

## Turkmenistan Youth and Civic Values Foundation

### Examples of Projects funded by the Community Development Program

Included here are examples of successful projects funded by the Community Development Program. If you are a grant applicant, we hope these projects help to inspire you!

#### *1) International Crisis Game*

During the six-day “International Crisis Game” project, 29 high school students in Turkmenistan studied the political situation in the Middle East through a role-playing game led by recent high school graduates and college students. The aims of the project were to teach students about the Middle East while improving their communication skills in both their native language and English and increasing their interest in current events and international relations.

#### *2) Superkids*

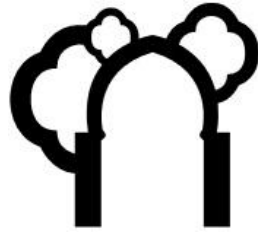
Superkids was a contest conducted among 6<sup>th</sup> grade students in Turkmenistan. It was a one-day project and consisted of 3 rounds of quiz questions with one “Final” round to determine the game winner—the contest was a “Jeopardy” style game. The contest focused on themes of history, literature, arts and popular culture. At the end of the contest all of the contestants received certificates, participants of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Round received badges with the Superkids logo and the winner was given a T-shirt with the Superkids logo.

#### *3) From Brothers To Sisters*

The 18-week long “From Brothers to Sisters” project offered about 30 hours of thematic English classes on topics including community service to 18 middle school students ages 10-13. The class met for two hours weekly, during which time students wrote three essays, analyzed two movies and read three books, along with studying vocabulary and grammar structure. The project also included two field trips -- to a local park and a local museum. Before the amusement park trip, the students were divided into five teams and made presentations about their future careers, how they can help their communities and they played educational games during the visit to the park.

#### *4) Community Development Capacity Building*

The “Community Development Capacity Building” project had the goal of developing prospective grantees to apply for grants (such as this one) to support their own community



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projects. The leader of the project made presentations throughout Turkmenistan that included information on examples of successful projects, how to write a grant proposal and how to develop a project budget.

### *5) Life is a Theater*

The "Life is a Theater" project aimed to instill self-confidence, improve English language and public speaking skills and promote community engagement amongst high school students in Turkmenistan.

Out of the fifty teens that applied to the program, seventeen participants were selected to perform in a production of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." The participants took part in daily rehearsals and public speaking classes and everyone worked together to make their own playbills and costumes. The cast performed at the American Corner in Turkmenabat and traveled to Ashgabat to perform at the Turkish Center where the audience then contributed financial donations to purchase gifts for children living in an orphanage.

### *6) Do Not Be Lost*

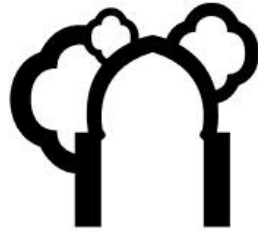
The "Do Not Be Lost" project was a day-long camp for orphans that was both fun and educational. Camp participants took part in classes on leadership, public speaking, English language, community service, university opportunities and planning for their future. Twenty students took part in this camp.

### *7) Ecological Camp for Youth*

Forty young Turkmen women and men aged 16-20 participated in a week-long environmental awareness camp that brought students, volunteers and trainers together for a variety of activities and seminars. Participants learned about environmental conservation, the value of being physically active and were able to work on several conservation projects including an outdoor "clean-up" in a nearby nature reserve. The overarching goal of the camp was to work to develop responsible citizens who will serve as responsible stewards of the land and natural resources of Turkmenistan in the future.

### *8) Developing Leadership and Professional Skills*

The "Developing Leadership and Professional Skills" project was a 5-day workshop for sixteen girls ages 14 to 17. The organizer arranged a series of activities aimed at building the participants' self-esteem and honing their professional skills to help them achieve their goals. The workshop was conducted in English, Turkmen and Russian. This was the first time some of the participants had been exposed to a computer course or any sort of professional



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development activity. The lessons ranged from resume writing and interview tips, to discussions about issues that girls in Turkmenistan face every day. The week culminated with presentations from participants on various topics giving them an opportunity to practice their public speaking skills.

### *9) Community Development through Art*

This project was conducted by a Peace Corps Volunteer who held art classes focused on health topics for 25 boys and girls ages 8 to 16. The classes were held twice a week for two months. Some of the topics covered included dysentery, the dangers of smoking, healthy eating habits and anemia. At the end of each lesson, the students designed health posters related to the topic. Students were given take home assignments to test their knowledge of the topics outside of the classroom and give them an opportunity to share their knowledge with their family. This innovative teaching method not only made learning fun, it was also a way for students to use their creativity and teach others through their own art work about health issues in their community.

### *10) Baseball Tournament*

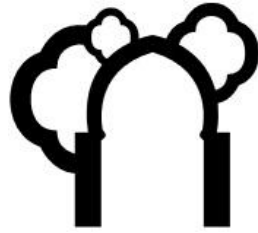
This project organized 48 girls and boys ages 16-20 in Ashgabat for a weekend baseball tournament. The participants formed teams from the four regions they proudly represented: Ashgabat, Dashoguz, Balkan and Lebap. Each team was composed of ten players and two coaches. Two Peace Corps Volunteers participated as referees for the five games held during the two days and facilitated health lessons which helped to spark discussions amongst the participants regarding the role of sports in Turkmen society. The participants were encouraged to exercise their leadership skills by organizing ice breakers and various other games.

### *11) Koneurgench Summer Camp*

Led by a Peace Corps Volunteer, this summer camp was held for 11 Turkmen boys and girls. The project began as a way of formalizing lessons that were already going on in an informal way. Campers took part in English lesson, sports games and cooking lessons. The camp organized games of badminton, volleyball and students learned how to make fruit salad, spaghetti and stir-fry.

### *12) Green is Good: Environmental Youth – Camp*

This environmental camp was held for 28 young Turkmen adults in Central Kopetdag. The camp focused on increasing the participants' awareness of the biological diversity in Turkmenistan and the importance of protecting it. The campers spent the majority of their time at lectures that were given in a classroom setting and also outdoors where the students could actually see the flora and fauna the lecturers were discussing. As part of their camp program, all of the students participated in an extensive clean-up of an area in the Central Kopetdag.



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Towards the end of the camp, all of the participants were responsible for talking to local residents about what they had learned and sharing with them the importance of environmental conservation.

### *13) Eco-Camp/Balkanabad Youth Clean-Up Day*

Approximately 40 high school age students participated in a 5-day environmental camp and cleaning campaign in Balkanabad. The main goal of the camp was to increase the students' awareness of environmental issues facing their community and ways in which they can work together towards environmental preservation. The students took part in various activities such as field trips, presentations from guest speakers, discussions on environmental awareness and a full day dedicated to cleaning up a local area park. The camp facilitators encouraged students to reflect on the way their behavior affects their community.

### *14) Girls Leadership Day Camp*

The "Girls Leadership Day Camp" was a weeklong day camp for 15 girls ages 14-16 from various towns in Turkmenistan. This activity was aimed at developing leadership and professional skills of girls who do not have access to the sort of resources needed to thrive in the working world. The camp organizer and her assistants taught the girls basic computer skills, how to navigate the internet and how to perform daily office tasks. Participants were also trained on resume writing, interview skills and proper office etiquette to help them during their job search. The girls also learned about other countries by researching their culture, history, and traditions and presenting their new found knowledge to their fellow peers. This was also a great way to practice their public speaking, encourage creativity and build self-confidence.