



Big Change Charity Foundation
Individualized Education for Orphans in Russia

2012/2013 Newsletter

The school year is officially over!!!

The 2012/2013 school year was busy yet exciting. Big Change had over 60 students taking classes on every day basis and over 20 young adults who participated in miscellaneous events of Big Change life. In October we celebrated our 10th Anniversary and held seminars and conferences, we participated in fundraising campaigns at the Anglo-American school and on GlobalGiving.org, we received in-kind gifts from our corporate friends and finally had a Graduation party. Please enjoy reading our Newsletter and if you and/or your friends would like to support-volunteer-join our big family, you are more than welcome to send us a note at info@bigchange.ru

Celebrating 10th Anniversary of Big Change

In October 2012 Big Change celebrated its Birthday. But this year it was not a usual celebration, it was our 10th Anniversary! In 2002 a group of teachers together with Irina Ryazanova founded Big Change. They all were united by a common dream – to help orphanage graduates realize their potential and begin live life to the full. It was a pleasure to see not only students and teachers of the Foundation but those who already graduated from Big Change as well as our new donors and friends. Big gratitude to each one of you who came and celebrated this special day with us.



Donations in support of academic activities

Last fall Big Change received a donation in support of Big Change academic activities. It was a long awaited desire to buy all necessary supplies for the Educational center. Thanks to our new friends we bought new interactive whiteboard that will be used by teachers during lessons and conferences. We also were able to fully supply Biology class and Math class. Thank you, our dear Royal bank of Scotland!



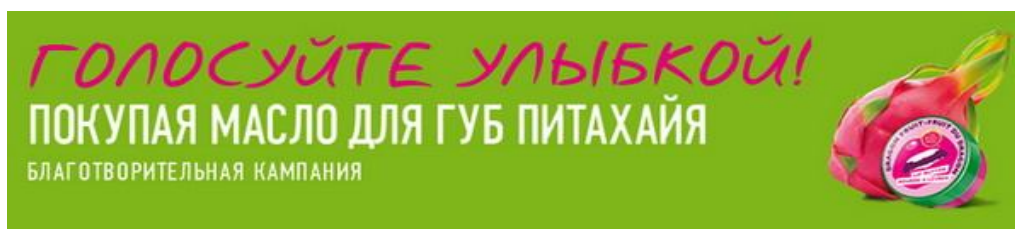


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The Body Shop Foundation campaign

In November 2012 The Body Shop Foundation and Big Change held a campaign in all The Body Shop stores: purchasing fruity lip oil with the exotic aroma of Dragon Fruit at The Body Shop stores customers could make a voluntary donations. Customers could choose one out of three charity foundations and donate their vote to a chosen charity. We are very glad not only to receive a donation but also get The Body Shop' customers love and acknowledgment.



“EMQ FamiliesFirst” seminar for social workers and foster care specialists

In March we had a privilege to host Laura Champion, Executive director of EMQ FamiliesFirst, CA, USA. Thanks to support of Eurasia Foundation we were able to invite 20 specialists working in foster care field as well as in orphanage system. During the seminar we learned about the philosophy of Wraparound program which supports child and family in difficult life situation. Laura also presented Russian colleagues with Family Finding program. Seminar participants appreciated all the shared knowledge and experience of an American speaker. The information and discussions were very useful and important.



In the beginning of April, Big Change signed up for the GlobalGiving charity fundraising web site (www.globalgiving.org). Within one month we had to collect 5,000 U.S. dollars from 40 different donors to support and develop our programs. Charitable initiatives, which accomplish this goal, are to receive permanent spot on this project's web site. And we are pleased to announce that during April we (US TOGETHER) were able to collect more than 5,500 U.S. dollars! Thanks to everyone for participating, donating or posting information.

Through this campaign, we've not only collected necessary funds, but also had an opportunity to once again feel your love and support!

The collected amount of money will be spent on holding classes in 2013/2014 school year for those young adults who are living in asylum and longing to learn how to write and read.



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Young friends from Anglo-American school



This May Big Change had a unique opportunity to be a part of a fundraising campaign in one of the most famous schools in Moscow. The idea of the campaign is that middle school students of AAS were collecting change for Big Change's programs. It was called "The Money Wars" between five groups collecting small change into donation jars. Almost \$2600 was collected and AAS doubled this amount in favor of Big Change.

We believe that each ruble counts and even a small change can bring bigger changes to our society!

Sharing the experience

Big Change starts actively sharing its rich experience in teaching and longstanding best practices in supporting orphanage graduates with colleagues in educational sphere.

June 13-14, 2013, the Foundation hosted the conference called "Social Partnership: Pedagogical Support of a Subject of Education". The conference took place at Big Change and was dedicated to the results of studies, new developments and tests of programs of Big Change.

More than 50 participants of the conference had a chance to reflect on the questions that the students raise taking into consideration our changing environment.



2013 Graduation ceremony!!!



On Wednesday, June 19th, Big Change celebrated a great day – Graduation of our students! Whole year our students were getting ready to pass exams and enter vocational school or college. This time we gathered together – student, teachers and staff, our friends and donors – to honor 13 students who have worked very hard to achieve their goals.

For each attendee Big Change is a place where they come and feel accepted, where they are heard and supported. We had a very nice time talking and sharing what 2012/2013 school year brought, who learned something new and what was achieved.

One step forward is completed for 13 of our students and we are so very proud of each of them. But we also realize that so much more new, interesting, unexpected things are laying in front of them in their future. Thank you to each one of you for helping us make this celebration so memorable for our students!