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OVERVIEW REPORT

Based on the idea that all children and young people should enjoy **proper and equal education opportunities** as an important gateway into a successful future and professional career, the Naregatsi Art Institute (NAI) has designed and executes a manifold of educational, artistic and cultural programs targeted at the socially and/or economically vulnerable groups of children in Armenia, their education, artistic development, wellbeing, and social integration.

The donation made kindly by the *Small World UAE* was, in this respect, a valuable contribution to the Naregatsi Art Institute, since it allowed us the additional means to finance the activities of the **Naregatsi Folk Instruments Ensemble** and the **Naregatsi Art Institute Center in Shushi**.

THE NAREGATSI FOLK INSTRUMENTS YOUTH ENSEMBLE (NFIE)

URL: <http://www.naregatsi.org/nfie/>

URL: http://www.naregatsi.org/new/gallery/gallery_category_details.php?picture_id=81&gallery_id=81

URL: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Naregatsi-Folk-Instruments-Ensemble/302022466518406?sk=info>

The Naregatsi Folk Instruments Ensemble is founded with a vision to promote the love and interest of younger generations towards the riches of Armenian traditional music and musical instruments. The ensemble is a space where to mentor and train younger performers to fill in the voids of Armenian folk music and performing arts scene.

It was back in 2005 when Naregatsi Art Institute took up the initiative to provide tuition-free tar and kamancha classes for gifted children in need of financial support. In those years the classes of folk instruments at the music schools in Armenia were not yet tuition free, and Naregatsi Art Institute, motivated by the desire to encourage younger performers, established a special scholarship for them.

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Those classes then became the cornerstone upon which the Naregatsi Folk Instruments Ensemble was founded. Unifying 21 instrumentalists and 5 vocalists, the Ensemble today has a rich record of concerts and tours, a diverse program and considerable achievements. Indeed, ever since their first recital of August 27, 2008, Naregatsi Folk Instruments Ensemble has made a long journey, one stretching from many of the professional stages of Yerevan to the regions of Armenia, Artsakh, the French cities of Lyon, Toulouse, Paris, Sarlat, Cahors, Romagne, and the Geneva, Zurich and Lugano of Switzerland...

Today, as well, the ensemble unifies children from low-income families by allowing them the means to attend tuition-free music classes, acquire musical instruments which we provide again free of charge, and start a professional career at a very young age.

The funds donated by the Small World UAE were used:

- To organize concerts of the ensemble (transportation and lodging costs) in both Yerevan and the remote regions which are habitually isolated from the cultural life of the capital. (Recently, the ensemble gave a number of free-of-admission-charge concerts in several of the music schools of Yerevan; the village of Karakert in the region of Armavir; Armenia's farthest regions of Tavush and Syunik (town of Goris). Photos attached.)
- To provide honorarium to the instructor in charge of the ensemble's music classes.

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ART CLASSES AT NAI SHUSHI CENTER

URL: <http://www.naregatsi.org/new/arm/shushi/shushi.php>

The Naregatsi Shushi center is an active cultural center established upon the reconstruction of a completely ruined building in Shushi, Nagorno Karabakh. The center in Shushi houses a concert hall, an exhibition hall, a library and 12 classrooms where annually around 100 children take art classes free of charge. Guided by the motivation to improve opportunities for people with disabilities, the center is fully equipped with facilities allowing the free and independent movement of people with disabilities. Being a second abode for innumerable children from low-income families, refugees, and talented children, the center offers tuition-free classes in **dance, painting, photography, embroidery, theatre arts, poetry, storytelling, woodcraft, miniature painting, vocal and singing, art therapy and English**. All the equipment, stationaries, and other materials necessary for the efficient and uninterrupted instruction of the classes are provided to the children by the Naregatsi Art Institute – again free of charge.

As such, the center in Shushi was established to contribute to the cultural and moral revival of the war-torn city of Shushi, create employment opportunities for many instructors teaching art, create a platform and space for the artistic education and training of the city's younger generation, provide free education opportunities for talented children unable to cover the high tuitions of other art education establishments.

The funds donated by the Small World UAE were used:

- To obtain materials necessary for the center's classes of painting, photography, embroidery, woodcraft, miniature painting and art therapy sufficient for a period of 6 months;
- To cover conveyance and accommodation costs as the students of the center's

dance, theatre arts, storytelling and English classes travelled to take part in outgoing recitals, theatre performances, festivals and other such events (*please see photos enclosed*).

- To pay the costs of several exhibitions held at the Naregatsi Art Institute exhibition hall in Yerevan and other venues featuring the visual works of the center's art students (*please see photos enclosed*).

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