

Smiley Club Diary

07.04.2018



Content

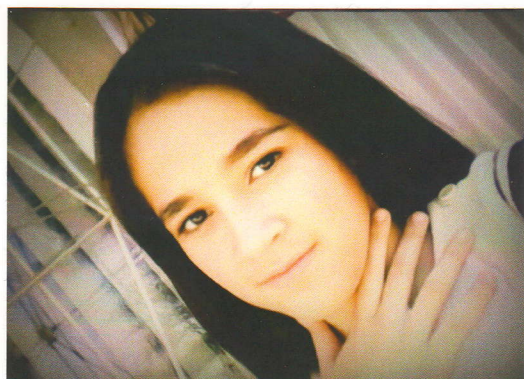
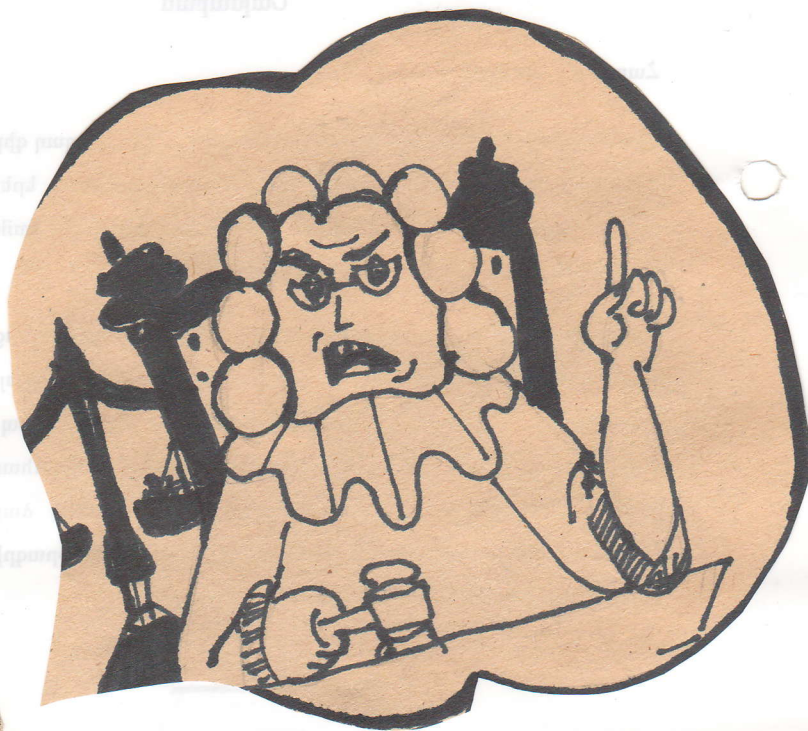
1. Aghabekyan Raisa “The Chessplayer”
2. Aghumyan Gayane “The Little Facebook Fan”
3. Alexanyan Izabella “I know who I am”
4. Badikyan Maria “The Chatterbox”
5. Babayan Mariam “A Piece of Life”
6. Gevorgyan Merine “Me and My Family”
7. Gyunashyan Edgar “The new generation of volunteers”
8. Khachatryan Sona “Our Modest Emilie”
9. Moughdousyan Nare “Erik “ The Mkhitarian”
10. Sargsyan Tamara “Little, Smart Mariam”
11. Sayradyan Ani “Steve Jobs”
12. Sirunyan Tamara “Long-Haired Ani”
13. Torikyan Vram “The 5-years-old volunteer”

INTRODUCTION

Dear Readers,

This is not an ordinary, long-winded, official and monotonous book, but a small diary , which will tell you about the children who live in dormitories, their daily activities, wishes, aims and the Red Cross 'Smiley Club' project. The most significant thing is that our little beneficiaries themselves are going to tell you about all of these.

The project has existed for many years. During these years there have been many 'Smiley Club' events, but there has not been a chance for our little beneficiaries to be heard. And today a group of little beneficiaries, with the help of their senior volunteer friends, have tried to find a way to make their voices heard. That is, to create a diary-book which will give you an insight into the project. We hope you enjoy it!



