

Media report
June 2003

- ***TV SOKOBANJA, June 1, 2003***

Brian Holst, CHF Serbia director gave an interview to TV Sokobanja and Radio Sokobanja where he spoke about USAID CRDA program, realized by CHF in Eastern and Southern Serbia. Mr. Holst announced the beginning of USAID and CHF activities in Sokobanja as well. TV Sokobanja also reported from the contract signing ceremony between Municipality of Sokobanja and CHF International/Serbia.

- ***VIBILIA Press Clipping, June 2, 2003***

**USAID AND CHF OPEN COMPUTER CLASSROOM IN MEROSINA –
1.000.000 DINARS**

A computer classroom in Merosina is a gift of USAID (www.usaid.org.yu) and CHF International (www.chfyu.org) to the elementary school and citizens of Merosina and is part of the USAID - funded Community Revitalization through Democratic Action (CRDA) Program (www.sada.usaid.org.yu) implemented in Eastern and Southern Serbia by CHF International (www.chfyu.org). The computer classroom consists of 10 computers, printers and scanners for morning lectures at the Merosina elementary school. In the afternoon, citizens of Merosina will be able to use the classroom for training, the Internet and games. The cost of the computer classroom project in Merosina is about 1,000.000 dinars. Around 600,000 dinars was provided by CHF International with USAID funding and about 400,000 dinars by Merosina.

Similar news appeared in:

- ***MREZA – news and information for NGOs in Serbia, June 2003***
COMPUTER CLASROOM IN MEROSINA

- ***VIBILIA Press Clipping, June 2, 2003***

**USAID AND CHF RENOVATE KINDERGARTEN AND CULTURAL
CENTER IN TRGOVISTE**

The reconstruction of the cultural center and the kindergarten in Trgoviste is part of the USAID-funded (www.usaid.org.yu) Community Revitalization through Democratic Action (CRDA) Program (www.sada.usaid.org.yu) implemented in Eastern and Southern Serbia by CHF International (www.chfyu.org). The total cost of the project is 1,600.000 dinars (1,050.000 dinars secured by CHF through USAID funding and 550,000 dinars by Trgoviste). A total of 7,200 individuals living in Trgoviste will stand to benefit from this project. The renewal of the cultural center building revives public and cultural activities, and enables the implementation of various youth programs in the region. The project costs 3,200.000 dinars (2,100.000 dinars secured by CHF through USAID funding and 1,100.000 dinars by Trgoviste). Under the CRDA program, CHF has financed the building of sports courts, the Red Cross building, and the clearance of streets and the banks of the river in central Trgoviste.

- **EKSPRES POLITIKA Daily, June 3, 2003**

INVESTMENTS

Lebane – In the first half of the year, American humanitarian organization CHF will invest over 150.000 American dollars in reconstruction of the main water supply network in Lebane and construction of a new sports hall with 850 seats. Most of the funds will be invested into solving vital infrastructure problems in Lebane itself and a few surrounding settlements.

Sl. M.

- **GLAS JAVNOSTI Daily, June 5, 2003**

ARRIVE OLD, LEAVE YOUNG

With 18 different thermal springs, a natural geyser unique in Europe, on 520 meters above sea level, in an ecologically untouched nature beside Jablanica River, Sijarinska Spa is definitely a natural and tourist pearl of the South of Serbia and support of Medvedja Municipality's future development. The fact which *Glas javnosti* reporters heard from leading people in the Municipality and Spa administration these days that ambitious projects of accelerated improvement and development are already being realized brings only joy.

- This spa is a natural rarity and a big potential for development of healthcare and general tourism. Because, with this number of thermal spas, an attractive geyser and other natural advantages, the fact is that this is a location which practically does not know for wind or fog, stresses Director of Institute for Specialized Rehabilitation "Geyser", Doctor Dragisa Popovic, emphasizing that in the surroundings of over a hundred square meters there practically isn't a single factory chimney.

Stands the fact that there isn't a spa in Serbia which can, thanks to such natural potentials, offer to cure a bigger number of illnesses than Sijarinska Spa.

Doctor Popovic explains that numerous illnesses can be cured in the spa, as those of the bone and muscular system, various sorts of rheumatism, arthritis, spondilosis, sciatica, lumbago, stomach diseases, kidneys, liver, urethra, respiratory system, various psychosis and neurosis, conjunctivitis and milder forms of diabetes, various gynaecological illnesses and certain forms of sterility, and it is beneficial for rehabilitation after various injuries, surgical interventions etc. Professional staff in charge for the medical part of services in "Geyser" Hotel, with the most modern medical equipment, offers hydro and electro therapy, mud therapy, kinetics therapy, inhalations and hot cures with healing thermal water.

- We are already close to the projected aim to practically have an on-going season in "Geyser" Hotel. Traditionally, we already cooperate with pensioners and trade union organizations from whole Vojvodina, so there are "Lala" (people from Vojvodina) in our hotel all throughout the year. We also have cooperation agreements with trade union organizations of big economic entities throughout Serbia, so even now in May, before the official start of tourist season, our hotel works at full steam, stresses the Director, doctor Popovic.

In director's office, we found Stevan Radisic from Zrenjanin, Vice-president of Pensioners and Handicapped Association of Vojvodina. He says that, for a decade already, Zrenjanin citizens come to "Geyser" Hotel. Around 700 of them annually and every week buses arrive with new guests. Their biggest advertising is the impression of those who have been here, so there is often more those who are interested than there are vacancies, and there are those who would like to stay more in the same year, says Radisic for *Glas javnosti*.

And Director Popovic singles out the fact that with the help from Serbian Government and donors from the organization CHF International much has been done on communal arrangement of the Spa. All streets have been asphalted, as well as walking paths and accesses to thermal springs. This summer a new market will be opened and the first phase of the spa water supply is finished. Mobile telephony (063) has reached the place, and a modern digital fixed telephony operator with 250 more receptacles is just being installed.

It is planned to construct an open swimming pool in the vicinity of the natural geyser, as well as a sports and recreation centre instead of the old swimming pool, which will cost around 4.5 million Euros. All that should put the spa within the most attractive ones in Serbia in the next few years, not just for those suffering from illnesses, but also for sportsmen, tourists, recreationists...A project for using thermal springs for green houses is being seriously considered, and the Chemistry Group of the Nis Philosophical Faculty offers a solution for decarbonization of the water. In addition, there are ideas on a plant for bottling mineral water and other moves, which could encourage the development of whole municipality.

Weddings under the geyser

Tourist and health care workers in Sijarinska Spa take care to offer their guests various cultural and entertainment contents as well. From July 15 to August 2 the traditional manifestation "Geyser Nights" will take place, with numerous concerts, tournaments, "Miss Geyser" contest and "Weddings under the Geyser", which will finish on St. Ilija, with the spa saint day and gathering. This year the art colony will be renewed, and since the famous poet, Dobrica Eric, became the spa son-in-law, forming of a literary colony is being seriously considered.

Where Sijarinska Spa is?

It is situated 330 kilometers from Belgrade, 90 kilometers from Nis and 50 kilometers from Leskovac. You can reach it by a solid asphalted road, via Lebane and Medvedja, and it is connected to Belgrade and Central Serbia by numerous every-day bus lines.

