# **OLD NEW YEAR IN THE CARPATHIANS**

Report from Partnership for Every Child 2011



# The trip

The trip to the Carpathian Mountains was a culminating event for the 2010 cooperation program between the Clifford Chance Law firm with the Partnership for Every Child.



#### **Cooperation**

Throughout a year volunteers from Clifford Chance met on multiple occasions with careleavers from different areas of Kyiv Region. Altogether, children from Tarashcha and Vyshhorod districts, Bila Tserkva and Pereyaslav Khmelnytskyy participated in social events.

- Overall in 2010 the following additional events with care-leavers took place:
- Picnic for children in Pereyeslav-Khmelnytskyy in May,
- Connect to Mentoring Day in Kyiv in June,
- Connect to Mentoring Day for groups of 5 children from all 4 areas in December.
- During those one-day events young people visited movies, circus, tried out skating, bowling, talked to each other, tried new food, strengthening own communication skills through various means. This report will concentrate only on the trip to the Carpathian Mountains.





#### **The Group**



- The trip to the Carpathians was a prize for an essay and art competition for care-leavers and their agemates from all pilot areas. Young people were invited to submit essays on the topic "My Winter Holidays of 2020" or picture winter holidays through own art work.
- Unfortunately, the response level was quite law, mostly due to high involvement of young people in various activities, including organized trips abroad for the holiday season. In the new for the Partnership for Every Child areas young people need more mobilization time to build better contacts and response level to suggested activities.



## **The Group**

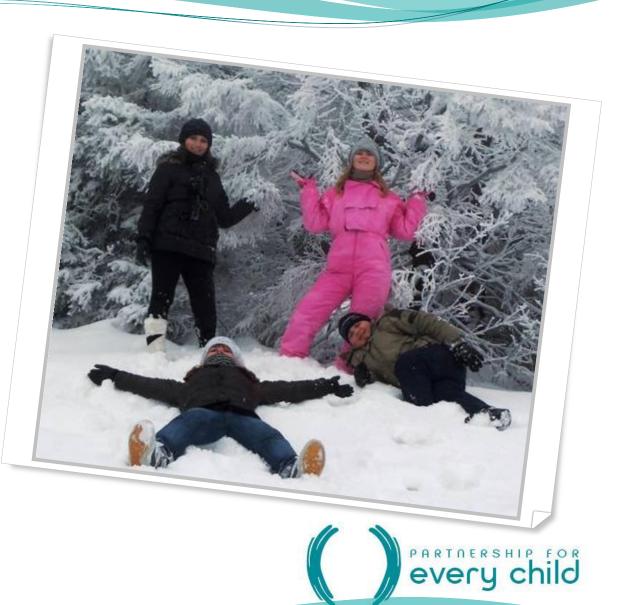


- In the end, the group from Every Child selected 10 winners one essay contestant, two embroidery work amateurs, and 7 young artists. The vast majority, 9 out of 10 selected persons, were from Pereyaslav-Khmelnytskyy one from a regular school and the rest from the Boarding school, which usually accommodates young people without parental care, from one-parent or low-income families. One girl was from Tarashcha. Of 10 participants, 9 were girls and only one boy. Young people had an average age of 15.5, ranging from 13 to 19. 4 of 10 were orphans, 2 have lost one parent, one from a single-parent household and 2 from big families.
- The mixed character of a group ensured that orphans were not singled out in any way, which would work contrary to life-skills' development and further support dependency from external support.
- The trip was facilitated by two social workers from Pereyaslav-Khmelnytskyy, group leader from Every Child and two volunteers from Clifford Chance.



## The trip

Originally, the trip was planned as a short skiing introduction; however weather conditions forced some changes to the program. The trip took place from 13 to 17th of January, 13th and 17th being the travel days and 14-16 – active sight-seeing and socializing days.



## Short overview

**Day I:** arriving to Slavske, settling in, walking and playing with the snow on mountain slopes. In the absence of sufficient snow for skiing children were sliding on slopes on plastic bags and made snowmen.

**Day II:** trip to the old town of Mukachevo in Zakarpatska Oblast, visiting castle and monastery.

**Day III:** visiting Lviv – the cultural capital of the country. Short excursion on the sight-seeing train and water fun at the local aqua park.

During the trip adult supervisors ensured engagement of all young people and their active involvement in all activities. Games were organized during trips from one place to another, ensuring ice-breaking opportunities and proper introduction of all participants.





