

American International School of Bucharest 2010

## **With a Little Care for Our Community...**

An enthusiastic and passionate group of students from Grades 3, 4 and 5 joined the Roots & Shoots club to learn how to help make a difference in their local community.

One of the first initiatives of the club was the *“Reusable Bag Campaign.”* The students wanted to help raise awareness about the need to use reusable bags in order to make the world a little greener. They spread the word around the school about the importance of reducing the amount of plastic bags that we use in our everyday lives. The students ***“acted on their passion and belief.”*** They collected plastic garbage they found in the forest, displayed “reusable” awareness posters around the school and created designs to put on “reusable” cloth bags which they sold to convince people to use “reusable” bags. The students realized that by educating the community about reusable bags they could get people to think twice before using a plastic bag.

The second concern of the club was related to animal welfare. The students learned about some of the problems associated with animal care. They learned how people and organizations in their community were trying to help raise awareness about animal welfare. The students realized once again that through an awareness program they could emphasize the importance of the issue and make an impact on people to affect change. The students participated in fundraisers and went on field trips to a local horse shelter for abused horses. They also visited a bear sanctuary and had a fun-filled and productive time at the local zoo where they interviewed the resident veterinarian.

As educators it is important we ensure that our students get opportunities and reinforcement through their education to realize the power of building a caring community. When children are educated, engaged and empowered to care enough, whether the cause is to save abused animals or protect the environment

and the people who live in it, they can cultivate an understanding of their role in community to make the world a better place.



A large collection of plastic garbage from the forest.



Lena and Jessica want to help make a difference.

*"I joined Roots & Shoots because I love animals and it's always easier to help the world in a group. I joined Roots & Shoots because I really enjoy helping animals and I have a passion for animals.....I knew I could make a difference and so now that I'm in Roots & Shoots I can make a difference."* Megan McConnell, Grade 5.

*"I joined Roots & Shoots because I am passionate about animals and I really want to make a difference. And everyone has to start somewhere...right? I feel good about doing this because it is helping our world and we are taking action and I feel that I have made a difference."* Jessica Johnson, Grade 5.

## **A Little Care Goes a Long Way...**

Janice Myles

Roots & Shoots Group Leader

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