Choose a room

"Geyser" Hotel has been completely restored and adapted before the start of this year's season. It has two stars and 277 beds in one and two-bed rooms or suits, a TV room, covered swimming pool, restaurants, a medical wing and other contents for rest and recreation. From its balconies, there is a magnificent view over the natural geyser, which is 15 meters high. A full board in "Geyser" costs 960 dinars and full board with medical treatment is 1.080 dinars. All that comes with a possibility of postponed payment in several installments. In private boarding there are around 1.500 beds, with an average price of 200 dinars per night. Sijarinska Spa will present its offer on all tourist markets in the country, and upon request of its management, we are publishing that this is a completely safe area without excesses or problems which could be classified as media news, as "conditions in the South of Serbia are intense and unstable".

Milorad Doderovic

- *NASA REC, newspaper from Leskovac, June 6, 2003*

THE SMELL OF THE LOST STRAWBERRIES

Nasa rec writes about situation in Orasac community in Southern Serbia. Orasac used to be known as a place where people mostly produce strawberries. It is no case in

Orasac anymore. Agricultural production is ruined. But people in Orasac start to make new plans for development of their village. This article is about the plans of people in Orasac, mostly in food production.

"... We addressed CHF with the program and business plan for initiating the line for season fruits production as well as initiating mini farms in Orasac and dairy production... This area could be interesting for village tourism as well, but we need help in communal infrastructure, said Srdjan Djokic, secretary of the local Committee..."

- **DANAS Daily, June 6, 2003**

USAID IN BABUSNICA

Babusnica – Yesterday, representatives of the organization CHF visited the Community Revitalization through Democratic Action (CRDA) Program in Babusnica. In the delegation which visited the municipality was the wife of US Ambassador in Belgrade, Lyn Montgomery. During the visit to Babusnica, results of a project on cleaning the local Mrmorica River, which flooded the area for years and the “Green Schools” workshop, an initiative realized in East Serbia by CHF and Alliance to Save Energy were presented. During the visits, members of the organization CHF and Lyn Montgomery talked to citizens of Babusnica who organized and realized a series of initiatives within the CRDA program, financed by USAID.

G.V.

- **DANAS Daily, June 7, 2003**

Representatives of the organization CHF and Lyn Montgomery visited

Babusnica

MRMORICA TAMED

Babusnica – Representatives of the organization CHF and wife of the US Ambassador in Belgrade, Lyn Montgomery, have on Thursday visited the projects within Community Revitalization through Democratic Action (CRDA) Program in Babusnica and attended the closing of works on regulating the beds of Mrmorica River, which has flooded this area for years.

Total value of the project is 23.800 dollars, of which 9.500 is a contribution of Babusnica citizens, 8.600 of the Serbian Government, and CHF secured 5.700 American dollars.

According to Zoran Spasic, President of Babusnica Executive Board, realization of this project turned out to be a good move because a part of the town has been saved from constant floods, so the beds of Mrmorica can now receive all the water gathered from the surrounding hills. Besides regulating the beds of this river running through town center, canalization drains into the river are closed and a canalization system for a part of Babusnica around Mrmorica is constructed. Besides that a fence and an expansion on the bridge across Mrmorica are set, so pedestrians can cross the bridge without any danger.

The project has been realized within the CRDA program, whose implementer for the territory of Southeast Serbia is the organization CHF, while the financier is USAID. The initiative for arrangement of Mrmorica beds came for Babusnica Community Development Council, consisting of citizens wanting to help the development of their local community.

Also, the first Internet Centre has been opened in Babusnica and CHF and USAID provided 12 computers, Babusnica Municipality provided the premises and the local non-governmental organization Green Earth takes care of the maintenance and education of the interested citizens. The first few months, services of the Internet café were free of charge, and now the services are being paid, so the club is now completely sustainable. Members of the Internet club can, for a monthly fee of 50 dinars, check their e-mail, use various computer programs, print different materials or play computer games. Also, for members of the club, there is a possibility of training for work on computers. Total value of the project is 18.300 dollars (CHF/USAID provided 10.800 dollars, Babusnica Municipality – 4.800, and the NGO Green Earth – 2.700 dollars).

CHF representatives and Lyn Montgomery also visited the *Despot Stefan Nemanja* Primary School in which there is a "Green Schools" workshop, part of an initiative realized in primary schools in South and East Serbia by organizations CHF and Alliance to Save Energy. On the occasion, first and fourth grade students performed a theatre play on rational consumption of electric power and environmental protection for their guests. During the visit teachers and students of the school talked to Lyn Montgomery.

G. Vlaovic

- ***BETA News Agency, June 7, 2003***

Babusnica, a small town in the south of Serbia, during Milosevic era used to be branded as a stronghold of JUL party. Nowadays, after the arrival of democracy to Serbia, this municipality proved to be fruitful terrain for fresh idea from the West.

Representatives of the U.S. governmental and non-governmental organizations assert Babusnica as the best responsive municipality for their program called Community Revitalization through Democratic Action. They say that today the citizens of Babusnica are successful in learning their way through all the names of the international organizations that already arrived or will come to their municipality.

Through cooperation with USAID-funded implementer CHF, citizens of Babusnica managed to acquire 10 million YUD of assistance to their municipality. All of them received the concept of the assistance very well – citizens organize themselves around the goal to improve the quality of their life and identify local problems and with the certain financial assistance from U.S., they themselves work on the solution.

Using that pattern, citizens managed to improve their street lighting, prevent further flood of Mrmorica River, and asphalt the streets....

"Citizens meet every Tuesday to talk about the problems they are facing. Then we prioritize and get to work. CHF visit us once a month", citizen Slavisa Stojanovic explains to Beta reporter.

Citizens of Babusnica created a Citizens Development Committee, which then decide on priorities and ways to get the finances for the projects. Committees include people of various political orientations, but they never discuss anything else then solutions for local problems.

Pupils from elementary school in Babusnica also cooperate with the CHF and the U.S. organization Alliance to Save Energy. They are involved with the Green Schools project, learning how to save energy and nature.

Citizens of Babusnica announced their action plan for the future – with the support of the U.S. organizations.

The fact that the democracy is approaching to Babusnica is reflected also by the recent visit of the U.S. Ambassador's spouse Dr. Lyn Montgomery to this

municipality. With the speeches that irresistibly reminded your reporter on that old communist era, citizens expressed their gratitude to Mrs. Montgomery and American people.

Confident, in the good mood and with the smile on her face, Mrs. Montgomery enthusiastically supported efforts of Babusnica citizens.

Still, during the students' Green School play, she noticed that waste was picked up only by the girl.

"Don't you think that boys should also collect the waste?", she asked the students.

Will the gender issue in Serbia and Montenegro start resolving from the south of Serbia, next projects in Babusnica will show.

- **POLITIKA Daily, June 10, 2003**

Lyn Montgomery in Babusnica

HOW A STREAM WAS TAMED

Jointly constructed facilities were an occasion for the wife of the U.S. Ambassador to visit the small town in the southeast of Serbia, on St. Spas

For just six months, since the first Internet cafe was opened in Babusnica, the small town with five thousand inhabitants recently got its first computer equipment store.

