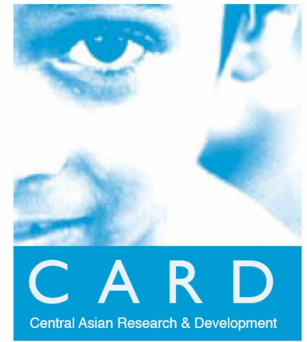


# CARD - Azerbaijan

Central Asian Research and Development - Autumn 2008



Dear Friends and Supporters,

Welcome to the latest CARD newsletter keeping you posted on what's happening here in Ganja, Azerbaijan. It has been an action packed six months since our last update with so much to report! All 3 programmes are going strong. See for yourselves in the stories below.

Once again we'd like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all of our sponsors, partners and supporters. None of this work would happen without your generous support. Çox sağ olun, as we would say in Azerbaijan!

Neil and Lucy Atherton

## Vocational Training Programme News

CARD has been collaborating with a number of other humanitarian organisations over the summer. Below are a few examples of how students are benefiting from these partnerships which we hope will continue going forward.

### SOS

In July we started a new partnership with the international Charity SOS's Family Support Programme in Ganja. SOS also works with very vulnerable local families. In some of the families on the programme, a need for vocational training has been identified as a way to support them so they can get back on track and become self-sufficient again. We are pleased to be able to work with SOS and we currently have 14 of their supported children attending our centre doing combinations of English, Computer, Carpentry and Carpet making courses.

### Peace Corps - America Day

Earlier in the summer Peace Corps volunteers from the Ganja region and beyond were invited to our centre to put on an "America Day". There was much ado about apple pie, thanksgiving day and quarterbacks thanks to our enthusiastic American volunteers! It was a fantastic day and we were also able to welcome students from another local organisation to enjoy the fun.



### Ready, Willing and now ABLE

Three CARD students recently attended the Peace Corps (Azerbaijan Boys Leadership Experience) "ABLE Camp" for 30 boys in Gebele. For the students this was a first holiday experience of this kind. They came back beaming with confidence. They were awarded prizes for team work, courage and American Football! The centre's staff are as proud of them as they are about themselves.

(Left to right: another ABLE student, Tom (PeaceCorps volunteer), with CARD students Teymur, Nurlan & Araz)



## British Ambassador's Visit

**We were honoured to welcome Dr Carolyn Browne, British Ambassador to Azerbaijan and her Public & Press Relations Officer Sevinc Asadova in April 2008 to find out more about CARD's work in Ganja.**

In an action packed morning, Carolyn & Sevinc had a guided tour of CARD's Vocational Training Centre. This was followed by a visit to the Psychiatric Hospital, where, much to the patients' delight, Carolyn participated in a music therapy class where she joined some patients who were doing traditional Azeri dancing .

The visit was concluded with a stop at Ganja Children's Home to see one of CARD's computer classes and for a meeting with the Home's Director to discuss her institution's further partnering with CARD.

We are pleased to report, that since the visit, children from the Children's Home have been enjoying attending other classes at CARD's centre over the summer holidays.

(Left to right: Neil, Lucy, Sevinc, Carolyn and Sevil are pictured with some items created by Vocational Training Centre students and patients in the Hospital therapy classes)



## Rotary Club Clothing Distribution Project

We had a fantastic weekend in June 2008 hosting members of the Rotary Club of Baku International, Rotaract Club of Baku International and Baku Rotaract Club. They came to Ganja to give clothes that all 4 Rotary clubs in Baku had collected and we took them to visit the Psychiatric Hospital and Babies Home where CARD will distribute them as part of our usual work. While they were here Sevil also showed them around the Vocational Training Centre and gave them a flavour of what usually happens Monday to Friday. Thank you to all who made the journey from Baku and to everyone who donated clothes. Also recent news: the Rotary Club of Baku International are now sponsoring a Teacher at CARD's Vocational Centre this year. Thank you Rotary!



## Introducing Peri, CARD's new Children's Welfare Programme Co-ordinator

Feride's mother sometimes came to see her in the babies' home, which Feride loved. However, the last time she made her daughter *really* happy by taking her home. Peri was there at the time and describes little Feride's joy as without limit. Although we miss her, for us it's also a dream come true.

