



Water Infrastructure and Beyond: The Time to Rebuild Is Now

Access to clean, reliable water has been fundamental to the ultimate success of every project that Armenia Fund has undertaken over the years. Whether it's building roads and residences, hospitals, schools, or town halls, water always factors into the equation. In fact, since the Fund's inception, more than 57 water networks have been successfully completed throughout Karabakh and Armenia. But, when it comes to economic development in rural communities, access to water carries even more weight. Without it, these communities will continue to face serious challenges to the health and well-being of rural families.

For example, it is estimated that almost 88% of all diseases in rural Armenia and Karabakh are due to tainted water. Also, on average, each family spends 40% of its daily life carrying water from sources miles away from home, seriously impacting overall productivity. Water shortages are experienced by more than 70,000 residents in 200 villages in Karabakh while 100,000 acres of agricultural lands are dry and uncultivated because farmers cannot access irrigation water. Reason enough why water was the campaign theme of this past Thanksgiving's 13th International Telethon.

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Reconstruction Begins in the Region of Martuni, Karabakh

With so many Armenia Fund projects initiated in the Martuni region of Karabakh, including the major reconstruction of



Shushan, a young resident of Karmir Shuka village in Martuni, will benefit from a new water network.

its regional hospital, water infrastructure development is all the more urgent. As one of the eight main provinces of Karabakh, Martuni became Armenia Fund's focus with the launch of the Armenia Fund Regional Development Program in 2007.

Today, an estimated 23,000 people reside in the province,

located east of Stepanakert, the capital city of Karabakh.

Reconstruction of potable water networks in Martuni will begin in Karmir Shuka village, one of the most dynamic communities in Karabakh, perhaps best known for its wine factory that delivers a brand rapidly becoming a household name. Connected to a water main constructed in the late 1930's, Karmir Shuka faces daily impediments to accessing potable water. Crippled by age, the existing main is dysfunctional, resulting in massive water loss and lack of clean drinking water. To make matters worse, the pipes connecting the water main to the village are not in sanitary condition.



A new internal distribution network is being constructed to bring potable water to Karmir Shuka village in Martuni, where 200 villages await clean drinking water.

Armenia Fund has resolved to tackle Karmir Shuka's water problem by creating a new distribution network to augment the potable water supply, a \$450,000 project of which \$270,000 will be allocated from this year's Telethon funds. The design for the project is complete and construction will begin when weather permits. Additionally, \$180,000 is needed to overhaul water intake, purification, and sanitation stations, which also will include a functional daily-regulation reservoir.

In the words of this year's Telethon campaign theme, "Water is life," yet far too many rural Armenian families are struggling with debilitated water delivery systems. The hope is that this project in Martuni will be a catalyst for more projects, initiated by both Armenia Fund as well as other charitable organizations committed to international development. By removing the barrier to clean water, the important work of economic and social development can proceed at a faster pace.

Gyumri's Loyal Friend Meline Tufenkciyan Increases Contribution to TB Hospital by 25%

For the past four years, Meline Tufenkciyan of New York focused her charitable efforts on patients in Armenia suffering from drug-resistant and life-threatening tuberculosis. Her consistent donations to Gyumri's TB Hospital, which struggles to provide adequate nourishment and medical treatment to patients in critical condition, have been a godsend. This year, Meline decided to contribute \$25,000, an increase of 25%. Her benevolent gift will not only cover meds and meals, but also allows the hospital to provide greater comfort and hygienic amenities to the patient community.

Fund's Neuroscience Training Program Secures New Partnerships in the U.S.

Armenia Fund's observational medical fellowships, under the visionary leadership of Dr. Arthur Grigorian and in cooperation with the National Institute of Health of Armenia, the Medical Center of Georgia, and the Georgia Neurosurgical Institute, have proven highly effective in preparing students and residents for a specialty in neurosciences. Thanks to this special program, over 35 students have traveled from Armenia to Atlanta to receive training. Additionally, students in Armenia performed over 30 neurosurgeries and procedures alongside Dr. Grigorian and his colleague, Dr. Arthur Ulm, receiving vital consultation on rare cases.

Training the next generation of medical professionals is of particular focus for the Fund, as major efforts are underway to create a regional neuroscience center in Armenia. As of December, 2010, the Neuroscience Training Program has attracted two new institutional donors: Neurostability Inc., a neurological technology solutions provider, and EV3 Neurovascular Division, a developer of endovascular devices, together made an annual commitment of \$50,000.



Martuni regional hospital before reconstruction.

Only a few short months have passed since construction started in November 2010 on the new Martuni regional hospital, but this ambitious project is already over 10% implemented. With a projected end date of May 2012, the 23,000 residents of Martuni region as well as 30 surrounding rural communities are already eagerly awaiting the facility's ribbon-cutting ceremony, the new and improved hospital replacing one built nearly half a century ago.

Martuni regional hospital, a major undertaking to bring the region's healthcare system to a full recovery, sets an example of what sustainable development should look like. As Armenia Fund leverages its ongoing initiatives to provide reliable access to clean water to the entire region, this project is bound to succeed.

