



Serving the  
Children  
of the World



"Education's purpose is to replace  
an empty mind with an open one."  
*Malcolm S. Forbes*

# KIWANIS

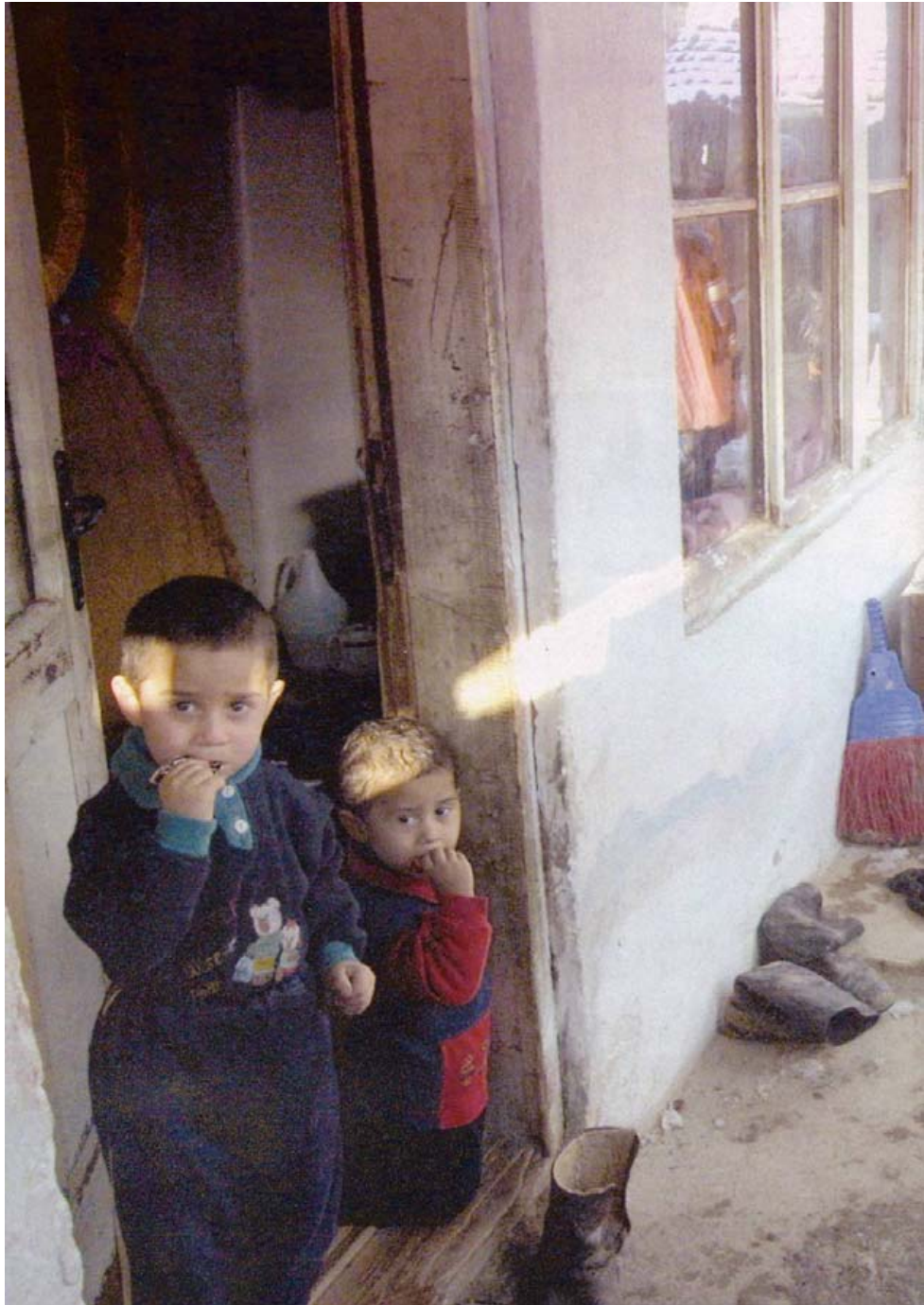


# EDUCATION PROGRAM

by K•E•P  
Committee  
07-02-2003



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## KI- MACEDONIA

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### Kiwanis Education Program



