

Childcare Center
Ümüt –Nadjeschda

Bishkek 2011

And now here is my secret, a very simple secret;
It is only with the heart that one can see rightly,
what is essential is invisible to the eye.

-Antoine de Saint Exupery “ The Little Prince”

Years ago , when Gert-Michael Schälike was born, a woman in the same maternity room was crying and hiding her tears below the pillow. There were doctors standing around her bed, screaming and talking to her. A foreigner in Kirgizstan, the mother of Gert-Michael wanted to understand what was happening to her neighbor. She insisted and found out that the woman was being asked to sign an agreement to give away her newborn baby because it was apparently handicapped.

Even nowadays multiple handicapped children are at risk of being removed from their families and placed in institutions where barely no one cares about their fate. According to the Kirgisz laws, these children are then classified as un-educatable and drop out of the school-system. Access to public kindergarten, public school or to any specialized school is prohibited.

Twenty-six years ago after the sudden death of the little Gert-Michael, his mother decided to help children with disabilities, starting with the saved boy from the maternity. This is how the childcare center Nadjeschda (in English “Hope”) was created. Here adults help children to sing, to paint and to learn to be happy like every other child on this earth.

A little history

17.09.89 - Foundation of NGO Nadjeshda with 28 volunteer staff members.

03.07.91- The world renounced Kirgiz writer Tschingis Aitmatov becomes the Honorary

President of the childcare center Nadjeschda.

18.11.91- The center becomes a member of the UNESCO program for Associated Schools.

01.05.92- Loss of government financial support government for a two storey building,

1992- To enable Nadjeschda to survive, the German NGO Kinderfond Nadjeschda Fundraising was created by Dr. Hartmut Otto.

2005- Karla Maria Schälike was considered for the Alternative Noble prize project “1000 Women for peace”.

2009- Karla Maria Schälike is awarded with the German Order Bundesverdienstkreuz .

2011- Awarded with of the Kirgiz -order of “Danaker”, Karla Maria Schälike is recognized for her successful work for the cause of disabled children.

The childcare center today

The childcare center Nadjeschda is today part of a network of several organizations in the capital Bishkek, in the village Kok Schar and at the Issyk Kul Lake. They include:

- 4 groups for children in the mandatory school age
- 1 class with professional orientation
- Groups for children of 2,5-7 years.
- Family style living groups for children and teenagers.
- Therapy workshop in the Janusz-Korczak -Center
- 1 curative pedagogical seminar with classes for education and further education
- 3 holiday huts at the Issyk- Kul -Lake
- 1 therapy area (therapy horse back riding, massage and several movement therapies)

What lives “Nadjeschda”- hope?

Although the childcare center doesn't get any kind of financial support from the Kirgiz's government, but it has been able to survive for 22 years and grow through times of revolution, civil war, rising poverty because of regular support through the international community of donors. The children, parents and staff members of “Nadjeschda” hope that people will continue to help and that their enthusiasm will attract new donors. All helpers are aware that it is almost impossible to maintain a center for children with disabilities without any governmental support. Only through donations will the future for the work in Center Nadjeschda be guaranteed. You, dear friends and donors made, the impossible possible. Thanks to personal monthly and individual donations, Nadjeschda has survived already for now 22 years.

What can you do?

A donation of 90 Euros per month allows a child to use transportation to the center, to be schooled and fed at Nadjeschda or to be hosted.

Donation account: