



IMPACT

April 2023

Dear Friend,

After a cold winter, I greet you with the hope of a warming spring and promise of new life sprouting from the earth. Speaking of new things...we love to innovate and provide new learning opportunities for our students at Nehemia School and Amaro Tan School.

Our desire has always been to provide students with relevant and strategic opportunities outside of their traditional daily coursework. As you read, you'll learn how we're combining charity, care for our natural resources, ecological farming, creative arts and more as part of the education of this next generation of young Albanians in our schools. We're excited!

We believe these opportunities train this next generation of Albanians to positively impact their society on many levels, enriching their lives and their neighbors' as well.

And we're able to do this thanks to you, our dear friends and partners. Enjoy this new Impact!

Gratefully yours,

Michelle Marin
NG USA Executive Director



Sewing with Purpose

If you happen to be walking the halls of Amaro Tan after school hours – or sometimes even during summer activities – you've likely heard the subtle whir of sewing machines. Poking your head into the sewing room, you would see a handful of pupils working on various projects. Honing their skills with a sewing machine or even a simple needle and thread.

Over the past 15 years that the sewing courses have been operating, pupils have had the opportunity to learn a valuable trade. Two former students of Amaro Tan at one point even worked in a garment manufacturing company in Tirana! A more recent project of the sewing course, however, has had a different kind of impact.

At the Amaro Tan soup kitchen, we deliver food to a number of clients that cannot physically get to our facility. Every day, meals are transported in containers inside bags to the homes of these clients. The sewing course participants have created reusable bags for this exact purpose. For 5 soup kitchen clients, the pupils made 10 total bags, each with the name of the client inscribed on the bag. By having two bags per client, it allows the for the transport to be done easily; the food is delivered on one day with the first bag, and then on the next day with the second bag, collecting the first bag to be used on the following day.

This was an incredible initiative by Amaro Tan to help reduce the need for single-use plastic bags, as well as to give the pupils in the sewing course a way to help those around them in a very practical way. As Marin Piqoni, Director of Amaro Tan School, puts it: "It is great that they are putting their acquired skills to good use."



Pupils love to learn more about graphic design with Selma from the media office.



German intern Mattea teaching dance.

Unlocking Potential

After School Clubs at Shkolla NEHEMIA

As part of their normal daily routine, students at Shkolla NEHEMIA (Nehemia School) have allocated time in the afternoons for study hall. This allows them to get a head start on their daily homework load, as well as have access to the teachers if help is needed with an assignment. However, this past fall semester the leadership decided to try something new ...

For an hour every Friday afternoon, the school organized special elective clubs for the students to take part in if they desire. As an alternative to sitting in a classroom with their books, the students had the opportunity to dive deeper into a topic in which they have an interest. The electives offered varied widely and were based on the profession or skill set of volunteers willing to spend some time each week devoted to educating youth.

"One way, how we want to achieve [our mission] is by providing students opportunities to experience various learning and life situations, so that they can gain competences and shape their personality," says School Director Elona Rira.

The afternoon clubs have continued into the spring, after positive feedback from the pupils involved in them. Elona explained, "They express the necessity to have as many extracurricular activities as possible, both of an entertaining and educational nature, to be as close as possible to real life and the needs of today's society. That was the reason we thought that afternoon clubs would be a very good opportunity for students to further develop their skills, talents, and desires in different directions in their interest."

The students were given the choice from a list of electives, many of which would not be offered in a typical school environment in Albania, including Event Organizing, Dance, Graphic Design, Ecological Farming, Music, and more.

Shkolla NEHEMIA has been operating since 1998, and so it is important for us to always be looking for new ways to interest the students and help further their education and facilitate their dreams as best we can. If one of our pupils graduates and moves on to be a successful designer, dancer, or even musician we would cherish the thought that we were able to play a small part in that.

Visit us in Albania!



We love to have visitors! This spring and in the fall, we invite our friends to spend a week of vacation in Albania.

Together with Andy and Gian Paul Ardüser as your guides get to know the people at NG and experience our many projects live.

Plan your trip (4-5 days) within the following time frame:

- April 25 - May 09 (for last-minute lovers)
- May 15 - June 02
- in October or November 2023

Groups of up to four people are ideal.

Interested? Contact us at: infoUSA@ng.team. We are happy to answer any questions and help you with your booking.

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