I know who I am

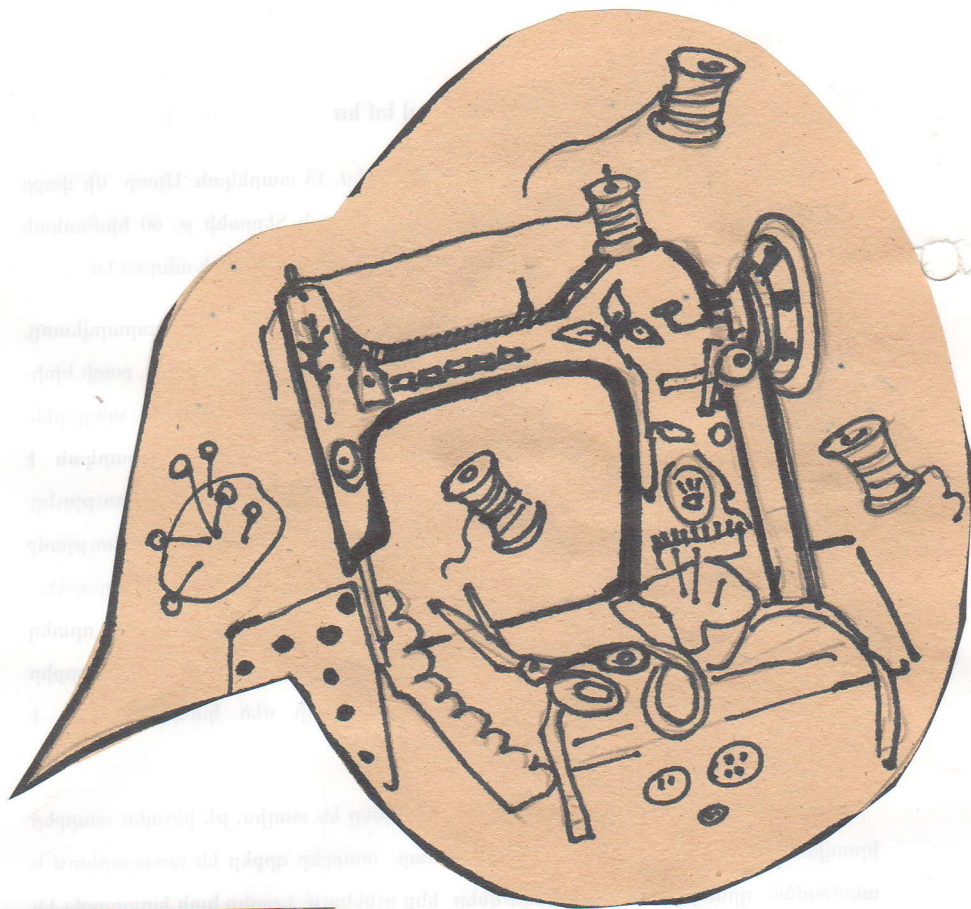
Greetings to anyone who reads this. My name is Ofelya and I'm 13. Today I would like to speak a little bit about me. I study at the primary school No. 60 named after Vahan Teryan. Like many of my friends, I am a member of 'Smiley Club' too.

If you ask me what is my favourite hobby, I will answer dancing, especially hip-hop. I have been dancing for 4-5 months already, but as well as hip-hop, I also dance in other styles too. I know 4 languages: Armenian, Russian, English and German. By the way, German is my favourite subject at school. I want to become a lawyer in order to make justice win. I have a lot of memories connected with the Red Cross. With the help of volunteers I have developed my acting skills and stage speech and have become more confident. I remember the camps in Gyumri and Tsaghkadzor, where I became closer with other children and volunteers and had an interesting and full daily routine. All this created a strong bond with Red Cross.

I love volunteers, as they give me advice on how to find a solution in every difficult situation. They offer us to read different books and then discuss them together. They have also promised to acquaint us with different cultures. I have already started to examine Korean cinema and music by myself. I got acquainted with Korean music – K-Pop. If I had a chance, I would like to be a K-Pop artist. I like movies too. I like everything connected with art. Due to the volunteers I have a list of my favourite movies.

I can say for sure, that due to the volunteers of Red Cross I began to recognize the world, to see the good and bad sides of life. The volunteers have changed a lot not only for me, but also for other children living in this area.

