

DIVERSITY

The Cambrige - Yerevan Sister City Association Diversity Project *September 2004*



We are different, but we are together !!!

There are lots of countries in the world. Countries are different. The people and the culture are also different. Cultures are ways of life. They have to do with eating, dressing, beliefs and job. They have to do with what is on TV and the radio. Governments, ways of talking and buildings are all parts of culture. So are things like music and painting. Each country has its own money, Language and kinds of food.

Cultures change as people change. Transportation, trade and communication join today's cultures. This is why people lead different ways of life from one another.

The Aim of this Newspaper

As all of us know to make a newspaper is not an easy work. The newspaper must have full meaning and aim. What was the aim of making the "Diversity" newspaper? First of all the aim of this newspaper was to respect all the experiences that the children express their thoughts, feelings, tell their suggestions.

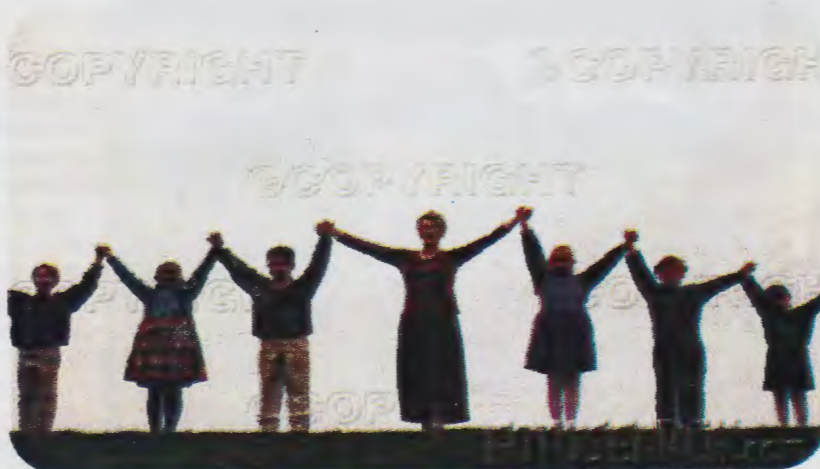
In the newspaper there are many reports written by children. They wrote where they have been, what they have done, what diversities they had during the Diversity project. So, when you read this newspaper you will see that every page has its own meaning and aim.

In short this newspaper is very interesting and reader will get pleasure while reading it.

Also we are thankful from CYSCA for organizing such an important and useful project. Hope it will continued in the future too.

Amalia Vardanyan

**Participate
in a
Diversity
Program**



HELLO

MY OPINION ABOUT DIVERSITY PROJECT

During our Diversity project workshop we had lots of journeys in Armenia, also we did interesting meetings. Here are some of kids' impressions.

Amalia Vardanian

I am engaged in the program "Healthy living conditions" and in the program Diversity. The delegation arrived from USA in order to fulfill the program. It was a very interesting and very useful program. According the program we visited Sevan. The workshop took place at Sevan's #4 school. We joined in three groups. One of the groups participated in the program "Healthy living condition". The second joined in the program voluntary work. During our work we gained a lot, had a chance to help the peasants, to feed the cows and hens and we also has seen their living condition.

During the program "Healthy living conditions" we learned what to do in order to avoid diseases. Besides we visited to see the old and poor families. We have taken little presents for their children. Besides we have visited the poor children' house. We have taken many toys, pens, copy books and pencils for them. I think that the program was very useful and each of us must be ready to help each other at anytime and at any situation.

Haik Ghumashyan
School #65 9th grade

I like to help people to see their thankful smiles on their faces. To do that kind of job, I have been included in the Diversity project.

With our Diversity group we visited Sevan and its school #4. The children of that school were included in the Diversity works as well. I got acquainted with Qnarine Kgazanchyan, who was the boss of "Heyfer" program.

She introduced us that program. They gave pregnant cows or sheep to the destitute' of the region Sevan, Vayots Dzor and to many other regions. The village people keep, take care of the animal and the calf. The animal is having one more calf during the three years and they return the second calf. That calf becomes a cow and is given to the other family.

This program is a great help for village people. With some children we visited several families which were a part of that program. The help of that program had improved their conditions' greatly. Especially that change was evident in Murad's family.

We visited the chief's house. His wife was directing to volunteer school group. The children were helping the grown-ups to take care of the animals. They had created a very pretty garden, where there were wonderful flowers, the seeds of which were given by "Hefer" program. The one visit to Sevan taught us many things.