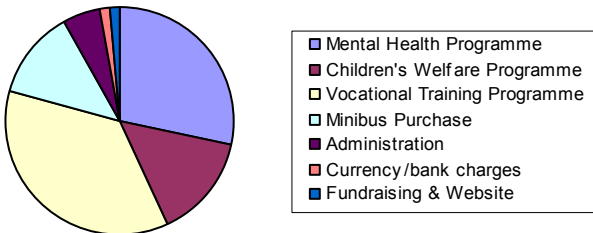


Over the last 6 months 5 children have left the babies' home. Out of these, one child went back to their own home, three were adopted into good local families and one went to the older children's home.

Peri has been in post since April and it's fantastic to have her on board! The children love her and they certainly have a very special place in her heart too. We were sad to say good bye to Dilshard but in the end it was definitely more of an "Au revoir" as we still work closely with her and have a good partnership with her Programme in her new job at SOS.

## CARD Finances

Thank you! We are very grateful to all our supporters for the donations we receive to support our work in Azerbaijan. During 2007 CARD spent £43,000 which we believe to be great value for money for all that has been achieved. The chart below shows a breakdown by programme area.



**We would love people to join us in supporting the work through regular sponsorship** in any of our 3 programme areas; Baby sponsorship £20 per month, Leyla sponsorship (mental health) £15 per month or Vocation Vocation (student sponsorship) £20 per month. Please contact us at [info@card.org.uk](mailto:info@card.org.uk).

## Other Needs

There are many ways to help support the work: For example, we are presently needing an electronic projector for the computer class. Please get in touch if you can help.

**New to CARD?** We'd love to keep you informed. Please email us at: [info@card.org.uk](mailto:info@card.org.uk)

## Lots going on at Ganja Psychiatric Hospital

Over the last 6 months we have been delighted to have teams from Tulsa, Oklahoma and Stafford, England. They have both done activities to support all 3 programme areas. In particular there has been a lot going on at Ganja Psychiatric Hospital to improve the living conditions and provide spaces for the patients to relax, especially for ladies on the overcrowded women's ward.

We had a wild time with the Tulsa Team brightening up the largest of 4 bedrooms on the women's ward—painting it pink! They also introduced manicures for patients; a new special therapeutic activity which provides physical contact and communicates how much we value patients but without visitors needing to know much Azerbaijani language! The manicures have been repeated by other visiting guests over the past six months.



The Stafford group of two father and son teams and an Engineer (the boys having just finished their GCSEs), put their backs into it clearing and re-landscaping a garden at the rear of the women's ward. It was just like the TV show "Ground Force" and many of the patients also got involved in what the Head Doctor called "real life therapy". After five days work, the area was completely transformed into a sanctuary of relaxation. The art therapy class helped add finishing touches to the garden by painting a beautiful mural of Staffordshire's

Shugborough Hall. The mural brightened up the exposed concrete rear wall and was the perfect compliment to all the new landscaping. Before coming to Ganja, they raised funds through sponsored walks and non-school uniform days and were also able to employ a local contractor to transform another bedroom in the women's ward. Thank you to both our enthusiastic teams.



## What's Next?

There are so many ways that we'd love to help improve patient conditions. Our current fundraising goals are:

- ⇒ £3,500 - Replace the toilet & bathroom in the women's ward. Please look out for our new CARD Christmas Cards that are raising funds for this purpose this year.
- ⇒ £400 - Fit a improved water heater in first men's ward.
- ⇒ £400 - Build secure wall around the new garden so that the female patients are allowed to enjoy the outdoors more.

## Change of UK Address

CARD now has a new UK postal address for all correspondence. The address is at the bottom of the page. Please note our previous freepost address is now discontinued.

**Changed your postal or email address?** Please let us know by emailing Angela at: [admin@card.org.uk](mailto:admin@card.org.uk)

[WWW.CARD.ORG.UK](http://WWW.CARD.ORG.UK)

UK Registered Charity No.: 1085771

**New UK Postal Address: Tim Hopson, CARD Treasurer, 29 West Common, Lindfield, West Sussex. RH16 2AJ**