



Big Change Charity Foundation

Individualized Education for Orphans in Russia

Newsletter #2 - November-December 2013/14 school year

Dear Partners and Friends!
Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!!!



“Heart2heart Bazar” In Moscow

This festive season Moscow has a lot of interesting events to offer to those who are visiting the capital of Russia in winter. And we are glad that amongst all the celebrations held there are many charity events and bazaars. On December 15th “Big Change” participated in one of the biggest charity bazaars – “Heart2Heart Bazar” – that has gathered around 8,000 people. All the money, donated to the foundation, will be spent on providing education to orphanage youth.

2013-2014 students

This year we have **about 60** young people enrolled in various programs of Big Change. Some students came with a desire to get ready for the high school exams, others came with a need to acquire basic level education and skills that will enable them to live independently.

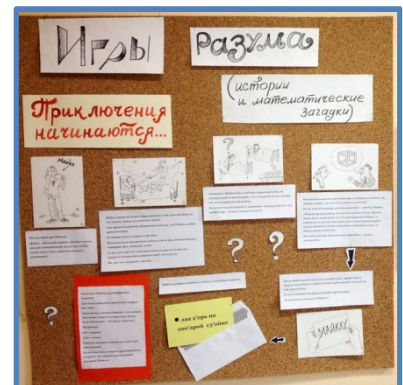
The composition of students changes from year to year. This year we have fewer students coming from the orphanages, but a larger number of kids from adoptive families and young people from mental homes, who require assistance with social adaptation.



*Our current students Oleg and Alexey
attending student's conference*

Making learning fun

One of our key tasks is to inspire our students to learn. Teachers use many creative ways to reach out to students and lighten the sparkles of interest.



*Weekly quizzes, interesting Math and
language problems used to
make learning fun*



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Student's Conference – new participants and discoveries

At the beginning of December the 40th Student's Conference of "Self-study" program was held in "Big Change". This time three of our students had a chance to present the results of their research work. **Andrew** spoke about his music idol – Eminem, who's life path became an inspiration for Andrew. "Never give up" – was the main thought of the report and the motto he applied to himself.

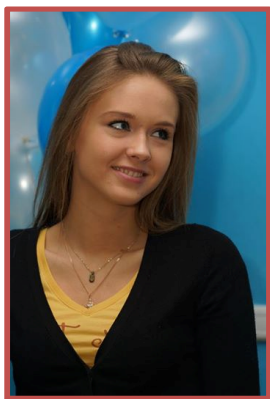
Tanya told us about her summer tour over the Golden Ring cities. It was Tanya's debut and she should be greatly rewarded for her artistry and sincerity. **Oleg** then went on talking about cultural values. He was very concerned about the fate of Bratsevo mansion located in



Tanya doing her presentation

Moscow, so he conducted a study about its history and then did a wonderful presentation about its story and owners.

"Time to scatter stones and time to gather them"



Last year's graduate Masha, currently first year Medical school student

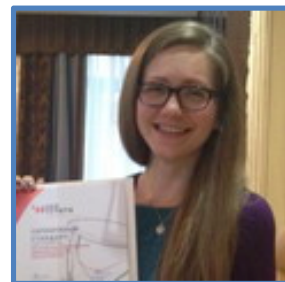
Starting from mid December all University and college students have their mid-term tests and exams.

Almost every day during this period we receive calls and emails from our graduates with news on how they did during the exams. "I got a "B" on chemistry!", "I passed my tests on Math!"

We are very proud and excited about our graduates and always happy to share with them their successes!

"Silver standard" Annual Report

We are proud to announce that this year "Big Change" got the "Silver Standard" award for our 2012-2013 Annual report. It was the contest organized by the Charities Aid Foundation, Russia among Russian NGOs and we are happy that our report has got recognized by the respected experts.



Our PR-director Anna holding the desired award

Helping to help

Finding a job for someone with disabilities is quite challenging in Moscow. Cooperation with another NGO gave some of our students an opportunity to help with making handmade postcards for charity events and also earn some money.



Our student Volodya and his mentor Maria making post cards



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“First Call”

We often receive requests from orphanage graduates, adoptive parents, guardians or volunteers, who face complex issues regarding educational paths, status clarifications, paper work.

This year we have launched a new program - an Informational center “First Call”. We help our clients analyze the situation and select the best solution.

As part of this program we helped adoptive parents decide on the educational path for the kids, just taken from the orphanages; assisted orphanage graduates in determining the next step in life; helped several families overcome crisis situation.



Expanding the horizons

Big Change offers our students a wide range of opportunities to expand their horizons and learn more about art, theater, history and culture.

During the period of November-December our students had a chance to learn about Russian Landscape Painters, Egyptian Art, visit some of the best theater performances, hear music of great classical composers, and poetry of Sergei Esenin.



*This year's student Teya
at the theater*

Our plans and hopes for the future...

“Big Change” Charity Foundation will continue its work in new 2014 year. We thank you for your support and trust! We have great plans for the following year: lessons will be held, conferences organized, extracurricular activities and events will be planned. But we still need 5,000,000 RUB (around 150,000 USD) for our future programs. So please do not hesitate to donate or share the information about us with your friends and colleagues.

Thank you!

Our contacts:



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“Big Change”

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