



Annual report 2011-2012
Anniversary publication

Big Change Charity Foundation is implementing two charity programs:

- Educational center – to help young people raised in the orphanages to complete middle school education
- Resource center – methodology project, to teach specialists and volunteers who work with orphaned children

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.



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".



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Since 2002 Big Change Charity Foundation has been helping young people raised in the orphanages to:

- Complete middle school education and prepare for the entrance examinations to colleges and universities
- Choose a profession and find a decent job
- Expand the circle of friends and interests
- Obtain independent living skills

We work mainly with young adults who are about to leave orphanages, and with orphanage graduates who recently left these institutions. For those who lived in the orphanages and were deprived of care and support of loving parents, it is so much more difficult to advance in life.

Our main goal is to prepare young people for independent living, to help them resolve issues that come up, to make them believe in themselves and to teach them how to develop relationships with other people.

The Foundation was created by a group of teachers whose dream was to help orphaned children find their own place in life. During the first year of the Foundation's work it had 14 students.



Staff members and students of Big Change, 2002

Gradually the Foundation has developed: the number of students and programs increased and the organization was joined by new donors, teachers and mentors.



Staff members and students of Big Change, 2006



Staff members of Big Change, 2010

For each student we develop a personal educational program. Students study in small groups with 3-5 persons in each.



2005 + Chemistry teacher Mrs. Mikhailyuk working with Sergei V.,



2008 – Experimental laboratory – lesson at the Preparatory compartment



From left to right: Ms. Pristalova (Russian language teacher), Ms. Clara (methodologist), Mrs. Vabischevich (Math teacher), Mrs. Bogatova (Russian language teacher), Mrs. Kats (English language teacher)



2011 – Math teacher Mr. Dimov preparing students for Unified State Exam



Our goal is not only prepare students for exams, but to help them develop an interest for self-study and the world outside. Our dream is that as many young people as possible would get professional support, that is why we work on our methodology and hold training sessions for specialists.



In 2011-2012 school year we had 60 students at Big Change. Over 400 students received support during the 10 years of our project. In Big Change we admit those young people who still live in orphanages and those who already graduated from orphanages, as well as those who are living in foster families:

- 50% of students – orphans living in orphanages, usually among 14-18 y.o.
- 40% of students – orphanage graduates. Basically, they are graduates from 'correctional' orphanages, and live independently in their own apartments. Amongst them there are also young people living in foster families.
- 10% of students – children and adolescents who live in psycho-neurological institutions.

Very often children who started living in foster families need help of teachers so that they would be able to attend public school.

2003 – studying Math with Mrs. Ryazanova



Young people who live in the orphanage come to Big Change because of our close collaboration with the directors of the orphanages. Orphanage graduates learn about Big Change from their friends, social workers, and from other charity foundations – partners of Big Change. The goals of our student vary: some need help to prepare for Unified State Exams, while others barely can read.

For these youngsters from orphanages studying in Big Change is an opportunity to widen their world view and to prepare for adult life.

Those students who live in psycho-neurological institutions are not only developing, this is also a chance for them to leave the institution and start their own independent life.

Many orphanage graduates within few years after graduation realize that they need regular school certification in order to enroll into colleges. Many come back to study to receive the certification. **2009 – Students Volodya and Dima at the lab lesson of the Preparatory compartment**



Only dedicated teachers work in Big Change.

Working with our students requires not only high professionalism, but also a lot of inward strength.



Teacher of chemistry Mr. Kuvshinskiy



Mentors Ms. Yulia and Ms. Maria



Biology teacher and mentor Ms. Maria



From left: Ms. Pristalova (Russian), Ms. Klara (methodologist), Mrs. Vabishevich (Math), Mrs. Bogatova (Russian), Mrs. Kats (English)



Russian teacher, supervisor of the Travelers program
Ms. Zvereva

This school year Educational center held about 9000 hours of lessons for more than 60 students.
At the end of school year:

8 students have completed 9th grade level
(middle school equivalent)

14 students passed Unified State Exams and have
successfully completed 11th grade (high school
equivalent)

20 students enrolled into colleges

2 students started studying in Universities

Academic results are very important for us, but it
is also important for us to see how our students
become self-sufficient, responsible and able to
communicate with other people. These factors
are not easy to measure, but nevertheless we
try to monitor and analyze the dynamics of our
students' development.



