

YOUTH BANKS PROMOTE THE ' CULTURE OF "GIVING' IN ARMENIA'S COMMUNITIES



Martuni citizens donate to YB's food basket for poor families



Football players contribute to donations after the game is over



Ararat YB members making origami in support of Japan's earthquake sufferers



Vanadzor YB members delivering donated toys for boarding schoolchildren

Youth Banks have learnt and successfully cultivate the tradition of charity in their small communities. During Spring, 2011 a number of Youth Bank Committees helped underprivileged families by organizing "food bank" charity events during Easter Holidays. **Gyumri, Yerevan, Yeghegnadzor and Martuni YBs** collected food worth of 1800 USD and distributed to 120 families in their communities. [A local TV Zangak in Martuni, broadcasted a program appreciating the "culture of giving" promoted by local youth.](#)

Yerevan YB committee funded a project to organize a charity football game between two Facebook-based youth groups. Teams advertise their game through social media. Donations generated from 200 game viewers went to support a beneficiary of famous "Hye Santa" Charity Foundation's, [Karapetyan's family.](#)

Ararat YB members supported the sufferers of Japanese earthquake, by making origami birds – ordered by a benefactor who contributed monetary support for each bird to go to the Japanese people.

Vanadzor YB members organized "A balloon for a smile" action combined with a collection of toys to be provided to local boarding school and kindergartens for the International Day of Protection of Children's rights – June 1st. A flesh-mob "Diversity Day" was organized by Vanadzor youth to promote respect to diversities.

Dilijan YB members organized a "[Bright Day](#)" action for local children to get in the streets, play, compete, dance and sing, and draw positive and bright images of childhood, by paint, markers and chalk provided by YB members. Local Culture Center and Municipality helped with equipment for the event. Dilijan public expressed a desire to the YB – to make this an annual event – as such entertainment opportunities for children are so scarce in their city.



Getting
Involved!

MORE ACTION GENERATED BY YOUTHBANK GRANTS!

Youth Bank committees in Armenia continue to use grant-making to engage a broader group of young people in their communities. Ten Youth Bank committees of Armenia have launched a new mini-grants competition. The YB committees received 305 grant proposals and interviewed 165. 48 projects are funded and process. The main themes of community projects are related to environmental protection, human rights, social media, minority and special need groups, [flash-mobs](#), sports activities, [socio-economic problems](#), community events, handicrafts, [a rock concert](#) and others. At least 300 young people in Armenia's nine regions and Yerevan will manage small-scale projects, involving more than 1000 volunteers country-wide. Internet, TV and print media in Armenia have placed more than 50 articles and reports on Youth Bank's activities.



Ararat YB funded Rock concert



Yerevan YB funded "green go"- flash mob promoting road safety

YOUTH BANKS RAISE MONEY FOR LOCAL PROJECTS

Youth Bank committees do not limit their work to a simple grant-making. Instead, they learn the importance of their participation in solving local problems and gain trust in their problem-solving power through additional fundraising. During the winter of 2011, **Armavir YB** applied and received 4,500 USD from the Burns Supper Charity event organized annually in Yerevan by the British Chamber of Commerce. Thanks to this successful fundraising effort, a boarding school for children with disabilities and speech impediments received speech-support software and physical rehabilitation equipment.

Yeghegnadzor YB participated in British Council's "Active Citizen" project competition and won a 4,440 USD grant that was combined with 250 USD from the EPF's YB funds and 170 USD from the Yeghegnadzor Municipality to implement "My Town is My Home" project. As part of the project, high school students enrolled in environmental classes had a chance to install 60 trash-bins throughout the Yeghegnadzor town. The British Council selected Yeghegnadzor YB member Narek Beglaryan to participate in a 1-week exchange seminar in UK as one of the best participants of the project.

These examples are inspiring other Youth Bankers to take broader initiatives and learn how to combine the locally-raised sources with donor resources.



