



# Spotlight On... Children's Charities

# Action

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*Tajik alumni playing games with Children from 3 different orphanages.*



## Everything for Children

On June 2, alumni from FLEX and the Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellowship Program observed Universal Children's Day with the Everything for Children project in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Forty orphaned and disabled children were welcomed to the Tajik Botanical Garden. Coordinated by 2004 FLEX alum Malika Khakimova, Muskie alum Nisso Rakhmonova, and U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Officer Jon Larsen, the garden was decorated as a child's wonderland complete with balloons, streamers, and American-style games and snacks. Alumni presented each child with a gift, and the orphanage administration accepted donations of clothing, toys, and books collected by the alumni during the weeks leading up to the event. Monetary donations were provided by the Aga Khan Humanities Project, Ora International, the European Commission, the U.K. Colleges Program, and both the U.K. and U.S. Embassies. The success of this event and the response from the community has inspired the 26 participating FLEX alumni to continue planning more activities with the children.

## Charity Concert Hits High Note

FLEX Alumni Coordinator Maxim Matyunin '06 and other Russian FLEX alums co-organized The Orange Sky Charity Event on June 10 in Vladivostok. The event, which featured a concert played by five local bands at a popular Vladivostok venue, raised more than \$1,100 for a local children's cancer hospital and promoted awareness of the socially vulnerable and ill. More than 200 community members attended the concert due in large part to advertising efforts made by Matyunin and Evgeniya Gorovay '04, who found sponsors to fund event posters and daily announcements on various radio stations and local media agencies. The event was also highlighted on local television news reports. All proceeds—the most ever raised by Vladivostok alumni—will be used to install new windows and to carry out minor renovations.



*Eugenia Pantskava '06  
at Nutsbidze*

### \*From Our Students

*"This year was absolutely awesome and unforgettable. I have learned a lot, not only American culture, but about myself as well. ... Everyone has a special part in my heart, and I will keep memories of them inside my heart forever"*

Olga Scacun—Moldova, FLEX 06/07

## Clothing Drive Dresses for Success

While working at MyGYM, a children's fitness facility in Colorado, 2002 Flex alumna Liana Barabadze organized a clothing drive for children in her home country of Georgia. Eighty pounds (six boxes) of clothing were donated by parent members of MyGYM, and shipping costs were paid for by Barabadze's U.S. family, former Peace Corps. volunteers, and Bromwell Elementary School. In response to the anticipated donations, FLEX Alumni in Georgia agreed to deliver them at both the Kaspi Rehabilitation Center and Nutsbidze Infant House. Alumni at the Kaspi Center presented mentally disabled children aged 4-18 years with clothing and food, and played and drew pictures with them while the children showcased their musical skills and artwork. At the Infant House, alumni delivered clothing donations and spent time entertaining the children with games and other planned activities. Both groups' actions made a great impact on their respective communities and--amid tears of goodbyes--alumni made promises to visit again.

