

PATH TO SUCCESS! PROGRAM PARTNERS USE INNOVATIVE APPROACHES IN ANTI-VIOLENCE AND ANTI-TRAFFICKING CAMPAIGNS

Theatrical Performance Proves to be an Effective Way of Discussing the Issue of Domestic Violence With Public

Under Winrock International's Path to Success! Program, the Khabarovsk youth center Vzlyot is successfully involving young people, psychologists and social workers in discussing domestic violence issues. Members of the youth center worked together with their trainers, Oleg Bezgodov and Tatiana Mandrykina, to develop an innovative theatrical performance about domestic violence followed by an interactive discussion between actors and spectators. The interactive performance was successfully demonstrated to two groups of students, psychologists and social workers in May and June 2007.

The performance is about four young people who come across each other at the railway station at night. Though they are different in age and social status, they all are all running away from the same problem: domestic violence. The spectators of the performance hear conversations about the young people's lives, relationships with different members of their families, difficulties and problems. The actors, many of whom are victims of domestic violence in real



life, put on a very moving performance. The actors then stay in character while directly asking the audience for advice on whether they should run away, and if not, how to resolve these negative situations at home. The audience is then engaged in the discussion and tries to give valuable advice and help to these characters. The performance is a very intimate and moving experience for all of those involved.

Vzlyot plans to continue to invite people to see and take part in their performances, and is eager to share the methodology of conducting such an event with those

working with or in educational establishments.

One of the spectators shared his impression of the performance:

"It helps to feel the problem emotionally, think it over very thoroughly and search for constructive ways out. Besides it makes especially young people think about how they are going to bring up their own children. It is a good opportunity to become the witnesses of the real situation and then together with the actors search for solutions".

Path to Success! Program student-mentors use debates to stimulate discussion on the issues of domestic violence and human trafficking

Over the past year, Path to Success! Program staff have shared methods of conduct-

ing debates with student-mentors cooperating with partner NGOs "Pulse" (Blagoveschensk, Amurskaya oblast) and "Maximum" (Khabarovsk, Khabarovskiy krai). When debating the issue of whether physical punishment is permissible in children's upbringing, the students learned how to prepare opposing arguments and find appropriate examples and statistics, as well as respect opponents' opinions and constructively research the topic. They found debates very interesting and educating and decided to use this new form when planning anti-violence and anti-trafficking events for their peers. Together with their trainers, the student-mentors applied for mini-grants and conducted debates for students in other educational establishments in May and June. In Khabarovsk, student-mentors encouraged 12 students from Medical State University to talk about the topic of physical punishment, which aroused heated discussions and controversial opinions. Due to the welcoming atmosphere of the debate, the participants easily drew on their own personal experience and not only

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discussed arguments for and against physical punishment, but also searched for other more humane ways of raising children. As a result, all participants admitted that physical punishment is not permissible, but many people still use it as a quick way of ironing out a conflict situation. Considering the topic from different sides allowed the participants to learn statistical data and professional viewpoints and draw informed conclusions. They will surely use the knowledge they received when bringing up their own children and establishing relations with relatives and other groups of people.

In Blagoveschensk, the students decided to cover two problems – domestic violence and human trafficking. They chose the following topics for debating: “Only people from rural areas, disadvantaged families, or those having high educational establishment diploma can become victims of human trafficking” and



“A woman can easily leave her husband-aggressor.” Both of these topics were chosen because they are based on myths which aroused controversial opinions during previous seminars and trainings.

The Amurskiy State University participants also viewed this form of discussion as very successful and engaging. Considering the topics from different perspectives enabled them to form their own viewpoints. There is great hope that this new form of discussion

will become popular among Far Eastern youth and they will continue using it when organizing events on Path to Success! project issues.

PATH TO SUCCESS! PROGRAM PARTNERS BRING ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING ON INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY

On June 1, 2007 about 1,000 Blagoveshensk citizens were involved in a street campaign called “You are a child, you are a personality!” organized by Winrock’s NGO partner Pulse.

The campaign was aimed at attracting public attention to children’s problems and helping parents realize that it is important to treat children as partners, not as subordinates.

20 volunteers – students of Amurskiy State University who had been actively cooperating with Pulse under the Path to Success! Program – took an active part



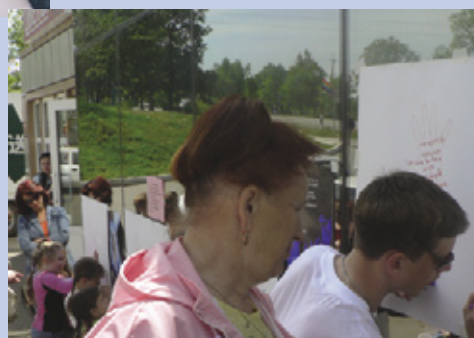
in organizing and conducting the event. They handed out over 500 colorful balloons and leaflets with positive sayings such as:

- ▮ **You are a personality**
- ▮ **You are a dignified person**
- ▮ **You deserve a respectful attitude from others**
- ▮ **You deserve a safe and happy life**

Such leaflets had been spread among orphanages and schools before the campaign as well.

