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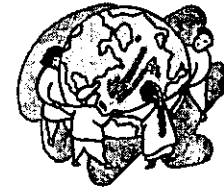
International Foundation For Election Systems
Civic Education Program



World 1/2 population under 25

#8 December, 2002

Inter-Regional Volunteer Action Global Youth Service Day



in Georgia, April 27, 2002

Georgia Celebrates Global Youth Service Day

Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) is an annual global event that celebrates and recognizes the year-round contributions of young people to building their communities and their world through voluntary service, as well as the contributions made by the public, private, and nonprofit sectors for empowering young people. Youth Service America and the Global Youth Action Network organize GYSD. This year's event took place April 26-28 and was made possible by the work of a consortium of 32 International Organizations and well over 100 National Coordinating Committees. Number of youth groups willing to join Global Youth Service Network becomes more and more each year. Goals of GYSD are: highlight the ways that young people improve their communities throughout 365 days a year; Recruit the next generation of volunteer; Promote the benefits of youth service around the world.

Millions of young people in countries around the world carried out thousands of community improvement projects as part of GYSD. In Georgia, GYSD was celebrated on 27 April. The goals of the action were: to promote youth activism and involvement in community life; to increase role of youth in solving community problems; to promote partnership between different individuals, agencies and institutions in the communities; to demonstrate different ways of improving life in the communities.

The idea to celebrate Global Youth Service Day in Georgia was initiated in December 2001, through the

IFES Civic Education Program, Civic Education Regional Coordinators, IFES Teachers' Regional Network and youth volunteer groups. Volunteer services are considered as one of the more effective ways for young people to demonstrate their willingness to be actively involved for building better life in their community and to promote civic activism.

In Georgia, where the event was celebrated for the second time (first time NGO "Green Earth celebrated the action, where 3000 youth participated on 21 April of 2001"), approximately 1500 youth in 5 regions provided volunteer services and an estimated 4000 residents participated in a day-long series of volunteer actions and community activities. Youth ranging in ages from 6 to 18, in the regions of Imereti (Kutaisi, Samtredia), Samtskhe-Javakheti (Borjomi, Akhaltsikhe), Shida Kartli (Khashuri), Kvemo Kartli (Rustavi), and Kakheti (Telavi) applied their skills and energy to addressing problems within their communities. In doing so they brought together community members demonstrating community spirit and the power of civic activism.

The volunteer actions in Georgia brought together representatives of schools, universities, commercial and non-commercial organizations, local

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governmental bodies, community groups, the mass media and NGOs.

Some local government bodies and businesses donated money and modes of transportation to help with the organization of activities, while others donated plants for greening up parks and schools. Local citizens also supported activities aimed at assisting the homeless, the elderly and children by donating food and clothes.

All IFES/Georgia staff actively participated in Inter-Regional Volunteer Action (GYSD). George Sekhniashvili attended Akhaltsikhe, Borjomi (Samtskhe-Javakheti Region); Shalva Kipshidze attended Rustavi (Kvemo Kartli Region); Maya Gogoladze attended Telavi (Kakheti Region); Giorgi Baratashvili attended Khashuri (Shida Kartli Region); Natia Berdzenishvili attended Kutaisi, Didi Jikhaishi (Imereti Region).



Kutaisi, Samtredia (Imereti Region)

Participants: In the Imereti region, volunteer actions were initiated by students from Kutaisi #37 school; the Didi Jikhaishi (Samtredia) Youth Initiative Group; a students' group from the Art Institute and Art Lyceum; and the NGO Imereti Students Association.

Other Supporters: Kutaisi Municipality, Local representative bodies, mass media, and citizens.

Locations for the Actions: Kutaisi and Didi Jikhaishi (Samtredia Region).

Activities undertaken: The action started at 11 o'clock with the painting of a mural in the Central Park of Kutaisi on the theme "Youth Voice". Students' from different Kutaisi Schools produced brilliantly colorful chalk pictures on the youth theme.