Marianna Vardanyan
School #65 9th grade



DIVERSITY GROUP IN THE LAKE SEVAN

I can't forget my trip to Sevan. I took part to training on Civil Rights issues. Before getting to Sevan we played games in the bus which helped us to improve our English. The game demanded everybody to speak English, and these who spoke Armenian were punished. The best speakers were awarded to do shopings from CYSCA's shop. Later, when we reached Lake Sevan we took classes in Civil Rights, Health way of life topics. After classes we walked around the beach and got acquainted with the nature of Lake Sevan. In the evening we returned back to Yerevan.

Hakob Grigoryan
School #65 8th grade

I learnt many useful things from Sevan workshop. But most of all I had fun in the way of Sevan. I would like to tell you my impression about Game tickets. On the way of Sevan Mrs. Joanne Harutyunyan distributed each of us 5 game tickets. We must speak only English; in case we spoke Armenian we must give the ticket to those who spoke only English. Than we must do shopping from the CYSCA shop. It was a very interesting day for all of us. The time passed very fast. Everybody was happy. The same day we went to see opera "Anush". We all were very happy.

Mamikon Harutyunyan
School #65 8th grade



MY OPINION ABOUT DIVERSITY PROJECT

In the Sevan we separate on three groups. First group learnt about "Human Rights", second one about "Health", and the third one about "Families". I was in the third group. In Sevan we went to visit families. There were many poor families in the village. There was an organization which thought us about those families. We get acquainted with Murad's family. They live in very poor conditions. The organization gave them a cow which was going to have a little cow. Then after one year they have to give back a young cow. That young cow which was given back to the organization, they must give it to the other poor family. Murad's family is living much better now. Murad told us that the organization helped them very much.

Haik Muradyan
School #65 9th grade



DIVERSITY GROUP IN THE VILIGE

IN THE THOMAS TEA

Once our Diversity group went to "Thomas tea". It was a very interesting tea house. There were different kinds of tea from all over the world. Each of us choused some kind of tea. I drank Chin's tea. It was very tasty. Also we ate different kinds of cakes. I ate lemon cake. Some of my friends choused English, Japanese tea and ate chocolate cake. We enjoyed our time there. I think if every nation will complete each other, so they can make a wonderful culture together.

Haik Harutyunyan
School #190

The September was the best month in my life. During this month I had been in the cinema, in the theater, in the opera, in the lake Sevan and in Thomas tea. They were the best days in my life, because I learnt how I could help people to live in right way. I understood that if I want to help someone I must give him or her for example not only bread or something to eat, I must help them to find the way how to get it. Also I learnt about NGO's, and now I can give advices to poor people to be in contact with them. And I want that everybody start to love, respect and help each other, because if we do all these together our world will be in peace and all the people will live in save.

Arman Hakobyan
School #190 9th grade

In Sevan I learnt about Healthy program. Each of us is in need of healthy living condition. All the people must fight against the pollution of air, nature in order to be healthy. One of the greatest enemies of health is smoking. It is dangerous for children. The children must not smoke. Each of us must wash hands before eating meals. The vegetables must be cleaned before eating. The children must eat healthy and wealthy food and vegetables. Smoking must be forbidden in the presence of children. The children must go in for sports in order to be healthy and strong.

Silva Harutyunyan
School #65 9th grade



WE SHARE A WORLD

For all our differences, we share one world. To be tolerant is to welcome the differences and delight in the sharing.

MY OPINION ABOUT DIVERSITY PROJECT

ORRAN

When I watched film "Orran" I understood that one can never be egoistic and it is necessary to think about all people in the world. Every person he or she, poor or rich have equal rights. In the world not so many people live in very comfortable houses, but I think that it must be equal. I learnt how necessary is to help poor families. They all have rights to get education. I wish to help them, that they could feel very important themselves in this life. After watching the film about war. I understood how bad is it. I wish all over the world to live in peace. Everything are more wonderful when there is not war.

Anna Harutyunyan
School #190

AMISTAD

When I saw film Amistad, I remember great Genocide of Armenians by Osman imperry at 1915. Why beat torment kills them? They are not people? No! Are they weak? Yes! European's behavior was as musclemans behavior to Armenians and Greek people. Will be good, when they, who are more strong or clever boat and torment, kill Europeans? No, of course!