9th grade graduate
Masha P. gets the so
long desired certifi-
cate from the Director
of the Foundation –
Irina Ryazanova

Very touching
moment of seeing the
students off to in-
dependent life. Rus-
sian and Literature
teacher Ms. Elena
with a bouquet of
flowers from grateful
students



For many of our students a 9th grade certificate is a long awaited dream, once fulfilled it
gives many new opportunities in life. Graduation ceremony is one of the main celebrations
at Big Change. Our teachers, friends, volunteers and partners come to celebrate with us.



Graduation ceremony 2012 – 11th grade students.



For many orphaned children Big Change is not just a school, but a place where they can come to share their success or difficulties, and ask questions.



Home celebration dedicated to our first graduates – Vadim K. and Natasha E. 2004

We do our best to make Graduation ceremony a memorable event! Indeed, getting a school certificate is not an ordinary thing, it is a big personal victory!

4 out of 5 graduates of 2007 have finished colleges and are now working. They all take active part in Big Change programs, helping as volunteers and participating in Traveler's program.



Graduation 2007 – 9th grade students Mikhail S, Nina Sch, Sergei V, Anna Y, Nadia K.



Graduation 2009



Graduates of 2009 – Valya G. and Galya Z.

Indeed we can write a book about each of these students! Their way for fulfilling their dream was really difficult. And their persistence, will and courage can be a good example for many of our students!



Children, growing in families, from very early age ask miscellaneous questions about the world, people or themselves. By getting answers to these questions they develop an even bigger interest for knowledge and later begin to look for answers to their own questions.

Children growing up in orphanages often lack the opportunity to ask adults questions, and gradually their interest fades.

The goal of "Self-Study" program is to help young people restore interest for knowledge, to help them independently find answers to their questions. While studying at Big Change we cannot fill in all the gaps in their education, but we are able to help them learn to search for information, to analyze it and to make decisions. At "Self-Study" lessons young people choose and make a research on any topic that interests them and later make presentations in front of an audience.

Many young people get their first experience of making presentations at Big Change. While doing it they manage to overcome the embarrassment and to gain self-confidence!



Conference "Creation"

During the last couple of years young people have gained more computer skills using music, photo and video installations.)



Conference "From black holes to the color language"

Students' conference "Simultaneousness"



Teachers create comfortable and supporting atmosphere at conferences.



One of the most memorable presentations was that of Alyona Z. She was read poems by candlelight and Ennio Morricone music.





2003 – 1st Students' Conference "Faith and knowledge"

It is important to us that students ask significant questions, answers to which help them better understand themselves and the world.



2006 – Students' Conference "Tolerance"

Participating in conferences gives students a chance to share their research, as well as to listen to others and widen their worldview.



2009 – Students' Conference "All at once"

One of the aims of Self-Study program is to teach students find answers and also respectfully listen to others.



2010 – Kolya is working on his presentation

During the process each student develops a range of useful skills: working with computers, writing a paper, conducting a presentation in front of an audience



2011-2012 EVENTS

During 2011-2012 school year we held 7 conferences:

"Summer memories"

"Simultaneousness"

"Man"

"Creation"

"From black holes to the color language"

"Wheel of history – 1812"

"A window to Uglich"

Choosing a profession is not an easy task for any young people entering independent life. And for those who are going to live on their own it is even more important.

In Professional orientation program we try to:

- Get our students acquainted with various professions;
- Assist with choosing a profession and developing a plan for acquiring the chosen professions – choosing a college/university, getting internship;
- Prepare them for job interviews, support in adapting to a new job environment.

We invite specialists from different areas so that our students can ask them questions and see that their professions can be interesting.



One of the main focuses of this program is that young people would develop a desire to work.

"Welcome day" at medical college



Mentors work hard on shaping realistic career views in their students, as their desires should be in accord with their skills.

Meeting with lawyers and marketing managers at Clifford Chance.



