

## Russia. UPF Service Project

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### *New Year's gift to "Curly Hedgehog" from the contest "Mr. and Miss University"*

**By Elena Knyazeva**

The annual Moscow contest "Mister and Miss University" was launched on December 10. Castings were held on November 26 and December 9, on the basis of the Russian New University (RosNOU), where the names of 12 finalists were decided. The first meeting of participants of the contest "Mr. and Miss University 2018" was held on December 18, in a small cozy hall of the Agency of Strategic Initiatives. The candidates met at the round table; having discussed the program of the contest they immediately started working at the first project.



The first team outing took place on December 24. Early Sunday morning, having taken costumes, props, and most importantly – a good mood, the contestants went to the city of Kolomna to the center "Curly Hedgehog" to meet the children with disabilities. These children are waiting for the long winter holiday and a miracle more than anyone else. Contestants, having secured the support of the organizers, decided to arrange for the kids a long-awaited holiday. They prepared a concert program and a master class in painting wooden toys. Children together with the contestants played

various fun games, sang songs, danced, drove round dance, and guessed riddles.

We cherish very warm memories after the trip to Kolomna. When you can do something that can bring someone joy, brighten someone's day, whether it is by a song, a dance or a games - it's a great happiness. We had fun together with the children and now the spirit of the New Year magic is everywhere with me, shared one of the finalists of the contest "Mister and Miss University 2018" Alisa Zaichenko.



After merry celebration, each child received a small sweet present. All were happy with the holiday: the organizers and participants of the contest, parents, and most importantly – the children themselves.

The trip to "special children" opened something new in each of us. Some could grasp the feeling of unity of participants, the other got charged with new ideas and positive emotions, and there were those who decided to engage in creativity inextricably with volunteering. Together we managed to create the

atmosphere of a kind and happy New Year for both children and their parents, and for ourselves, shared Arina Kirichek, participant of the contest. Throughout the day, smiles were always on the children's faces, and this, as all know, is the biggest reward.



That day brought us all a lot of joy! The children with special abilities showed us an example of how strong they were. Each child is an individual with incredible abilities; and these children are not like us, they are special! To give them such a holiday was a sea of happiness! We are grateful to the organizers for giving us the chance to reveal our different side, the most important for us and for the society, commented another contestant, Hasmik Mkrtchyan.

That's how the finalists of the Moscow contest "Mister and Miss University 2018" met with special children of the "Curly Hedgehog" center in the city of Kolomna, warmly and happily.