**Venue: Balkans: Macedonia, Serbia, Albania, Bulgaria**

**Time: present (in fact • March 2003)**

**Story: a daily fragment • true**

**Told by: more than 30 mil. Inhabitants**

**Children affected: COUNTLESS**

Our dear President,  
Chairmen of KEP Committee,  
Our dear Kiwaninas,

For quite some time I have been evaluating the way of giving you my little, but honest speech; i.e. what kind a story should I tell you. What kind of facts-and-figures to present. Some of you know me and know the situation in our region, some of you – do not. But, for all of you, particularly for those of who do not know, I can only excuse me for being always open, direct and blunt. So, be it.

Living in the heart of the Balkan Peninsula and on the sunny side of Europe and very close to the Mediterranean seas one could only imagine that, at the very beginning of the new Millennium, that is the right place to be.



### **SOUNDS HEAVENLY! LOOKS HEAVENLY! ISN'T IT?**

Well, dear friends, it does sound promising and it was a place to be several years ago. Also, it could be a wonderful place with a fine mixture of many hospitable people, culture, mild environment and beautiful natural resorts.

But, unfortunately, at present – **IT IS NOT!**

Some of you probably know a little about what has been going on for the last several years around the troubled region. Some of you - do not. For those of you... in fact, for all of you, I have a disappointing story to tell. And, regrettably, that story is shared by many Balkan countrymen; whether they come from Macedonia (where I come from), or Serbia,



Albania, Bulgaria, Montenegro... and so on. You can hear it everywhere; on the streets, at work, in the cafeterias... Everywhere.

**Assassination** **In the first place** **Београд** **3**

**Четворицата главни луѓе на земајќиот клан, меѓу нив и познатиот Легија, и натаму се во бегство**

**Big hunt for the mafia in Serbia**

**Голем лов на мафијашите во Србија**

**Уапсен и шефот на тајната полиција на Милошевиќ**

**The chief of Milosevic's secret police arrested**

**Гинѓиќ бил мртов пред да падне на земја**

**Djindjic is dead**

БЕЛГРАД - Србија вчера се рабурја повирани од убиството на премиерот Зоран Ѓинѓиќ, а нападната постои голем лов по припадниците на организационите криминални групи, главни организирани на бегството на претседателот на владата Штефан во бегството. Уапсениот биле „дресето или индиректно“ поврзани со агентите на премиерот, додека „Образовани“ меѓу тајните с и бившиот шеф на тајната полиција на Слободан Милошевиќ, Јован Стајиќ, а и Бретаж Шамањски, поранешниот командант на антикорупцијата служба.

Во средата јавна вечерта српската влада го обвини Милошевиќ, поранешниот премиер, за убиството на Ѓинѓиќ, поранешниот премиер, и поранешниот командант на антикорупцијата служба.

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It is most likely that most of you cannot read these articles and do not understand the content, but, I would only put an emphasis on just a few of them, as all of them send the same message!

Killings, gun-shots, robberies, corruption, forgery, outlaws, "great aspirations" denials, human rights and, many, many others...

ДНЕВНИК, ЧЕТВРТОК, 13 МАРТ 2003

ХРОНИКА - 11

**Директор на приватна фирма затаил 320.000 евра ДДВ**

Инцидентот од овдешниот финансиска контрола во приватната фирма „БМС“ Скопје открила дека директорот неочекувано во денот од 22. март 2003 година, соопшти дека затаил 320.000 евра ДДВ. По повод на случајот, директорот е обвинет дека не го платил ДДВ, а само го затаил. По повод на случајот, директорот е обвинет дека не го платил ДДВ, а само го затаил.

**Разбојник ѝ ги расекол со скапел рацете на жртвата**

По грабнатото избувнуто бегство на два фатени, нападнатите го заборавиле украденото париче, а згора на тоа, му испаднал и париче кој имал 2.000 денари.

**ЖЕЛЕЗНИЧКА НЕСРЕКА**

**Воз прегази и усмрти триесет и шестдесетбитолчанец**

Патничкиот моторен воз со 63 патници се претресе во близина на железничката станица во Битола, кога прегази и усмрти триесет и шестдесетбитолчанец.