Meeting with Mr. Kolosov, arts master, Reutov



Getting requirements for enrolling into college at the Educational exhibition



2008 – Sergei at the Caterpillar tour, where he later stayed as intern

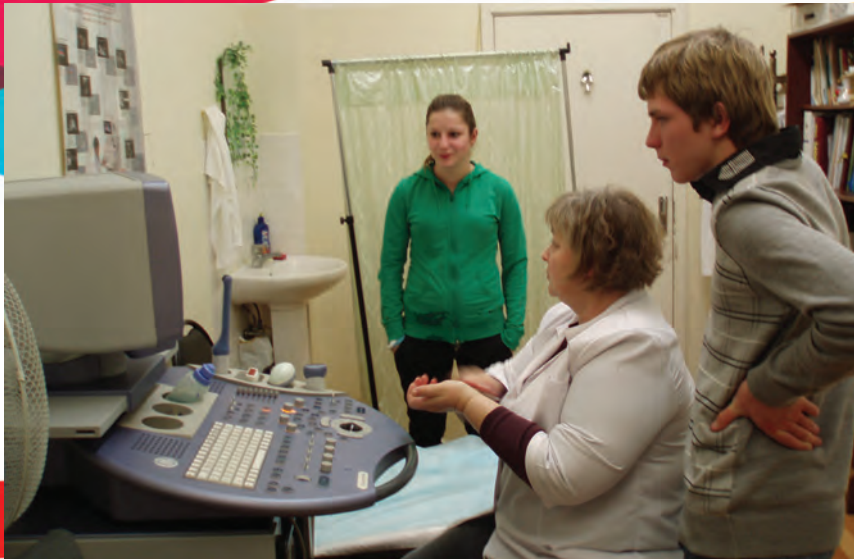


2009 – Voluntary trip to Ilimensk reserve



2009 – Tour around the window plant of Rehau

The goal of the Professional orientation program is to widen students' perception of different professions and make them see what kind of opportunities are open for them personally.



2010 – Getting to know how medical centers work

It is important for us that young people make their own choice based on their aptitude and skills

2011-2012 EVENTS

Main events of this year include:

- Mentors working closely with students to help them choose future professions;
- Students visiting "Welcome days" at colleges and universities;
- A number of workshops and excursions: PepsiCo, Unilever, Clifford Chance, Medical college, Art's studio at Reutov;
- Internships at 'Detskiy mir' children's store;
- Helping the students who work to acquire communication skills at work.

The "Traveler" program aims at solving several issues. First of all, it is widening the horizons, getting to know culture and arts. Secondly, it is an opportunity in real life to acquire many useful skills: plan the itinerary, find out new interesting places, buy tickets, plan the budget. And also it is an opportunity to believe that dreams do come true if one makes effort to achieve them.

We try to make art, history, music, theatre a part of our center's daily life so that it would become a vital part of their lives as well. Big Change covers only the program coordinator's salary whereas the students cover their own trip expenses.



Arts master classes are a vital part of any of our trips. Sasha is at a Gzhel plant



Goal of the "Traveler" program is to widen interest for the out world.