Students from Kutaisi School #37 exhibited their art and handicrafts (30 art and handicrafts were exhibited) and, with the assistance of teachers and parents, gathered clothing from neighbors and organized a concert for the local elderly care facility.

The Kutaisi Mayor and Local Council donated 400 lari for Brotsoula Orphanage House for children. This money was used to buy sweets, bread and toys for the children. With the same aim the Didi

Jikhaishi (Samtredia) Youth Initiative Group collected some food and money (30 lari) from local citizens to assist the Etseri Orphanage House.

The Chairman of Didi Jikhaishi local council helped the initiative group with transportation and fuel. The Didi Jikhaishi initiative visited the Etseri Orphanage House to donate the clothes and food collected and to spend the day with the children in the Home. The initiative group participants pointed out that it was an important event in their life as they had taken the opportunity to serve somebody and to do good work for their peers. Everything became 'alive' in the orphanage as they joined in playing football, volleyball and other games with the youth group. The initiative group has promised to continue the relationship in the future.

Participants in the various activities wrote down their thoughts in a special book. Most of them welcomed the opportunity to take part in such activities and expressed a willingness to participate in actions in the future.

IFES Imereti Regional Coordinator Madona Tsintsadze awarded all participants with diplomas and small gifts.



The Action in the Children's' House of Etseri

April 27, "Global Youth Service Day" is a very important and unforgettable day in my life, as my friends and I were participants of the event. We will never forget the happy and sad faces of the Children at the Etseri Children's House. We felt how much they needed our support and care. We played soccer and volleyball together. I believe this day was as exciting for my friends and me, as well as for the children in the Etseri Children's House.

The Kind Will that we expressed proves to the children in the orphanage that they are not alone. We are all one, the future of Georgia.

I would like to thank everyone who supported the activities and let us implement this very kind deed. We do hope that this action is not going to be the last and above of all we all wish that not only youth but also adults participated in these kinds of events in the future.

Tamuna Vashakidze- Member of Students' Association of the Imereti Region



Borjomi (Samtskhe-Javakheti Region)



April, 27th "Global Youth Service Day".

Participants: In the region of Samtskhe-Javakheti (Borjomi), students from #1, #2, #3, #4, #6 schools in Borjomi, Kvibisi, Kortaneti, Tsagveri and Akhaldaba initiated volunteer actions.

Other Supporters: NGOs, Mass media, local representative bodies, Forest Farming Department of Borjomi, Borjomi education department and citizens.

Locations for the Actions: Borjomi central park, Akhaldaba and Kvibisi Secondary Schools.

Activities undertaken: The Action started at 11 o'clock with a sports competition at the Borjomi central stadium. The participants in the sports competition were students from Borjomi Schools #1, #2, #3, #4, #6, Akhaldaba, Kortaneti, Kvibisi, and Tsagveri Secondary Schools. At the end of competitions participants were presented with IFES Diplomas, which were prepared especially for this event.

Action continued in Borjomi central park with Borjomi singers performing for the event free of charge. Supported by groups of singers and dancers from Borjomi schools, the concert created a fine atmosphere in Borjomi Concert Hall with everybody involved in the concert. In between acts, students introduced the history and activities of IFES/Georgia and Global Youth Service Day.

IFES Regional Network teachers of Borjomi School #1, Natela Glonti, Nana Kumsiashvili; Borjomi School #2 School, Sveta Beridze, organized the painting of a mural in the Borjomi Central Park on the theme "Youth Voice". *Peace Corps* volunteers were actively involved in this activity. Local police assisted by closing off traffic movement for the duration of the mural painting. Once the mural was completed, each student presented his/her own work. The paintings depicted various ideas on territorial Unity of Georgia _ Kodori, ecology, problem of Peace from a global perspective, to name a few.

