



# The Ark Village Bulletin

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## Dear friends

Dear Friends, Here we are, back from Summer vacations. We lived through so many events that it is necessary to do a screening process not to write a novel out of it. We had many activities going on, we received the visit of many friends ...and more. With this number of our bulletin, and with a bit of nostalgia, we close 2012 summer season. On the other hand, we feel a new enthusiasm for what is waiting ahead of us. A whole new year, rich in events, new people, challenges and adventures that we want to face with unchanged passion, commitment and the wish that other friends will join our big family along the road. To all, have a nice beginning .

*P. Guido*



**A full overview of some activities during this summer at the Village. Thank you to everyone who participate : the volunteers and our friends that every day with their presence helped our children to grow serene and carefree.**



# Village chronicle ♥

New rooms for boys and girls of the Ark, full of color and fantasy! The project "Let's decorate your bedroom together" had a sequel that gives unexpected emotion... ♥ A whole summer dedicated to renew the village for the coming winter, the new house works stopped. What will be the new step to welcome new children?

Everything began few months ago when the International School of Almaty offered to re – **decorate our kids rooms** according to their tastes and fantasies. After the first rooms have been painted, the **inspiration** and enthusiasm did not wait for any adult per-

mission and quickly spread among a group of boys and girls who took brush and paint and set their imagination free. The opera is not finished yet but we can see already the special touch of each and everyone and their vivid creativity.



*Rooms painted by boys and girls.*

*On the right: some shots of the house demolition in July.*

*Below: Painting of the outside walls and the gym new roof.*

It is clear that our concerns in reference to the **new house** construction are not purely about carpentry. We decided to start this project because every year in September and this year was no different we receive many requests from families and institutions who ask us to **take care of their children**. It happens in September maybe because it is the beginning of school year, maybe because the economical crises hits

in this period more than in others, the fact is that the waiting list have grown so much and every time we have to say "no" especially to complicated situations, our heart shatters in pain.



Summer is the right moment to **work on maintenance** and new projects.

Some of them we can do by ourselves, others need some more specialized handwork and volunteers. This year carpentry works took place almost all over the Village: gym and workshops roof and internal gym walls damaged by the snow. Painting of almost all rooms in the houses and a new sewer plant. A big hand was given by the building **company Tikkurila** which provided us with the materials for plastering and outside painting of the kitchen, canteen and a part of the schools and the houses. A lot of work has been done and more still has to be done. Some of the projects will be

finished in the next weeks some others will have to wait until next year. Unfortunately the **construction of the new house** has come to a sudden stop. After a full speed beginning with the demolition of the old soviet building, the promise of a donation by a local company of the blocks necessary to build the new house, rose our hopes to a fast reconstruction too. Unfortunately a cost estimation of the man-work necessary to put together those blocks, way out of our possibilities, forced us to put the project on hold and to decide how to move forward. We hope to give you more comfortable new in our next edition.



*Above: the new sewer system necessary to link it to the new septic tank. A special thanks from our heart to the Arca friends who fund rese to accomplish this project.*

# Ark Friends

For the arca kids, a summer of friendships and new invitations. **LG** to dream... it 3D glasses! **CocaCola**, see how the famous soft drink is born. **Air Astana** to try to fly!!! **Refreshing days** at the Village thanks to a group of volunteers and their water games. **Bikers** again, to make kids feel the emotions of driving a bike. **Paolo** came back to visit us. This time not only in the role of engineer but of chef and playmate too.

Summer months offered a good moment to visit excellent factories such as: **LG plasma tv** production run for Central Asia. Our kids were astonished to see, walking down the **production** chain, how fast and precise is the assembling of the different parts in order to reach the final product. In the try-out area put on 3D special glasses they tested this

new visual technology and ...I believe, maybe the dream to become TV tester! Different experience the **visit to the CocaCola company**. In their eyes you could see the dream of offering as tester of the most favorite drink... The last one and I have to say more exciting, was the visit, thanks to our friends at **KPMG**, to **Air Astana the Kazakhstan**

**national airline**. For the first time, our kids seated on a flight training plane where they were served a snack "on board". We have been explained all parts of an airplane and we tried a pilot simulator. Everyone could experience the thrill of take-off and landing. What an emotion! I can imagine... so many dreams to become a pilot. These

experience are very important because they leave a trace for future professional choices and can spot uncovered passions and talents.

