

Youth Impact

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

LIFE SKILLS

This month youth have been learning about Relationships, Marriage, Family, and Moral and Spiritual Values. During the groups discussions it turned out that many girls had abusive relationships while dating the guys but they would justify the guys' behavior not seeing it as unacceptable.



PREGNANT GIRL

One of the girls who is a part of the program shared with Olya that she is pregnant. The father of the child is an orphanage graduate and wants her to have an abortion. She was hesitating between having an abortion and keeping the child because before she found out she was pregnant her goal was to go to college and become a computer programmer. After talking to her close friends and some adults she trusts she made the decision to keep her child. When her boyfriend found out that she was refusing to have an abortion he disappeared and changed his cell phone number.

She currently lives in the dorm and graduates in 3 month with a certificate in tailoring. According to the dorm policy if a girl gets pregnant she has to leave the dorm or have an abortion to stay. Miraculously they made an exception for her and allowed her to stay until she finishes school. She applied to be accepted to a housing program for single mothers hoping that she will have priority because she is also an orphan. She will know more when the baby is born.

She has a job in a book store and is now very concerned that she knows nothing about raising children. Olya just provided her with a book on pregnancy, delivery and caring for the child during the first year.

LIFE SKILLS - FIRST GRADUATING CLASS

This month we finished the "Life Skills" portion of Youth Impact and had 20 graduates. Next month we start the "Employment Skills" portion, where youth can learn how to assess their strengths, determine what kind of job they would like, learn how to write resumes, prepare for interviews, know their legal rights, etc. Youth that successfully finished the Life Skills course have the opportunity to participate in this course.



Nastya, 19

YOUTH IMPACT IN SHYMKENT

This month the Youth Impact program was started in Shymkent at Interlink Resources English Center. This course was taught to youth with developmental disabilities. From the very beginning youth expressed a lot of interest in the program. One of the girls said, "This program helps me learn how to express my opinion and hearing other youth's views is very helpful for me."

Another girl said, "Youth Impact curriculum has questions that I've never asked myself before but now they make me think."