**ГРАНИЧЕН ПРЕМИН ТАБАНОВЦЕ**

**Камниотација фалсификувал дозвола за превоз**

Камниотација фалсификувал дозвола за превоз на моторен воз со 63 патници во близина на железничката станица во Битола, кога прегази и усмрти триесет и шестдесетбитолчанец.

**Рикошетиран куршум му донел пријава за убиство од небрежност**

Господинот полицијата пријавил дека му довел куршум кој му довел пријава за убиство од небрежност.

**Му го изрешетале возилото со „калашников“ зашто разнесува „каурски“ леб**

Дистрибутор на леб од Скопје му го изрешетале возило со „калашников“ зашто разнесува „каурски“ леб.





the third Millennium, to many, the most prosperous, challenging and promising one. I suppose that you will all agree: it is **strange... unbelievable!!!**

So, what is the main generator to all these problems? What are the main issues and obstacles that linger around the Region? And, what is more important: Do we, the Kiwanians of the World, have the will, desire and means to assist our Kiwanian friends in the troubled regions? That is, probably the most important question that all of us should honestly assess and answer. Failing to properly address this complex issue, failing to answer those demanding matters, the problems will not remain only in those areas; they will progressively spread around and knock on everybody's doorsteps.

Now, let's move into the facts-and-roots issues. What are the main concerns?

One does not have to be a brilliant expert to notice that two main streams lead towards local, regional and international stability, or better to say: **instability**. And that is: (a) the **politico-economical** issues and (b) the **education** matters. Where, at this instance, the first ones are not of our main concerns, although they have a tremendous impact on our daily living, professional and individual performances, I will try to get your focus into the other ones. More over, knowing that in a long run, those issues are surely the real generators even to the first ones.

So, could we make just a brief guess: What is the main cause, what are the main reasons, what are the key unsolved issues that need to be addressed?? is it the recent conflict, the denials by the "strong-ones", the political geo-strategic restructuring, the corruptions, the criminal, the black market, the high level of unemployment, the economic crisis, the prostitution, the lack of education... or all of that, all together? It will take us a quite some time and real expert's analysis to find it out. However, it is not my main intention. What I really want to draw your intention into is: **what has really been left behind!!!**



Well, you have seen several pictures, a number of disturbing reports and many "open wounds". Although I could continue attracting your attention into presenting some more of the relatively fresh and hot topics, using pictures and scans of media articles which endlessly speak and replace wordy descriptions, let me redirect your attention into the main areas, the most sensitive issues that need immediate consideration.

The only immediate thought that strikes my mind, and I believe everyone's here, is that all these problems immanently arise from the lack of education, from bad education and from ignorance towards education! All of the above hot issues are derived by a single word: **education**. Most of the hot issues would have never happened should there have been proper education in the first place! And, that is for sure.

So, what is to be done?

Many may think that our complex educational concerns require a lot of money, a lot of resources and endless work-hours. While for the work-hours I might somehow agree, for the rest - I do not. As we are not tackling the issues linked to educational system, everything else can be easily done with relatively small amounts of money and resources.



Based on the findings from the research, most of the hot issues can be covered by small service activities and projects, a good group of volunteers and small number of supporters, sponsors and donors. Moreover, most of the service activities within the schools concerned could be organized as fund-raising activities.

In other words, by carrying out simple and inexpensive activities, we will be able to achieve remarkable results, many children addressed, many joyful faces and more prosperous generations to come! And, that is what matters.

So, how shall we proceed?

Well, first of all, based on the field evaluations, it is a good principle to setup the key groups of most important areas of concern: the status, the relevance, the priority and the means needed to carry out the activities. Furthermore, it is important to know how many children will be affected by the actions taken. And, by combining all these factors, we have come-up with a proposal which could be universal for most (if not all) of the countries/regions of our concern.

The proposal is based on grouping several key areas: (a) addressing the core needs that are grouped under infrastructural issues; (b) tackling the issues concerning the pupils, students, tutors, lecturers, trainers and others alike, but do not interfere the curriculum; (c) embarking on the "standard" social and health care issues, with a particular emphasis on the marginalized groups; and (d) everything else that is not integrated within the previous groups, but has both direct and indirect impact on the education.