The more informed claim that already every second or third household has technologically improved itself.

But the citizens of Babusnica also have a stream and it gives them a lot of headache. The Mrmorica stream, every winter after the snow melts, after a bigger rain, would cause thousands of Euros of damage. It would flood the town center, and waste waters, garbage that the citizens through into it were an environmental hazard. Americans jumped in to help.

United States Agency for International, also an American, but non-governmental organization, CHF, just as when the cyber café was opened, helped the solving of this communal problem.

This was an occasion to symbolically, on St. Spas' Day, June 5, for Lyn Montgomery, wife of the American Ambassador to Serbia and Montenegro, William Montgomery to visit Babusnica and see the parts of the town where these two organizations gave their contribution. However, even though the American side has financially, mostly, participated in these works, the citizens of Babusnica themselves, with the help of the municipality, public enterprises "added" funds. They dug the Mrmorica riverbed, secured premises for the computer center, but also asphalted the pavements in the town center and set street lighting...

Not hiding their pleasure of being visited by the "ambassadors" Lyn Montgomery, Zoran Spasic, President of Babusnica "Government" talked what pains Mrmorica caused him.

- Now the riverbeds are dry, but in winter and spring, regular floods made our lives miserable. Because of it, Luznica River would rise as well so it happened that the Pirot-Leskovac road wasn't in use. The project was finished in a short time and when in the beginning of January first flood was avoided, we were all very happy, explained Spasic

Before the walk along the banks of the tamed river, Lyn Montgomery visited the "Despot Stefan Lazarevic" Primary School. First and fourth grade students, like their peers in California from where three years ago a project of environmental workshops started because of energetic crisis, showed what they have learned on energy saving.

- What could I as a citizen of Belgrade do not to endanger nature, asked Lyn Montgomery, to whom nor "title" nor language barrier, nor the elegant, small black

dress weren't an obstacle to cheerfully join the educational games of primary school students. – I was very impressed by the enthusiasm of children and adults and the joy with which they approached these actions – the wife of the American Ambassador said afterwards. – The essence is that the citizens activate themselves, recognize the problems, organize themselves and start solving them. My country has helped with part of the finances but more important is that you can feel that the citizens are ready to make a decision on their own on how they would like to arrange the space they live in, to take care of it. Traveling through Serbia, I have felt that many people have lost hope. Surely, nobody can bring back to them the last 10, 15 years, but such actions show that there is something promising that the future will be better, said Lyn Montgomery during he first visit to Babusnica.

The honored citizens of Luznica (citizens of Babusnica like to be called after the Luznica River), seeing their guest off, however, could not hide their disappointment that the visit did not include “refreshments”. The inhabitants of the area known for sheep and goat breeding wished to, with a dining table, “demonstrate” the wealth of the area. The precise time-table of ambassador’s wife did not predict such a detaining. Obligations demanded a fast return to a cocktail on the occasion of Belgrade celebrations. What was left was an open invitation for another visit to Babusnica.

Works in 341 places

The clumsy title CRDA – Revitalization through Democratic Action program "hides" action like the ones realized in Babusnica. Since 2001, when its realization started, USAID planned to invest around 200 million dollars. The difference from other, similar projects is the fact that citizens themselves manage the actions. They organize themselves, decide in informal twelve-member councils on what the priorities are, plan, and realize projects in four fields. Construction works – schools and streets reconstructions. The second field is supporting family workshops in the purpose of opening new work places, environmental protection (cleaning garbage dumps, riverbeds) and encouragement of citizens' activism.

Until the end of March, CRDA projects are present in 341 places, i.e. 1.387 projects of which 838 are already finished. The value of the works on arrangement of Mrmorica riverbeds is 180.000 dollars.

A. Cveticanin

Similar news appeared in:

- **RADIO TELEVISION OF SERBIA, June 5, 2003**
- **TV PIROT, June 5, 2003 and June 11, 2003**
- **RADIO PIROT, June 5, 2003**
- **RADIO BABUSNICA, June 5, 2003**
- **LUZNICKE NOVINE, newspaper from Babusnica, June 2003**
- **TV B92, June 6, 2003**
- **CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NON-PROFIT SECTOR, June 6, 2003**

- **BALKAN Daily, June 6, 2003**

GREEN SCHOOLS AWARDS IN BELGRADE YOUTH CENTER

In the "Pogon" hall of the Youth Centre at noon, awards for the best poster on the topic "The Environment and My Community" within the Green Schools program will be given. The awards ceremony will, among others, be attended by Gaso Knezevic,



Minister of Education and Sports in Serbian Government. Green Schools are an educational initiative intended for 1st and 4th grade primary school students, aiming to promote the concept of rational power usage and environmental protection, financed and realized by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and American non-governmental organizations CHF International and Alliance to Save Energy, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Sports.

- ***DANAS Daily, June 7, 2003***

Educational program of the United States Agency for International Development

AWARDS TO BEST "GREEN SCHOOL" STUDENTS

Belgrade – Within the "Green Schools" Program, financed by the United States Agency for International Development, yesterday in the Youth Center, awards were given out to students from schools all over Serbia, for the best poster on "The Environment and My Community". The ceremony was attended by Minister of Education and Sports, Gaso Knezevic, representatives of the Ministry of Mining and Energy and the Ministry for Environmental Protection, and the students were also greeted by the wife of the US Ambassador to Serbia and Montenegro, Lyn Montgomery, who, on Thursday, visited a school in Babusnica, where the Program is realized.

"Green Schools" promote the concept of rational energy consumption and environmental protection, and are intended for first and fourth grade primary school students. Besides USAID, the Program is realized by American non-governmental organizations CHF International and Alliance to Save Energy, in cooperation with Serbian Ministry of Education and Sports. During this school year, more than 158 thousand dollars were spent on this project, and 120 school in Serbia with 10 thousand students participated in it.

V.A. - G.V.

Similar news appeared in:

- ***CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NON-PROFIT SECTOR, June 6, 2003***

- ***SLOBODNA REC, newspaper from Vranje, June 6, 2003***

Water supply strategy in the south of Serbia

SALVATION FOR THE THIRSTY SOUTH

CHF – the initiator of a study which could solve water supply problems in a short-term period

Three burning problems in Vranje

"Water Supply Strategy in Peinjski and Jablanicki Districts" is the name of a study which, last Thursday gathered representatives of the Ministry for Agriculture and Waterpower Engineering, CHF – international non-profit developmental organization, whose initiative this was and representatives of all 13 municipalities of Peinjski and Jablanicki districts, in the Prefecture building. Such a study showed to be quite justified, considering the fact that water is becoming a worldwide problem and that is especially distinct in the two mentioned districts – where a great part of the population has problems with drinking water, either because it does not have it or because of its poor quality.