During the action in Borjomi Central Park Akhaldaba youth volunteer groups, with the assistance of the Forest Farming Department of Borjomi (donated 30 trees), planted trees in the Akhaldaba Secondary School yard. The sawmill factory helped the youth group with transportation of the trees and promised to provide other such support to the school in the future. Under the supervision of the Director of the Akhaldaba Forest Farming Department Akhaldaba, the youth group prepared the ground for planting the trees on the day before the action. Akhaldaba Secondary schoolteachers, students and parents actively took part in the action. The action participants have decided to look after the newly planted trees in the future.



All participants were awarded with IFES Diplomas and small gifts.

Many countries of the world celebrate April 27th, as the "Global Youth Service Day". This day was celebrated in Georgia initiative in 2002 at the of the International Foundation for Election Systems. (IFES).

It is an exciting fact that the youth of Borjomi region joined this event and expressed their kind will.

This beautiful day started with sports activities and ended with painting on the pavements. Secondary school students expressed their kind will with great enthusiasm and beautiful colors. The drawings and paintings of the students looked very interesting and impressive both visually and thematically.

The highlight of the day was the concert, which was held in Borjomi Park. Student performed wonderful poems, fun songs and blazing dances. Despite the fact that the concert lasted for several hours, no one seemed to be bored or tired. On this day, the Youth of Borjomi fully revealed their talents and capabilities.

The concert finished with the Award ceremony. IFES Regional Coordinator for Borjomi, Marina Lomidze awarded the active participants of the event with gifts and IFES certificates. April 27th, was a big holiday in Borjomi as this small gorge became full of life and excitement.

Eter Melikidze- Student of Borjomi Branch of Gori State University.



Akhaltzikhe (Samtskhe-Javakheti Region)

Participants: In the region of Samtskhe-Javakheti (Akhaltzikhe) #1, #6 and Vale #1 secondary schools in Akhaltzikhe, the Akhaltzikhe Art School and the Minadze Secondary School initiated the volunteer actions.

Other Supporters: Akhaltzikhe Municipality, Education Department, Cultural Department, Youth Union of Georgia Citizens Union, Sawmill "Energetic", CO2 Factory, Electricity Networks, Tax Inspection, TV Channel #9 and "Lomsia".



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Locations for the Actions: Akhaltsikhe Central Park, Akhaltsikhe School #1, Youth House, and Community Minadze.

Activities undertaken: The action started at 11 o'clock in Akhaltsikhe Secondary School #1. All action participants worn stickers *Be An Active Citizen*. After the registration process the students went to their allocated school to clean the school ground and prepare holes for planting the trees. Akhaltsikhe municipality provided a rubbish removal vehicle and helped the students collect the garbage gathered from the school grounds. Some of the participants continued this cleaning action in the Akhaltsikhe Central Park while others started placing the handmade benches and chairs in the park.

After these activities were completed, the students began painting a mural at the front of the Akhaltsikhe Theatre. At the same time, the sport competition began in the Akhaltsikhe stadium. After the sports competition, the mural artists exhibited their paintings at the Youth House, where the closing ceremony was also to take place.

Activities were also taking place in Minadze community. The action involved all community residents, together with schoolteachers and students. IFES/Tbilisi staff donated books for the Minadze School Library. The action participants said that this was the first time they had been involved in such an activity and expressed a willingness to continue to take part in such activities in the future.

Akhaltsikhe TV Stations broadcast the actions with journalist interviewing the participants. Passers-by often stopped and wanted to know about the actions and why they were doing these activities. Often they ended up joining in the activities and expressed a wish to be involved in future actions.



The day concluded with the presentation of diplomas and eating of a huge cake for the participants in the action.



One Fine Spring Day in Akhaltsikhe.

On April 27th, 2002 "Global Youth Service Day" was celebrated in Akhaltsikhe. Majority of the participants of this event were students of Akhaltsikhe secondary schools. The initiator of this event was Natia Zarnadze, Civic Education Program Coordinator from IFES.

We were very interested in this idea since we could openly express our kind will, so we decided to participate in this action and made an action plan. According to our plan, we cleaned the school campus, planted trees, make wooden benches and repaired the fence of the school territory.