But now they are not like that killer-Europeans or killer-Americans. They help them who need it. For example, they help Armenians, they built homes for poor, built "Orran" for them who can't leave child, but can't live with him too. They give them money, cows and so on.

I think that strong people must help to weak people and don't kill or beat them.

Haik Harutyunyan
School #190



CHAO

Nowadays has been developed so much that a computer can do so much work during an hour, while the same work do twenty-five people during an hour. Everything has changed, and it is quite normal. Even the relations between people, their feelings have changed. With the Diversity group we also went to the Dramatic Theater to see French comedy "Chao". The performance was wonderful. It taught us many things. What is right, what is wrong in the life, how to overcome difficulties? All these things were included in the performance. The most important was that the rich always leads and rules the poor. The rich people can even make the poor ones marry so more unwillingly. Also we learnt the fact that you can not love at once, love comes gradually step by step. In a nutshell the performance was perfect.

Ani Hovanisyan
Student teacher

BENEVOLENCE

To be kind and meanwhile generous is not so easy and there are not so many people who have these features. As we all know there are many poor people, many beggars in Armenia. How should, how can we help them? They need help and support, don't they?

I can't tell about my feelings, what I feel when I see a beggar in the street begging for money it is very terrible. But there is no country in the world that doesn't have beggars. And I try to help the poor how much I can.

For instance, I was a volunteer in "Diversity Project".

We went to Komitas Park, which is a park devoted to our country's outstanding personalities.

There we gave box full of food to the poor people. We gave them all the necessary things they need every day. They were very happy, their eyes were shining with joy and happiness. Though it was a little thing we were able to make them feel happy and supported.

So, people let's do a little thing to help those who need our help.

Ani Hovanisyan
Student teacher

Attention

No Smoking action is inviting you to take part in "NO SMOKING" project.

You can write compositions about dangerous of smoking.

You can send your compositions to this e-mail address:

Smokingisbad1@lycos.com

To: Gayane

MY OPINION ABOUT DIVERSITY PROJECT

It was very surprising when our diversity group met one of the Armenian famous comedic actors, Hrant Tokhatyan. He is a great actor with a great sense of humor, and also he is a linguist of Russian language. Being a good actor he is a good volunteer as well. He took part in planting trees. He is a good citizen of Yerevan. He is interested in life of Yerevan. He does his best to achieve development of Armenia. During the meeting he was asking us many questions why we had decided to become a volunteer, what was the reason? We answered that at first it is an experience for us. Also it is very interesting to deal with different kind of people. We were playing games. It was like a party.

I had a wonderful time with the actor and I forgot to say that I asked for his signature and Hrant Tokhatyan gave it to me with great pleasure.

Vardan Khalatyan
School #65 9th grade



**Meeting with Armenian famous, comedic actor
Hrant Tokhatyan**

Now I can say that my English has been improved very much because I took part to Diversity program activities that lasted over a month. This was an interesting program that really helped me to speak English better than before. Before being involved in the program I had to take part to a competition. There was held a contest of writing composition about volunteering. Later, based on the results of competition some of us were selected as winners thus having a chance to participate English language training. A schedule was developed for the training and in the frame of the program activities we had several interesting trips and also watched educational films concerning different historical periods of Armenia. I am deeply impressed all these events and I wish this program should be continued in the future.

Hakob Grigoryan
School #65 8th grade

I think there is diversity in everything and everyone. Diversity is the difference among times, peoples and things. It has been in ancient times and goes on being in present days. Ancient people and present people think, dress different. They have other minds, but perhaps they have the same feelings.

For example I make friendship with Alice, because I like her, as she is a friendly, kind, helpful and clever girl, and I can't understand anyone well as her. People are different with their minds; they are different with their soul. Yes! The people are different but they have same rights.

Lusine Grigoryan
School #65 9th grade

PLEASE LISTEN

When I ask you to listen to me
And you start giving me advice,
You have not done what I asked.
When I ask you to listen to me
And you begin to tell me why
I shouldn't feel that why,
You are trampling on my feelings.
When I ask you to listen to me
And you feel you have to do something
To solve my problem,
You have failed me,
Strange as that may seem.
Listen! All I ask is that you listen.
Don't talk or do-just hear me.

ADVICE

**Don't close your door.
Foster and open working
environment.**

WHY I WANT TO BE A VOLUNTEER?