No need to say that the groups proposed present only a rough framework and that additional sub-groups and sub-divisions will make up the real pattern of needs, demands and sub-target areas that will be, and can be, individually addressed. Based on various inputs from different regions we will be able to compose a larger and more versatile list that will be the base for both overall Kiwanian attention and district-to-region and club-to-club level cooperation and service in whatever way it could be carried out.

So, here we are:

**1. Infrastructure:**

It may sound strange to many of you, but we are daily facing several problems:

- (a) Infrastructure and institutional shortages - basic services
  - \*\*\* Inability for many children to attend regular classes due to various reasons: (transportation shortages, education means, tools and equipment, laboratories, libraries, etc.)
- (b) lack or shortage of schools, classrooms, chairs, desks, boards, etc.
- (c) high level of deterioration within the existing ones
- (d) no, or very little basic maintenance
- (e) set-up flexible and contemporary education-information centres

Here bellow, I will show just a few schools that have a modest deterioration rate and are within the areas of service activities of our local clubs. But, there are many more...



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**School in Prilep**







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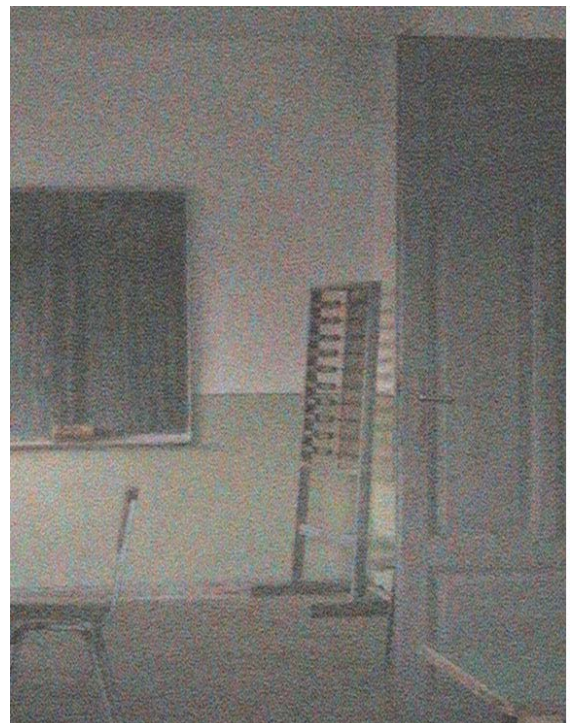
**School in KOCHANI**



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**School in Bitola**





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**School in Tetovo**



**2. Students studies:**

- (a) Assisting those who are in a need (locally and internationally)
- (b) Assisting the most prosperous ones (locally and internationally)
- (c) Students exchange, knowledge and experience exchange (both in the region and in the assisting countries)

**3. Teachers, experts, lecturers:**

- (a) Seminars, knowledge upgrade (locally and internationally)
- (b) Assisting the ones who could gain knowledge abroad and transfer it locally
- (c) Teachers exchange, knowledge and experience exchange (both in the region and in the assisting countries)

**4. Health and social education:**

- (a) In-kind aid
- (b) Pro-active learning and education
- (c) Training centres
- (d) Resource workshops





**5. Marginalized groups:**

- (a) Assisting orphans
- (b) Assisting mentally handicapped (2003 European Year of Disability)
- (c) Assisting all kind of disabled (2003 European Year of Disability)
- (d) Assisting unemployed and illiterate
- (e) Assisting others who cannot afford





**6. Other needs and demands:**

- (a) Increase overall social, political and cultural awareness
- (b) Fight denials, irresponsible aspirations and prevent unnecessary conflicts
- (e) Create job-education centres, workshops and creative labs

In that respect, may I give you just a single example? Could you, all of you, even imagine that some countries, some irresponsible “thinkers” name a whole nation by an odd reference: “FYROM”!?!?!? Can you imagine that? What does that mean? Can you imagine that I, Ognen, in Fyromian instead of Macedonian???? Strange, isn’t it! And, can you imagine how all my countrymen feel about it? Could you put yourself in a similar position where you are **denied** the basic rights: human, cultural, social, religious... etc.??? And, that **does** generate **frustration**! That does generate grievance and desire to find a solution, to find a way into a better future!!! And, here is why education, in the first place, comes into the picture!!! To avoid ignorance and to teach people!

