



Spring / Summer 2020 Newsletter

BLACK LIVES MATTER

In light of recent events, PH International joins the millions of people who are speaking out and standing in solidarity with the Black community. For the past 35 years, PH International has been committed to promoting awareness and understanding of the world and its citizens through people-to-people exchanges both in the United States and around the world. Now, during this painful time, awareness and understanding are more crucial than ever as our nation struggles to stand up to more honestly face the challenges and dangers of racism and stereotypes.

The PH mission is to build stronger global communities by fostering civic engagement, cross cultural learning, and increased opportunities in the digital age. We believe that it is through dialogue and connections within our home communities as well as communities abroad that we shape a future which empowers justice and equality over the systemic inequities of racism. As we navigate through our own blind prejudices of color and culture, this time serves as a powerful reminder and opportunity to be present, to listen, and to support the people around us. What we do now makes all the difference in how we move forward with actions.

Thank you for supporting the mission of PH in this effort and for supporting one another in striving toward a more accepting, inclusive and just future for all.

The novel Coronavirus, COVID-19 is an evolving situation which has had a staggering impact in the United States and around the world. The virus has caused many businesses and nonprofits, PH International included, to face unprecedented challenges regarding operations and how best to move forward. PH faced the unfortunate reality of having all in-person program exchanges postponed indefinitely. However, PH Staff from all of our country offices have been determined and motivated to navigate this 'new normal' and to find innovative ways to quickly and efficiently adapt our international programming to online platforms to keep our participants and communities engaged. Check out below what PH offices in the United States, Georgia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Armenia, and Ukraine have been doing to keep the PH momentum and mission moving during the COVID-19 global pandemic.



Amanda Pelkey

*Olympic Champion, 2x World Champion
and Founder of AMP Hockey*

PH International Presents...

Let's Get AMPed with Amanda Pelkey

through PH International's
Power through Sport Webinar Series

**45 MINUTE DISCUSSION, FOLLOWED
BY LIVE Q & A**

Tuesday, May 12th
10AM - 11AM EST

FACEBOOK LIVE

Youth Leadership through Sport (YLS)

In the Vermont office, Program Staff are not letting COVID-19 prevent them from interacting with their Youth Leadership through Sport (YLS) participants; they've just moved the interactions from actual courts to an online playing field! PH Staff are maintaining a unified YLS team spirit with participants and alumni from Kosovo, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Moldova, and the United States through online activities such as group push up challenges, home work out content, and videos from YLS participants highlighting their impressive sports skills. The Vermont office has also created a virtual webinar series called *Power through Sport*, which serves as a way to keep alumni and participants inspired through webinars with professional athletes and live Q&A sessions.

PH Georgia

PH Georgia acted swiftly with the transition to online learning for their programs. For the Adjara Community Policing Initiative (ACPI), PH Georgian staff created a photo contest as well as virtual webinars, which discussed topics such as cybersecurity and road safety, to keep young learners engaged during the COVID-19 months. They created online debates to try out a new form of interaction between youth and police officers. The police officers selected the topics, and then two teams of 9th and 10th grade students were able to debate

the topic via Zoom. The debates have been met with much success with the youth enjoying this form of interaction with the police officers. Georgia's Schools, Community, & Police Engagement Program (SCOPE) has been able to lead legal culture classes online. The SCOPE program has created a virtual tour of a court building as well as an innovative educational online game called "The Police Officer", which aimed to build trust between youth and police in Georgia. Georgia's Momavlis Taoba (Future Generation) civic education program has been hosting live Facebook webinars, including a webinar with the director of USAID's Democracy, Governance and Social Development Office which received more than 290 comments and questions and has reached over 8,000 viewers and a webinar with the Executive Director of Transparency International Georgia which had over 2,300 viewers and more than 300 live questions and comments from students and civics teachers.

