

The Role of SME Development in Community Development Delegation from Northern Caucasus, Russia in Northwest Ohio from February 17 to March 10, 2011



Sponsored by USAID Community Connections Program
with World Learning as Programming Agent



Magomed Abdurakhmanov (Makhachkala, Dagestan)



“This program, being long enough, presented a big variety of professional opinions and standpoints. As for me, it was a big discovery to come to know that so many financial institutions support small business. I got a lot of new information to think about and to use it in my professional activities.”



Khalil Abdullaev (Makhachkala, Dagestan)



“The program was very interesting and productive. The visits to federal institutions and private business organizations that support small and medium sized businesses and farmers’ households were well organized. I’ve gained huge experience that will help me to develop my own business. I’ve seen how much local communities are interested in attracting new businesses: some even provide tax exemptions and allow new businesses pay less for electrical energy.

I need to mention the warm hospitality of my host family Randy and Colleen Sheeks. Their care and kindness totally changed my perception of the Americans. I give a lot of credit to them. Thank you very much for the training program. I love Americans!”



Alexander Kharlamov (Kizlyar, Dagestan)



“This program helped me to discover America. I have learned about people, their problems and the ways they resolve those problems in cooperation with the government authorities.”



Ibragim Shikhsaidov (Makhachkala, Dagestan)



“This program encouraged me to look at my business from different, more global standpoint. I am grateful to all people involved in organizing this program and to host families for their warm welcome.”



Elina Slavinskaya (Makhachkala, Dagestan)



“Experience I’ve gained over the course of the program will help me to open new business. The cultural program helped me to better understand the American lifestyle. Sincere interest and deep understanding of the host family helped me to feel comfortable and secure in the US. Thank you very much!”



Zarema Chinkhoeva (Argun, Chechen Republic)



“This program was both interesting and useful for me. I learned a lot of new information about close cooperation between business and government in the USA. I was impressed by how much attention the US federal, state, and local governments pay to small and medium sized businesses development. I’m completely convinced that small and medium sized business play a significant role in community developments in the USA. On my return home I’ll do all my best to make a difference in the area of small business development in Chechnya namely in forming close interaction between business, governments and communities. I express my huge gratitude to WSOS/GLC for organizing the program for us.”



Shamil Lepshokov (Uchkeken Village, Karachay-Cherkessia)



“I would like to thank everyone involved in organization of this program, especially, GLC and USAID. Over the course of the program I have learned a lot of positive things about the United States, made new contacts, and obtained new ideas for development of my own business. “



Natalia Dudnik (Cherkessk, Karachay-Cherkessia)



“Because of this program I realized that the US is not a country which is far away from us but is rather close one. In terms of professional and personal accomplishment, this program met all my expectations. I’d like to thank USAID for the opportunity to visit the US and GLC for such a wonderful program.”



Juliet Nauruzova (Nalchik, Kabardino-Balkaria)



“This program helped me to find professional approach to business and reconsider my own business. Moreover, it helped me to find ways to improve my own business and businesses of my clientele. “



Alena Maleeva (Maisky, Kabardino-Balkaria)



“I have learned about different levels of support for small businesses that are both commercial and non-commercial organizations. I have noticed understanding and support of volunteers in Ohio. Officials try to attract businesses on their territory by any means because it creates additional jobs and increases income for the government budget. We have talked to the managers on a plant, and have seen how the plant works. We have met salesmen and came to know that they have similar problems as salesmen in Russia do. We have gone to a farmers’ market and have seen how the team of managers works there. I gained a lot of experience in organizing my business and got to know that I need to develop marketing strategies in my own organization.”