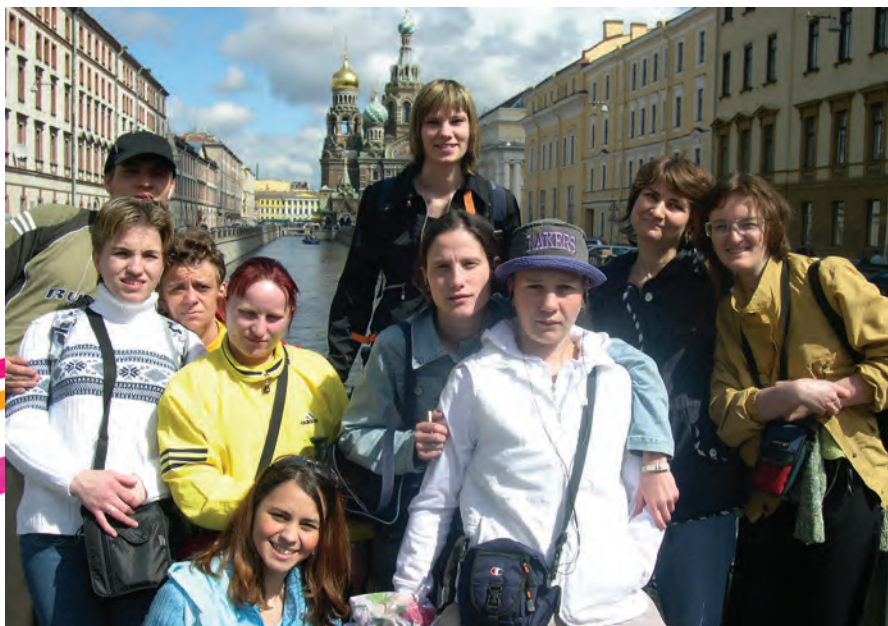


Our passionate program coordinator Ms. Zvereva



Coming to the excursions is not compulsory, so students come only when they are interested in seeing and learning something new.
Excursion to the Pushkin Fine arts museum





2005 – First trip to St.Petersburg



2007 – Students Nina and Lena at the excursion in Prague

The idea of the program is to show the students that any dream – even going to Prague, Rome or Paris – can become true.

Volunteers also take part in trips and excursions.

It is a good opportunity to get to know each other and to find new friends.



2008 – Vika at the Fine arts museum in Tula



2009 – Boulevard ring excursion in Moscow

2011-2012 EVENTS

This school year students together with the program coordinator organized several trips to Klin, Gzhel, Uglich, Abramtsevo. – We also organized a number of excursions to museums and theaters or around in Moscow.

The most memorable cultural events of this year were the Dali exhibition, Moscow excursions and the visit to Pushkin Fine arts museum.



Most of our students have never studied English language as it is not included in correctional school program. That's why studying English is so important for our students helping them increase their self-esteem.

English club not only allows students to learn English, but also gives them a glimpse of culture and traditions of English-speaking countries. Each session is a bright and interesting event.



Halloween



This session was dedicated to the traditions of English-speaking countries.



Creating ginger bread houses

Volunteers take active part in the English club. Our students have an opportunity to meet new people and make new friends. Volunteers do not need any special preparation, they can equally participate in the sessions doing the same tasks as our students.



2012 – At one of the English clubs we drew Caterpillar machines, and at the end of the year Caterpillar company gave us a nice calendar with our pictures as a present.



2010- "Indigenous Indians fighting with conquerors"



2009 – Students and teachers of Anglo-American school are very frequent guests



2008 – Clifford Chance volunteers



First English club session, 2006

2011-2012 EVENTS

This year students who attended English clubs learned names of Caterpillar machines. Students and volunteers cooked traditional ginger bread houses, cut pumpkins for Halloween party, got acquainted with Christmas traditions in different countries. Volunteers from Anglo-American school, Caterpillar, Clifford Chance, KPMG and Cushman&Wakefield participated in the program.

THEATRE CLUB

Every month at Big Change we organize charitable music or literature evenings. At these concerts students learn to listen and understand new music, as well as learn the 'etiquette' of behaving during music performances. They meet new people, guests as well as musicians. The performing musicians are volunteers, some of them are well known professionals, others are amateurs or "rising stars".

All year long students visited theatres: the Fomenko theatre, Yugo-Zapad theatre, Kamburova theatre. Orphanages also take children to the theaters but in our case students choose theaters and performances themselves and pay for their tickets with their own money.



It is a very inspirational for our students to see fellow young people who are professionals in their jobs.

We are glad that to Musical evenings come different musicians and our students get to know various genres.

Vocal department students from the Gnesinsky Music School



A lively performance by Grenada ensemble



Balkan music by Lacocho ensemble





2010 – Our dear friends from the Gnesinsky Music School



2009 – Russian folk ensemble



2008 – Ensemble of Irish music "Slua Si"

2010 – Moscow State University Choir



2011-2012 EVENTS

This year we enjoyed performances by: Gnesinsky Music School, piano player Alexey Kirillov, Grenada ensemble, Lacocho, Slua Si

EVENTS 2011-2012

During this year volunteers made a great contribution by running workshops for the students, helping the organization, participating in various events.