In order to implement our plan, we needed to contact the Town Hall, City Board and the Environment Protection Service and those institutions that are situated near the school. We needed to ask them for their support.

According to our plan the following activities were also to be held: Marathon, Exhibition and Closing Ceremony.

Preparations took us three weeks with our teachers and Natia Zarnadze supporting us. Natia helped us have better communication with people. During this time, we realized that we could do a lot with a great deal of responsibility. We were impatiently awaiting the second stage of the event: Marathon, Exhibition and Disco.

On April 27, the representatives of IFES visited us from Tbilisi. Things moved along smoothly. We revealed the winners of the Marathon and the best painters. 5-year-old Dato was one of the painters.

On this day, students of different schools were united by the kind will. We felt we had the attention of almost every citizen. Our event was shown on TV and the praise that we were getting was raising our enthusiasm. We did not know about the Disco party and other surprises that were planned for us.

I will never ever forget this day, especially when the IFES coordinator presented me with the most active participant's prize.



There was laughter, fun, huge IFES cake and the Disco.

No one wanted to go home. We were unified by our efforts. This day will be unforgettable for every single one of us. I would like to thank all the organizers and among them special thanks to Natia Zarnadze, Regional Coordinator in the regions of Akhaltsikhe and Aspindza.

Guram Khartikashvili- Student of Akhaltsikhe School # 1. (Grade 8)

Khashuri, Surami (Shida Kartli Region)

Participants: In Shida Kartli, students from #1, #7, #5, #8 Russian, Surami #3, Gomi, Ali, Tsromi, Khtsisi secondary schools and Khashuri Sport School in Khashuri organized a series of volunteer actions.

Other Supporters: State Department of Youth Affairs of Khashuri, Khashuri Municipality, Khashuri Local Representative bodies, Sport School, Local Traffic Police (which closed central traffic for action), mass media.

Locations for the Actions: Khashuri, Khashuri communities and Surami.

Activities undertaken: The action started at 11 o'clock in the Khashuri center with Khashuri and Surami schools taking part in a running competition. The winners were awarded with special awards and IFES Volunteer Action Diplomas.

At the same time, mural painting on the theme 'Youth Voice' and a concert was taking place in front of the Khashuri Theatre. The Khashuri and Surami schools students collected clothes and food for the Surami Orphanage House. It was a big celebration for the children at the orphanage and the action participants when they visited the orphanage house with the collected items.

A painting competition was conducting in Surami School #3. Surami School #1 and Khashuri School #1 (both schools had been destroyed by fire recently) organized a week of support and wrote letters to each other during that week. On 27 April Surami School #1 and Khashuri School #1 students gathered together and decorated a tree with the letters, they had exchanged. They also joined together to clean their school grounds.

Khashuri communities (Tsromi, Gomi and Ali) collected clothing and food for elderly community residents and tended to their houses and gardens.

A group of youth leaders in Khashuri convinced a group of doctors to provide limited medical health care service to local inhabitants free of charge.



All participants were awarded with IFES Diplomas and small gifts.



Rustavi (Kvemo Kartli Region)

Participants: In Rustavi, students from Rustavi community school "Zari", and #2, #4, #21, #22 secondary schools in the Rustavi metropolitan area initiated GYSD activities.

Other Supporters: Rustavi NGOs, Mass media, Local representatives bodies, Police, Citizens, Business Sector (Joint Stock Venture "Kazbegi"), TBC Bank Rustavi branch, Insurance Company "Imedi L" State department of Youth Affairs of Rustavi and Association for support of handicap and disabled children of Georgia "SADIBDA".

Locations for the Actions: Rustavi Center in front of Rustavi Municipality Building.

Activities undertaken: Students of these schools focused their volunteer efforts on assisting the city's needy, volunteering to help families with disabled children and holding an auction, concert and performances to raise money for needy families. In addition to these activities and the painting of a mural, Rustavi was treated to an exhibition of students' handicrafts, a pet fair, and a competition for crafts made from plastic bottles.