All these pictures, articles and comments look and sound chilling! Isn’t it?

Well, dear friends, I am completely aware that today the World is in kind of a turmoil, economic slowdown and recession hitting even the most powerful and developed countries. I also know that many of your countries have their own problems within their communities and requirements that need your/our service. But, I also know that the problems that emerge from the CE, EE and CA countries are far greater. We should try

## KI- MACEDONIA

### Kiwanis Education Program



and focus our activities in solving some of the most delicate problems there, on the spot, because we will not only solve the local issues, but the unpleasant issues that are bothering all the countries in Europe, and hopefully, on a long-run, in the World, that are being generated there. Take the unemployment rate, for example: it is more than 36% in Macedonia, and some 40% in the Balkan region. These figures are similar in much of the other regions. Unemployed families cannot afford even the basic education for their children. Unemployed people do search for alternative ways for survival; be it criminal, creating unrest, and finally, migration to the richer countries! And there we are; the problem is easily transferred to where you live.

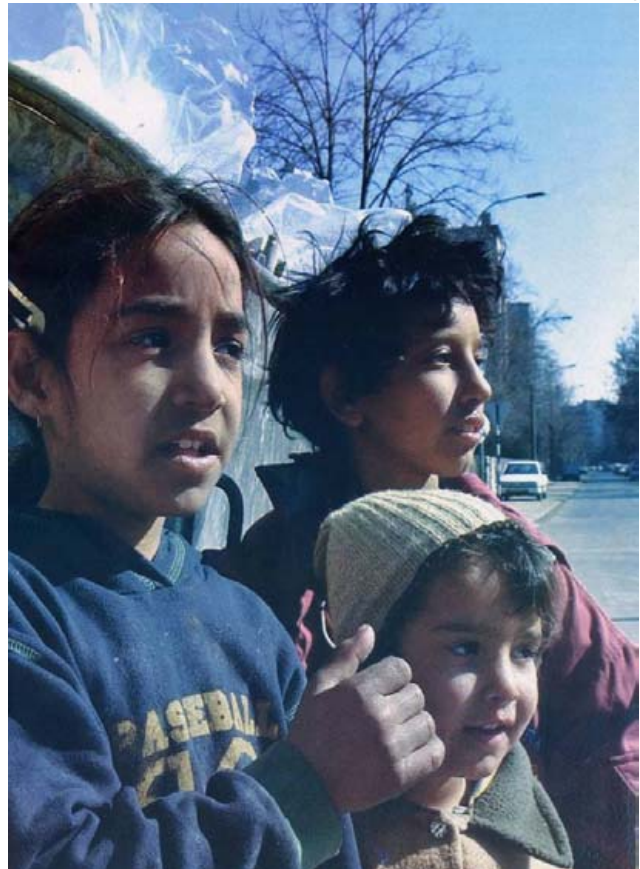
Thereby, it is immanent that we solve the problems on the spot. Failing to do that, the problems will easily rich you, the whole world.

And, at the end, I will simulate just a few activities, small projects that do not need huge amount of money, but the effects will be great, and in addition to that, we will able to motivate the local communities as they are not going to feel as if they are left behind. With just the first wave of supporting the basic needs in the areas where we have existing clubs, and clubs-in-creation, we will properly address 380 children in Demir Kapija, nearly 650 children in Prilep, more than 1000 children in Bitola, some 400 in Ohrid, 250 in Strumica, nearly 300 in Kumanovo, 200 in Kochani, more than 2000 in Tetovo and Gostivar, and nearly 3000 in Skopje, alone. That is a mere 7000 children in Macedonia, approximately the same number in Albania, it is more than 10000 in Serbia & Montenegro and similar figure is for Bulgaria.

The Balkan is a big region, heavily affected by the conflicts and the uneasy transition. That is why we have very big hopes in this fine Project. It is tool that would surely motivate many, individuals, institutions and, what is the most important, all our local resources and potential! Jointly, knowing that we have someone that could understand the complexity of our systems, with just a little assistance could achieve remarkable results; many children served, problems solved locally, new and prosperous communities created and a smooth reintegration with the developed world.

Thereby, we must proceed with great speed and determination.

Thank you on behalf of all our children.





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