

You are holding Issue 13 of our Project's newsletter!

News Update

28 July, 2006, Opening of the Playground "DZYHA" (Whirligig), Pustomy, Lviv Oblast

Through the joint efforts of the community, local authorities and local businesses working together with the support of the Community Economic Development Project, a children's playground, named DZYHA was renovated, equipped and opened in Pustomy. Since there previously had not been a single well-equipped children's recreational space in the town, this project provided at least a partial solution to this issue.

Community residents in Pustomy took a most active part in implementing the project by putting great effort into it and raising their own funds (a total of UAH 745) for the project. NGOs were also actively involved. In particular, volunteers from the Ptakh Youth Centre actively worked to build this playground. The local business community made a special contribution by donating UAH 920. Businesspeople helped with construction materials and labour worth more than UAH 7,000. Employees of the business Yasen produced all the equipment for the playground under contract.

The Community Economic Development Project provided a grant of UAH 20,000 for the construction of the playground. Assistance also came from the Pustomy Town Council, the construction firm ComfortBud, and the municipal housing and utility agency, which worked together to clean up and restore the land on which the playground is located. Private businessmen Vitaliy Maiboroda, Yaroslav Tymchyna, Bohdan Maslyak, and Olexandr Kashyrin, as well as the business firm Leoprint, also provided substantial support. The District Centre of Social Services for Youth and the Bishop Budka Charitable organization (Canada) also helped in the work, which provided funds for the garbage bins and gravel. This Canadian charitable organization also allocated money for the construction of another new playground in the nearby village of Navariya.

The DZYHA playground project demonstrated that, in collaboration with local businesses and authorities, the community is capable of implementing successful projects which will improve its economic and social situation. Joint implementation of the project reinforced, in young parents, the feeling of responsibility for future generations and improved their knowledge of the education of preschool children.



Ceremony of Opening of the Children's Playground

12 July - 20 August, 2006, Second Study Visit of UzhNU and CSTU Professors to Canada

The second study visit of professors from Cherkasy State Technological and Uzhgorod National Universities to Canada (Concordia University, Montreal), organized by the Community Economic Development Project, took place from July 12 to August 20, 2006. As a follow-up to their first visit in 2005, they had an opportunity to take advanced courses in community economic development and to learn about the best practices of community economic development in Canada.

During this program, the ten professors took the following courses:

- Cooperatives (Instructor Olga Navarro-Flores) – The course was aimed at developing participants' understanding of the essence of cooperative societies and their roles in the community economic development.
- CED Technical Resource Groups and CDECs (Instructor Jason Prince) – This course addressed the background of community economic development technical resource groups and community economic development corporations (CDECs) and their current development. Technical resource groups are not-for-profit organizations providing support and experts for those who want to establish a cooperative or not-for-profit organization. The course also examined the birth of the Community Economic Development Corporations or CDECs, their evolution and functioning,

exploring with examples the non-financial role of the organizations.

- Research Methods and CED (Instructor Rachel Gouin) – This course reviewed CED research techniques, mechanisms of involving people in CED research and encouraging them to openness. Particular emphasis was placed on research by participation.

- Organizational Development and Conflict Resolution (Instructor Ghislaine Guerard) – The aim of this course was to teach strategies used in interaction among people. Methods of conducting negotiations and the functions of an intermediary during negotiations were addressed.

Particular attention during training was paid not only to acquisition of new theoretical knowledge but also to share experiences. Thus, the Ukrainian professors took part in internships in successful Canadian institutions directly involved in community economic development. The goal of the internship was to learn about the activities of socially-focused organizations and to acquire practical experience of creating and operating similar enterprises in Ukraine.

The professors spent their internship period in such Canadian organizations as La Caisse Populaire Ukrainienne, created in 1953 as a cooperative society and currently operating as a credit union serving its members in Montreal, and a Community Economic Development Corporation whose branches are active in poor neighborhoods. This organization stimulates local economic and social development of the community and provides support at initial stages of setting up a business. Professors received a lot of useful information during their internship at the Montreal Community Loans Association, which provides loans to people unable to get them at traditional financial institutions. Another useful internship was provided at the Institute in Management and Community Development of Concordia University. This institute was created in 1993 with the aim of addressing issues of social and economic inequity in local communities. Participants in the internship were particularly interested in the activities of street cafes,



*Internship at the Dejjardins Centre.
August 2006*



*Meeting of the Ukrainian professors
and the Sherbrooke's Mayer.
August 2006.*

the creation of which had been initiated by this institute. This is one of the new areas of activities aimed at encouraging public discussions and deliberations of important community issues and searching for ways of resolving them.

Participants in the internship visited successful Canadian initiatives in community economic development in Montreal and in other locations like Huntington and Sherbrooke. They met with leaders of organizations involved in CED, with community initiative groups, and local government officials.

