



## ***Dear Friends,***

It is always a pleasure to start with a good new this monthly update. This time it is about the adoption of one of our little ones at Talgar. He's Denis (see in the picture below).



All the paperwork and legal process have been carried out by the local municipality and Denis could join his new family. It is a local family that we knew for long time and that since their decision to begin the adoption process at the local authorities department has been more and more present in our life. Adoption is always a very sensitive matter even when it happens in the same country of origin of the child. More than once we met some couples, maybe already of a certain age that asked us about the possibilities to adopt a child in order to have a new goal in life, some company and some fresh air at home.



The problem is that we have no say on this matter. We cannot make any decision concerning the request from a couple to adopt. All requests and decisions depend only from the local authorities in this case from the Municipality. Recently thanks to the relationship built in many years we can express our opinion about the family who would like to adopt and push or restrain the process accordingly. Not always our opinion is taken into account or listened to and unfortunately the negative results are reflected on the children. With Denis we are confident that his new family will be able to offer him a safe and serene environment to grow in.

We are almost ready to celebrate the opening of the dental clinic at the village. The date is

set for March 19<sup>th</sup> and we expect a full delegation from Milan to begin the operational aspect of the project born from the idea of two friends, Gigi and his daughter Michela, both dentists, during one their visit at the end of 2007. We are buying the last supplies and we already have an agreement with a local dentist in order to insure a consistency of the service in between the visits of the volunteer Italian dentists participating to the initiative.

In this last stage, Kcell, the telecommunication company that is supporting already many initiatives at the village, widened the internet connection already existent and connected it with the X-ray equipment in order to be able to send the test results to the specialists in Milan for medical consults.



We are working hard to improve the other medical services we offer. First of them is the physiotherapy. We are trying to build professional relationships aimed to create long term programs in order to answer the needs of our children as well as those who come to us from outside. One important aspect is that we can count already on the cooperation of some Italian manufacturers and suppliers of orthopedic shoes, rehabilitation equipment etc. who can provide the expertise, in place, of Italian specialist.

Further to our preliminary encounter, last month, with the Social Defense Services, we met the new person in charge of this department. The Social Defense Service is in charge of the public institutes for disabled (for children and adults). During this visit he wanted to have in person, a clearer view of what we do, what are our activities and the conditions in which our children live. We think the visit went quite well and we hope in a positive future development of our relationship.



Nevertheless, we still don't have any news about the group of our boys who went back to

the orphanage for medical visits and they haven't got the permission to come back to the village yet. Despite their concerns from this situation, as you can see from the picture above, they do not stay still. You can see them during their bakery lessons (they attend them periodically) organized by our friends at MASP from Almaty.



During their absence, the tailor workshop has slowed down. On the other hand we have a new girl, Oksana who joined the group. She belongs to the first generation of Arca and now she is testing what she learnt long time ago. This one could be a good job opportunity for him as well.

Another happy moment this month, was made possible by the company "KSS" that gave us in sign of their support, one of their minivan, (Above some of their managers greet our children) some toys for the children and a great lunch according to the best Kazakh traditions: they hired a chef who cooked plov (dish made with rice, meat and vegetables). All gifts have been welcomed with happiness and enthusiasm.



Thank so much all those, who have supported us in all these initiatives, as well all of you, who supporte us throughout the year.

A big hug from all of us.

*The Ark Family*

**ASSOCIAZIONE «ARCA ITALIA»**  
**Conto corrente 00015500**  
**BANCA POPOLARE DI BERGAMO**  
PIAZZA DUOMO, 5  
20052 MONZA  
**IBAN IT 59 W 05428 20406 000000015500**  
**Codice SWIFT/BIC BEPOIT21XXX**