Izabella Alexsanyan



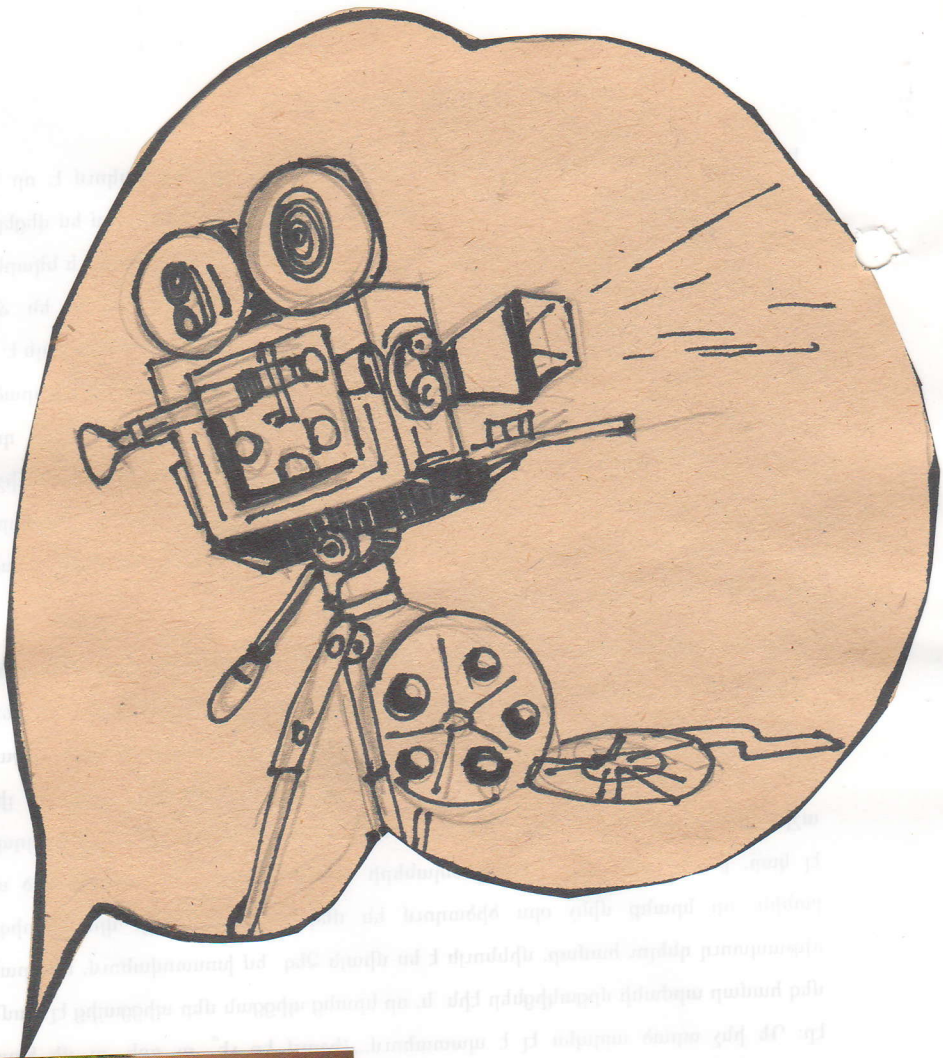
The Little Facebook Fan

If you are reading my story then it means you are on my Facebook account. Hello, I'm Hasmik Gevorgyan. I study in 6th grade. I am the youngest in my family. I like drawing very much and I show my pictures to my older volunteer friends, so they can remark and inspire me. My dream is to become a fashion designer. When you visit me I promise to show you all my clothes which I have drawn for my dolls. I like studying, and my mother says that an educated man is respected everywhere. Honestly, I don't understand what she's saying but she must be right. I have been a member of the Red Cross's 'Smiley Club' Project for a couple of years. I like the project and all the events that are carried out within the scope of this project. Ooh, and the campsss...

Well, now let me tell you a secret but promise me not to tell it to anybody, okay? I will get offended. Recently, we all went with our Red Cross family to "The Loft" room to make pizza. We separated into two groups: "Boys" and "Girls". We did everything during this relentless struggle, so that our pizza would be the most delicious pizza in the world. And, in fact, it was like that until we tasted the pizza made by the boys. You know, although they laugh at us till now for putting olives with kernel on the pizza, I confess only to you that they were worthy competitors for us, and that their pizza was much more delicious than ours. Well, what can we do...anything can happen! You remember, right? No word to anyone!! I am so grateful to Red Cross for giving me so many elder sisters and brothers.

P.S. If you liked my story about the 'Smiley Club' project, then just give my story a "Like" and I'll tell you more of our crazy-daft stories.

Gayane Aghumyan



The Chatterbox

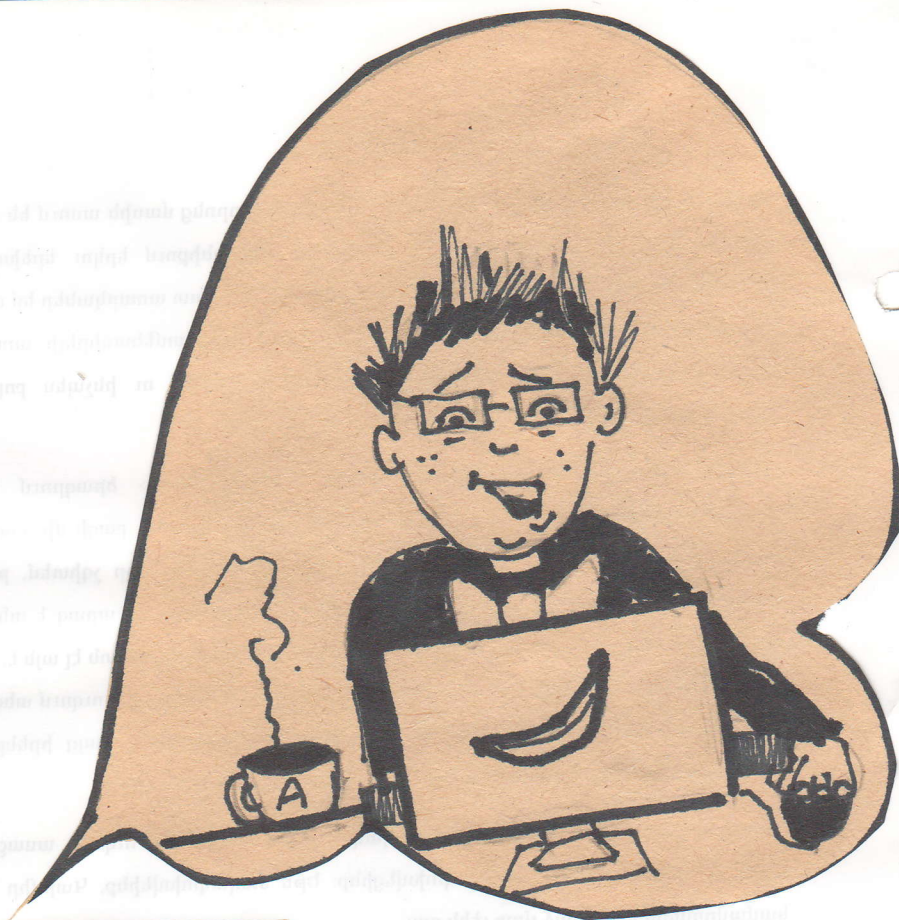
They say I'm a sunny girl. The kind of girl that people usually call a chatterbox. My name is Inessa Eloyan and I am 11. There are two children in my family - nine-year-old Serj and me. **I am in the 5th year at school.** I like many of the subjects, such as, singing, drawing, Armenian language class and Russian language class, but my favorite one is math. In my free time I sing, draw or, like most of my friends, play with my phone.

I've been involved in 'Smiley Club' for 10 months already and I haven't missed any of the organized events, except for once when I was ill. I have so many memories that I don't even know which one to tell you about. With the Red Cross volunteers time passes faster and is much more interesting. I always look forward to their visits. Their visits are extremely useful because they teach me a lot of things. Before the visits I did not want to learn English. I thought I couldn't do it, but thanks to the lessons they had with us I already know some basic English.

