



«ԱՆՄԻՋԱԿԱՆ ՕԳՆՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ ԱՍՈՑԻԱՑԻԱ»

բարեգործական հասարակական կազմակերպություն

ՀՀ, Երևան, 0014, Մամիկոնյանց 30. ֆաքս ++37410 238 039, հեռ. ++37410 230 014, 231 760

«DIRECT AID ASSOCIATION» Charity Public Organization

Mamikonians 30, 0014 Yerevan RA. Fax ++37410 238 039, Tel. ++37410 230 014, 231 760

E-mail: daa.office@gmail.com URL: www.daa.am

FINAL REPORT Summer activities 2010

DAA summer program committee

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Liana Sanamyan | Executive director |
| • Christine Andreassyan | Special Projects' Leader |
| • Mary Abrahamyan | Teacher |
| • Shushanik Karapetyan | Teacher |
| • Lena Tadevosyan | Teacher |
| • Karine Tadevosyan | Teacher |
| • Ruzanna Iskandaryan | Teacher |
| • Shushan Atoyan | Teacher |
| • Ani Hovhannisyan | Teacher |

Each member of the committee had the responsibility to participate in the preparation of both one-day excursions and the summer camp program: choosing necessary games, buying the needed material, making the participants lists, finding transportation and implementing excursion and camp program.

The financial supervision was done by Hasmik Tadevosyan and Voskehat Ghalayan.

1. Summer excursions

The excursions were very interesting and the feedback from the children and their parents was extremely positive. The greatest wish is to have continuous and repetitive excursions since they provide the children with a chance to have rest, though for a short time.

2. Patients' Summer Camp

Place	Aparan
Sessions	Four
Period	22.06.09-05.07.09 – first session 07.07.09-20.07.09 – second session 22.07.09-04.08.09 – third session 06.08.09-19.08.09 – fourth session

Preparation phase

This phase started in March, when “Aparan” camp organizational issues were discussed at Arabkir JMC&ICAH with the participation of DAA and ArBeS. After the discussion it was confirmed that the camp will start on June 22nd and end on August 19th. The camp will have 4 sessions, each will last 2 weeks, after which there will be 1 cleaning day. Each session will host 30 children, aging 8-14. It was also known that with the financial support from “Orange” company there will be 4 patients with autism involved in each session of the camp with their mothers. DAA teachers will participate in the camp as head teachers for 3 sessions and during one session the head teachers will be from ArBeS. One special education teacher from DAA special educators’ club will be involved in each session of the camp for two weeks with one child with special educational needs. The decision was made that only those students of Yerevan State Paedagogical University will be involved as volunteers who performed volunteering duties with excellence during the last year camp. It was also decided that each session of the camp will involve one male volunteer. The other volunteer specialists/teachers would be provided by “Arabkir” JMC&ICAH regional program coordinator D. Davtyan from the staffs (special education teachers, psychologists, therapists, etc.) of the regional branches of “Arabkir” JMC&ICAH

The educational program of the camp was developed by the special education teachers from DAA and ArBES, who would be working at the 4 sessions of the camp. Later the program was discussed with all the teachers. Between April and May some renovation preparation works were realized at the campsite, which had to be supervised by “Arabkir” JMC&ICAH administration.

From May 8th to June 4th DAA organized training workshops for the teachers and volunteers working in the camp. The following questions were discussed at the workshops:

- participants and corresponding session periods
- camp population of each session - patients, their difficulties, what problems they have, etc.
- educational program
- Game “Pirate”

Each participating teacher and volunteer introduced 3-5 table and active games as well as a scenario for the closing ceremony and performance of each session.

Place description

The summer camp was organized in Aparan for the third time already. The place itself is beautiful surrounded by high pines. Across from the camp there is a picturesque view of the Mount Aragats and Aparan artificial lake. The conditions where the children have rest are very comfortable: a big canteen separate from the kitchen, swimming pool, spacious and comfortable bathroom, field for football and volleyball, playground with different swings as well as two houses each one containing 7 bedrooms with 2-4 bed (2 rooms for the teachers and 5 for the children), 4 bathrooms, 1 kitchen and a big hall which was convenient for watching TV and organizing inside games for on cold days. Each house hosted 15 children. The houses were provided with anti-fire system and water.

