

Youth Impact

Making a difference...one youth at a time.



HIV/AIDS Seminars

December 1st is World AIDS Day. This month we have been invited by two technical schools and Youth House to give seminars on HIV/AIDS. At the end of the seminar each student received a booklet



that was given to Interlink by Orken Social Fund both in Russian and Kazakh languages. The booklets have lots of pictures and written in an easy-to-read language. At the end of the seminar one of the teachers apologized for the bad behavior of her students explaining that those were the most difficult youth of that school. It was true that at the beginning they didn't behave well probably expecting that it would be another boring seminar about HIV/AIDS they are used to. However, later they got very interested and began listening and participate very actively. The school vice principal asked us if we can give more seminars in future for their students on different social issues.

Christmas Party for YI Participants

We had two Christmas parties for all the YI participants from PTL and Youth House. We had games, skits, karaoke, Christmas dinner and gifts. Youth had a lot of fun playing games and singing karaoke. Then at the dinner table each of them said Christmas wishes to everyone. As a gift the girls received



a pair of gloves and socks and a personal care kit. The boys received a T-shirt, shoe polish and a deodorant. We could tell youth had very good time and when they were leaving some of them said, "If only we could stay and live here."

In September two YI participants - Asel and Sulushash asked us to help them get into school to be chefs. Knowing their low educational level we suggested them taking reading, writing, and math classes at a private school and maybe next year try to get into professional school to be chefs. The girls weren't very excited about this idea but agreed. We gave them a trial period of one month to see how the classes go. When the trial period was over we found out that they were constantly being late, having others do their homework. When we announced that Interlink will quit paying for their classes they got very upset and asked to give them the last chance. We gave them another week to improve and since then they not only started coming on time but 30 minutes earlier and show more interest in the program. We can see that they are now more serious about studying realizing that it will help them achieve their dream of becoming chefs.