

ARMENIA FUND USA In ACTION

East Coast Affiliate of Hayastan Himmadram

Armenia Fund USA In Action 2007 Issue 7.1



Rural Development:

Challenges Ahead

How can we have a direct impact on lives of people in Karabakh? How do we restore hope in people who have lived in a crumbled economy for over a decade? What can stabilize

the socio-economic situation of rural communities? How do we ensure the continuity of development? How do we build on local expertise and how do we empower local communities as they take charge of their future?

Overcoming these challenges has

been at the heart of Armenia Fund USA's development plan for rural areas of Karabakh since the launch of the *Rebirth of Artsakh* Regional Development Program in 2005. The successful beginning of this pilot, but at the same time large-scale project in Mardakert has given hope to not only residents of villages who now benefit from the newly constructed schools, clinics and roads, but to Armenia Fund USA and its supporters. The key to success, however, will be the continuation of this initiative to all other major regions of Karabakh.

Hadrut with its cluster of 8 villages is under spotlight in 2007.

The comprehensive development initiative, supported and carried out by all the affiliates of the Fund, is targeting to improve the lives of farmers by rehabilitating critically needed social infrastructure and creating jobs. The main purpose of the village development is to revitalize regional economy through agriculture. Recently established agricultural development coopera-

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Armenia Fund and UNDP Partner for Development

As part of its broader efforts to engage international agencies in eradicating rural poverty in the country, Armenia Fund entered into a partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Armenia on October 25, 2006. A Memorandum of Understanding that marks the beginning of a promising cooperation in rural development, was signed by the Executive Director of the Fund Naira Melkounian



Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding at UNDP in Armenia

Assembled for the opening ceremony of what is to become region's major diagnostic center, doctors, nurses and local communities welcomed visitors and guests at The Hrair Hovnanian Diagnostic center in Stepanakert in September 2006. It was a special day for the people of Karabakh.

The state-of-the-art medical center, equipped with most up-to-date diagnostic facilities, opened in the



Doctors and nurses welcome guests at the opening of the Diagnostic Center in Stepanakert

region's capital elevating the quality of healthcare

Rural Development Continued...



Upgraded technical assistance is key to agricultural development

tives empower small subsistence farmers to get access to agricultural equipment, upgraded techniques and improved agricultural practices. "This development project is

about supporting small farming families to become part of a strong entrepreneurship network of farming businesses that not only produce to feed their families but are also able to enter the regional market which has become so much dependent on imported foods, foods that can be produced locally with much better quality and less price", says William Price, an agricultural development expert who travels to Karabakh very often providing Armenia Fund

there to a new level.

The implementation of this serious medical project was made possible by the generous contribution of Mr. Hrair Hovnanian, a visionary philanthropist and Trustee of Armenia Fund USA whose unparalleled devotion to Armenia and Armenians has set a precedent for others to follow. Mr. Hovnanian has been a leading figure not only for his numerous contributions to critically needed projects in Armenia and Karabakh but his continuous leadership in advancing a larger vision of outreach and development.

The Diagnostic Center is part of a large multi-specialty health care center—the Armine Pagoumian Polyclinic which

serves out-patient needs of everyone over the age of 15 seeking either preventive or acute care.



Basic care at the Hrair Hovnanian Diagnostic Center is provided free of charge

The Hrair Hovnanian Diagnostic Center completely upgrades the standards of existing healthcare in Stepanakert. The Center can handle advanced medical testing and analysis for the entire hospital complex furnished with high rate laboratory and ultrasound capabilities, X-Ray, ECG and EEG. Services are open to the entire community, and basic care is provided free of charge.

USA with professional guidance on the agricultural project.

Taking the same model of development from village to village, Armenia Fund brings opportunity and hope to Karabakh's people by creating jobs, providing technical support programs for agricultural development, renovating region's major water pipelines and providing access to improved healthcare and education.

The day was Thanksgiving Day—November 23, 2006!

Echoing throughout cities and continents, the 9th International Armenia Fund Telethon, united hearts and minds of Armenians around the world.

Broadcasted in more than 20 major cities in the United States, as well as in all continents via satellite, streaming live on internet, the Telethon marked the highest result ever achieved recording an unprecedented \$13.7 million in pledges to benefit the war-ravaged villages of Karabakh's south. The ambitious goal to revitalize rural areas of Hadrut region involves implementing an agricultural development program, creating jobs for farmers, building schools and healthcare centers, roads and water pipelines. Funds for these critically needed projects have been secured by the combined efforts of the 20 affiliates of Hayastan All-Armenian Fund.



“Our development efforts target the war-torn villages for creating jobs and bringing hope to the families. We want to give them the means to sustain their households so that they can build the schools and hospitals and everything else they need. This is why it is so important to make this happen. Small or large donations do not matter, what is important is your participation. This is your vote for a better future for Armenia and Karabakh”, announced Chairman Toroyan who joined the live Telethon from a Boston studio to rally support for the drive.

Armenia Fund USA, with its international affiliates, has had a strong and measurable impact on the development of Karabakh and Armenia since independence. The organization remains the largest contributor to socio-economic infrastructure projects there since 1992, having invested more than \$160 million in development.

UNDP Partnership Continued...

and UNDP Resident Coordinator Consuelo Vidal. “We are very happy to cooperate with Armenia Fund and attach great significance to this initiative, which, when implemented, will make tangible improvements in the standard of living of rural communities across the country” , the Resident Coordinator was quoted saying at a joint press conference that followed the signing of the Memorandum.

Donor Testimony

June 22, 2006

“Dear Armenia Fund USA,

I have intended to send you a few lines since I visited Armenia but never got around to do it. Now, encouraged by Harry Djamdjian's letter, I sat down to write you this note.

