



**“Big Change”
Charity Foundation**

ANNUAL REPORT



2012-2013

ABOUT “BIG CHANGE”

“Big Change” was founded in **2002**.

In **2011** the Foundation started working with the Institute of Inclusive Education, which is part of the Moscow Pedagogical Institute and received the status of the “experimental ground”.

Starting from **2012** the Foundation’s affiliated institution “Educational center Big Change” fulfills the Educational center program. “Educational center Big Change” acquired a State license for supplementary education.

“Big Change” Charity Foundation is helping orphanage youth:

- ❑ to develop skills necessary for independent living;
- ❑ to increase level of education: fulfill the gaps in their knowledge and master the high school program, to prepare for the exams to enter colleges and universities;
- ❑ to define desired profession and find a job;
- ❑ to expand the range of interests and develop communication skills.

Our main goal, as we see it, is to help orphanage youth to overcome constant position of dependency, to learn how to deal with their own problems and take responsibility for their own life.

We also find it very important to help our students to regain interest in studying, develop trust and respect towards themselves and people around them.

WE ACHIEVE IT THROUGH:

Individual approach. Study program is developed individually for every student. It takes into account his or her goals, age, level of basic knowledge, life experience and ect.

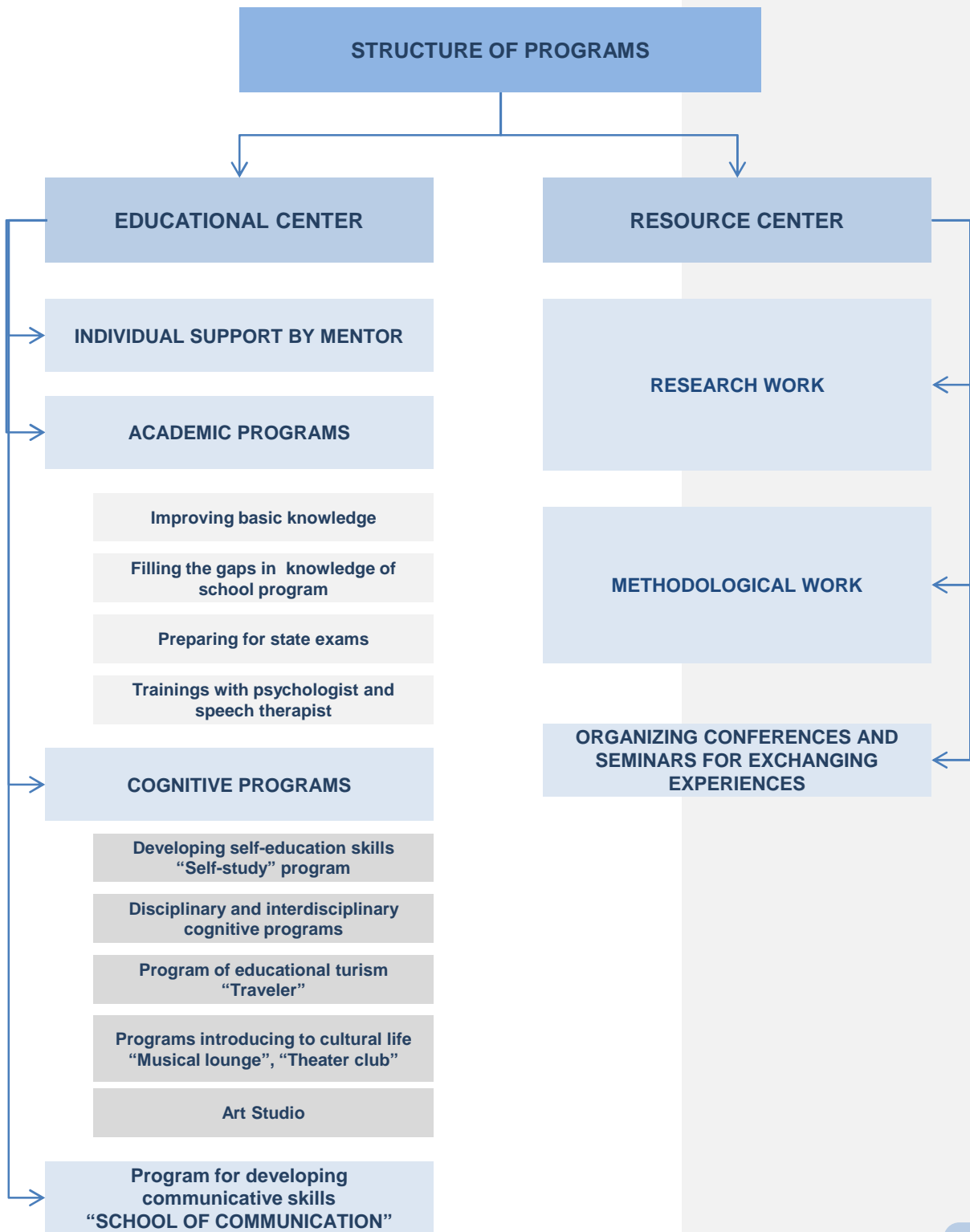
Complex approach. We support our students in solving a wide range of different questions that may occur in their lives. Not only with education, but with finding job, developing their personality, relationships with people.