Recently my family wanted to move to another place but I did not want that and I told them I am not going anywhere. Eventually none of us moved. If we had done that, the Red Cross volunteers would have never visited me again.

In the future I want to become a designer, an actress or a detective. But first of all, I want to become a Red Cross volunteer to teach and set an example for other children.

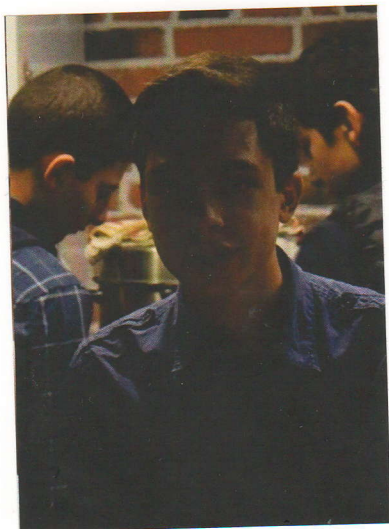
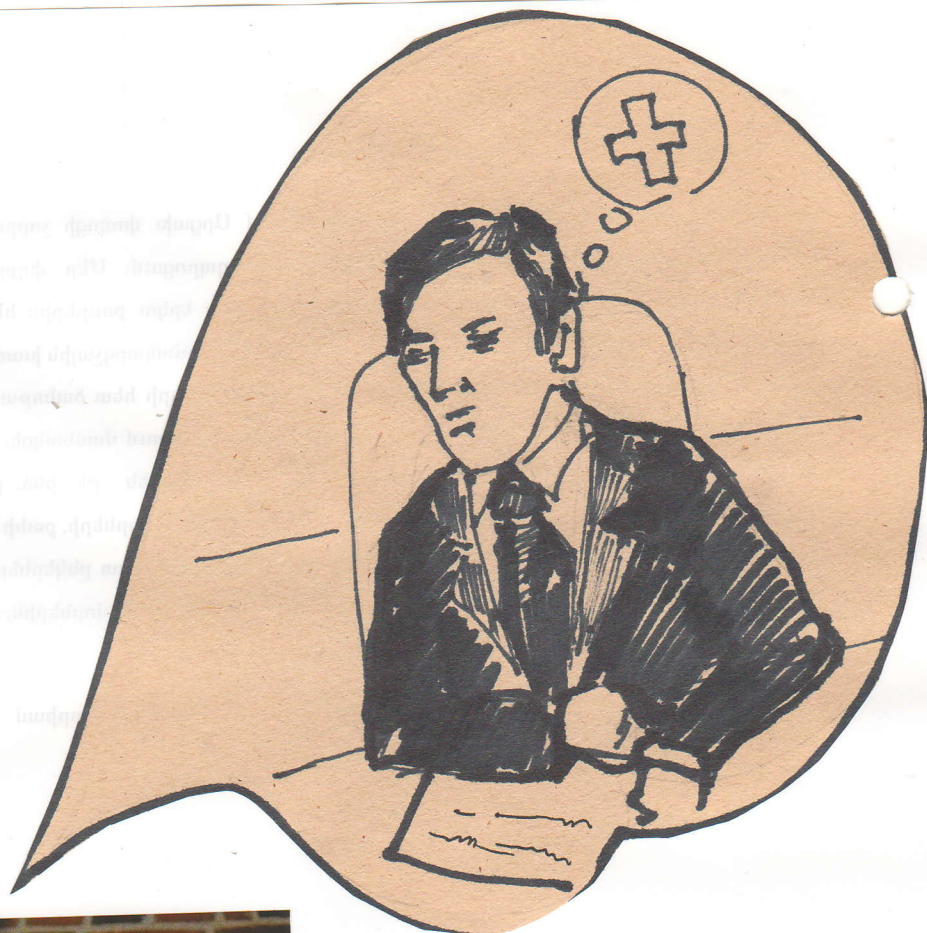
Badikyan Maria



"A Piece of Life"

My name is Arthur Babayan and I'm 13 years old. I live on the 4th backstreet of the Artsakh Street. I go to school number 60 named after Teryan. In a small apartment I live together with my parents, brother and two sisters. I have a lot of interests. I like playing football, computer games and I am interested in computer programming. I have met many Red Cross volunteers at 'Smiley Club'. With 'Smiley' I have participated in various events. The visits by the volunteers to our dormitory are very useful for both me and for my friends. I cannot imagine my life without them as they make life much more interesting. Thanks to the project, I have got many friends and unforgettable memories. To end, I would like to say that for me all the volunteers are examples to follow.

Babayan Mariam.



“The new generation of volunteers”

I am Edgar Gyunashian. I'm 14 years old, and I live in Charbakh. I study at school Number 55 of Hovhannes Hovhannisian. I am in the 9th grade. We are 5 in our family: my sister is 12 years old and my 19 year old brother is serving in the army. I like playing football and spending time with my friends. I have been attending the 'Smiley Club' for 3 years. I like the camps organized by Red Cross very much, because we have a lot of memories connected with them. Once during the camp there were 5 of us in our room: Karen, Erik, me, and the volunteers Anahit and Milena. I tried to smear toothpaste on their faces, but in the end I was the only one covered in toothpaste. I learned a lot of great skills from the volunteers. The volunteers come every week, even several times a week, and we always have a good time. We dance together, study English, History, Mathematics, and play different games such as volleyball, football, and basketball. The teacher of Mathematics is Sargis, Gayane teaches dance, Vahe teaches history and Anush teaches Armenian language. There are also many other volunteers from who we have learned a lot of things. If Red Cross did not exist I would be lazy till today. By the way, I am already a volunteer at Red Cross. I would not want anything more from Red Cross. Red Cross has given me real friends and knowledge.