The campaign was a rousing success. Many participants called Pulse afterwards thanking for the event, and several local mass media covered the campaign, including representatives of the informational agency “Gorod” which presented an interview with the volunteers in its publication. The students also gained valuable experience in organizing a socially significant event, which they will use when organizing other important events for the public.

On June 1, 2007 more than 300 citizens of Artyom, Primorskiy krai, took part in the street campaign entitled “Together Against Violence” which was conducted on International Children’s Day. Two trainers from the youth organization Raduga, Oleg Kaminiski and Olga Popovich, approached librarians, teachers and students in Artyom to become the members of the campaign’s organizational creative team. Through the hard work of these volunteers, the campaign successfully disseminated information and materials on children’s rights, the problems of domestic violence and human trafficking. People took part in art contests and interactive performances, left their handprints and signatures against domestic violence and human trafficking, and received booklets describing these problems and methods of self-protection. The organizers answered questions about the issues and informed the public about current Raduga activities fighting



these problems at the local level. Mass media were supportive by advertising the event in local newspaper “Artyom Plus” and then covering what happened. Local businessmen also expressed their

wish to make a contribution to the success of the event. One businessman, the director of a food store, presented two boxes of ice-cream to the participants of the contests. Thus, an entertaining and informative campaign became a real holiday for Artyom citizens and successfully informed more than 300 people about domestic violence and human trafficking as well as ways to combat these problems.

KRAI ADMINISTRATION AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS COOPERATE TO PREVENT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

On May 22, 2007, Winrock International conducted a round table on “Interdepartmental Interaction on the Issues of Prevention of Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking and Assistance to Victims” in Khabarovsk.

About 30 concerned representatives of governmental bodies and NGOs of Khabarovskii and Primorskii kraia and Amurskaya oblast took an active part in the event. The round table turned into a negotiation ground for the participants, who were able to exchange the experiences of their work on solving the issues of human trafficking and domestic violence. Participants found common ground in their practical activities, explored opportunities to cooperate in their regions and on an interregional level, and shared successful stories of interdepartmental interaction. The brightest example of cooperation was the Amurskaya oblast crisis center for women, in which local NGOs were able to successfully elicit the interest and support of the regional administration. It is worthy to note that the interactive format of the

roundtable contributed to active participation and input into the discussion. As a result of the roundtable, participants developed plans to establish interdepartmental and inter-regional cooperation in Khabarovskii and Primorskii kraia and Amurskaya oblast. During fevered discussions about the specific components of these plans, participants came to the conclusion that besides uniting their own resources and efforts, they would also engage the State machinery of the Ombudsmen of the Russian Federation in their regions to join these activities, as well as the interdepartmental committee of Plenipotentiary of the President of Russian Federation in the RFE.



TRAINING FOR TRAINERS

On May 20-21, 2007 Path to Success! Program partners took part in the training “Life Map”, conducted by Yuriy Tyushev, a trainer and consultant from 1A System Consulting, St. Petersburg.

Many of us at a certain stage of our career development have thought about our life goals, and pondered whether we have chosen the right profession or calling. Do you remember what your goals were when you were young? Did you design a specific plan of activities to achieve these goals? What did you dream about? Have your dreams



always become achievable goals?

Yuriy Tyushev explained wonderful techniques for making realistic and achievable goals out of your dreams. 14 NGO trainers from Primorskii and Khabarovskii kraia and Amurskaya oblast working on the “Path to Success!” Program had the opportunity to learn about these techniques over the two-day training on professional and life self-orientation, including effective methods of goal-setting and defining life goals.

The techniques of this training were geared to trainers who work with young people, to help them make sense of their lives and take on more responsibility for their choices and actions. With a better understanding of how to set and achieve their life goals, young people will be more empowered to pursue a career path in Russia and less receptive to too-good-to-be-true offers of easy and well-paid jobs abroad. The training was also aimed at perfecting the skills of these master trainers and improving the culture of interactive education.

This “Life Map” training was the second opportunity for Path to Success! partners to learn these methods. The information on the first training and the technique itself can be found in the fourth “Path to Success!” journal for 2006 (#4 (11)). You can also find the training methodology on professional self-orientation in the book by Yuriy Tyushev, “Choice of Profession: Training of Teens,” Practical Psychology Series, St.Petersburg: Peter, 2006.