THE WORLD ARAL REGION CHARITY



A Message From Our Founder

Hello, everybody! As temperatures climb up across the hemisphere and families head out to their favorite lake retreat, beach, or enjoy an evening by the pool, it becomes clearer than ever how water shapes our lives. The World Aral Region Charity has been busy these past six months to ensure the safeguarding of water usage rights across the Khorezm and Karakalpakstan regions of Uzbekistan, where the legacy of Soviet-era river diversion and excessive irrigation can be seen in the receding shorelines of the Aral Sea and the contamination of everdwindling aquifers.

Following up on our drip-line installation last year, this past March we installed three reverse osmosis (RO) filters in schools in the municipalities of Shovot, Yangiarik, and Bogat, bringing clean water to low-income families and reducing the incidence of childhood anemia.

Following up on our drip-line installation last year, this past March we installed three reverse osmosis (RO) filters in schools in the municipalities of Shovot, Yangiarik, and Bogat, bringing clean water to low-income families and reducing the incidence of childhood anemia. These filters are maintained by mahallas (local government), the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan, and the "Nur va Xayot" Center, two key partners of WARC in Uzbekistan that have been essential to the success of our project. Village residents pay a nominal fee to access the filters. We see our model for clean water access to be an important stepping stone toward a future where every person in Uzbekistan, regardless of origins, is secured one of the most basic ingredients to a healthy and happy life—water.



GOALS ACHIEVED, LIVES CHANGED

Four schools
Three farms

1,957 students65 farmers4,500 adults

78,100 liters of water filtered **920,000** liters of water saved

160 fruit trees,2000 Poplar trees,and 60kg of Saxualseeds planted



With assistance from the volunteer movement "Time of Wonders," an educational program was also deployed that encourage students to critically consider how they a role in advocating for their environment. This was achieved through modules teaching vocabulary related to sustainability in both Uzbek and English as well as creative exercises that had students draw a revitalized Aral Sea of the future.

Above all, brainstorming and out-of-the-box thinking was encouraged by having students collaborate in groups and later reconvene to discuss their ideas. Rural students got a chance to interact with their urban counterparts from Tashkent and Urgench, bridging the gap between both populations by deconstructing stereotypes and having the united youth of Uzbekistan move forward towards an inclusive vision of ecological justice.

Lastly, we have ramped up our outreach through multimedia art initiatives, starting with a February exhibition on the ancient abru-bahor painting style at Columbia University's Harriman Institute in New York City. Members of the New Russia Cultural Center and Star Entertainment generously helped by sourcing masterpieces by Uzbek artists. The exhibit was attended by representatives of the Uzbekistan mission to the United Nations, reporters from Voice of America (VOA), and an array of students and professors.

On March 25th in Tashkent, another exhibit was hosted at the Bonum Factum Gallery that curated works by high-achieving students from the city as well as the results of brainstorming sessions in Khorezm and Moynak. In addition, the talented abrubahor artist Nasiba Satiboldieva gave a masterclass on her technique. With a remarkable turnout, we heartily thank the support of local partners including the Aral Rebirth Project and Shoira Oripova, without whom none of this would have been possible.

The visual arts were complemented by the musical once we returned to the United States; on on March 31st, WARC organized the world premiere of a symphony titled Orolim, a international effort that brought together filmmaker Elzhon Abassov and three rising composers from New York, Tashkent, and Karakalpakstan. We intend on having the symphony performed in Uzbekistan in the near future.

While the past few months have been certainly busy for WARC, we are only eager to expand our network in Uzbekistan and reinforce existing relations with our trusted contacts on the ground. Positive change has become tangible and exciting new opportunities are on the horizon. We would like to personally thank each and every one of you for tagging along with WARC throughout this journey, and always feel free to reach out to us through email if you wish to become more closely involved in our day-to-day operations. Please stay tuned for more updates to come, and have a wonderful summer!

Best regards,

Robert Willard
Founder and President



"Dawn to dusk,
the sun traces its
golden path
across the
glories of my
mountains, the
silver tresses of
streams finding
rest in fiery
deserts— it is
Uzbekistan,
the motherland
and my home."

POEM BY SCHOOL #5, SHOVOT REGION STUDENT

HOW TO CONTACT US

www.aralregioncharity.org

aralregionfund@gmail.com

+1 (518) 596-0759

Follow us on social media at: www.facebook.com/TheWorld AralRegionCharity