Even though the study, presented to the gathered by Nikola Marjanovic from CHF, was abundant with incorrect data (for example, the numbers valid ten years ago, mentioning the accumulation on Pcinja, which hasn't even started to be built etc.), the need for such a thing to exist is apparent, in the absence of a good plan which would be a solution of water supply problems in this area. According to Wojtek Wojtysiak from CHF, the existing plans, studies and expert opinions were examined, but many of them were outdated and insufficient so the image on this problem is still vague. On the occasion, all suggestions and proposals were heard, cooperation opened with all those able to offer new data and information in order for the study to really give precise data and offer a solution for water supply problems in the short-term periods of three to five years. Why short-term? Because the funds in the Republic budget are scarce, even ten times smaller than needed, and the study should adjust the offered solutions with realistic sources of financing, it was heard on the gathering.

Stressing that water has to have a market price, that it needs to have a value of goods, Marjanovic stressed that it should not be expected that CHF will finance everything. It is here to help, to participate together with all existing structures in order to solve this problem as soon as possible.

When it comes to Vranje Municipality, representative of "Vodovod", Bozidar Djordjevic stressed that there are three burning problems in Vranje. Water supply of the third elevation point is the first problem, because over six thousand people use the water from Pljackovica, which was struck by radioactive uranium. These people should, as soon as possible, be connected to town water supply, Djordjevic was imperative, and for that, of course, certain financial funds are necessary. The second problem is infrastructure. The pipe lines were constructed in the time when Vranje had 20-30 thousand inhabitants. Today, the number is doubled, and the network stayed the same. The third problem is the pipe line made of asbestos cement, built 40 years ago. These pipes need to be urgently replaced, and that is not an insignificant investment, said Djordjevic.

Water supply strategy in this area needs to be viewed in a wider context, within a sustainable development strategy of the south of Serbia, explained Vranje Mayor, Mirosljub Stojcic, stressing that we should have a unique document for the south of Serbia, which would, besides the water supply problems, deal with projects for construction of a better power and road network, gas pipe lines etc.

The fact is that there isn't enough water in this area that rains are not distributed evenly, but also that water from the town water supply is used for watering crops, that the water is used in industrial purposes, what cannot be seen anywhere else in the world. Therefore, water healthy and quality, on which the health of the local population depends should reach every citizen, but should also be used for other purposes, and not to be irrationally used. Regulating prices or enormous increase of prices for consumption over a certain limit could certainly have the desired results. For years, there was hesitation to make such a cut and punish those who deserve that, but the new strategy should probably give answers to such questions as well. That is the only way to have water in sufficient quantities regardless of all territorial or ethnic boundaries. And this should be persisted.

D.B.

- **NASA REC, newspaper from Leskovac, June 6, 2003**

CHF IN BRESTOVAC

Within the action "Start Your Own Business", recently in Brestovac, in the organization of CHF and Community Development Council, a "Kick Start" debate was organized. According to Miodrag Markovic, Council President, small grants will

be provided for initiating small private businesses. One action of such character has already been realized, so this time there are many agricultural producers and private craftsmen from Brestovac interested in acquiring the funds. It is expected that the grants will be around 500 American dollars per individual.

D. Mitrovic

- *NASA REC, newspaper from Leskovac, June 6, 2003*

USAID and CHF presenting a program

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING

CHF International/Serbia will in the next few months, upon request of the donor, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), pay special attention in its activities on reproductive health and family planning. CHF will, in cooperation with local community representatives, medical institutions and non-governmental organizations, with financial support from USAID, realize extensive activities on improvement of conditions in the field of reproductive health and family planning in East and South Serbia. These activities are a part of a wider program Community Revitalization through Democratic Action, financed in whole Serbia by USAID.

Based upon research, analysis and planning conducted since the autumn of 2002 until now; CHF starts the realization of the Reproductive Health and Family Planning Program.

Types of activities financed by CHF are: purchase of equipment, construction works on health care facilities, media campaigns, and educational campaign for the population, improvement, i.e. modernization of medical staff's knowledge and promotion of health and education material.

By promoting the listed activities on the International Day of Actions for Female Health, CHF contributes to getting attention to the importance of the matters of reproductive health and family planning.

- *SLOBODNA REC, newspaper from Vranje, June 6, 2003*

WITH HEALTH TO A BETTER FUTURE

A series of actions aiming to improve conditions in the field of reproductive health and family planning

American non-governmental organization CHF, which has an office in Vranje, will in the next few months, together with the non-governmental organization ABC Centre for Peace, Security and Tolerance, pay special attention reproductive health and family planning in East and South Serbia. This project will be realized upon request of the donor, which finances all CHF's projects – the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). CHF will, in cooperation with local community representatives, medical institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations, and with financial support of USAID, realize a series of actions aiming to improve conditions in the field of reproductive health and family planning. These activities are a part of a wider program Community Revitalization through Democratic Action, financed by USAID in whole Serbia.

- Realization of this project was preceded by extensive preparations – research, analysis..., conducted from autumn of 2002 until now. CHF will finance the purchase of equipment, construction works on health care facilities, media campaign, education of the population, improvement, i.e. modernization of knowledge of medical staff and promotion of health, as well as the whole educational material. The

projects which will derive from these activities will be realized in the same manner as all the other within the CRDA Program. That way the matters of reproductive health and family planning will be considered through the following topics: contraception, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, early detection of malignant diseases with women, health education of young people, including sexual education, pre and post birth care, promotion of breast feeding and problems of aging with women. By promoting those activities, this American non-governmental organization is trying to attract attention to the importance of reproductive health and family planning matters, stresses Ljiljana Cvetkovic, an associate in ABC Center.

CHF has been realizing its programs in 20 municipalities of Southeast Serbia since March 2001. All programs are dedicated to local economy development, infrastructure improvement, environmental protection, encouragement of civic participation, protection of reproductive health and family planning. In the past two years, this non-governmental organization has realized over three hundred projects and it has supported over a hundred developing countries so far.

LJ.K.

• ***SLOBODA, newspaper from Pirot, June 7, 2003***

USAID and CHF presenting a program

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING

CHF International Serbia will in the next few months, upon request of the donor, United States Agency for International Development, pay special attention within its activities to reproductive health and family planning. CHF will, in cooperation with local community representatives, medical institutions and non-governmental organizations, with USAID's financing, realize extensive activities in the aim of improvement of conditions in the field of reproductive health and family planning in East and South Serbia. These activities are a part of a wider program – Community Revitalization through Democratic Action, financed by USAID in whole Serbia.

Based upon research, analysis and planning conducted since the autumn of 2002 until now, CHF starts the realization of the Reproductive Health and Family Planning Program.

Types of activities financed by CHF are: purchase of equipment, construction works on health care facilities, media campaigns, campaigns for education of the population, improvement – modernization of knowledge of medical staff and educational materials. Projects which will derive from these activities will be implemented in the same manner as all others within the CRDA Program. Matters of reproductive health and family planning are studied through the following topics: contraception, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, early detection of malignant diseases with women, health care education of young people, including sexual education, pre and post birth care, promotion of breast feeding and aging problems with women.

By promoting these activities on the International Day of Actions for Women's Health, CHF contributes to diverting attention to the importance of reproductive health and family planning.

CHF International has been realizing its programs in Southeast Serbia (a total of 20 municipalities) since March 2001. CHF Serbia is dedicated to local economic development, infrastructure improvement, environmental protection, encouragement of civic participation and protection of female reproductive health and family planning. In the past two years, CHF has realized around 300 projects in communities in South and East Serbia. CHF's programs in Serbia are financed by the United States Agency for International Development.