Help with day-to-day situations. Unlike theoretical trainings and sessions, we are dealing with real problems and situations that children face in their lives.

Scientific and practical base of all the approaches. Specialists of the foundation are conducting serious study in the field of finding effective approaches of teaching and ways of social and educational support for orphans.



Our student Mikhail. Teachers of “Big Change” helped him with basic school subjects of 7th and 8th grade.



OUR STUDENTS

More than **70** young people received our support and participated in our programs in **2012-2013** school year.

We mainly work with older teenagers who have little chance to be adopted in a family and with orphanage graduates who are facing many difficulties when entering their adult life.

In 2012-2013 school year in our programs participated:

Children living in orphanages -

These are mainly older teenagers from two orphanages located in Moscow. During the school year we helped them to prepare for the state exams. And they also participated in different cognitive programs (workshops, quests in the center of Moscow, creative lessons).

Many of them came with serious gaps in school curriculum, low interest for learning and motivation. Therefore, the main task for teachers and mentors was to raise interest in studies in these children, and develop responsible attitude towards the lessons, as well as to help them prepare for independent living.

Orphanage graduates living independently –

This group of students mainly consists of graduates from ‘correctional’ schools who live independently in their own apartments, but have not received sufficient education at school due to health issues or other reasons.

But they do have the potential for mastering the high school program and further development.

Teachers of Big Change help them to finish school program and decide on their future profession. Also for many of them trainings at the “School of communication” are essential as well as other cognitive programs and lessons.

Sometimes we have graduates with high school diploma who want to continue their education in colleges or universities.

Graduates of correctional schools who live in mental houses -

Orphanage graduates who were recognized as ‘uneducable’ by the age of 18 should move to mental houses (also called psycho-neurological institutions) where they usually stay for the rest of their lives.

Although among these young people there are those who with special support and guidance can start to live by themselves, study, get a job and communicate with people.

We help those youngsters to gain essential social skills and profession. In some cases they can even apply for the revision of their diagnosis and gain a right to leave the mental house.



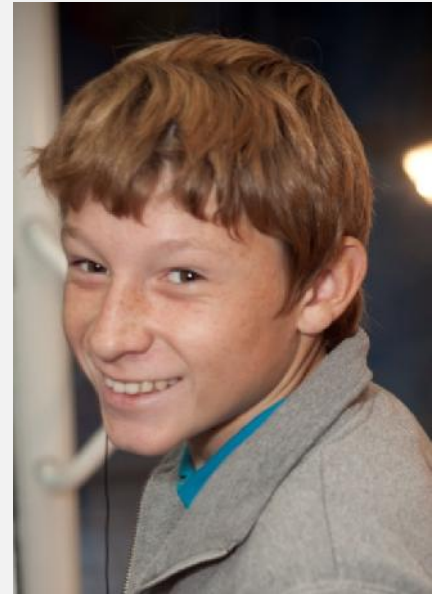
Nadya and Tanya have graduated from “Big Change” in 2008 and 2011 accordingly.

