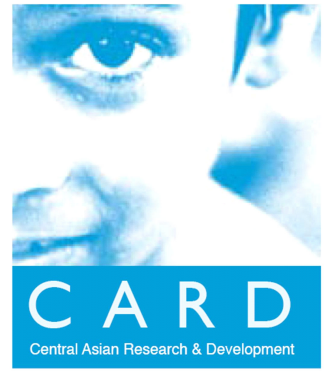


CARD - Azerbaijan

Central Asian Research and Development - Summer 2011



Dear Friends and Supporters,

It is amazing how quickly time flies when you are busy or when you are having fun. In the last months we have had lots of work, exciting news, and the children, youth, and patients, which CARD is serving, all had lots of fun. Our Summer Newsletter will take in you a little so that you can see what we achieved with the help of your support. We hope that you enjoy it. Please contact us if you have any ideas, comments, or questions etc.. We wish you a good holiday time!

The CARD Azerbaijan Team

Creative Writing Olympics 2011

The Writing Olympics Competition is an event that gets all the "creative juices" flowing around CARD. Writing Olympics takes place annually during a 3-day period. On these days, students have one hour to compose essays on selected creative writing prompts. The essays are then evaluated by a panel of judges for creativity, originality, and depth of thought." The event is a competition between Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Armenia. The idea of competing with peers made the students so happy and excited that they were queued in the front hall for an hour waiting for the writing to begin.



The winner for all of Azerbaijan was Araz H. He also won third place for the Caucasus Region. He is a former CARD student and is now a first year University student. The other students also did great in the competition. Last year we had only four CARD students participating, and this year the number of students increased significantly to 30 students. This competition is a good tool which helps the students improve their English creative expression, gain self-confidence, and increase global awareness.

Its time to say Goodbye

One of the most inspiring things about working in an International Organization is that you work with people from all different countries and back grounds - however on the other side of the coin you have to say goodbye again and again. In the end of June it was time to say goodbye to Neil, Lucy and Annabel. After 4 years of faithful service in Ganja they will return to the UK. The entire CARD Azerbaijan Team, including the students, the patients, the children, the babies, and last but not least, the Ganja Staff want to say a sincere and heart felt "THANK YOU" for all the attention and benefit that you have given during the time you have been with us in Ganja. "Dear Neil and Lucy, we all hope that you won't forget us and that we will be able to stay in contact. And for your new start in the UK we wish you all the best and hope that your readjustment will go easy and smooth."

With love, Your CARD Family



Short term team From Tulsa

In each year there are certain things you can rely on, one of them is the four seasons and the ones that CARD can always count on are the regular visits by the Tulsa short term teams who come to visit as well as help with one off projects!



This past spring a Tulsa Team of nine highly motivated people arrived in Ganja and immediately started working their magic. During their five day visit they assisted in the English classes of the Vocational Training Centre, baked waffles with the children, interacted with the many different students, one on one, and shared some insight for CARD's vision and aspirations in Ganja. In the psychiatric hospital they provided patients with manicures and cosmetics, decorated flip-flops, build a volleyball court, added some exercise bars to enable the patients to have some sport, joined music classes, and played ball with the eager patients.



Contact us in Ganja: CARD Head Office, 27, Pushkin Kuchesi, Ganja. Azerbaijan Tel: (994) 022 578997/575957

Changed your postal or email address? Please let us know by emailing Angela at: admin@card.org.uk

A new face

Hello, my name is Israel Young. I have the privilege of joining with CARD in the role of a Communication Manager.

I am married with four children. Our oldest is 6 years old and the youngest is 7 months. Although we have been in the USA for the last 21 months, my family and I count Ganja as our home, having first moved here in December 2003. Prior to my work with CARD I have both taught English and served at an international school here in Ganja.

It is a pleasure and honor to be back home again and serving with CARD!



Amazing news

As our CARD supporters have always known, the original aim of the Vocational Training Centre has been to serve the children from Gəncə Children's Home. However, none of our repeated approaches to the director have been successful. This spring in Gəncə a new mayor was appointed and big changes are going on in the city (mainly building wise). After a thorough inspection was conducted at the Children's Home many infractions were discovered and as a result the director was immediately removed from the home.

An interim director took over and now a new director has been appointed and she, as well as the city education department, have given permission for the children from the orphanage to join CARD classes starting this summer. Now that the list of the children has been prepared in cooperation with the new director, the new students will join us in only a few days—what a joy!!!

Who left all that rubbish here?

Environmental projects have become a tradition at CARD, with the help of NHE we had another big cleanup in the mountains at the beginning of the Summer. The CARD staff along with forty students headed up to the mountains to clean up the beautiful Azeri nature and participated in an environmental quiz. The first prize was a beautiful book about Azerbaijani animals the 2nd and 3rd prize was nice flowerpots for their home. The first place winners are seen in the picture on the right, however in some way everyone was a winner, because all of the participants learned new things like how they can save water and how long different types of rubbish require to decay. After the work was done we all enjoyed sausages roasted on a barbeque grill and fresh vegetables and then the students played ball games. At the end of an exhausting, but energising day, everyone boarded the two hired busses and came home with a lot new impressions and joy.



TISA Students Community work in Ganja

Towards the end of May CARD entertained 26 students from "The International School of Azerbaijan" (TISA), joining them for a working and fun weekend. In the same way as last year all students prepared for the visit well in advance. Through different activities planned by TISA the students raised money that they used to buy paint and other renovation materials for the visit and also brought several other donations like baby formula, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste and note books.

During a Pizza party with many delicious pizzas and several fun games the TISA and CARD students became acquainted and TISA were able to get a first overview of what CARD is doing.

On Saturday students from TISA and CARD worked together in the psychiatric hospital, where the art therapy room was freshly painted and several of the students worked in the garden and cleared



it of weeds. In the afternoon CARD and TISA students went together on a picnic to enjoy fresh grilled sausages and the beautiful green mountains.

Sunday morning the last of the painting work was finished, and more weeding was done. With the heavy work complete, several students joined the music therapy, listened to their music, played the guitar for them and had fun dancing together. Also during this time a small group of combined students went to the babies home and had a small party for the toddlers and played with them.

At the end of the week-end every one was tired but also fulfilled, knowing that they had worked hard and played hard on worthwhile community projects.



New to CARD? We'd love to keep you informed. Please email us at: info@card.org.uk

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