Saying volunteer job I understand the opportunity to express my wants freely, to choose specialization myself and to make good and strong human relations. One of the liberties of human-being is volunteer work. People the entire world such as Red Cross. I think people doing such volunteer job will feel aspiratory satisfied. They can contribute to their country. I like volunteer job instead of forced one. In many cases, doing useful volunteer job I feel satisfied. I think it is much more essential. Some people find their happiness in such volunteer jobs, such as the works of painters, musicians.

Haik Muradyan
School #65 9th grade

What should I do if I had chance to do Voluntary job? Without any doubt at first I should help people who are in need and who live in poverty. I know many families who live in poverty because they are unemployed. I shall organize the group of children to help them. We shall gather little money, toys, even food or sweets, clothes and sent them. The orphanages are also in need of our help. I know many rich people who throw away their old clothes and the clothes which are out of fashion. Please don't threw away such things, people if each of us will be kind to the poor and put just a little soul to help them many children will have chance to go school, to smile.

I think that kindnesses will save the world.

Haik Ghumashyan
School #65 9th grade

I wish to be beneficence as I want to help people, to be of any use to them, I wish to be a benefice cent as when I help someone I feel myself the happiest person in the world, I feel that I've found my place in this world, that someone needs my help. I am a volunteer at the Red Cross and I try to give a helpful hands to those who need it, as when one helps the one who is in need one helps himself and this is the calmness of the soul. They say you have lost all the things you haven't given to others. As a volunteer at the Red cross I attend elders home twice a month where I read different kinds of books and newspapers to the old people and I do my best to make the life of these lonely people as interesting as possible. I also attend orphanages as I like children very much. I organize many different and interesting games and parties for orphan children and give them various little gifts all at my expenses.

One must help his closest one as this is the mission of human being.

Ani Hakobyan
School #190 9th grade



Clean Up Day

Volunteerism...

This is a simple word, which has an important meaning. At first, when you hear about a volunteer job you think, the members of this kind of job must have a kind heart.

With a large group of volunteers, in which I am also a member with my two sisters, we are doing Cleanup Day as a part of "Maqur Yerevan" organization. I am a real Armenian and live in Yerevan. This is my country, my house and I am proud of my land and I want to see it clean. In this very important job there are also Armenian members from other countries. I know some of them very well and now they are my friends. I don't want to say their names, but I can say that I am proud of them and very thankful, because living in other countries they don't forget about their motherland. They are living with problems of their land and want to be helpful.

Yerevan is not only a capital city of Armenia and Armenians who live there, but also a capital city of all Armenians who live far from Armenia.

We are little, but we are living, and some day we'll grow up and become a lot.

Marianna Vardanyan
School #65 9th grade

Peace and kindness... These are the words that we hear and read everywhere, everyday, every minute and every second. But do we understand them; do we understand the great importance of these words? Do we feel that they are not simple words; they are words that include the whole inner and outer world of a human being.

Being brought up in the family with good and kind traditions I was taught just from an early age to be kind towards people not to lie them and give a helping hand to them if they are in need.

When I go to school my parents sometimes give me some money for having lunch in the school cafeteria. So I save it and decided to help our poor neighbors. I went to the shop bought some food and clothes and gave them to my neighbors. Then the children of our yard organized a little concert in the yard. We danced, sang for them. We tried to make them happy; we tried to make them forget all the difficulties and sorrows that were around them. I saw happiness sparkling in their eyes; they thanked us and gave their blessing.

And I wish the simple message "Kindness will save the world" should be embraced by people form all walks of life, in any place and at any time.

Minasyan School #65 8th grade

Vardan

WHY I WANT TO BE A VOLUNTEER?

I like volunteering. Volunteer work is widely spread all around the world. It broadens your view of the world and also builds relationship with others. The first real volunteer that I have met was a US Peace Corp volunteer to Armenia, from Burlington, Vermont. He was a nice fellow and good volunteer, always trying to be helpful to people. His name was Chris Chassell. He lived in a remote region of Armenia and helped people developing their businesses. He was also teaching at our school. It was in 2000 and I was living in the village. Chris helped elderly and single people in gardening. Sometimes I joined him. When he returned back to the USA, he advised me to become volunteer. Later following his ideas I organized a youth club at our school. There are 12 volunteer students in our club. We work together like a team. We grow flowers in the school garden and also time be time clean the school and neighboring area from the wastes and other garbage.

