



Project Template

European Rotaract Information Center

Name of the project: Magic in Action

Organizing club: Rotaract Club of Yerevan

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I. ANALYSIS, OPPORTUNITIES AND MAIN IDEA FOR THE PROJECT.

1. ANALYSIS OF THE PROBLEM WE WANT TO SOLVE

The problem we aim to address through our initiative centers on the immediate and lasting impacts of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict on displaced children from Artsakh. These children, having fled their homes due to war, face not only the trauma associated with their experiences but also the challenges of adapting to new environments, often feeling isolated, anxious, and disconnected from the joy and carefreeness of childhood.

Key Aspects of the Problem:

Psychological Impact: The trauma of war and displacement has profound psychological effects on children, including stress, anxiety, and depression. The abrupt change in their living conditions and the uncertainty about their future contribute to a sense of insecurity and fear.

Social Dislocation: Moving away from their homes has caused these children to lose their social networks, including friends and familiar community members. This loss exacerbates feelings of isolation and difficulty in integrating into new communities or schools.

Loss of Normalcy and Recreation: The war and subsequent displacement have stripped these children of the normalcy of childhood, including play and recreational activities that are crucial for healthy development and psychological well-being.

2. OPPORTUNITIES

The "Magic in Action" initiative, while focused on addressing the immediate needs of displaced children from Artsakh, also opens up several opportunities for broader impact and engagement. These opportunities not only enhance the initiative's reach and effectiveness but also contribute to building a stronger, more resilient community.

1. Community Engagement and Awareness:

"Magic in Action" presents an excellent opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges faced by displaced children from Artsakh. By involving the local and broader Armenian community in the initiative, we can foster a sense of solidarity and encourage active participation in support efforts. This engagement can take various forms, from volunteering at events to contributing resources or spreading awareness through social media and community networks.

2. Long-term Community Development Projects:

Finally, the initiative could evolve into or inspire long-term projects aimed at community development and support for displaced families. Whether through educational programs, housing assistance, or employment opportunities for parents, "Magic in Action" could lay the groundwork for comprehensive community support efforts.

II. HOW TO EXECUTE THE PROJECT

1. ACTION GROUP

The project was executed in winter and all members helped with every task.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

The essence of "Magic in Action" lies in its commitment to making a tangible, positive impact on the lives of displaced children from Artsakh. It recognizes the importance of childhood experiences in shaping an individual's future and aims to ensure that despite their current circumstances, these children can still find reasons to smile, feel loved, and cherished. Through meticulous planning and the collective effort of volunteers and the community, "Magic in Action" transforms a simple day into an extraordinary celebration of resilience, hope, and the enduring spirit of childhood.

3. GOALS OF THE PROJECT

Deliver Personalized Gifts to Displaced Children: The primary goal was to provide 50 displaced children from Artsakh, currently studying at Ruben Sevak 155 school, with personalized gifts for the Christmas season. These gifts were not only meant to bring joy but also to meet individual interests or needs, ensuring each child felt seen and valued.

Create a Festive and Joyful Atmosphere: Aimed to transform the school into a festive space with decorations, creating an atmosphere that fosters joy and celebration, significantly different from the children's everyday challenges. The goal was to ensure that for at least one day, the children could immerse themselves in the warmth and excitement of the holiday season.

Organize Engaging Activities: Planned to have a variety of games and music, engaging the children in activities designed to be fun, interactive, and inclusive. The objective was to see an active participation rate of at least 90%, ensuring that the event catered to the interests and enjoyment of all children present.

4. TARGET AUDIENCE

The target group of the "Magic in Action" project consists of displaced children from Artsakh, specifically focusing on a cohort of 50 students currently studying at Ruben Sevak 155 school. These children, having fled their homes due to the ongoing conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, are living under the shadow of displacement and the challenges it brings. The project aims to bring a semblance of joy and normalcy to their lives, which have been marred by instability and uncertainty.

5. ACTION PLAN & TIME FRAME

The planning and implementation took 2 months.

Brief description of each step

1. Project Planning:

- Outline objectives and assign roles. Coordinating team schedules and clear communication may pose challenges.

