
Dancing Away Poverty!

NR. 5, October 1st, 2009

CAAP held a rocking fundraiser in September to celebrate our first year as an organization. Around 200 people joined us on the 10th to have some fun and look back on what we've accomplished in the past year. Over the last 12 months CAAP has worked to raise living standards, launch new businesses and empower some of the country's poorest citizens: after all that we felt we needed a little fun! We'd like to say thanks to



Success Endures In Korca's Poorest Neighborhoods

In late September CAAP staff got the chance to visit some successful entrepreneurs in the Korca community. Over the past year we've worked with dozens of individuals in the Korca area to start new businesses, reduce unemployment and improve the quality of life for families. It was a pleasure to return to the region again and meet with the individuals who have accomplished so much in some of the country's poorest areas.

Operating in the Korca suburbs, a chronically underserved location, a group of Albanian women have joined together to form the Embroidery Association with the help of Terre des hommes. This group helps its members find a modest income source as the women design, produce and market their wares inside and out of the country. At the meeting of the Association CAAP attended, we also got the chance to meet some of the members' children who joined us for some cookies and soda while we discussed the Association with their mothers. It was fun to have the children at the meeting but it was also a powerful reminder of why organizations like the Association are so important.

In the city proper young entrepreneurs flourish with the help of a project generously sponsored by The Municipality of Korca, USAID, and Terre des hommes. CAAP had the chance to visit some micro-businesses launched in the past 3 months, and was impressed at the innovation, dedication and success. The young Korca men and women had created retail and service businesses with grants and micro-loans they had received. CAAP staff got to speak to each entrepreneur and learn about their success. From construction to sales to even a photo studio, we were amazed at the variety of enterprises and the impact they had had on both the entrepreneurs and the community.

Calendars Coming Soon!

The Common Actions Against Poverty 2010 Calendars are on their way! This year we've got some help from some talented young artists. Each month features a drawing from a child of a Korca Embroidery Association member. The group is an association of Albanian women that have joined together to design and produce authentic Albanian handicrafts. Each page of the calendar features a story about how this innovative enterprise has helped each woman improve her life and the lives of her family. All proceeds from the calendar go to support CAAP poverty relief projects.

CAAP is still looking for sponsors to be featured on the calendar, if you would like to be a part of this inspirational project please contact us at info@caap-al.org!

Success Spotlight: Bledi Kanini

Bledi Kanini is a man who takes pride in his work. Last year Bledi joined the Young Entrepreneurs Project (YEP) to establish his construction business and has found success through his hard work and dedication.





Bledi operates his business in Korca neighborhoods working on building walls for new and renovated homes. With the business plan Bledi prepared with the help of CAAP, he was able to compete for a grant and win it. He purchased a construction platform that helped him to build walls faster and safer, and to cut to zero the cost of renting the platform. He also purchased a mixing machine which helped him to reduce the hours of preparing the material by almost 50% which means he can serve more customers and provide a higher quality of service. Most of his business is referrals and, now with the resources he has, the word of mouth of his quality craftsmanship has meant that Bledi is very busy these days.

Thanks to this grant, Bledi has also been able to partner with another constructor and expand the area where he works, receiving contracts for construction as far as Voskopja. Business has been strong enough that Bledi has hired two employees. This makes his company almost unique, very few small business are able to expand in their first year. We're very proud of entrepreneurs like Bledi whose hard work means a better life not only for themselves but for others as well.



Picture by Sarahin
Sarahin's Mother Miranda has two daughters in addition to her son and, initially, had trouble joining the project. Her husband was not receptive to the idea of her working outside of the home. Miranda was determined to work though and, with the help of Common Actions Against Poverty, was able to start bringing in income from her handicrafts. The money helps her family but, more importantly, Miranda's success has made her more assertive at home. She's glad she pushed to become part of the project and now makes sure she has an equal part in decision making with her husband.

September 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

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