The action started at 11 o'clock in front of the Rustavi Municipality Building. The goal of the action was helping young families with disabled children and raising money for needy families. Rustavi school #2, #4, #21, #22 and the education center - Open Community School, worked together to exhibit art and handicrafts in the central park. The paintings and handicrafts were hanging on ropes with clothes pegs which created a colorful wall of art. Some school students organized a pet fair, where a lot of different breeds of dogs were shown. The dog show was presented with musical accompaniments.

Rustavi School #22 School Theater students presented the musical "Earning of One Lari" with the students of Rustavi Elementary School performing Georgian traditional dances and folk music. This was not only a concert, but also a competition between the schools in dancing and singing.

The Joint Stock Venture "Kazbegi" donated 60 bottles of ice tea for the action. The organization



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committee decided to use the bottles for various activities. Some examples are: 1) the person who drank the bottle of Ice Tea the fastest won a bottle of Ice Tea as a present; 2) the action participants were playing 'bowls' using the Ice Tea bottles with the winners being awarded two bottles of ice-tea. At the end of the ice tea competitions, the action participants organized a competition for crafts made from the empty plastic bottles (flower-beds, plastic cups, which were painted with color pens).

The students organized an exhibition-sale of old things (earrings, necklaces, books) to raise money. They also sold "Advice" in exchange for a contribution to the "contribution box". The cost of an "Advice" was 10 tetri. This created a very fun atmosphere to the activities.

The insurance company "Imedi L" and TBC Bank Rustavi branch responded to the activities by donating 50 lari each to the 'Contribution Box' (each 50 Lari).

The Rustavi TV Channel "Kvemo Kartli" broadcast the day of action on Rustavi TV with the "Horizonti" Foundation assisting by disseminating information about the planned activities via email. Every subscriber to Horizonti's "Akhali Ambebi" (News-Electronic newsletter) received the information. Rustavi Police supported the action by closing the Central Square and joining in the various activities. All the money raised was used to support families with disabled children.



All participants were awarded by IFES Diplomas and small gifts.



"Global Youth Service Day" in Rustavi

The charity event, which was organized by IFES and the open community school "Zari" of Rustavi, was the first such event that I participated in. I was particularly impressed by the purpose of the event, which was the following: to help the handicapped children with a very small amount of money. We played different kinds of games and even arranged an auction during this event. There was also, the "Dogs' Show", which particularly attracted the population of Rustavi. There was also an exhibition of drawings and I think that people were very impressed to look at these paintings.

Some people donated money to the handicapped children. The participants of the event were painting on the pavements. There was even a mini zoo arranged on the stadium

People had fun playing with birds and animals. All these activities gave us all a great pleasure. It should be mentioned that the Police also joined the event. With this action we achieved our goal, which was helping the handicapped children. A very special feature of the event was that the participant students sold their advice and jokes for 10 tetri each. At the end of the event, almost all advice and jokes were sold and the money was donated to the handicapped children.

Mari Manjgaladze - Student of Open community school "Zari" and Rustavi Secondary School # 2.

The charity event, which was dedicated to the handicapped children, was held in 5 cities. The author of the idea was International Foundation for Election Systems. (IFES). The biggest advantage of the event was that children were financially supporting the handicapped children. There were different actions to raise money: mini zoo, auction, joke and advice sale. However, the most impressive were the auction. Besides, Tea Lobzhanidze's book "Handful Happiness" was on sale. Also, ice tea, different hand made pieces of art was on sale. There was a competition in drawing with a chalk etc.

This event was rewarding for the disabled children who cannot afford medical treatment. It should be mentioned that every participant and every organizer of this project had a badge saying: "Be an active citizen!". Little children performed a drama and they deserved much applause. The dancers were very good and seem ready to perform on a big stage in the nearest future. This was my first action, which I think was extremely necessary.

Gvantsa Gremelashvili - Student of Open Community School "Zari" and Georgian Gymnasium of Rustavi.