Following the internships and training, the Ukrainian professors are planning to use the knowledge they acquired

to develop new training courses that will be taught to local community leaders. The participants were particularly grateful for the organization of internship to Perry Calce, Coordinator Academic Programs and Curriculum Development, Concordia University.

**24 August, 2006,
"Toy for a Child"
Day Organized
by Khudiaky
Core Group and
Community**

On August 24, 2006, Ukraine's Independence Day, the final phase of a community event, "A Toy for a Child", took place in the village of Khudiaky (Cherkasy Region).

The community representatives decided to organize this event after an internship which members of the CED Project core group spent at Princes-Benefactors Ostrozki Foundation in the City of Rivne. Internship participants had a three-day training workshop in local fundraising strategies, learnt techniques of working with volunteers, developed project proposals for a competition, and conducted a workshop on fundraising for summer rehabilitation of disabled children. During their internship period, representatives from the Cherkasy Region took part in fundraising for summer holidays of children with disabilities and orphan-children and raised UAH 1,600.

**Development
of Green Tourism
in Kamjanka and
Khudiaky With Help
from the CED Project,
Cherkasy Oblast**

Knowledge and experience acquired during the internship period were used to meet the needs of the youngest residents of the village of Khudiaky – children from “Yablunka” pre-school who need toys badly. V. Shyshko and H. Kudin were responsible for the organization of the charitable event, with active assistance from volunteers T. Ovcharenko, L. Huriy, N. Huriy, H. Kudina, L. Schastlyvets, V. Liush.

On the eve of the event, volunteers and members of the core group asked all the enterprises located in the village, as well as the village residents, support the charitable action and to join the efforts of the entire community and make a holiday for the children.

On that day the village palace of culture resembled a colorful store of children’s toys. This special event proved that the village residents are not indifferent to the fate of the children and the issues faced by the pre-school. Overall, 151 toys worth UAH 2066 were collected. In the presence of the village head N. V. Valashenko and the staff of the pre-school “Yablunka”, members of the CED core group M.I. Yevtushenko, H.P. Kudina, H.M. Kudin, T.H. Kudina, V.S. Shyshko, V.I. Kozhemyakina, L. M. Huriy presented all the collected toys to the pre-school children.

“A Toy for a Child” was supported by the following businesses: “Mayak” LLC, Private Enterprise «Vesuvius», Special Working Group «Khudiaky», Private Company «Pannochka», Specialized Communal Enterprise «Rai Lis», and Credit Union «Alliance». Assistance was also provided by the Orthodox Church and the Evangelical Christian Baptist Church.

According to organizers, this event achieved two goals. Firstly, wonderful toys were collected and presented to the children of pre-school “Yablunka”. Secondly, it was an opportunity to ascertain that the community is able to independently resolve many important issues by joining knowledge, efforts and resources.

Members of the core group in the town of Kamjanka and the village of Khudiaky have been actively developing green tourism since early 2006. Initially, a detailed study was made of the possibilities for green tourism development and community resources were reviewed. Members of the core group had training and spent an internship in successful communities of Ukraine engaged in green tourism. As a result, 23 households in the town of Kamjanka expressed their desire to engage in green tourism. Last May community representatives took part in the All-Ukraine exhibition-fair «Ukrainian Village Welcomes You», and, as comments of the organizers and mass media show, residents of Kamjanka were rated among the best rural households in the Cherkasy Region.

In June, 2006, members of the core group, T. Dovhan and H. Taran studied and analyzed the activities of 11 local households which expressed their willingness to provide services to tourists. The study showed, four of the 11 rural households were ready to work, while seven were at the repair stage. In July, another 10 rural households were reviewed, out of which only two were ready, while the remaining ones were unable to provide services because they lacked funds for repairs. As a result of making first steps, from June to September of this year, the Kamjanka residents received 19 guests.

Because green tourism remains a novelty for many, a series of workshops are scheduled for October of this year to instruct members of the core group and other interested people about successful green tourism.

The “Golden Horseshoe” program is being implemented by the state administration in Cherkasy Oblast. As part of this program, an Internet web-page was developed for the owners of rural households in the villages of Khudiaky and Les’ky, which contains data on the following rural households: «At the Smith’s», «Maria», «Malva», «The Happy One», «Sitting Pretty in the Yard», «Golden Fish» (Khudiaky) and «Private Farmstead» (Les’ky). The Cherkasy Business Centre published a farmstead presentation booklet with information on the advantages of each farmstead and a list of services provided by the hosts.

The staff of the Khudiaky village library surveyed 100 village residents to learn about their attitudes on the development of the green tourism. For tourists to feel comfortable in the village, the willingness of the farmstead owners to create appropriate conditions for them is not enough; the friendliness of all the village residents is also required.