CHF International is an international developmental organization seated in Washington, founded in 1952. So far, CHF has supported around 100 developing countries in the world. You can contact CHF's Belgrade office by phone 011/3672 597 or e-mail: office@chfyu.org or by visiting web pages www.chfyu.org and www.sada.usaid.org.yu.

Information within CRDA Reproductive Health and Family Planning Program appeared in the following electronic media in CHF CRDA AOR:

- **RADIO PIROT**
 - **TV PIROT**
 - **TV PIKANO**
 - **RADIO BABUSNICA**
 - **TV LESKOVAC**
 - **RADIO LESKOVAC**
 - **RADIO STAFF from Leskovac**
 - **RADIO 016 from Leskovac**
 - **RADIO DJ from Leskovac**
 - **RADIO DRIM from Leskovac**
 - **RTV BOR**
 - **RTV ZAJEČAR**
 - **RADIO "GAGA" from Vlasotince**
 - **TV VLASOTINCE**
 - **RADIO "GOLF" from Vlasotince**
 - **RTV "ROSULJA" from Vlasotince**
 - **RTV CARICIN GRAD from Lebane**
 - **RTV RIS from Lebane**
 - **RADIO M from Medvedja**
 - **RADIO MEDVEDJA**
 - **RADIO OK from Vranje**
 - **RADIO FOKUS from Vranje**
 - **RADIO VRANJE**
 - **RADIO BUJANOVAC**
 - **RADIO EMA from Bujanovac**
 - **RADIO SPEKTRI from Bujanovac**
 - **RADIO VLADICIN HAN**
 - **RADIO SURDULICA**
 - **RADIO BOSILEGRAD**
 - **RADIO DUGA from Trgoviste,**
 - **TV FOKUS from Vranje,**
 - **TV VRANJE**
 - **TV SPEKTRI from Bujanovac**
-
- **RADIO HAN, June 11, 2003**

Srdjan Marinkovic, senior EDO from CHF gave interview to Radio Han. Mr. Marinkovic spoke about CHF and USAID economic opportunities in Southern and Eastern Serbia: Sustainable Business Development Program and Kick Start Program and the procedures for receiving financial and technical support from CHF.

- *POLITIKA Daily, June 11, 2003*

In Sijarinska Spa

ALONGSIDE TOURISTS – WORKERS

Sijarinska Spa, June – Judging from the visit during the past month and almost filled capacities of the only hotel here "Geyser", tourist season in Sijarinska Spa has started well. Alongside numerous guests, there are more and more workers.

Thanks to a donation of the American non-governmental organization CHF and help of Medvedja Municipality, a construction of a market of great importance, as good have practically been sold on the streets so far, has just started here. Bus stations are also been reconstructed and soon the Spa will get better phone lines. "Telekom" workers are already finishing the works on setting up cables from Macedonci and installation of a modern digital operator with 250 receptacles.

G.B.

- *VRANJSKE NOVINE, June 12, 2003*

ACTION OF ABC AND CHF

CHF International Serbia will in the next few months, upon request of the donor, United States Agency for International development (USAID), pay special attention within its activities to reproductive health and family planning. CHF will, in cooperation with representatives of local communities, medical institutions and non-governmental organizations, with USAID's financing, realize extensive activities in the aim of improving the conditions in the field of reproductive health and family planning in East and South Serbia. These activities are a part of a wider program Community Revitalization through Democratic Action, financed by USAID in whole Serbia.

Base don research, analysis and planning conducted since autumn 2002 until now; CHF starts the realization of the Reproductive Health and Family Planning Program. In Vranje, the program will be realized in cooperation with ABC Centre for Peace, Security and Tolerance and with a program consisting of topic fields as contraception, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, early detection of malignant diseases with women, health care education of young people, including sexual education, pre and post birth care, promotion of breast feeding and aging problems with women. It will last until September, the press was informed by Radoman Iric and Ljiljana Cvetkovic, ABC activists. In the past two years CHF has realized around 300 in communities of South and East Serbia.

V.M.

- *NARODNE NOVINE, Daily from Nis, June 14, 2003*

COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION THROUGH DEMOCRATIC ACTION

In cooperation with CHF, the Town of Nis will commence the realization of a development program Community Revitalization through Democratic Action (CRDA) in Gornji Komren, Gornji Matejevac, Mezgraja and Mramor. CHF will secure six million dinars for realization of the program in all four communities and provide technical and consulting support.

- *SRPSKI VENAC, newspaper from Bujanovac June 15, 2003*

CHF in Lopardince

WATER SUPPLY FOR 220 HOMES

The official opening a water supply in Lopardince was also attended by Ms. Judith Hermanson, Vice-president of international organization CHF in USA. By opening the tap on a village fountain, she marked the beginning of usage of water for drinking and other purposes in Lopardince

In the presence of numerous representatives, Ms. Judith Hermanson, Vice-president of the American organization CHF in USA, marked the beginning of work of the water supply system in Lopardince Village (on May 15). By cutting the cord and running the tap, one of the biggest problems of Lopardince citizens was solved.

This special moment was also witnessed by Nagip Arifi, President of Bujanovac Municipality, with associates, Mr. Brian Holst, Director of CHF's office in Belgrade in charge for Serbia and Montenegro, Mr. Joseph Baacliny, Chief of CHF's office in Vranje, representatives of the contractors, village citizens and others.

President of Lopardince Local Community, Mr. Zoran Milosevic, thanked the representatives of the international organization CHF, Bujanovac Municipal Assembly, the contractors and citizens of the village for their contribution to 220 homes in Lopardince getting healthy drinking water and solving one of the biggest problems.

- 12 million dinars were invested in this facility and the works should have been ended on May 24, but they were finished ten days earlier, and today we have water in the village.

What is left for us to do is that every household gets water in their homes, by connecting to the network. The connection will cost 200 Euros, stressed Milosevic, with professional monitoring of the "Komunalac" Public Enterprise.

I would like to thank all who have helped us solve this problem for a long-term period, because we are connected to Bujanovac town water supply and the supply will be regular as for all those using the Bujanovac town water supply. This facility is five kilometers long and, as I already said, it costed 12 million dinars. Most of the funds were provided by the international organization CHF, with participation of Bujanovac Municipal Assembly and Serbian Government, said Mr. Milosevic.

A big event

Ms. Judith Hermanson addressed the gathered by saying that it is a great honor for her to attend this great event. I wish to congratulate you all, especially the members of the Community Development Council, who helped to solve this great problem and for you to get drinking water. I came for USA two days ago. One of the reasons for that was to attend this great event. I bring you greeting from people working in our organization, as well as the people of the US.

CHF hopes that it will continue to cooperate with your community on future projects. I am especially glad to hear stress that you received support from UNDP, YISID, the Municipality and it is a great pleasure for me to be here today with them and with you. I wish you all lots of good health, lots of luck in the future and realization of future projects, stressed Ms. Hermanson.