Visit at LG factory at the end of May.



Visit of Air Astana the training center.

Our friend Paolo while cooking!!

For young people, summer is a lot of free time to be filled. At Ark Village, for the private joy of our children, the number of **volunteers** this summer has grown. University students, SOS young students, Almaty bikes organization, International business academy. Entire days were ma-

nage independently by the different groups with games, competitions and activities. The bikes as well asked if they could come not only for fireworks but willing to spend more time with the kids and then of course some spin on the bike couldn't be denied.

At the Village with bikers and volunteers.



Our friend **Paolo** came back after several years from his last visit. At that time he came with another friend Roberto as "professional engineer adviser" to fix our heating system. Today he came as "do it all engineer". He helped to paint walls, he showed to be an excellent chef, and he spent a lot of time with the kids without being stopped by the language barriers.

**Ark News** ☆ Oleg will stay forever with us at the Village. This year he can start his studies with new relief thank to a new friend that contribute to his professional growth. ☆ Our educators attended a **special training** course about “aware intervention on disable children” by **Professor Sangalli**. ☆ **Educational moments** during free time at Ark. Theme days aimed to a better knowledge of cultures and creative artistic activities.

YES, we got another boy back from the State orphanage!!

**Oleg** has been with us since he was 5years old. In last few years for studying he had to go to live at the city orphanage and he was coming home only during week-ends. Now he finished his studies and moved back to the Village. Soon he will start a **vocational school** thanks to the support offered by a very dear friend who decided to finance his professional education – Thank you.

*Oleg*



*Oleg during the visit to the National airline "Air Astana".*



The hot summer played a great role in all activities involving water either in the mini swimming pools on the grounds or in the public swimming pools visited weekly.

All indoor educational activities have been suspended except for computer study, languages and handcrafts. Green light to: play, sports and houseworks.

In different periods, two groups of children have been invited to stay with us for free as community life experience. A positive experience to socialize and make new friends.

Among different activities during summer, the most original have been the “**Theme days**”. A theme was chosen and the day was organized around it. Maybe the best one was the “Chinese day”... Everyone developed different aspects of this culture from cuisine to dance, martial arts and clothing.

A one week course titled “Educational, special intervention on disability” for our educational team, took place at Ark **Professor Sangalli chief of Special pedagogical studies at University of Verona, Italy** and his assistant Mrs. Melania director of the rehabilitation center “Piccolo Principe” at Ragusa, Sicily, where doctor Sangalli is also a consultant, organized an entire week course with visits to the children and individual therapeutic programs according to their needs. A very inten-

se course who left everyone enthusiastic to apply what learnt and with a different views on some of our children situations. Prof. Sangalli is going to carry out regular checks by video conference in order to follow up with the educators and also he'll pay future visits to proceed with the education of the staff.

We would like to address a special “Thanks you” to the company “Caspi-an Marine services” that financed this entire initiative from Italy.

*Theme days at the Village and water games!*



*Professor Sangalli during the seminar with the Village educational staff members.*



Our proposal for this month, is once again about the stable (but not only) . We'll tell you more in the next bulletin. Now we'd like to invite you to read the last news and to follow us to the special section dedicated to the projects on the run at Ark. Enjoy the reading.

*The big Ark family*

welcome



Surfing the site

[www.u-kovcheg.org](http://www.u-kovcheg.org)

## Rabbit or... bunny?

It is still open the stable enlargement project at the Village in order to be able to host more farm animals. This months is entirely dedicated to the children who can chose if they prefer to play with a soft, stuffed bunny or pick up booths and rake and go to clean up the stable for their animal friends. A real rabbit or a stuffed one? Participate with them to.....



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