I have a request for the Red Cross staff because we have exams this year in June. Please can the camp be in July? All of us really want to go to the Red Cross camps!

Edgar Gyunashian



Me and My Family

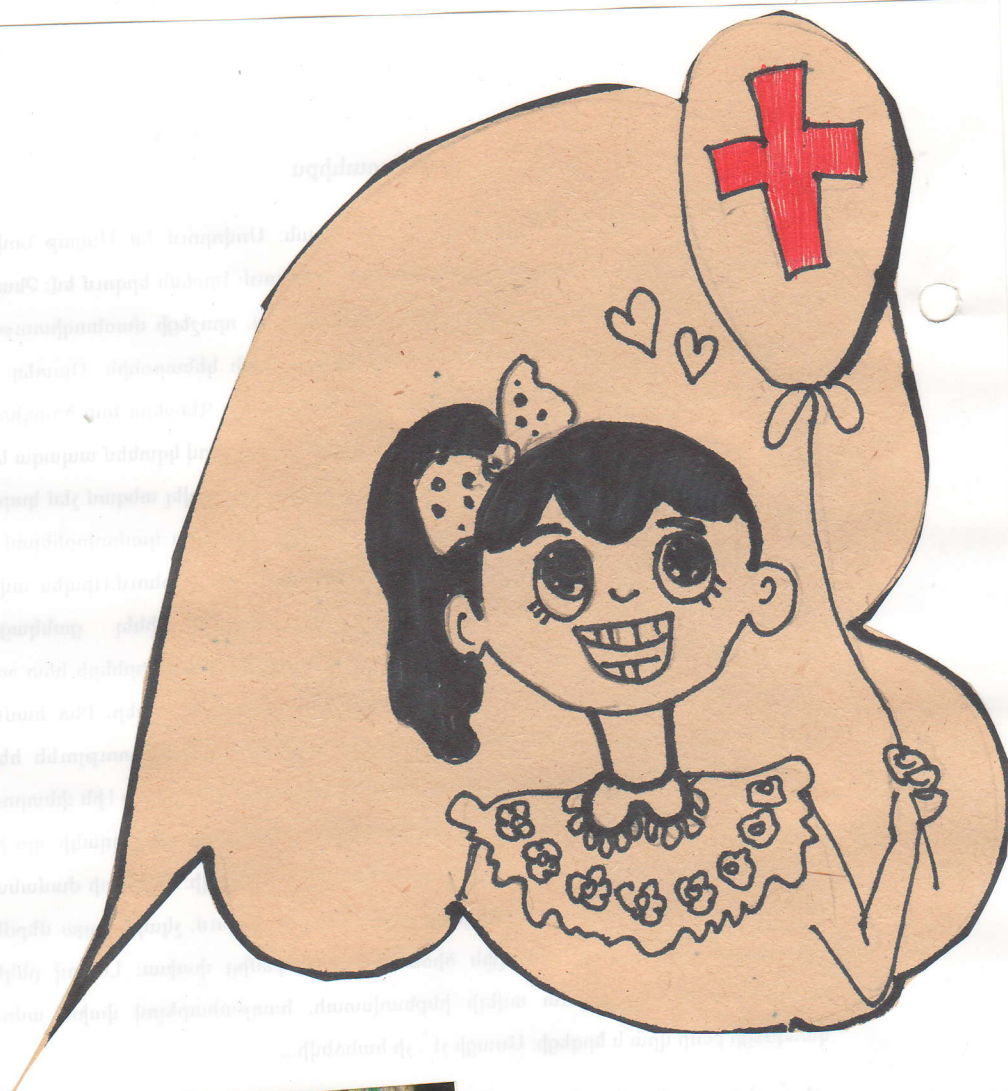
Hello, I am Lilya Kolodina and I'm 15. I study piano at Sayat-Nova music school. I sing sometimes. Although I can't imagine my life without music, I have decided to trust "TUMO Center for Creative Technologies" to help me prepare for my future profession. My days there are really interesting. We do a lot of things. Lately we have developed a new program. With the help of some exercises and programs I will find the future me.

I have been participating in the 'Smiley Club' project since 2014. I can't even list all the things that volunteers have given me. Red Cross and the volunteers are another world where we, children can find harmony. They are ready to stand by our side in every situation as a friend. It is a pleasure to spend time with them. We visit a lot of places with them like museums, theaters and cinemas. The camps will be unforgettable for me. My love towards music emerged there. When we were at the Tsaghkadzor camp a child with good singing skills was needed. And Miss Gayane chose me. In answer to her request I just lowered my head, but I knew her really well, and she wouldn't give up so easily. During the trainings she again asked me to sing. As I love her very much, I couldn't reject her. When I began to sing, the children started to laugh, and I ran away from the stage. Listening to Miss Gayane's reassurance, I became more confident and overcoming my fear I stood confidently on the stage and sang. I said, she wouldn't give up, didn't I?

Oh, I forgot to speak about my morning "suffering". Every day we got up early at 8 o'clock and did physical exercises. It may seem surprising, but today I do it by my will!

I can't describe the feelings and days spent with the Red Cross. Red Cross is my Family.

