

## People &amp; Places

## Students Learn from Social Organizations

By Ms. Svetla Stoyanova

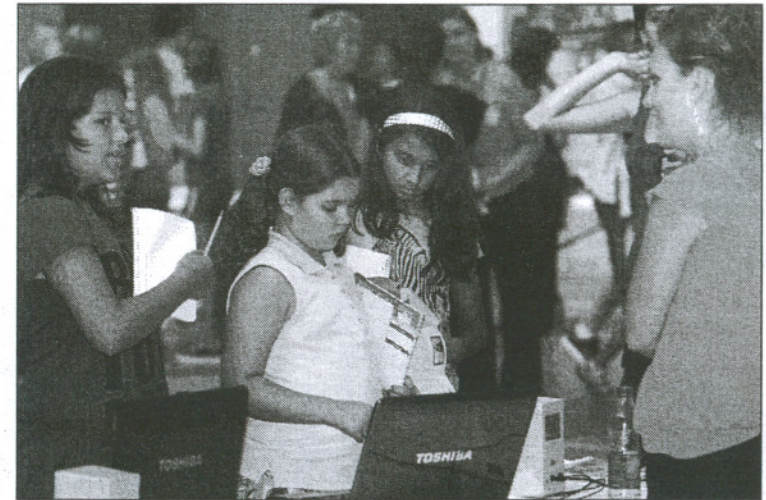
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In the beginning of September 2009 the Anglo-American School of Sofia (AAS) hosted the first Service Learning Fair in its 42-year history. The event gathered 30 service organizations from Sofia working in the fields of environment conservation and biodiversity, education and learning, social inclusion, children with cancer and elderly

care. Organization representatives shared their experiences and current projects with the AAS community, thus creating a platform of opportunities for the AAS students to get involved in their work. The Service Learning Fair is in line with the AAS tradition and continuous effort to educate not only the minds but also the hearts of its students.

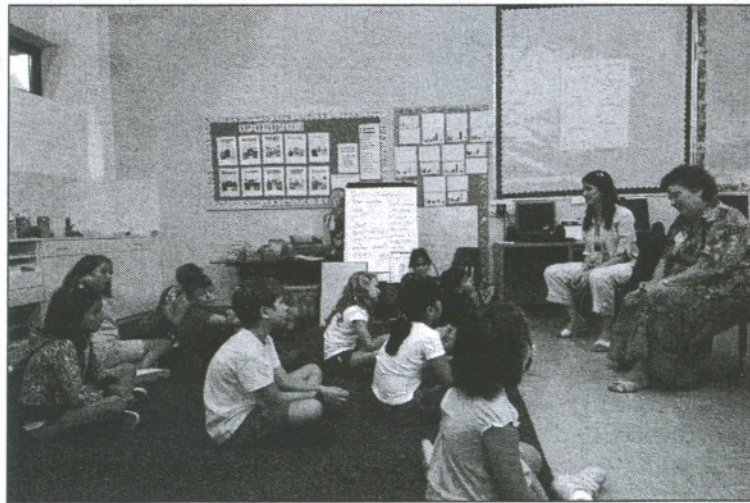
“School is the place where our children learn to be part of the society, therefore it is very important to provide them with relevant learning in all fields, including community service work”, said Mr Ordway, the US Embassy Chargé d’Affaires, who officially inaugurated the event. Mr. Jim Leahy, AAS Director, added “We want to understand the issues of our community through the eyes of men and women who have dedicated their professional lives to making a difference. The learning experience of our students is enhanced when they can draw connections between their work in school and the real issues of our world.”

As the Fair progressed, organization representatives went around to classrooms and made presentations to AAS students. From preschool to High School, everyone was engaged in asking questions and reflecting on the purpose and



mission of service organizations. The AAS campus was abuzz with excitement, as teachers, students and organization representatives exchanged project ideas. Organization representatives shared real-life examples of their daily work and made academic connections to community service, and made volunteering and charity more tangible to AAS

students. “Working on community service projects in various areas enhances the learning in mathematics, reading, science foreign language, art, music, and physical education. Therefore teachers and students at AAS readily participate in such projects” shared Joseph Herr, first grade teacher and Chairman of the school’s Service Learning Committee. 🌐



## Teachers Ride for Autism

On April 2, 2009, the world commemorated Autism Awareness

group raised over \$11,000 USD. The funds will go towards educational resources and equipment. This school

