



Press Release

For immediate distribution

January 18, 2010

Akhaltsikhe Youth Bank to Award Second Round of Funding

AKHALTSIKHE. Eurasia Partnership Foundation's Youth Bank project in Akhaltsikhe is embarking on its second cycle of grant-making. Thanks to generous funding by the Canadian Embassy, the Akhaltsikhe Youth Bank is continuing to improve social conditions and motivate local youth to become involved in the development of their community. Consisting of a team of six local youth, three young men and three young women, the Akhaltsikhe Youth Bank conducted a needs assessment in their community between October and November 2009. The team identified education, volunteerism, sports, and cultural events as priority sectors for its grant-making.

After careful review of the fourteen proposals submitted, the Youth Bank selected six projects for funding:

Healthy Life Style for Akhaltsikhe Youth: The youth-led initiative group will form two soccer teams, coach them, and provide them with needed equipment. They will also organize a soccer tournament to attract youth attention to sports.

Youth Unity: The project team will purchase modern Georgian language books for the school library to improve ethnic minorities' access to Georgian language books. The team will also organize a literature evening, where there will be readings from famous Georgian, Armenian, and Russian authors.

Table Tennis Tournament: The initiative group will purchase table tennis equipment for the university sports club, and will organize table tennis trainings for young people, ending with a tournament.

Help Kindergarten for a Better Future: The initiative group will purchase children's tables, chairs, and special toys to improve the physical conditions and aid intellectual development in the Akhaltsikhe kindergarten.

Intellectuals: The project team will improve the University Law Department library's collection of contemporary law books by purchasing 27 new law books.

Literature Club: The initiative group will purchase 35 modern literature books for the school library and will establish a literature club for the students of the school to motivate them to read.

The Youth Bank is a program of Eurasia Partnership Foundation. The Foundation's mission is to empower people to effect change for social justice and economic prosperity through hands-on programs, helping them to improve their communities and their own lives.

A presentation of the winning projects, where participants will speak in further detail about their projects, will take place on January 18th at 3 pm. Address: Building # 2 of Akhaltsikhe State University; #2 9th of April Street.

For additional details, please contact Maia Tavadze, EPF Youth Integration Program Manager

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