova, Union of women from Kisela Voda, SDSM Junior from Gjorce Petrov, Dimitar Gučev, FONKO, Alkaloid, Info project and TV Telma.

The Children's Creative Centre organized free cinema presentation of the film Harry Potter and Chamber of Secrets for the displaced children.

We hope the next year will bring them more joy, happiness and appropriate solution for warm home.

3. Children's Workshops

As we mentioned in the last newsletter, the last four months, every working day, we organized two workshops in the area of English, German and French Language, art, computers, maths, and ecology. For the kids involved in workshops we prepared New Year surprise- gift packages, donation from Producer Kraft - Distributor NELTKO. After the winter holiday, in February we will continue with the workshops.

4. SOS Helpline

After a long time of voluntary work, Balkan Foundation for Children and Youths is financing this project. It will be established new phone line and will be provided better conditions for voluntary work. Further more, the competence of the volunteers will be improved by advising and trainings, as well as the services that can be useful for the children and youths in risk. Every year SOS makes Annual report. The results from 2002 show that 35% of the calls are personal, 25% are family, 15% love problems and the rest are about violence, health, school, sex and addiction problems.

From January, SOS helpline working hours are increased from 12:00 to 20:00 o'clock and the coordinator is present during the day in purpose phone line to be active and when is the need to make a direct contact with the callers.

5. Diplomatic Core of our Embassy

In 2002 joined our Diplomatic Core following beneficiaries of our Diplomatic Passport of the First Children's Embassy in the World:

H.E. Josef Karl Udo Reisz, Vice Consul in Kaisheim, Germany

H.E. Dr.Santini Adamo Loddo, Honorary Consul in Milano, Italy

H.E. Alexandre Deneef, Vice Consul in Heusden, Belgium

H.E. Ciro Grumetto, Vice Consul in Napoli, Italy

H.E. Franco Malloso, Vice Consul in Argugnano, Italy

The holders of this diplomatic passport are under auspices of the First Children's Embassy in the World with residence in Skopje, as International non governmental, non party and non profit, humanitarian association that protects children right's regardless to their religion, race, ethnic and social background.

As the representatives of the children from the whole world, their rights and benefits, the Embassy appeals to all authorized bodies and organizations to secure to the holders of this passport:

-free movement and border crossing

-full personal security

-all possible assistance in her/his humanitarian activities.

6. Participation on conferences/trainings

From 20th to 22nd November, our Executive Director and Co-founder, Dragi Zmijanac M.A. took part in seminar on topic Law on Juvenile Justice in the legislation of the Republic of Macedonia organized by the Ministry of Law of the Republic of Macedonia and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Our Technical secretary, Slavica Taseva from 25th to 29th November attended training for Integral Project Cycle Management. It was organised by Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation delivered by Management for Development Foundation from the Netherlands.

On 13th December the Executive Director, Dragi Zmijanac M.A. and our volunteers from the Law service, Biljana Stojanovska and Selena Pavlović participated the tribune: National Strategy for decreasing the poverty.

On 17th December the Executive Director Dragi Zmijanac M.A. and volunteer Mitko Gjorgiev participated the tribune "NGOs and taxes to mutual development goals- improvement of legal tax framework" organized by MCIC-Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation.

From 13th to 18th December, Gordana Pirkovska Zmijanac, our Program Manager and Founder, attended the 6th phase of the Training for Trainers for non-violent action in Becej, Vojvodina (F.R.Yugoslavia) organised by the Centre for Non-violent Action from Sarajevo and Belgrade.

Our volunteer, Mitko Gjorgiev took part in Human Resource Management training from 18th to 20th December organized by MCIC-Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation.

We would like to inform you that our new official websites are:

www.megjashi.org.mk and www.childrensembassy.org.mk

and e-mails are: embassy@megjashi.org.mk, first@childrensembassy.org.mk

and megjashi@childrensembassy.org.mk

The team of the Embassy Megjashi prepared the Newsletter

