



# Alumni Newsletter

Winter 2009

## *Greeting New Year with alumni spirit*



It seems like just yesterday that the alumni said goodbye to 2007, and today they are already greeting 2009. Last year was very successful, productive, and full of fun events. It brought alumni such interesting events as the 2nd Annual Alumni Conference, the Alumni Play performance at "Ilkhom" theater, mountain clean-up project and a series of scout camps. Alumni felt proud of their accomplishments and now can move on to the new year with new ideas and goals to realize.

**It has already become a tradition for alumni to gather on New Year's Eve to say goodbye to the passing year, have tons of fun and also help the less fortunate with a charity drive for children that live in orphanages. This year the alumni waited impatiently for the New Year's Party like never before.** The event took place in a nice cozy club called "Hottabych" on Friday, December 26. As the sun was setting in Tashkent, alumni started arriving to the party looking forward to the fun evening. The first part of the program was dedicated to the awards ceremony, as the U.S. Embassy staff recognized the most active alumni for their significant contributions to society with Certificates of Appreciation. After the official ceremony, music filled the club and alumni hit the dance floor. The party lasted well past midnight, and it seemed like the best present for the holiday season for everybody, as alumni were able to meet their old friends, enjoy their time in the club dancing and help those in need. In total, more than 200 alumni and their friends attended the Alumni Party — an all-time record. The party left lots of great memories and created positive emotions for alumni as they now all look forward to new alumni activities in 2009!



## *Creating a holiday for orphaned kids!*

Continuing a noble tradition, the alumni of USG-sponsored exchange programs held a charity drive at the Alumni Party in December to collect donations for a local orphanage. Alumni brought their donations to the Alumni Party and at end of the event, we had three big bags full of clothes and toys. Alumni also collected money, gathering a whopping five hundred thousand soums in monetary donations and left-overs from ticket sales. The next day this money was spent to purchase warm clothes, fruits and sweets that alumni presented to orphans in Tashkent region. Once they arrived at the orphanage, the alumni were thrilled to watch a great **New Year's performance put on by the kids**, who performed national dances and recited poems standing by the Christmas Tree. Alumni made sure that each child received a present consisting of clothes, toys and candies. Making the New Year very special for the orphans was the best reward alumni could get this holiday season!



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