Before the deadline

Greeting all gathered on the day opening the new water supply in Lopardince, Mr. Nagip Arifi, President of Bujanovac Municipality, thanked the donors and people from CHF, especially MS. Hermanson for finding the time to attend this event, Director of CHF in Serbia and Montenegro, Brian Holst and all the others who

contributed for this project of water supply construction in Lopardince, in the length of five kilometers to be finished before the deadline, because the contract defined that the contractors finish until May 24, and today, on May 15, the facility is opened and water is running, which we have officially marked with Ms. Hermanson by cutting the cord and running the water from the tap.

On an occasion, on Radio TV Vranje, I said that Lopardince will get water in a year, and it turned out that from that day until today, in 47 days, Lopardince has drinking water.

It is a particular pleasure for me that financiers and donors enabled this village to get water and I would like to, in the name of all, congratulate and wish you to use the water for the health of all, especially children, who are here today in a great number, said Mr. Nagip Arifi, President of Bujanovac Municipality.

Before and after meals

Primary school students and children from Lopardince Kindergarten performed a program dedicated to construction of the water supply. The Kindergarten children recited songs like "Before and after meals, you should wash your hands...", and then a song on bathing, and then a series of folk dances. The gathered awarded them with a long applause and greetings. Lopardince Local Community then organized a joint gathering with refreshments for all gathered in the Primary School.

Children are the happiest

Mr. Brian Holst, Director of CHF for Serbia and Montenegro, was especially happy to see that the children are the most cheerful participants of this event. He was impressed by the event and the program performed by the children on the occasion of opening of this facility to all citizens of Lopardince. Mr. Brian said, in conversation with the editor in Chief of "Srpski venac" that not only CHF, but other donors, as UNDP and YISID, the Municipality and many others will participate in realization of not only this project, but many other facilities and will continue to donate and solve numerous problems of communities in this area.

CHF has, stressed Mr. Holst, financed the construction of a water supply from Bujanovac to the village, and now there is an obligation of the citizens to connect to the main network and bring water into their homes in order for this facility to function.

At the end of the conversation, Brian Holst especially thanked the citizens of Lopardince for their great understanding during the construction of the facility, for giving full support to the contractors and realized the project ten days before the deadline. With a community like Lopardince, we really wish to cooperate and we will always be at your disposal to help you, within our possibilities, said Mr. Holst.

A. Dimitrijevic

• POLITIKA Daily, June 16, 2003

SMALL BUSINESS START

Medvedja, June – American non-governmental organization CHF started the realization of its "Kick Start" program in Medvedja Municipality as well. These are small business projects, and the citizens who decide on that will be supported by this organization for purchase of equipment and financial funds in the amount of 500 dollars. The program is realized in five more municipalities in the south of Serbia and thanks to this donation in the last few months tens of new stores were opened here.

G.B.

- ***TV MAJDANPEK, June 16, 2003***

TV Majdanpek gave report from the opening ceremony of the Computer Classroom in Rudna Glava community in Majdanpek Municipality. Jovan Jovanovic gave short interview for TV Majdanpek. He stressed importance of civil engagement through CDC in each CRDA community. Majdanpek Mayor Mr. Slobodan Jovanovic also gave short interview to the TV Majdanpek. He said that he is very satisfied with CHF and USAID activities in Eastern Serbia...

- ***VRANJSKE NOVINE, June 19, 2003***

Vranjske novine published the text written by Zarko Sunderic from CHF

RIGHT PEOPLE ON THE RIGHT PLACE

My main impression of Vranje, Bujanovac and Presevo is based on comparing problems dealt by people on the beginning of my arrival here and today, almost four years later. I have formed my impression on occasional visits, most of the on business. What is nice in my job is that, as time goes by, these business visits and meetings are becoming more and more friendly. Working in non-governmental organizations has influenced the people I'll be seeing on these trips to Vranje, Bujanovac and Presevo, as well. I was lucky and, more than three years ago, I met the right people.

First impressions are tied to my job in the NGO Civic Initiatives and cooperation with the, then newly formed, organization ABC Centre for Peace, Security and Tolerance. Then, the brave men and women from ABC Centre fought for freedom of speech, freedom of political and civic organizing and working. They were arrested, but determined in their actions. Now, a few weeks ago, ABC Centre, partner of the American organization UMCOR, started a program to develop a strategic plan for Peinjski and Jablanicki regions. Local NGOs have, together with their local self-governments, i.e. municipalities, started the development of strategic plans for their regions, and from the whole plan, for the beginning extracted problems relate to health services and have recently organized a whole-day event on Vlasinsko Lake, with the aim to purchase various equipment for Vranje Hospital. The whole action was coordinated by ABC Centre from Vranje and Education Centre from Leskovac. What is important is that citizens themselves have started the solving of problems of interest for their fellow citizens, in their community! These active citizens also included institutions who never before participated in such civil events: the army and the police.

On the other hand, when it comes to Bujanovac and Presevo, I formed my impression while working for the US NGO CHF International. In Eastern and Southern Serbia, CHF realizes a program named Community Revitalization through Democratic Action, which is financed by American taxpayers, through a governmental organization USAID. The main principle of this five-year development program is that, in places where CHF works, citizens chose their Community Development Council. In the next period, this Council, consisting of 12 elected individuals, analyses the needs in the community, develops an action plan, determines priorities and realizes projects. CHF and USAID provide only a part of the funds and training.

The thing that does not have a price on it and is not being paid in this program is the engagement of citizens themselves in these poor and small communities, who solve the communities' problems with their activism and work. That is why almost every day in one of the places in East and South Serbia, a water supply starts working, or a

new transformer is built, canalization or phone lines being set up, a school is being built, a road asphalted, small businesses and enterprises are started or a polluted river is being cleaned. The most recent good example of such a change comparing the time three years ago is in Oslare Village, where active people from Oslare Community Development Council started an action which enabled their children to learn English. The importance of this project is in the fact that Oslare is one of the rare multiethnic villages in Bujanovac, i.e. a village with a high percentage of Albanians and Serbs living in it and that there are two schools in Oslare, one for Albanian and one for Serb children. A course in English, parents and neighbors from the Community Development Council have provided their children with a chance to work every week together with children of the other nationality and earn a new language which they will need in life and to sit for the first time with their neighbors of other nationality, to make friends with them and to, at the same time, do a very useful thing.

This example from Oslare and the example of ABC from the beginning are almost symbolical and speak best of the change which occurred here. In Pcinjki District, more and more often you can hear interested people, ready to solve problems in their communities and not wanting their needs and priorities to be determined by people from the outside.

It is true that there are still those who distract, but the problems solved in this area today are a lot different than the ones three, two or a year ago. It seems that people in Pcinjki District have finally got the real problems for which the right people have rolled their sleeves up. I will end my optimism at the end of this text with a question bearing a new hope: Can you imagine which problems will you have in your community in two years time?

(The author is a Communication Specialist in CHF Serbia)

- **VIBILIA Press Clipping, June 19, 2003**

USAID and CHF fund equipping of computer lab in Rudna Glava, Majdanpek A computer lab has opened in the village of Rudna Glava at Majdanpek, equipped with the 10 latest computers, a printer and a scanner. The project was funded by USAID (www.usaid.org.yu) through CHF International (www.chfyu.org) in Eastern Serbia and the local community. The cost of the project totals \$16,000, \$10,000 of which came from USAID and 6000 from the community.