A GYSD event was held in Rustavi. The goal of the event was helping disabled children with special needs. This was a fun action. There were different kinds of competitions like drawing and making beautiful things out of ice tea bottles. All these pieces of art were sold at the auction.



Besides, there was the "Dogs' Fashion Show" and a mini zoo. Also, there was advice and joke sale and all the income was transferred to the fund of disabled children. The second day of the event was very exciting because the participants of the event were given special certificates for their effort.

Tako Lobzhanidze - Student of Open Community School "Zari" and Rustavi Secondary School # 2.

I liked many things from the charity action, which was held in front of Rustavi Town Hall on April 27th. The main goal of this action was helping disabled children. The organizer of the event was Open Community School "Zari" and IFES. The sponsors of the event were : TBC Bank, Insurance Company "Imedi L", and also "Kazbegi" Joint Stock Venture. (with ice tea). The event had many interesting features, like joke and advice sale, mini zoo, dogs' fashion show, exhibition of drawings etc. There was even a competition in drinking ice tea. The one, who would drink most tea, was awarded with an extra bottle of ice tea. Besides, some children made beautiful things like flowers and vases out of used ice tea bottles. I think this was a very useful event. I would really like that these kinds of actions to be held in the future as well.

Eka Tsankashvili Student of Open Community School "Zari" and Georgian Gymnasium of Rustavi.

Volunteers' inter-regional charity action, "Global Youth Service Day" was held in front of Rustavi Town Hall on April 27. Almost the whole city was involved in this event. The participants of the event brought different kinds of birds and animals and as a result, a mini zoo was arranged. Besides, there was an auction. A number of volunteers were selling advice and jokes during the event. There was a donations' box, where everyone could put money to help the disabled children.

From my point of view, this was a very fun-filled event and I would like such actions to take place in the future as well in order to make young people very active and so that the disabled children feel themselves like ordinary children when they are with us. This event has become very popular and even though our attitude this year was somewhat pessimistic, we will celebrate April 27th next year with greater pleasure and enthusiasm.

Giorgi Tvaliashvili - Open Community School "Zari"

Telavi (Kakheti Region)

Participants: In the eastern region of Kakheti, volunteer actions were initiated by students from #5, Gulgula, Shalauri, Kurdgelauri, Vardisubani secondary schools in the Telavi area, students from Telavi University, Vardisubani (Telavi) Initiative Group, Vardisubani Kindergarten, and Students' Debate Club.

Other Supporters: NGOs "Life Fund", "Woman and Universe", Telavi Municipality and Local representative bodies, local mass media, Telavi Forest Farming Department, Telavi Communal Service, GWS (Georgian Wine and Spirit) Wine Factory, citizens.



Locations for the Actions: Telavi and Telavi communities.

Activities undertaken: The action started at 11 o'clock at the Telavi Debate Club, Telavi School #5, Gulgula Secondary School, Community Vardisubani, Shalauri Secondary School and Kurdgelauri Secondary School.

Participants from the Telavi Debate Club cleaned the grounds of the Chubinashvili Ethnographic Museum of Telavi region. This is an open-air museum with stone sculptures. The students cleaned all the grounds and agreed to continue such action in the future.



Participants were presented with IFES diplomas and a hi-fi system for the debate club.

Students from Telavi School #5 cleaned the school grounds and planted 15 hazelnut, 20 fruit, and 15 rose trees in the schoolyard. They also went around and cleaned the homes of elderly people and took them some sweets and food. The Head of the Telavi Communal Service provided the students with garbage collection vehicle.

With the help of their schoolteacher, the Jordanishvili students performed a puppet theatre - "Kind Friends". The students of the elementary classes exhibited their handicrafts and paintings. At the end of the action the high school students organized a disco.



IFES Diplomas were awarded to the active participants and small gifts were donated to the school.

