

# Youth Impact

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

## First Youth Impact Graduation Class

In May, 10 girls completed the Youth Impact Program and received certificates and gifts.

Part of their final project was to do a mock interview with two American businessmen who were visiting Taraz. The interviews were videotaped and then shown to the girls with feedback and comments. Some of the girls stated that they feel more confident about going to a real job interview.



Although these girls have finished the program, we are still hoping to stay in contact with them. One idea that we have is to involve the girls in community service. At the graduation of the Youth Impact Program, we made this suggestion, and they were excited about this opportunity.



## Giving Back to the Community

### Victory Day in Kazakhstan

May 9th, Victory Day, the Impact Program graduates had an opportunity to thank ten veterans for their service to the country. They used many of the skills they had learned from the program. First they were given a specific amount of money that could be spent on each gift. Then they had to decide what to buy. Next, they bought the items and filled the bags. It was very exciting to see them take ownership of this project.

The veterans were obviously very touched that the girls from the orphanage came to thank them. After we finished, the girls asked to let them know about future community projects. They realized how important it is to give back to the community.

Written by Olya Cherevko, Youth Impact Manager



### Picnic for children with cerebral palsy

Last weekend the Youth Impact girls volunteered to help at the picnic for children with physical disabilities like cerebral palsy. Fifteen children plus their mothers and siblings attending the outing at a lovely resort outside the city. Administration of the resort place let them use the premises for free and even presented cakes for the children. YI girls helped the kids swim in the lake using inner tubes and played with the kids. YI girls enjoyed their time with the kids very much and said that taking care of these kids helped them realize that they should not complain about the difficulty of being an orphan. They realized that living with physical disabilities can be very difficult too.