I would say that there are many volunteers at school. They take part to different activities, such as organizing school performances. Some volunteers of our school computer club train the others to use computer and Internet. During summer vacation we had guests from the US schools. And some of our youth members who know English well and speak the language become volunteer interpreters for them, helping American youth to communicate with Armenian children.

It is interesting to do volunteer work. I know that many volunteers take part in assisting handicapped people; others visit hospitals and give blood.

Many schools volunteers prepare class displays, share collection, participate environmental activities, and publish wallpapers.

Volunteering means to be helpful to people in need and do it free, without pay. And I like to do that kind of work, a work that is charitable, when I do that I feel good. That is also a good way to make friends as I made friends with Chris Chassell a Peace Corps volunteer work from the USA.

Hakob Grigoryan
School #65 8th grade



**OUR WINDOWS ARE OPEN FOR ALL
WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE WITH
US !!!**

Volunteering means to some actions with own will and nobody makes you do that action. It is not important what action is that. "Clean Yerevan" is doing such a volunteer work. And to that action can take part the people, who voluntarily want to clean and plant the trees and shrubs in our Yerevan. There are many areas in Yerevan that are turned into garbage piles and also territories where trees have been cut.

We, pupils the club "Victoria", together with our leader went to such a demonstration, where people demanded to plant greenery in Yerevan and people gathered to struggle against cutting trees, they counted many gardens and parks, where you can see logged areas and instead they built cafeterias, and all the volunteers could take part in that rally.

Volunteers are doing work not only for cleaning and greening the areas but also for maintaining water. And those actions are organized not only in Yerevan but also in many other towns as well.

I wish I could have such a team, where I would be leader, and would start our works. We would also clean up Yerevan, plant trees and struggle against cutting and would expand our work in other areas, still struggling for cleanliness and for greening. We would also go for hiking, visit different regions and get acquainted with sites and if we could find in sites and we could find in these areas the same problems we would try to solve them.

Sargis Saryan
School #65 8th grade

Once watching a program o TV I heard terrible news. A little boy of 7 was run over by a bus. He was in hospital; his state of health was terrible. He needed some blood and some money for difficult operation. His parents were poor and could do nothing to help him, to save their son's life. They asked for help being sure that their voice will reach to some people who are rich and are ready to help them.

Hearing this news I was shocked, I was surprised to see that the boy's parents didn't lose their faith and belief and hope even in this situation. So I made up my mind to help them. I went to a specialized hospital then gave some blood. I found out that an account was opened in the bank for this boy.

As my parents wanted to me to get a higher education I know that they are saved some money for this result. I went to them and asked them for money. At first they hesitate but hearing the truth they gave me some money readily appreciating me and my behavior. I took it to the bank.

In a few days I went to the hospital. There I was told that the boy had been operated on and he was getting better day by day.

I began to jump for joy because I knew that somehow it was my contribution and my "fault".

Tigran Minasyan
School #65 8th grade

ADVISES FOR TEENS FROM "THE 7 HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE TEENS" BOOK BABY STEPS



Keep Promises

1. The next time you go out for the night tell your mom or dad what time you will be home and keep to it.
2. All day today, before giving out any commitments, pause and think about whether or not you can honor them. Don't say "I'll call to night," or "Let's have lunch today," unless you can follow through.

Do Small Acts of Kindness

1. Buy a burger for a homeless person this week.
2. Write a thank-you note to someone you've been wanting to thank for a long time.

Be Loyal

1. Pinpoint when and where it is most difficult for you to refrain from gossip. Is it with a certain friend, in the locker room, during lunch? Come up with the plan of action to avoid it.
2. Try to go one they saying only positive things about others.

Listen

1. Don't talk so much today. Spend the day listening.
2. Think of the family member you've never really taken the time to listen to, like a little sister, big brother, or grandpa. Take the time.

Say you're Sorry

1. Before you go to bed tonight, write a simple note of apology to someone you may have offended.

Set Clear Expectations

1. Think of a situation where you and the other party have different expectations. Put together a plan for how to get on the same page.

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The tree that never had to fight
For sun and sky and air and light,
But stood out in the open plain
And always got its share of rain,
Never become a forest king
But lived and died a scrubby thing...
Good timber does not grow with ease,
The stronger wind, the stronger trees.

Douglas Malloch