- **POLITIKA Daily, June 19, 2003**

**In Rudna Glava, a village in Majdanpek Municipality
A COMPUTER CLASSROOM OPENED**

Within the Community Revitalization through Democratic Action Program – CRDA, realized, with help of Serbian citizens, by American non-governmental organizations USAID and CHF, a computer classroom was opened yesterday in Primary School in Rudna Glava. In this village in Majdanpek Municipality, this will be the first computer center. Ten computers will be at disposal to students, 380 of them, but to citizens as well.

A.C.

- *DANAS Daily, June 19, 2003*

In Rudna Glava near Majdanpek

PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS GOT A COMPUTER CLASSROOM

Majdanpek – Thanks to American non-governmental organization CHF, primary school students in Rudna Glava, the biggest village in Majdanpek Municipality will gain basic knowledge in computer science in a modern, equipped computer classroom.

- With gratitude to CHF, with the help of which we got the computers and other equipment, I hope that will be reasonably use what we know have – said Novica Bogdanovic, Principal of "Branko Peric" Primary School in Rudna Glava, and Borivoje Krcmarevic, President of Rudna Glava Local Community believes that besides students, the citizens of Rudna Glava as well as of the surrounding villages, will use the possibility offered to them and depending on their interests, by courses reach computer literacy.

The computer classroom in Rudna Glava Primary School has 10 modern computers, a scanner, laser printer and a digital camera in the total value of 10 thousand Euros. The next project which CHF should realize with the Community Development Council in the village is construction of a green market with accompanying contents. Commencement of works is expected in August.

J.B.K.

- *BALKAN Daily, June 19, 2003*

COMPUTERS ARRIVED IN RUDNA GLAVA

Rudna Glava – Yesterday, ten new computers were installed in "Branko Peric" Primary School in Rudna Glava, the biggest village in Majdanpek Municipality. That way a computer classroom was formed, which will largely contribute to instruction modernization. According to Jovan Jovanovic, representative of American CHF, which invested 10.000 Euros in school's equipment, similar action will be organized in Rudna Glava in the future. Primarily, a market will be constructed, for which a project has already been done and it is only left to close the financial construction.

R.U.

Similar information appeared in:

- *MREZA – news and information for NGOs in Serbia, June 2003*
USAID AND CHF FUNDED EQUIPMENT OF THE COMPUTER CLASSROOM IN RUDNA GLAVA

- *BORBA Daily, June 23, 2003*

Humanitarian organization CHF and Nis Town Assembly BETTER CONDITIONS FOR VILLAGES

Members of Nis Town Assembly will, these days, verify a decision of the Executive Board on cooperation with humanitarian organization CHF in realization of a development program titled Community Revitalization through Democratic Action, which is realized in other parts of Serbia as well.

According to the decision and the plan, by the end of July, the first phase of CHF's projects should be finished in villages Gornji Matejevac, Mramor and Mezgraja, where internet cafes will be opened, and in Gornji Komren, where a local garbage dump will be cleaned and then planted.

In the second phase of cooperation with CHF, it is planned to expand the water supply network in Mramor, reconstruct the primary school and build a kindergarten in Gornji Matejevac and construct a primary school in Komren. In Mezgraja Village, it is planned to build a cattle market. All of the planned works should be finished by the end of the year.

For these projects' realization, CHF will provide six million dinars, and Nis Town Assembly will give eight million dinars from its budget. In the Program's realization, citizens of Mezgraja, Mramor, Gornji Matejevac and Gornji Komren will participate with two million dinars of their own funds, which they will secure by their own work, material or financial contribution.

S.V. Jovic

• ***NARODNE NOVINE Daily from Nis, June 23, 2003***

Town government increased communal fees in BID zone for 20 percent

MORE EXPENSIVE PARKING AND ADVERTISING

- Around 96 owners of premises and firms in BID zone will form a business association headed by a manager

- Money paid for increased fees is returned to the Association for business improvements in the BID zone

Owners of premises and forms, as well as all those working in the exclusive town BID zone, by a decision of the town's government will, in the future, pay a communal fee increased for 20 percent, for usage of parking space (by the hour, or monthly and annually) and posting signs on business premises. For all those who do not know yet, the BID zone or improved business zone is a space in the centre of the town, bordered the left side of Nikola Pasic Street, from the intersection with Kosta Stamenkovic Street to Pobeda Street, the left side of Pobeda Street to the intersection with Car Dusan Street, left side of Car Dusan Street to the intersection with Kosta Stamenkovic Street and Kosta Stamenkovic Street to the intersection with Nikola Pasic Street. Although there is an increase of communal fees, this decision of town's government encountered a great approval with people dealing in the BID zone, because the funds, given for the increased fees, will be returned and they will invest them in improving work and services in this exclusive town zone.

- In September, a founding assembly of the business association of the BID zone will be held and its members will be those working in the BID zone (according to known data, 97 business entities currently work in the area), as well as local self-government representatives – says Gordana Ristic, Chief of Regulations Section in Assembly Matters Secretariat of the town government. The assembly will choose a steering committee of 11 members, out of which three will be local self-government representatives. The steering committee will choose a manager who will head this business association and will have the most important role in it – said Gordana Ristic and stressed that the Association will conclude an agreement with the local self-government, based on which the funds will be returned to them (around 250 thousand dinars monthly), for paying the increased fees for parking and posting signs. The money will, according to her, be used for maintenance and improvement of the BID zone (lighting, communal services etc.)

The Town of Nis has earlier established partner relations with CHF and USAID in BID – Improved Business Zone Project. As Gordana Ristic emphasized, BID is a mechanism for organizing and financing by which the private sector, i.e. premises owners and traders decide on the future of trading areas in which they conduct their business activities.

"Kalca" and The Underground are not in BID

According to Gordana Ristic, the decision does not apply to owners in premises in the underground passage and "Kalca" Trading Centre, because they do not belong to the BID zone. As she emphasized, the BID zone can serve as a good example for their associating as well. The decision also does not apply (for the time being) to those living in the BID zone; although everywhere in the world citizens living in exclusive town zones pay increased communal fees.

S. Midic

- ***BLIC Daily, June 23, 2003***

POSTING SIGNS AND PARKING PRICES IN THE BID ZONE

Traders and owners of other stores in the area bordered by Nikola Pasic, Kosta Stamenkovic, Pobeda and Car Dusan streets in Downtown Nis, will pay fees for posting business signs and parking-place lease which will be 20 percent higher. This is regulated by amendments of the decision on local communal fees, passed on the last meeting of town government, making a framework for financing the BID zone, situated in the quadrangle of the mentioned streets.

- This is a joint project of the Town and international organizations CHF and USAID, in which traders and other entrepreneurs dealing in the BID zone decide by themselves on the future and development of this trading area. Around 2.5 million dinars are expected from the more expensive payment of daily, monthly or annual lease of parking space or posting signs on business premises within the area, about to be returned to the business association of premises owners of the BID zone, which will decide in which development projects it is best to invest in. The entrepreneurs agreed on this solution – said Chief of Regulations Section, Bojana Ristic.