The Gulgula (Telavi Region) Secondary School students and teachers removed garbage and plastic bags from a 4-kilometer stretch of road. The community bus provided a means of transportation for the students. The GWS factory provided a tractor to remove the garbage collected. The participants also planted trees in their schoolyard.



IFES Diplomas and small gifts were awarded to all the active participants. The GWS factory administration donated a hi-fi system to the school.



The Vardisubani Initiative Group (Telavi Region) cleaned the central road and the grounds of the kindergarten. They planted trees and organized an exhibition. The Vardisubani youth group created a logo for their community. Students visited the elderly in the community, taking them sweets and food. The concert was conducted in the community library, where people exhibited and performed their own creative works. The community dentist provided service to the community citizens free of charge.



IFES Diplomas, some icons, note books, markers and a hi-fi system were presented to the active participants.

Shalauri (Telavi Region) Secondary School students organized action based on the theme "Be Active and Committed to Your Community". The Grade V-XI students exhibited sweets they had made and then sold them. The money that was raised was used to buy some tools for the school. The students visited the elderly in the community, taking them some sweets. They also planted trees in the schoolyard. The action was accompanied by music and everybody was involved in the action.



IFES Diplomas and T-shirts for the football team were donated to the Shalauri School. Businessman, Valeri Chkoidze donated 10-meters of glass for the school windows. The action ended with a disco.

Kurdgelauri (Telavi Region) Secondary School students and teachers cleaned the school grounds and planted trees. Students in Grades III-IV painted a mural at the front of the school. The students visited the elderly in the community, taking them sweets and some food. Parents brought and planted 50 evergreen trees with the help of the action participants.



IFES Diplomas were presented to the participants and a hi-fi system was donated to the school. The action ended with a students concert in the school hall.

For the organizers and participants of GYSD in Georgia, the day of action and activities was an invigorating experience in terms of initiating collaboration between community groups, local representative bodies, and businessmen in a way that was enjoyable for the whole community. Most importantly, it demonstrated to volunteers and participants how significant improvements to their communities could be made with relatively limited financial resources. Many participants in GYSD are past and present participants in IFES' Be an Active Citizen program, having participated in discussion groups and initiative groups with the assistance of the IFES regional civic education coordinators. IFES' Be an Active Citizen program reflects IFES' dedication to educating democratic citizens and thus empowering young and old alike to exercise their rights and responsibilities as citizens of a democratic society. Through discussion groups,

training and service learning, IFES seeks to provide program participants with the skills to engage local leaders and encourage citizen involvement in public life, as well as to build networks of students, teachers, local leaders, and NGO representatives that can work for meaningful change.

We are joining the "Global Youth Service Day"

We, the members of the Debate Club in Telavi region participated in the inter-regional action "Global Youth Service Day" on April 27, 2002.

The members of the Debate Club are the students of Telavi schools number 1 and 9. We decided to clean up the open-air modern sculptural exhibition-museum, which is situated in the yard of Telavi State Historical and Ethnographic Museum. As the director of the museum, Mr. Tengiz Aldamadze explained to us, this exhibition has been functioning since 1989. This is when there was an international sculptures' symposium held in Telavi. Georgian and Lithuanian sculptures created a twelve stone sculpture on various topics and arranged the open-air museum.

When we got there, the museum was full of polluted grassland. We brought a bunch of grass scissors from our houses and got to work. The boys were cutting/mowing the grass while the girls were collecting and burning the garbage. Sixteen of us participated in this action. Although we got tired, we were proud of our work and felt that we had done a great job. After we were done with cleaning up, we arranged a contest in drawing and exhibited the works of art right away.

The director of the Museum thanked us for our kind initiative. We decided to take the responsibility and regularly take care of this territory in the future.

The following organizations helped us with organizing the event: "Fund of Life", "Woman and World", I. Shashviashvili (Debate Club Teacher), and the International Fund of Election Systems (IFES) awarded us with a Stereo.

Ia. Okhanashvili - Student at Telavi Secondary School # 1. Grade 9. Also, the member of Debate Club.