Merine Gevorgyan



A 5-years-old “volunteer”

I’m Ruzik. You remember me, right? I’m the youngest member of ‘Smiley Club’. I’m 5 years old, tiny lady, and I think that’s why everyone loves me. If I want something, all the volunteers do everything for me, otherwise I’ll get offended and go home. I’m a little girl but I go to Kindergarten like a grown-up. I love to play with fluffy toys, especially with the toys in the Red Cross room. You know, “Red Cross” has given me pens, pencils, love and happiness and I want the volunteers to come again. When I close my eyes and think about “Red Cross”, only the sun comes to my mind. And if you want to know, I love my friends Mary and Vram. When I grow up, I’ll become a volunteer like them.

Vram Torikyan



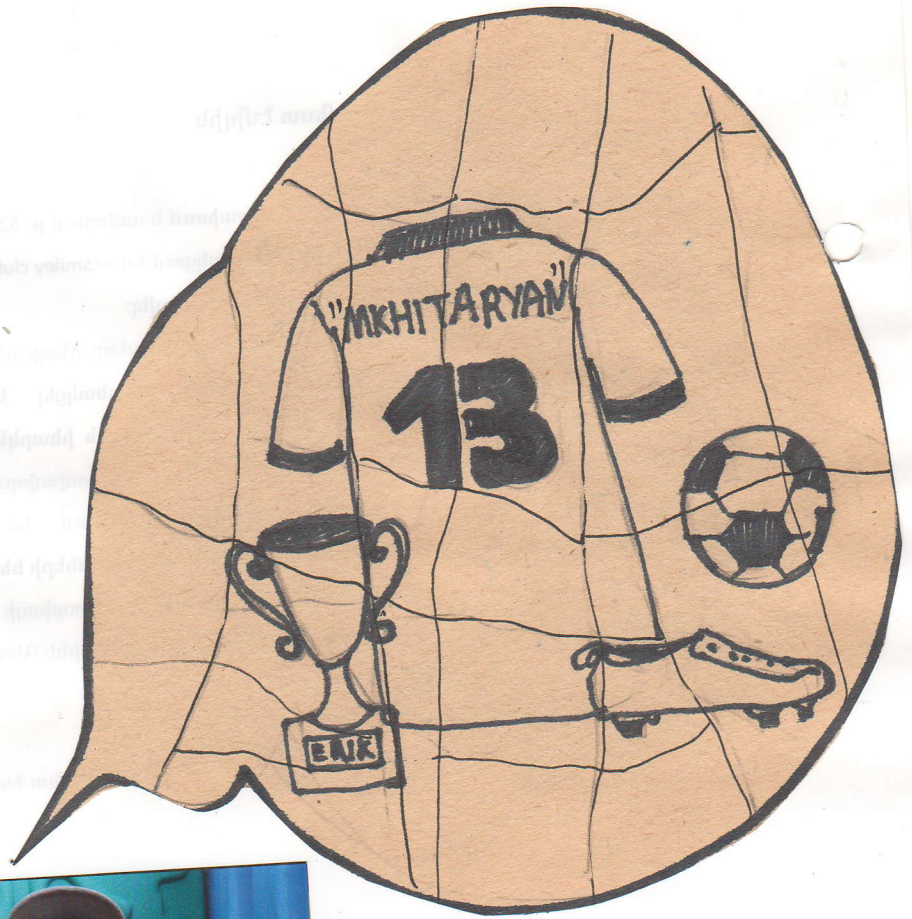
Our Modest Emilie

I am Emily and I'm 11 years old. I live in Charbakh and learn at N52 school. I am in the 6th grade. It is more than one year that I have been taking part in the 'Smiley Club' project and I have to say that Red Cross gives me a lot of things.

One of my favorite hobbies is drawing. My love for drawing comes from the volunteers. I also take part in different events like walking in the city, going to the theatre and the museum and also more festive events. All these give me bright impressions and I remember these days with a pleasure. I am waiting impatiently for the next events and meetings with volunteers and other children. The Red Cross has a great role in my life. It is a part of my everyday life, an undividable part. My favorite volunteer is Merine Gevorgian.

Thanks to the family of Red Cross.