Yeghegnadzor YB members installing trash-bins in the town



Armavir YB members deliver equipment to school



**REAL MONEY
REAL LIVES
REAL CHANGE**

LEARNING AND SHARING WITH YOUTH FROM GEORGIA AND AZERBAIJAN

10 YB members and 2 YB program staff traveled to Tbilisi to participate in the EPF Georgia's regional *"Lessons learnt from The 1st time voters"* project and meet their colleagues from Azerbaijan during April 17-20, 2011. The "1st Time Voters' project implemented by Youth Banks, had generated a number of micro-projects in Georgia's communities, aiming at mainly youth awareness and participation in upcoming elections in the country. The final conference involved many interactive tools leading to sharing of experiences between Georgian, Armenian Youth Banks and Azerbaijani Youth Fund program.



YB members from 3 countries celebrate the end of the joint session

YOUTH FROM SOUTH CAUCASUS GOT INVOLVED

29 young people from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia came together to learn program management and volunteerism for future cooperation. As part of the *Getting Involved!* program, supported by SIDA, Theodor Heuss Kolleg Foundation and Eurasia Partnership Foundation, the selected youth from three countries spent 9 days together to learn about one another, and design joint initiatives. Participants successfully piloted mini projects in Shindisi village and in Tbilisi. The mini projects addressed local issues, such as pollution, traffic rules, taxi prices and service quality and others. The *Getting Involved!* program facilitates the development of skills of young people to empower them to become 'entrepreneurs' in both their life and in society at large. It emphasizes personal development and managerial competence. There will be two other planned meetings of fellows from three countries in Georgia.



GI! 2011 participants from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia getting to know one another, Shindisi, Georgia.

YOUTH BANKS PROMOTE EUROPEAN YOUTH VALUES IN ARMENIA'S REGIONS

Youth Banks play a "disseminator" role for a number of successful initiatives, e.g. while disseminating the results of EPF's Europe program (which is solely supported by Sida funds). In 2010, EPF published a comprehensive book titled "Hello Europe" for ordinary Armenian readers in a user-friendly format. To popularize the EU-related information and processes among Armenia's rural population, including librarians, school teachers, students, the Armenian Youth Banks arranged presentations of the book and its distribution to ordinary public in their respective communities and regions. So far 10 YB presentations were



YB members assist with distribution of *Hello Europe* books among young people



attended by 300 participants. At the same time, in early summer 2011, EPF will made an announcement of a new round of small-scale grant competition for young people to promote European youth values in their communities. EPF plans to support around 20 small-scale projects following the cycle of presentations in spring and summer 2011. The initiative is fully supported by Sida funds.

MORE YOUNG PEOPLE, MORE COMMUNITIES INVOLVED IN YOUTH BANK IN ARMENIA

The Youth Bank concept has an intrinsic multiplier effect as it impacts and engages many other young people and youth organizations that are surrounding YB teams. In the Spring 2011, YB committees enrolled 35 new members throughout Armenia, including one new group established in Kotayk region. At the same time, the senior YB members are experienced enough to conduct the introductory trainings. A 3-day workshop for the new generation of Youth Bankers took them through the entire cycle of problem identification, project design, and grant-making. The workshop covered additional topics, such as team-work, transparency in decision making, human rights, and YB experiences from different groups, including those in Turkey and Georgia. Upon completion of the workshop, the new YB members developed PR materials, conducted community surveys, and announced grant calls in their communities. As one of the unexpected results of the EPF's YB Program in 2011, the nation-wide Yerkir Media TV's "Ankakhutyan Serund" (Generation of Independence) program developed a special program about EPF's YB and broadcasted it in Armenia and via the satellite to Armenian Diaspora throughout the world.



YB members present the results of Human rights training.

For any information concerning Youth Bank's activities in Armenia feel free to contact us at:

Eurasia Partnership Foundation
56 Zarobyan Street, 0009, Yerevan, Armenia
www.youthbank.am, www.epfound.am
youthbank@epfound.am

The following host organizations devotedly support Youth Bank activities in the regions and in Yerevan:
Martuni Women's Community Council, Armavir Development Center, Goris Youth Union, Ararat Colson Youth Development Center, A.D. Sakharov Human Rights Protection Center in Gyumri, Youth Cooperation Center of Dilijan, Federation of Youth Clubs of Armenia, NGO Center Civil Society Development NGO in Vanadzor, Syunig Benevolent NGO, Bridges of Youth, Peace and Friendship NGO in Kotayq.

