

Report from the Childcare center Nadjeschda, Autumn 2011

The school year 2010-2011 was not an easy one. But it also had a lot of nice and cheerful moments, which gave hope to the children and the staff.

1. On the 20th anniversary of the Kirgiz Republic's independence, President Rosa Otunbajewa awarded Nadjeschda with the second highest order of "Danakar" for its successful work with children with disabilities. This order is given for a big dedication for the collaboration among nations in the development in the field of science, education and culture.
2. On his 70th birthday Nico Müller, a former colleague of Karla-Maria Schälke, the manager of Nadjeschda, collected donations for the center instead of presents. He came with his wife all the way to Kyrgyzstan to deliver this gift. With this donation it was possible to build a nice covered play area to replace the often muddy open air play ground.
Thank you dear Nico!

1. Difficulties

Shortly before the end of the school year, it was announced that three of the teachers will have to stop working due to new members in their families. Another teacher may be unable to meet the needs of the more difficult children in her class and might leave her job.

3. Karla-Maria got the message that the playground of the Nadjeschda Kindergarten in the Kök Schar village was going to be taken away from them because of its lack of equipment. This was apparently the claim of the mayor's office of the village. Karla-Maria did ask for help from the NGO Friends of the KIDS club in Darmstadt, which for years have been supporting the Kirgiz children from Umut Nadjeschda. And NGO KIDS reacted very fast and sent the needed sum for the re-arrangement of the playground. Thank you so much, Elisabeth and the KIDS club!

2. Difficulty

Just before the end of the school year, a group from the city's public prosecutor's office forcibly entered Nadjeschda administration and wanted to have a look into all documents.

Igor Iljitsch Schälke was interrogated in the rooms of Nadjeschda and was demanded to face an interrogation at the city's prosecutor office. Also several of the Nadjeschda staff members were victims of psychological extortion, having been convinced to come to the interrogation in the prosecutor's office and provide written testimony. One pregnant staff member was so upset about this process and had to be hospitalized and lost her child as a consequence.

Meanwhile, officers of the public station send letters threatening the staff members and the administration of Nadjeschda. After the civil war and the pre-presidential elections, a political and legal vacuum took place. And not only the capital's mayor,

but also other leading officials of the country tried to take away the buildings and grounds of non-protected organizations like Childcare-center Nadjeschda.

4. A few years ago the writer Tschingis Aitmatov and two years ago the German ambassador Mr. Green were successful in finding a solution. In the now a days difficult political situation we did directly turn to the president of Kirgizstan Rosa Otunbajewa for help. And a miracle happened, not only the interrogations stopped but also the highest prosecutor official of the republic of Kirgizstan officially apologized to Nadjeschda.

Until the presedential elections the children of Nadjeschda can be considered safe! After that, we hope with all the other citizens of Kirgizstan for a new president who will ensure rights and order in this country that has been in chaos over the past years.

We send a lot of love to the Nadjeschda children, the staff members and the volunteers from Germany. The volunteers that worked in the kindergarten, in the first grade and in the Janusz-Korczak center, showed a lot of dedication for the work and in the relationship with the children. They even found "Paten", a kind of personal financial tutors for some of the children. A group of volunteers that we know well from last year already was able to collect money in Germany and to bring it to Kirgizstan.

As you can read in this report, the life at Nadjeshda is like the life of everyone, filled with joy but also difficult and sad moments.

That Nadjeschda is able to help the children for now already 22 year is mostly because of the help from you dear friends and donors. And for that, the Nadjeschda children are very thankful to you.

Igor Iljitsch and Karla Maria Schälke