In Downtown, usage of parking space currently costs 20 dinars; monthly lease is 5.000, and annual 50.000 dinars. Posting signs on business premises in the central zone costs from 35.000 to 60.000 dinars, dependant on the business.

B.J.

- ***BLIC Daily, June 23, 2003***

ALL SERVICES IN ONE PLACE

Director of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for Serbia and Montenegro, James Stephenson and Chief of Serbia Local Government Reform Program, Steven Rosenberg, have yesterday officially opened the Town Service Center, situated in the town hall building in Nikola Pasic Street. This is a new service in which Nis citizens will, on 18 windows, be able to in a short time, gain information, permits, certificates and decisions regarding the authorities of several town secretariats. The value of the project is 7.5 million dinars, out of which around 4.3 million were invested by the Town, and the rest is USAID's donation.

Representatives of these non-governmental organizations, followed by Nis Mayor, Goran Ciric, visited the stores within the BID zone, for realization of which the Town and entrepreneurs have secured 110.000 dollars, and USAID 500.000 dollars.

B.J.

- ***KURIR Daily, June 23, 2003***

25.000 dollars for Eco Camp

CHILDREN ON VLASINA IN JULY AND AUGUST

Leskovac – After the Republic Bureau for Nature Protection enabled "Eco Base South", a citizens association from Vlasotince, to monitor the Vlasinsko Lake and natural resources around it, the American developmental organization CHF approved 25.000 dinars for a project of the association. The project consists of expansion of the Eco Camp on Vlasinsko Lake, whose members organize gatherings there for several years now. Consistent with CHF's work rules, half of the funds should be secured by "Eco Base" in cooperation with the local community.

In the future camp, a program of ecological education, sailing and rowing training and other activities will be organized. Miroslav Karincanic, President of "Eco Base", believes that the approved funds will be of great help for technical equipment of the Camp, and he also announced that they will purchase tents, beds, linen, speakers and boats.

I.N.

- ***POLITIKA Daily, June 24, 2003***

MORE DRINKING WATER

Lebane, June 23 – American non-governmental humanitarian organization CHF will until mid-year invest 150 thousand dollars in reconstruction of the main water supply network and a sports hall with around 800 seats. A part of the funds will also be invested in solving several crucial problems in the surrounding villages of Lebane Municipality.

D.K.

- ***POLITIKA Daily, June 26, 2003***

A service centre for citizens opened in Nis

AN EASIER WAY TO DOCUMENTS

In cooperation with USAID, an agency of the American Government, a project aiming to make the work of municipal bodies more efficient is realized

Nis, June, 25 – Starting today, citizens of Nis have a service center, with 18 windows in the Town hall building, in Nikola Pasic Street, equipped with computers connected to municipal services, which will enable the citizens of Nis to finish there administrative matters in a time as short as possible – from getting information to issuing of various documents.

The project was realized within the Serbia Local Government Reform Program, conducted in 70 towns by USAID – United States Agency for International Development.

Nis is, after Zrenjanin, the second town that got such a service. The value of the project is 7.5 million dinars, of which 4.3 million was provided by the Town of Nis and 3.2 million by USAID.

Goran Ciric, President of Nis Municipal Assembly, opening the Center, said that from now on all town administration services will be available to citizens in one place, and that it is expected that, after the beginning working out, the work efficiency of the service will be 100 percent.

James Stephenson, Director of USAID for Serbia and Montenegro, stressed that the American Government supports economic development of Serbia and Montenegro and through such programs citizens can actually feel the benefits of that cooperation and support.

Representatives of this American agency, non-governmental organizations and local authorities, yesterday promoted two more programs realized in cooperation of the three sectors. In Kazandjijsko Sokace, started the BID Zone project, gathering 96 entrepreneurs and local authorities. Premises were renovated; they will all take care of communal hygiene, infrastructure, security and marketing. This model of cooperation of local authorities and the private sector was taken over from Canada and America. The value of the project is 160.000 dollars. The Town of Nis provided 110.000 dollars, and the American partner – 50.000 dollars. So far, similar zone have been realized in Valjevo and Zrenjanin.

Also, the media Center was opened in the center of Nis, in the main street, where Nis journalists will be able to free of charge use computers, the Internet...

Representatives of American organization used this visit to Nisavski region to visit Aleksinac as well. In this town, the CRDA – Community Revitalization through Democratic Action Program is being realized.

A. Cveticanin

- *GLAS JAVNOSTI Daily, June 26, 2003*

DONATIONS FOR THE SOUTH OF SERBIA

Bujanovac – American non-governmental organization CHF has recently announced the beginning of an economic program Sustainable Business Development. This is a direct financial and technical support to development of private enterprises, aiming to create income and new working places. Every citizen of Bujanovac Municipality and 20 more municipalities of Southeast Serbia, with 82 local communities in the authority of CHF, can apply for financial funds for starting new business projects. The program gives a possibility to those who already work or have entrepreneurship ideas to compete for small grants. Parallel with this program, there is the Kick Start Program from which small grants (500 USD) are approved to all citizens applying with good business ideas, in all communities where CHF realizes the Community Revitalization through Democratic Action Program.

S.M.

- *DANAS Daily, June 26, 2003*

Media Center, BID Zone and Town Service Centre officially opened in Nis PROJECTS AND HELP FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Nis – Regional Media Center, Zone of Improved Business Development and Town Service Center, all part of the Serbia Local Government Reform Program, financially supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), were officially opened yesterday in Nis.

"In US independent media are a basis of democratic and economic development, and our country sees the freedom of media as one of the main principles of East-European transformation. In the last six years we have, through the IREX Program, given around 600 grants to independent media in Serbia and Montenegro. We also opened the Media Center in the Hague Tribunal, so this and other countries would be able to more easily follow the trials of (the former president of FRY) Slobodan Milosevic and

other accused", said Director of USAID for Serbia and Montenegro James Stephenson, on the occasion of Media Center's opening, in which that American organization invested 75 thousand dollars.

Stephenson, the Chief of Serbia Local Government Reform Program DAI, Steven Rosenberg and Nis Mayor, Goran Ciric also had an official visit to the BID zone in the town center, in which the town itself invested 110 thousand dollars, and USAID invested more than 50 thousand dollars. This project, including 95 owners of premises in four central town streets, will enable easier arrangement of this part of the town, business improvement and a joint marketing appearance.

They also officially opened the Town Service Center in the Town Hall premises, in which citizens will be able to, in one place, get all documents issued by secretariats of finances, general administration, economy, public services, city planning and communal services. For the forming of this center, a part of DAI's program, the Town of Nis invested 4.3 million dinars, and USAID invested 3.2 million dinars, out of which 55 thousand dollars went for equipment, and 5 thousand dollars for training of clerks. In the second phase of the project, which should be realized in September, within the Town Service Center should also be separate windows of the Republic Revenue Administration, and in the third phase, the town will, on itself, "connect the windows of the Center with town public enterprises".

For a better cooperation

"Media Center, Town Service Center and BID Zone are just a part of our Program, aiming to improve cooperation between town administration and the citizens. A part of the Program is an idea on choice of the clerk of the month by the citizens, which is already being realized, as well as a public debate on town budget", said Chief of Serbia Local Government Reform program, James Stephenson.

Z. Miladinovic