

Youth Impact

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

Commonway Delegation in Taraz



This month a Youth Impact Delegation of 10 American college students and young adults came to share one week with our youth. It is difficult to measure the great impact they had on the youth with whom they worked. Thirty-five youth participated in the program that included discussions about future plans and goals, dealing with conflict, team

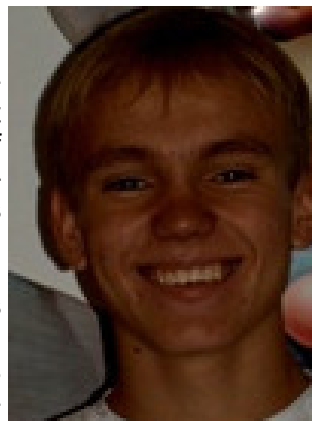
work, identifying jobs that fit one's personality type plus other fun activities. The youth stated that they learned a lot and had fun in the process. As a final activity, we took the youth to the river for a picnic.



The delegation also took young children from the orphanage to a local park to ride rides and eat ice cream. It was great seeing so many smiling little faces. It's amazing to see how much a simple hug can affect someone's mood! In the afternoon there was a program for older children in the orphanage that included face painting, making pictures frames, playing ball and other fun activities.

A Success Story

Roma graduated from high school and leaves the orphanage this summer. Roma has always been good at math and information technology. After 2 months of diligently studying math and physics, with a tutor provided by Interlink, Roma was able to successfully pass the exam. Furthermore, his high score provided him with a full scholarship. His plan is to study in the field of oil and gas. We are really proud of him, and his commitment to seriously prepare for the test. His hard work helped him achieve his dream. More orphans now realize that without an education, it will be extremely hard to find a descent job.



Roma, 18

Written by Olya Cherevko, Youth Impact Manager



Tursynai, 20

Tursynai was placed in the orphanage when she was 3 years old. She had had multiple surgeries in Kazakhstan that prevented her leg from bending. After high school, she went to college to study English but did not finish her first year due to an operation on her leg. Her sponsor arranged for her to have a surgery in the States. While she was healing in the States, she busied herself attending English classes. She knew that learning English would help her with a future employment. The operation was a success, and one year later she returned to Kazakhstan. Upon her return, she got actively involved in volunteering with different youth organizations and she prepared to enter university. Her desire was to get an education so that she could help orphans, like herself, achieve their dreams. She applied to three universities and was accepted to a university in Almaty to study International Affairs. Tursynai is a great example for other YI kids. She has shown them that through persistence, confidence and faith in one's abilities, they can achieve their dream.