Sona Khachatryan



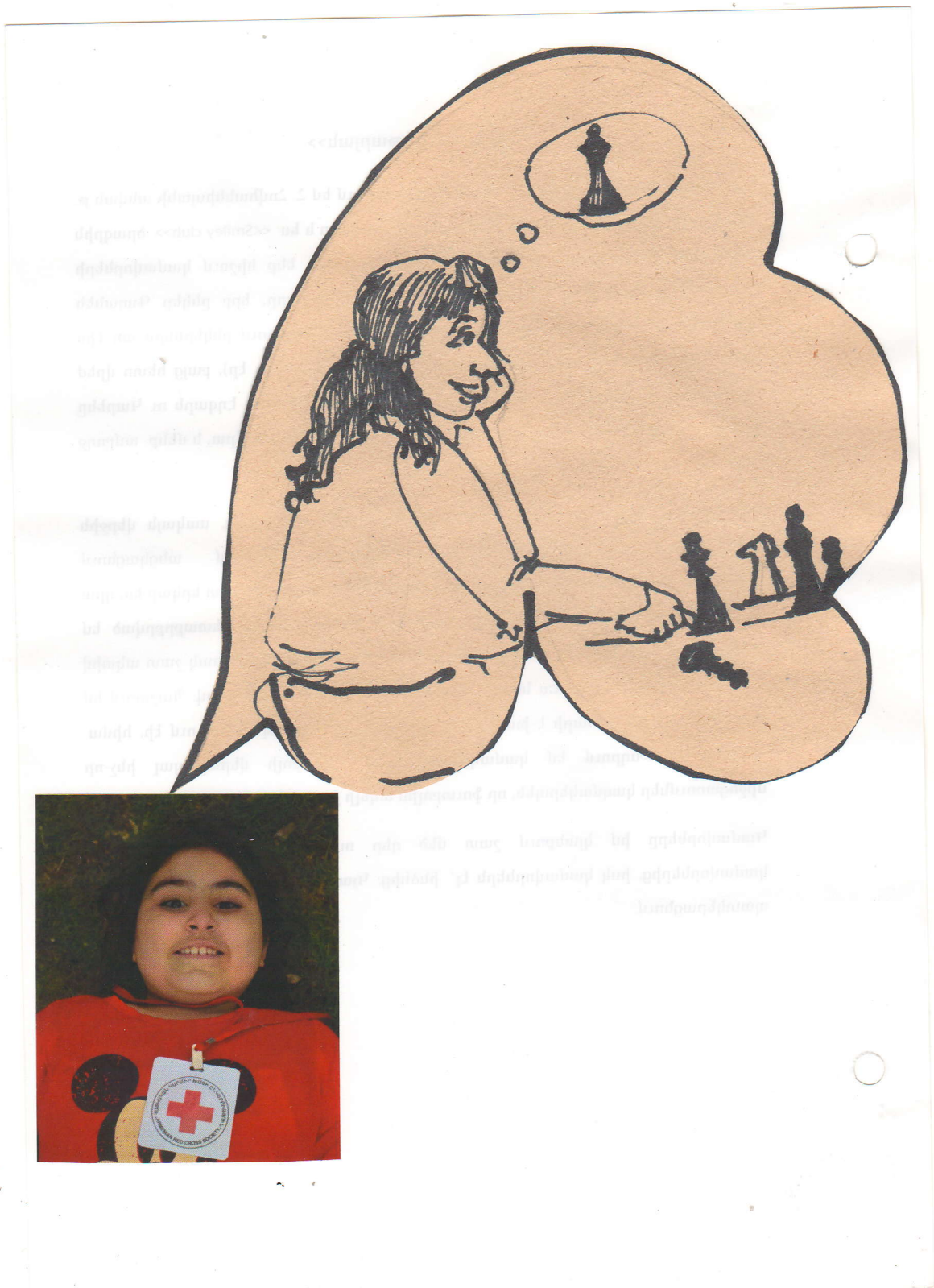
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Sona Khachatryan



The Chess player

My name is Elen Mkhitarian. I am 7 years-old. I study at the secondary school No 53 named after Hovhannes Tumanyan. I live at 2 Shirak with my parents, elder sister and younger brother. My elder brother Ashot is married, he lives in the village and is busy with farming. My elder sister Rita, younger brother Vardan and I live together in the same house. Vardan is so, so naughty . He always breaks the windows of our house and we quarrel all the time.

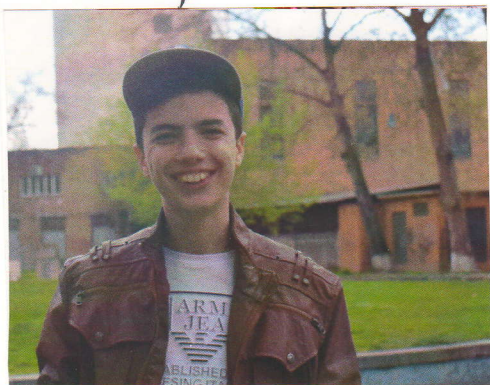
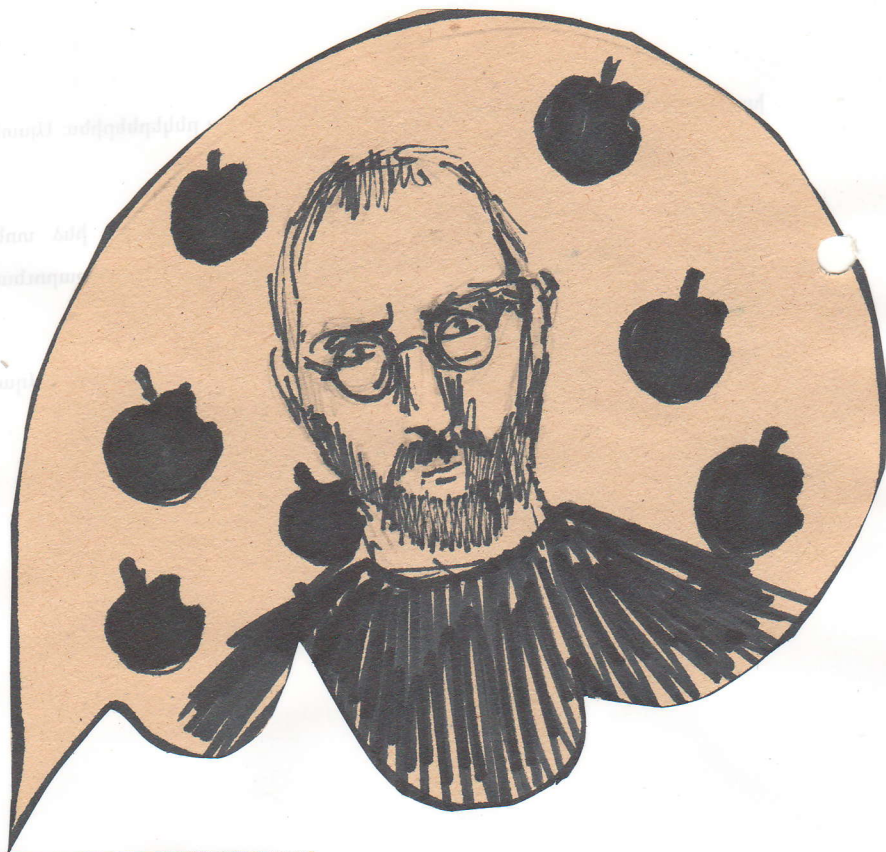
I am fond of playing tennis and train in order to play much better. I also like chess. During the visits of Red Cross Volunteers, we play chess from time to time as well.