2. Fundraising and Donations:

- Secure financial support and in-kind donations. Ensuring fundraising targets are met and managing funds efficiently are critical challenges.

3. Gift Coordination:

- Identify individual sponsors for each child's gift. The challenge lies in matching donors with children's interests within a tight timeframe.

4. Venue Preparation and Decoration:

- Select and decorate the venue. Finding an accessible venue during the holiday season and decorating effectively under budget constraints can be tricky.

5. Activities Planning:

- Organize engaging games and music. Tailoring activities to suit all children and coordinating entertainers present logistical challenges.

6. Volunteer Management:

- Recruit and train volunteers for event support. Challenges include ensuring adequate volunteer turnout and effective training.

7. Event Execution:

- Conduct the event smoothly. Keeping the event on schedule and addressing any unforeseen issues on the day can be demanding.

8. Feedback and Evaluation:

- Collect and analyze feedback for improvement. Gaining comprehensive feedback and using it to enhance future events may be challenging.

9. Documentation:

- Document the event and compile a report. Ensuring consent for photos and creating an accurate event report requires attention to detail.

6. RESOURCES

(S) Financial Support: Securing sponsors for financial backing to cover various costs, including gifts, venue rental, decorations, and refreshments.

(S) Venue: Finding a suitable location that can accommodate the event. Sponsorship could cover rental fees or a donated space could be used.

Gifts for Children: While individual sponsors might purchase gifts, organizing a system for matching sponsors with children's interests is essential.

(S) Decorations: Acquiring festive decorations to create a welcoming and joyful atmosphere. Sponsorships could provide decorations or funds to purchase them.

(S) Food and Beverages: Providing refreshments for the event, with potential sponsorship from local businesses or caterers.

Entertainment and Activities: Planning engaging games and music, possibly requiring hiring entertainers or purchasing materials for activities.

7. BUDGET

250 euro

8. ORGANIZERS OF THE PROJECT

Nare Abgaryan, Sylvie Soghomonyan

9. PARTICIPANTS

Rotary Club of Armenia

10. SPONSORSHIP

Rotary Club of Armenia

11. MEDIA COVERAGE

We shared about the project in our Instagram.

III. RESULTS

1. RESULTS AND OVERVIEW

The "Magic in Action" project, aimed at bringing joy and a sense of normalcy to displaced children from Artsakh, achieved remarkable results that exceeded our initial expectations. Through the collective effort of our team, volunteers, and the generous support of sponsors, we were able to deliver personalized gifts to 50 children, organize a festive event filled with games, music, and decorations, and create a memorable day that offered these young souls a much-needed respite from their adversities.

2. ADVICES

Replicating the "Magic in Action" project in your local club can be an incredibly rewarding experience, capable of bringing significant joy and support to children in need within your community. Based on our experiences, here are some key pieces of advice and areas that require special attention:

Thorough Planning: Begin with a detailed plan that covers every aspect of the project, from budgeting and fundraising to logistics and day-of-event activities. Setting clear objectives and timelines is crucial for ensuring a smooth execution.

Community Engagement: Engage your community early on. Building partnerships with local businesses, schools, and other organizations can provide essential support, whether through donations, volunteer efforts, or spreading awareness. This engagement is not only vital for resources but also for fostering a community spirit around the project.

Personalized Approach to Gifts: One of the most impactful elements of "Magic in Action" is the personalization of gifts. Take the time to understand the interests, needs, and

preferences of the children you're supporting. This effort shows care and attention to their individuality, making the gifts more meaningful.

3. SUSTAINABILITY

The "Magic in Action" project, designed to bring joy and support to displaced children from Artsakh, holds the potential for sustainability and growth over the years. Its sustainability lies not just in the recurring nature of the event but also in its ability to adapt, evolve, and expand its impact based on learned experiences and changing needs. Here's how we're ensuring its sustainability and anticipating changes in the years ahead:

Building Strong Community Networks: A foundational aspect of ensuring the project's sustainability is deepening our engagement with the community. By establishing strong relationships with local businesses, schools, and organizations, we create a robust support network that can provide resources, volunteers, and financial backing year after year.