We express our sincere gratitude to all volunteers:

Anglo-American school – for participation in the English Club sessions

IBM – for designing and programming of software to run the private donations program, for participating in English club sessions and excursions

KPMG – for participating in English club sessions, for help in repairing the premises, as well as pro-bono services to the Foundation's admin department

SONY – for holding classes on photography and assisting in making photo sessions of our students

White&Case – for pro-bono legal services

Professional accountants company – for pro-bono consulting services on accounting issues

Elena Dobrovolskaya from KPMG for dancing master classes for our students

Alexandra Alexeeva and Maria Gus'kova for taking photos of our students

Youth with a Mission organization for beautiful flowers on our territory and for clean windows

It is a truly great gift from Sony company that our students had a chance to take photography classes: they learned how camera worked, learned to take the best shots, prepared for their first photo exposition.



Elena Dobrovolskaya holding a master class at Christmas party at Big Change



We really appreciate it when volunteers do repairs and clean the territory! Our faithful volunteers from KPMG





2007 - Sonya the volunteer and Big Change student Nina after work shop dedicated to China

During two years Sonya was decorating Big Change premises in different styles – Chinese, Indian, American. Classrooms and hallways became very good-looking and students learned many new things about these countries.



Board of Trustees member Simeon Radcliff (Clifford Chance) at Big Change.

Communication with volunteers is a very important part of educational process. Young men and ladies learn to communicate with people from out-world, they learn to trust, understand and express themselves.



Moving to a new building is a great joy and many new concerns. It would have been very difficult to solve all of them without volunteers!



2010 – Volunteers from IBM help us with cleaning and repairment



2011 – Team work of volunteers from Renaissance Capital – painting walls at Big Chance

Big Change teachers continued working on analyzing our educational approaches and preparing methodological materials. Goal of this work is to increase the effectiveness of educational programs as well as to describe our methodological approaches in a way that will enable other specialists working with orphaned kids to benefit from our experience. To implement this work we created a research group which includes teachers and mentors of Big Change. Specialists from the Institute of Inclusive Education, authors of numerous publications – PhD Nina Mikhailova, PhD Semen Yusfin and senior researcher Natalia Kasitsyna – will act as facilitators of research group's work.



2007 – Work shop on Self-study program to the specialist from orphanages.



Work shop to DHL volunteers dedicated to the peculiarities of orphaned children



2009 – Work shop on developing individual educational program to the specialists from orphanages

2011-2012 EVENTS

In 2011-2012 the work of research group was mainly directed to increasing the efficiency of the Introductory level programs. In June 2012 teachers from research group participated in the conference organized by the Institute of alternative education by Y.Korchak, and by Institute of psycho-pedagogical problems of childhood. At this conference Big Change teachers shared their experience of working with orphaned children as well as their results achieved in research/methodology group.



Head of research group – Mikhailova N.N.



2006 + First fundraising campaign + bowling tournament



2012 + Picnic "Afisha"



2009 + "Buy a brick" campaign at Picnic "Afisha", fundraising for buying a building



2011 + Charity auction at IBM's 100th Anniversary

Holding events and campaigns lets us attract people's attention to orphans' problems thus to effectively help orphanage graduates. Private donors' help is an important part in financing the Foundation's programs.



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Simeon Radcliff, Clifford Chance

Dan Vigdor, Autolocator



ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT US FINANCIALLY:

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Estate
Calenar.ru
Ostankino studio
Professional accountants
Russian scientific surgery
center by Petrovsky
SONY



Funds received (thousand rubles)	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	%
State foundations	495	90	0	0%
Charitable foundations	1 582	2 286	1 435	8%
Commercial companies	7 263	6 821	14 456	85%
Private individuals	720	1 321	1 023	6%
Goods and services received free of charge	630	620	240	1%
	10 690	11 138	17 154	100%
Cost elements (thousand rubles)				
Salaries of teachers, mentors and program coordinators	6 653	6 924	10 316	76%
Staff development costs	138	208	116	1%
Stipend for students	235	184	152	1%
Material and expenses for the educational process	285	356	199	1%
Rent and repair costs	1 056	830	431	3%
Administrative costs	1 660	1 847	2 451	18%
Total:	10 027	10 349	13 665	100%



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