Since 2017 I've been a member of The Red Cross. You know, because of the volunteers' visits I have found out that I'm good at learning languages. I have finally learned the parts and structure of human body. I used to get low marks in Maths but now I get only 9s and 10s out of 10. Because of being very little I haven't been to any camp, ever. But my sister has been there and has told me so much about the time spent there, that I can't wait for my turn to come.

You know, volunteers have taught me how to communicate with people. After their visits I return home with new skills and each time I learn something new. The days become more interesting with volunteers even when they are new volunteers. Without the visits I could not learn well at school. After school they help me understand things I found difficult. Oh, and I forgot to tell you that I also took part in the painting classes organized by volunteers. In the New Year I wanted so much to decorate Christmas tree with toys made by me, but I didn't know how to make them. And my mother couldn't help me as well. And, all of a sudden, two days before the New Year, the volunteers visited us and told that we would make toys for our Christmas tree. I was so happy that I could make my toys for the Christmas tree and it was as magnificent as my friends'. We always spend such an interesting time together.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped me decorate my Christmas tree and keep me in a good mood. I hope that this will continue.

Raisa Aghabekyan



Steve Jobs

I'm Karen Harutyunov. I'm 14-years-old. I study at the secondary school No 52. I live in the Shirak street of Shengavit district with my parents and brother. After 8 years of hard work on football I quit because of an injury. Now, I attend the "Tumo Centre for Creative Technologies". I really wanted to attend after the excursion organized by The Red Cross. I have been in the Red Cross's 'Smiley Club' project for a long time but I became more active about three years ago. I've developed my skills in Mathematics and the Russian language in the Red Cross project. And now I'm developing my skills in English with the help of volunteers. Out of the events held till now I liked the camping program, and also our visit to TUMO Centre. I've learnt a lot from the volunteers and changed traits of my character. Also I've changed my preferences of films. During this program I've attended Mathematics classes and chemical EXPERIMENTS from which I learned how to make bubbles. I really like the visits and I also learn a lot at the same time. If the Red Cross weren't in my life, I wouldn't have such good friends and a good environment.

When we were at the camp, something really funny happened. When my friend Edgar was playing football he fell and I didn't believe that something bad had happened, so I started to laugh at him. Later on it turned out that he had broken his hand. And what would we have done without the knowledge of the volunteers? My friends and I brought him safely to the medical center.

Ooooh, and I forgot to tell you, now I'm a Red Cross Volunteer!

Ani Sayradyan



Little, Smart Mariam

Hello. My name is Mariam Babayan, I am 9 years old. I live on Artsakh street in the 4th driveway. I study at primary school No. 60 named after Vahan Teryan and I'm in the 4th grade. Most of my free time I spend with my little sister. We play together and help our mother at home. I have so many interests, but my favorite ones are dancing, singing and sometimes drawing.

I have been in the Red Cross program for 3 years. I have taken part in many events. Thanks to the volunteers I have gotten a lot of knowledge, began to sing without embarrassment and learnt different dances. The volunteers help me to do my homework and explain to me the topics that I don't understand. We have gone walking in the town together and have found many interesting sights. I liked all the events, though I liked the camp the most. There we sang, danced, and played different games together and I was the winner of these games 3 times. We came together and talked about different themes. And when we needed the help of volunteers, they always tried to help us in any situation.

I would like so much to go camping again and meet everyone once more, as we have a very good time together. The volunteers shared their experiences and knowledge with great pleasure and they were always ready to answer any of our questions. We had such a good time together. I am so happy that I am a part of this program and that I have a chance to communicate with such good and kind people like them.

Tamara Sargsyan



Long-haired Ani

Hello. My name is Ani. I am 10 years old. I study at school No 52 named after Hovhannes Hovhannisyan and I live in Charbakh. My mother Karine works in manufacturing linen and my father Artak works in the manufacture of euro doors and windows.

I love to work with anyone's hair and in the future I want to become a hairdresser. I have been involved in 'Smiley Club' since 2015. I liked the camp at Tsakhkadzor the most, during which I sang and with the help of Sargis learnt a lot of rhymes.

I think that volunteers' visits are very important as thanks to them I get a lot of important knowledge. And I want to note that the most memorable experience was the chemistry experiments, as I had never seen anything like that before and learnt that we can get something from the mixture of chemical substances.

Besides that, I don't think that I would have gone to camps without the Red Cross. These camps played not only a learning role in my life, but also I had a chance to make new friends in different regions and from the Red Cross as well.

Tamara Sirunyan

This initiative was initiated by Gayane Aghumyan.

These stories were compiled by the following people:

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Aghumyan Gayane

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Badikyan Maria

Gevorgyan Merine

Gyunashyan Edgar

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