Local staff

The administrative head of the camp is Arabkir” JMC&ICAH regional program coordinator Donara Davtyan. She organized the administrative part of the camp very well

starting from the daily food provision to supervising the local staff. Her support as the camp head was very important both to the teachers and the doctors.

Camp participants

This year patients from the following departments of “Arabkir” JMC&ICAH were involved in the summer camp: nephrology, uro-surgery, surdology, rheumatology, allergology, epileptology, gastroenterology, FMF (familial Mediterranean Fever) patients from ArbES, patients with diabetics as well as patients from the regional branches (Gavar, Armavir, Vanadzor, Spitak, Gyumri, Ijevan), children with special educational needs from special and integration schools of Armenia. There were also children sent to the camp through the Ministry of Health of republic of Armenia and beneficiaries of “Prkutyun” NGO. Each camp session hosted also 4 children with autism with their mothers. In total there were 122 children involved in the camp.

DAA staff

As already mentioned DAA teachers participated in the camp as head teachers for three sessions: the first session Christine Andreassyan, the third session Shushanik Karapetyan, the fourth session Mary Abrahamyan. The head teacher for the second session was special education teacher from ArBeS Armine Yepiskoposyan.

DAA president Hasmik Tadevosyan and executive director Liana Sanamyan visited each session of the camp 4-5 times and also participated in the last performance of the children of each session.

The camp program and its realization

This year the camp program was again full of interesting games and activities. As mentioned above besides DAA teachers there were other special education teachers, one male volunteer and student-volunteers, who performed their duties with excellence during the last year camp, working at the camp. The whole working staff was actively involved in the program. They helped the head teachers with the realization of all the activities of the camp program.

The program included competitions and quizzes, educational and active games. The program also included the game “Pirates” which brought a lot of enthusiasm into the program through its interesting and intellectual activities. . It was played for the second year, however, it didn’t lose its interest since it was updated and became more adventurous and attractive. It is a team played game: after each completed task the team has to find the treasure which is buried in the ground in advance. As during the previous years this year we again organized “The Best of Best” awards, during which each child received a price corresponding to his/her character and behavior. The evaluations for the award were done by the participants themselves. The camp post was also organized this year. During the first day the children prepared envelopes and hung them at the canteen wall. Then they actively wrote letters to each other. At the end of each two-week session the children prepared a performance which reviewed the activities of the session. Each head teacher added preferred active and table games to the program. These additions were discussed with the special education teachers and volunteers of the session in advance.

Special projects

Taking into the consideration the experience of last year DAA and YMCA-Spitak implemented a common program where YMCA-Spitak volunteers brought interest and

activity to the camp with their two-day visits during each two-week session. Both the staff and the children mentioned in their feedbacks that YMCA visits were too short. YMCA Zurich representative Yulia Moeckli visited the campsite during the second session.

This year the camp program was filled by another interesting project. “Arabkir” JMC&ICAH “Adolescent healthy life” program coordinator Marina Melkumova at each session introduced to the children the healthy lifestyle rules through interesting talks during three days. She talked about healthy food, physical activity, sexual maturity, etc. The participating teachers, volunteers and the children mentioned the importance of this program as they learnt correct information about their body and healthy lifestyle. Within this program Senop Tschakarjan, who is occupied with adolescent mental health in Switzerland, visited the camp and worked with Marina.

After each two-week session the participating children and staff completed a questionnaire. The feedback is reflected in this report and the final discussion.

Problems/Suggestions/Conclusions

The participation of Dialysis department patients in the camp must be mentioned as an issue. This question was discussed numerous times. As a result of discussions it was concluded that this year the patients of Dialysis department had to visit the camp for one day during each session. However, their participation in the camp was not possible due to the scarce number of nurses and the large amount of patients on the ward.

In general compared to last year the summer camp was more organized. During the preparation phase everything was done to have a camp without problems some things need correction for the next year.

After the summer camp was over DAA organized a final discussion meeting on September 17th with all the staffs involved with the camp: head teachers, special education teachers, doctors, volunteers. The camp administrator Donara Davtyan, DAA president Hasmik Tadevosyan, DAA executive director Liana Sanamyan were also present at this meeting. All the issues of the camp were discussed at the meeting and corresponding suggestions and conclusions were made. The details of these discussions are mentioned in the minutes of the meeting.

Special projects leader

Christine Andreassyan