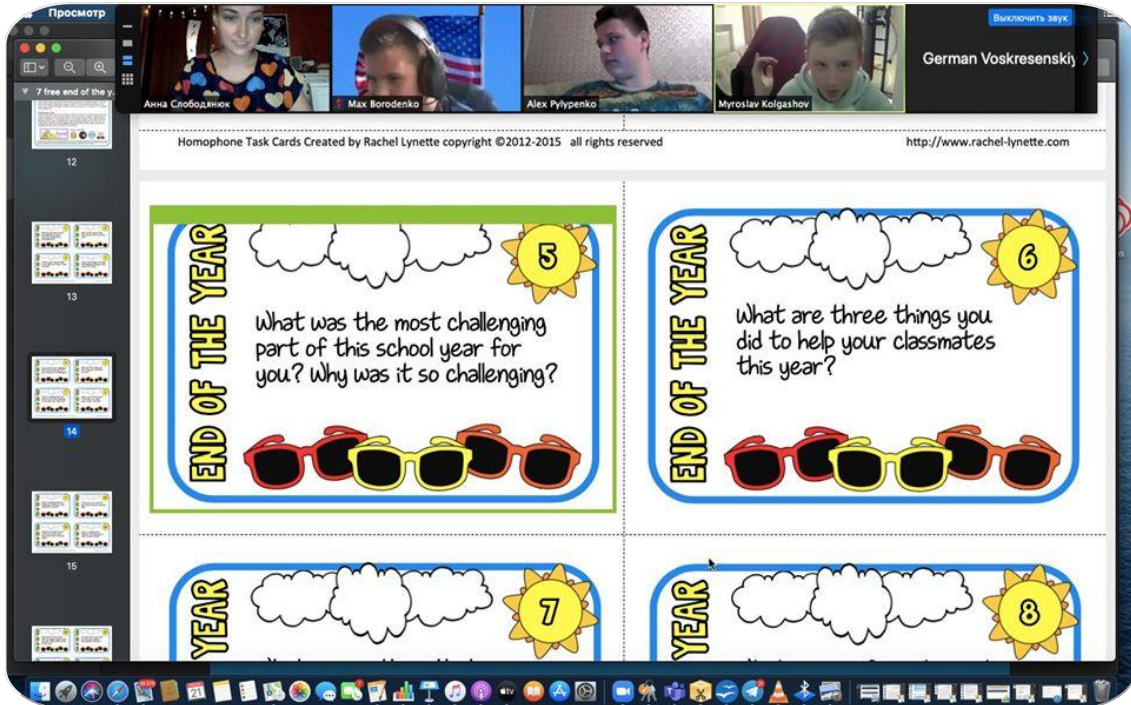


Momavlis Taoba (Future Generation) students prepared posters on the importance of maintaining good hygiene during the COVID-19 pandemic and shared them via Facebook



Bosnia & Herzegovina Legal Socialization Program (BLSP)

PH Bosnia and Herzegovina acted quickly to move their Legal Socialization Program (LSP) modules for participating primary and secondary school students onto online platforms during the last few months. All of the teachers, police officers, and school principals were highly supportive of this idea as it provided continuity in the implementation of the LSP modules during the pandemic. Also, for the nine primary and secondary schools that had not been visited for monitoring purposes prior to COVID-19, BLSP staff organized 'virtual monitoring' using different online communication tools (Zoom, Skype, Viber) to 'visit' schools. Promptly following the lifting of the ban on gatherings, staff were able to return to the office at the end of May and were able to meet face-to-face for a curriculum development meeting - PH masks and all.



The Ukraine English Access Microscholarship Program (Access)

PH Ukraine moved English Access Micro-scholarship Program (Access) classes to online platforms for students in 12 cities across Ukraine in April and May based on approved teaching plans. PH staff purchased devices/phones to loan to students from low income families who did not have access to a device that allowed them to get online. Four Access groups which are participating in the Access Alumni Civic Engagement Program also switched to online program activities and have been conducting online trainings for their peers, including trainings on the benefits of a clean environment and how to become an active citizen and good community leader. Lastly, PH staff scheduled online graduations and certificate-granting ceremonies starting on June 22 for Access groups which have completed a minimum of 330 hours of classes.



Moldova Legal Socialization Program Curriculum Development

PH Moldova, PH's newest office, has been hard at work developing a curriculum for their Legal Socialization Program (LSP) which will be implemented in schools across Moldova this fall. The Moldovan staff returned to the office mid-May and continue to work closely with the Curriculum Development Team online and in-person to develop the LSP curriculum which focuses on both in-person and back-up online education.



Proud winner of a contest about an online lecture on Armenian artist Arshak Fetvachyan poses for a photo at the new American Library & Training Center in Ijevan

Armenia English Language Instruction

PH Armenia has shifted the English language instruction and enhancement activities of its programs to online learning via Zoom as their primary web-based resource. Students from underprivileged families have been provided with phones and reimbursement for some for the cost of internet connection to ensure that they have full access to programs and activities. The American Library and Training Center, which was established through the new Tavush Outreach Project, has facilitated Zoom trainings for 5 groups of 20 participants on the theme “Debate as Basis for Development of Civil Society,” as well as Zoom discussions on books, films and conversations with guest speakers. Lastly, the Building English Language Capacity for Armenian Students and Teachers (BELCAST) program with the support of a US trainer is in the process of designing a curriculum for a 10-day online English language training for 10 Armenian teachers. These trained 10 teachers will afterwards go on to train, mentor, and support an additional 40 Armenian teachers next year.

PH International Vermont News

One last update from the PH office in Vermont... during the last few months, Office Assistant Lori Rush has spent the bulk of her time sifting through boxes of PH documents which have accumulated in the depths of the PH basement for the past 30 years. With Lori’s hard work (and patience), 92 boxes of documents have been sorted and shredded. Kudos Lori – thank you!!

Click here to donate to PH International. Thank you!



Copyright © 2019 PH International All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

5197 Main St., Unit 6
Waitsfield, VT 05673

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).