#### **Building Life-Skills through Fun**

We believe the trip was very conducing for supporting basic socialization skills of participants. While it was not designed as such as a tailored thematic training, high adult-to-young person ratio allowed for close contact and informal communication opportunities for all participants.

Basic skills and learning were embedded throughout all activities. For instance the trip started with a briefing on food safety, since many young people had food prepared for the trip by their relatives, guardians or the boarding school representatives. The group leader organized a team review of food resources, explaining how long each of the food items can last and what is an appropriate and acceptable behavior with food when traveling in groups.

Among other issues discussed during the trip in group or individual discussions were the culture of mobile phone communication and building personal relationships with peers.







#### Impressions

- All young people seemed very happy with the trip. We were able to collect their impressions during a follow-up meeting held in Pereyaslav-Khmelnytskyy a week after return, where kids exchanged photos and talked about their impressions and memories. Some of them presented the organizers drawings inspired by the trip.
- Here are some quotes from participants:

"The trip to the Carpathians was incredible. Nature and air were much nicer and cleaner there...in Lviv we have been on the Central square and by the Opera and Ballet Theatre, the one depicted on the 20 UAH note" (Valeriy)





#### **Children's voices**

- "I am very thankful to those that gave us this trip and those that came with us" (Daryna)
- "I have very bright impressions...The most unforgettable moment when the zipper broke in my winter boot and we fixed it with elastic bandage. Everyone through something was wrong with my lef, tried to help me ©" (Valentyna)
- "My best memories are of sliding on plastic bags and swimming in the Aqua Park....In Lviv I liked old houses, ancient monuments. These impressions will stay in my memory for a long time...I am very thankful to our supervisors. There aren't many people like that in the world and we got them. I was very happy to spend these days with them and really hope to go for some other trip with them one day again, very much hope..." (Tetyana)
- "Very thankful to all people that worked on this project. Don't forget us! I al so want that our friendly family could meet every year!" (Sasha)
- "We have wonderful supervisors....who showed full respect and understanding to us. I am very grateful for that, hope for new meetings" (Olha)
- "I liked games we played. We had a fun and friendly team..." (Anna)



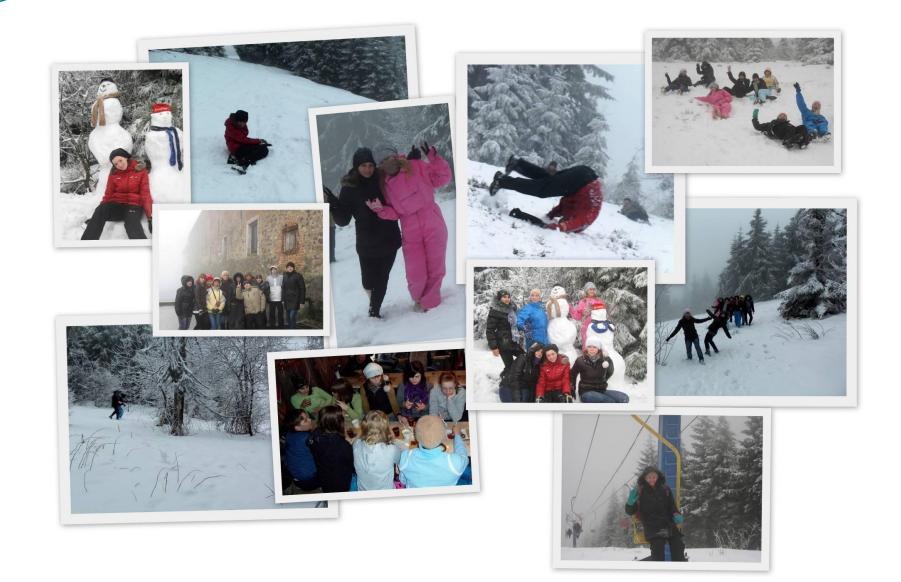


## Thank you

- Pictures are available at FLICKR:
- <u>http://www.flickr.com/photos/everychild\_ukraine/sets/72157626019</u> <u>423450/</u>







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Шени дуже спозования енсирсие, 5 брена за цей ниенс побувания у Карпания, Снавсения, Мухачево, Ловова. Найбиний шой враже на від парнання за з кульнів та купання в Аклоперну.

У Ловова дужа спорядляеся будонна, стародавна поли'етико. Ца врожения золисило тося в поли'ята подавго і я подінось що пінена незобуду чно поїддну поїздку.

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Мени поїздка но Львову. Карпатах та інших шістох дуже сподобавсе. Відпоченок був не забутній. Моб враження від поїздки, дуже аскраве.

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# **Partnership for Every Child**

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