I visited Armenia and Artsakh in 2000 and 2005, and I witnessed the important projects undertaken by Armenia Fund USA. I also discussed them with local people who expressed their gratitude for the benefits brought by these projects. Armenia doesn't have oil or other important natural resources, and, as they told me, Diaspora's help is not only needed but is

The first joint project, designed even before an official cooperation was established between the two organizations, involves rehabilitation of Nork's state-owned hospital specializing in infectious diseases. This, however, is only the beginning.

Involved in development in Armenia since 1992, both UNDP and Armenia Fund have the necessary expertise and organizational capacity to embark on the challenging initiative of combating poverty in rural areas of the country.

also essential for the development of our country.

As I traveled to Artsakh I saw the important thoroughfare connecting the two countries, and the North-South connecting highway under construction.

I would like to invite the people who still have doubts or reservations to visit our beautiful country and to personally see Armenia Fund's money at work. I read your annual reports and understand that the funds are being used for projects almost in their entirety with minimum administrative expenses.

Wishing you best in your noble mission.”

**-by Krikor H. Krikorian
New York**

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Armenia Fund USA, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt organization
(Fed ID#13-3696515)

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Save the date to celebrate the
15th Anniversary of Armenia Fund
Gala Banquet
September 29, 2007

Donor Acknowledgement (through September 30, 2006)

In Honor Of...

Artsakh, for Alex Kasparov
by *Rachik Kasparov*
Andrew S. Chobanian, who is serving in Iraq
by *John S. and Mary A. Chobanian, his grandparents*
Azkanoush Rose Gahanian
by *Eugene & Jane Hastings*
Mitchell Johnson
by *Darrell & Christine Johnson*
The Very Rev. Fr. Mamigon Kiledjian
by *Michael Richard Mekenian*
Marjorie Martiesian
by *Hosanna Derderian*
Violet Nazaretian
by *Thomas and Karen Allen*

In Memory Of...

Mamigon & Azadouhi Ashjian
by *V. Henry & Zela G. Astarjian*
Maritza Aslanian
by *Astra Acsinia, her granddaughter*
The Aynilian & Yalenezian Families
by *John & Zara Yalenezian*
Anna Baladurian
by *Dianne L. Slobodnik*
Aram & Lucy Barsamian
by *Carole Melikian*
Mary and Garabed Berberian
by *Dr. Rose Marie Berberian*

Michael B. Demerjian,
by *John Demerjian, his son*
John V. Donigian
by *Michael & Gertrude Donigian*
Chake Farajian
by *Avedis & Halyna Farajian*

Haroutioun & Yekaterina Gharibians
by *Alexander & Lidia Sohodski, their daughter and son-in-law*
Estelle Hachigian
by *Haig H. Hachigian, her husband*
Penyamin Harzivartyan
by *Masis Harzivartyan*
Anita Hashoian
by *Ralph Hashoian, her husband*
Nevart Jehanian
by *Takouhy Bedrossian*
Mrs. Zabel Jerian
by *Avedis, her son, & Bea Mousestian*
Garabed Kaderian
by *Nevart Kaderian*
Joyce Kalpakgian
by *Mitchell & Tanya Kalpakgian*
Mardi & Mickael Koghlian, Parents & Sarkes, Brother
by *Perouz Kalousdian*
Mrs. Payzar Kotoian
by *Federick & Luz Housepian*
Elmer Lucas
by *Alexander Arzumian*
Armenak & Hermine Mardirosian
by *Marie Baudy*
Richard & Freda Melkonian
by *Paul Melkonian, their son*
General Arshag Sebouh & Makrouhi Nersesian
by *Mourad Sebouh & Anahid Nersesian & Children*
The Very Rev. Souren & Shoushan Papakhian
by *Arsen & Mary Lynn Papakhian, their son & daughter-in-law*
Mihran & Vartanoush Petrossian
by *Mardiros & Evelyn Petrossian, their son & daughter-in-law*
Armenag & Esgoohy Salbashian
by *Ralph & Lucy Gustafson*
Dr. Corrine Santerian Moore
by *Martin & Virginia Kouyoumjian*
A. Sarian
by *Mark S. Sarian*
Sarkis S. Saryan
by *Leon & Shirley Saryan*

Oksen Sislian
by *Robert Sislian*
Susan Melikian Steinsieck
by *Mary Melikian Haynes & Warren E. Haynes*
Richard A. Tashjian
by *Gloria Vartanian*
Haratoun Tegnazian
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Edward H. Terchunian
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by *George Torosian*
Dr. Antranig Varjabedian
by *Anthony & Lois Varjabedian*
Varoujan Nubar Varjabedian
by *Hermine Pechdimaldji*
Garo H. Voskerijian
by *Nayda Voskerijian, his wife*
Aznif & Sarkis Yaranus
by *Ohannes & Sultan Yaranush*

Corporate Employee Requested and Matching Gifts...

American Express Gift Matching Program
On behalf of *Aline Kassabian*
American Express Gift Matching Program
On behalf of *Levon Kassabian*
The Avon Foundation Inc., Matching Gifts Program
On behalf of *Haroutune (Harry) Djamdjian*
Deutsche Bank Matching Gifts Program
On behalf of *Stephen Kalajian*
Deutsche Bank Matching Gifts Program
On behalf of *Bryan Stepanian*
ExxonMobil Foundation, Inc.
On behalf of *Karnic Kouyoumdjian*
Pfizer Foundation, Matching Gifts Program
On behalf of *Addie Chekmeyan*
The Prudential Foundation Matching Gift Program
On behalf of *Gerald Kalayjian*

Gifts in Kind...

Kate Barry
Edele Hovnanian
Randy and Margot Takian