One questionnaire item was: «Do you believe that stay of the tourists in your village will be to the benefit of the community?» Only 15 people responded «No», and 62 -«Possibly», while 18 noted that green tourism would be a substantial benefit for the community. In response to the question: «What would you charge for the stay of one tourist at your farmstead?», the answers were as follows: 35, «I would not agree to this for any money», while 65 people said they would provide these services for UAH 7 and upwards of UAH 25 a day. As is obvious, most of the village residents welcome the idea of green tourism and understand that development of this field of activity will benefit the entire community.

6-8 September, 2006, Participatory Self- Evaluation Carried Out in Khudiaky and Kamjanka, Cherkasy Oblast

An annual participatory self-evaluation is a part of the CED Project. Rather than have an outside evaluator come in and do the work, core group members themselves determine the objectives of the evaluation, determine the questions to ask of themselves, examine their accomplishments and the shortfalls, and determine for themselves what they need to do to move on positively in relation to the CED Project and to their community.

The key objectives of the evaluation were as follows: to assess current activities of the core group; to review achievements and obstacles in implementation of the project and to find ways of overcoming the obstacles; to develop recommendations for successful follow-up in the CED Project.

Initially, the key objects of evaluation were brainstormed: project «Restoration of Lighting», charitable event «Toy for a Child», creation and activities of Association «Rural Development Agency», issue of a bulletin, development of green tourism, activities of the core group, creation of youth centre, creation of a cooperative society of souvenirs.

After the review of activities and the discussion, the participants developed recommendations to improve the activities in the communities in future.

In This Issue We Present Another CED Project Partner – the Community of Pustomyty, Lviv Oblast

Pustomyty, first mentioned historically in 1441, is a small town located near Lviv. An enterprise for slaking lime was founded in Pustomyty (Hlynya Navariya) in 1870 and has been in operation ever since. In 1880 a spa was opened in Pustomyty, with sulfurous waters, available in abundance, supplied from a well. At the turn of the 20th century, Pustomyty was still a small village, with 193 households.

In January of 1901 a branch of the Prosvita Society, a grassroots educational and cultural organization, was opened in Pustomyty. The opening ceremony included Hryhoriy Vretysona, the first professional educator in Halyehyna, and Kost Levytskiy, the future President of Transcarpathian Ukrainian People's Republic. The village also had a pawnshop, a Brotherhood of Temperance and a Brotherhood of Sacred Mysteries. In February of 1912 the sports association Sokil was opened; somewhat later The Village Master circle was formed. All those public organizations in the village were extremely important for the development of the community.

Pustomyty gave to Ukraine prominent figures in religious, cultural and military domains, in particular, Right Reverend Volodymyr Sterniyuk, Metropolitan of Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church; Vasyl Kuchabskiy, a historian and military figure; and Olga Levytska a talented actress and singer.

The Pustomyty community has been actively involved in various international projects. In particular, since January 2004, it has been taking part in the Community Economic Development Project. Due to participation in this project, members of the community acquired new knowledge about the basics of the community economic development, visited successful examples of CED in other regions of Ukraine, and have the opportunity of an internship in Canada. With the support of the CED Project, much has been done at the initiative of the community over the recent years, for example, modern bus stops were built, a playground "DZYHA" was constructed, and a number of public awareness events were organized.

Notice of Coming Events

- October 2006 – A three-day workshop on improvement of community work skills is planned. It will be moderated by Judy Bopp, Four World Centre for Development Learning, Alberta, and Tim Barry, CED trainer for the Centre for Sustainable Community Development at Simon Fraser University, British Columbia.
- November 2006 – Bonny-Lyn Gow, an experienced CED expert from Canada, will be working in Cherkasy Oblast for a year.
- A Community Leaders Study Visit to British Columbia, Canada, is planned for November 24 to December 15, 2006.
- The fourth annual Joint Steering Committee meeting will take place in Vancouver, British Columbia, on Wednesday, December 13, 2006.

This newsletter is published by the West Ukrainian Resource Centre as part of the Community Economic Development Project (January 2004 – December 2007), a Ukraine-Canadian partnership initiative, managed by the Canadian Bureau for International Education, with the financial support of the Canadian International Development Agency.

For more information on the activities, publications and other materials of the Project, please refer to our web-site www.ced.org.ua. The web-site contains links to other organizations working in the field of CED, provides information about the Project partners, covers activities of community-participants in the Project, and provides materials from training courses and seminars on CED. Here you will also see a lot of interesting photos – visit our web-site!!!

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*Certificate LV #674
Printed by "Az-Art" LLC,
Lviv, 17 Kozlanyuk Street.
Print run – 500 copies.*