FEW MORE WORDS ABOUT OUR STUDENTS

It is really hard to summarize the results of our students because each and every one of them has unique story, difficulties, goals and dreams.

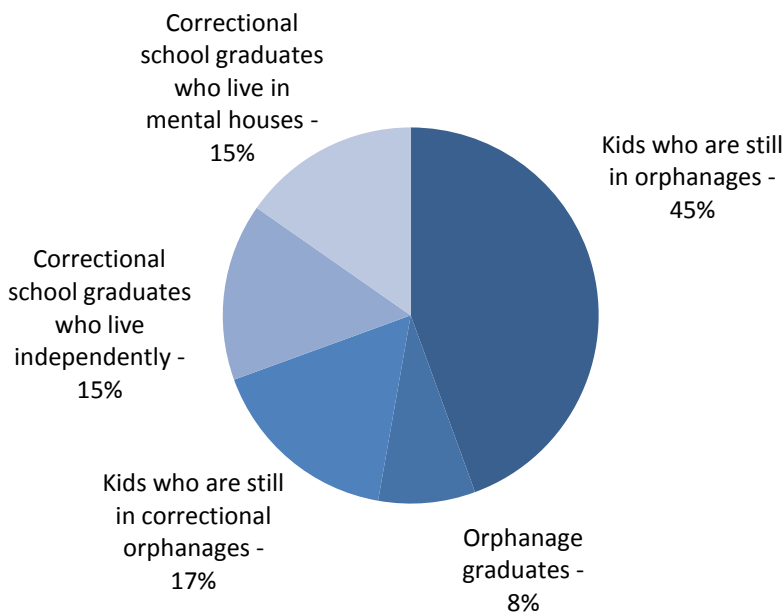
Below are several true stories of our students:

- ❑ **Alena (13 years old)** - 3 years ago the girl was taken home from the orphanage by her grandmother. Alena's level of knowledge was very low, she would have really struggled in a regular school. It took her 3 years of hard work to finish middle school program and successfully pass intermediate exams. Now Alena is deciding on her future profession.
- ❑ **Anya (19 years old)** – finished middle school few years ago and came to us with big desire to continue her education in college. Her dream was to become a doctor. But first Anya had to pass high school exams and get her diploma. After a year of training and pedagogical support she finished high school, applied to several colleges and by now is already studying biotechnology in one of leading Russian universities.
- ❑ **Maxim (28 years old)** – was raised in an orphanage for disabled kids, as a grown up was transferred to the mental house where used to work as a janitor. Studying in Big Change helped him to gain essential social skills, get a profession of carpenter and leave the mental house. Now Maxim is married with a kid.



Our last year's student Sergey.

BIG CHANGE STUDENT'S DISTRIBUTION BY THEIR STATUS



Our student's goals are different. Some of them need help to pass high school exams and apply for colleges and universities while others are still learning to read and count.

OUR RESULTS

2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR RESULTS

Our teachers and tutors are constantly working on the method which will help us to identify the criteria to analyze not only the objective academic and social results of our students, but also to evaluate the development of their social skills and personality traits.

Results of the past academic year are the following:

- ❑ **10** of our students have successfully passed the high school exams;
- ❑ **3** of our students have successfully passed the middle school exams;
- ❑ **67%** of students who did not plan to finish school this year have passed Big Change's inner exams and will continue their education;
- ❑ **73%** of all the youngsters who have participated in our programs have shown significant positive dynamics in developing their social skills – became more confident and correct when communicating with other people, improved their ability to control their emotions, started planning their time and taking education more seriously.



2012-2013 Graduates Alena and Kristina with their teacher Nadezhda Mikhaylovna

2013 GRADUATES

9th Grade:

Alena, 15 years old
Kristina, 19 years old
Irina, 17 years old

11th Grade:

Olga, 18 years old
Kristina, 18 years old
Natalia, 19 years old
Galina, 18 years old
Sofia, 19 years old
Anna, 18 years old
Aysal', 18 years old
Igor, 18 years old
Anna, 22 years old
Maria, 21 years old