When Armenia Fund conducted an initial assessment of Martuni's healthcare situation, it was difficult to imagine how such a dilapidated structure could actually function as a regional hospital. The Karabakh-Azerbaijani War, combined with decades of inadequate maintenance, had taken a serious toll on the facility. That is why the new complex is designed to be a sterile, hygienic environment that instills confidence among patients and their families.

The estimated cost of the new construction is \$1.8 million, with Armenia Fund USA and Armenian Medical Fund each contributing \$300,000. The Karabakh government has agreed to contribute \$1,200,000, with a full commitment to also fund all post-construction maintenance.

Continuing Education: A Key Component of Successful Healthcare Development

Armenia Fund does not just build: it builds to sustain. Training and continuous education of medical staff are essential to every healthcare initiative. Martuni regional hospital is no exception. The hospital staff will receive hands-on training for the new equipment and in facility management. The focus is to provide training for medical professionals in western best practices for myriad diverse specialties.



Computer-generated rendering of the new hospital complex.

The training modules are based on the program completed for the Stepanakert Polyclinic and Diagnostic Center, Armenia Fund USA's first large-scale healthcare project completed in 2005. As Martuni is poised to receive an unprecedented standard of healthcare delivery, naming opportunities for the various departments abound. Please consider being a part of this significant project, reaching out to the nearly 20,000 annual patients and the 107 doctors and support staff who serve them.

Khanjian-Tumanian Overpass to Promote Foot-Traffic Safety in Yerevan

Safety is a serious problem on the crowded streets of Armenia's capital city of Yerevan and Armenia Fund is resolved to take action, before it's too late. This year, it is contributing toward the construction of a proper overpass at the intersection of Khanjian and Tumanian, two of the city's major streets. Partnering with the Yerevan municipality, the project is sponsored by Armenia Fund benefactor Hirair Hovnanian.

The overpass will feature ample lighting, gutters, and tiles, providing a safe means to navigate a high-traffic area frequented by schoolchildren and families alike.



The overpass is a welcome and necessary relief for pedestrians crossing the intersection every day.

"Unfortunately, many of the capital's basic problems have yet to be resolved," said Ara Vardanyan, Executive Director of Armenia Fund in Yerevan. "The construction of this overpass is a much-needed initiative that will significantly enhance residents' and visitors' experiences of central Yerevan. I am confident that the overpass will go a long way in improving pedestrian safety."

Armenia Fund's 13th International Thanksgiving Telethon raised yet another record-breaking \$20.8 million in pledges. It is the culmination of a worldwide campaign of phonathons, radiothons, gala dinners, and charity concerts held by Fund affiliates in support of rebuilding water



The final screenshot of Telethon 2010.

infrastructure in Karabakh.

Thousands of households from around the world tuned in for the 12-hour program, broadcast from KCET Studios in Hollywood and aired via satellite and cable networks, as well

as online. The live show featured a rich presentation of Armenian music and entertainment, as well as heartfelt endorsements from celebrities and political and community leaders alongside those of long-time donors and supporters. Russian-Armenian businessmen Levon Hayrapetyan and Samvel Karapetian donated \$2 million each, constituting this year's single-largest individual donations.

Eastern Region Volunteers Build Momentum

Thanks to the energy and enthusiasm of our Eastern Region volunteers, the 2010 Telethon commenced with an outbound calling campaign in call centers located in New York and Boston. From November 18th to 21st, numerous Armenian youth, young professionals, students, faculty, as



Telethon volunteers at Fund offices in NY.

well as performers from the Shushi Dance Ensemble and Sayat Nova, took donations and pledges in advance of Thanksgiving Day.

This ensured that as many gifts as possible were acknowledged during the

Telethon broadcast. Volunteers also helped raise awareness of the grave and chronic water problems besetting rural communities in Karabakh, many returning to take calls during the live Telethon broadcast to lend still more support to the cause.

"As a student with limited disposable income, I was skeptical about the actual difference my \$10 or \$20 really could make," said one volunteer. "But after seeing the impressive

sum of money raised by means of so many modest donations, I realized the importance of participation at every level. Large gifts are vital, of course, but so are consistent and widespread support, even by those like me on a budget."



Phonathon volunteers at Boston's call center.

"The drive and positive energy were a critical part of our success," says Armenia Fund USA Executive Director Irina Lazarian. "We had volunteers that came and helped from as far as Detroit! Not only was this an opportunity for young people to engage in volunteerism, but also to connect with their ancestral homeland in a tangible way."



**LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY...
GIVE A GIFT THAT GIVES**

Now and then, one's creative passion to make change translates into an opportunity for many others to live out passions of their own. Armenia Fund is your personal channel for shaping the future of our homeland. Think of a cause close to your heart. Consider children, the elderly, the destitute, people in need of medical care. You can make a difference through legacy giving to reach a wide segment of the neediest in Armenia and Karabakh.

Regardless of your means, you have the power to leave a lasting legacy. Please put Armenia Fund USA's legacy giving program on your agenda today and learn more about how you can shape the tomorrow of a nation. Contact Armenia Fund USA Executive Director Irina Lazarian at 212-689-5307 to learn more.

I Support Because...



Mrs. Beylerian (left) with her family on November 6.

On November 6, 2010, a surprise party to honor Anahid Beylerian's 75th birthday was held at the Stony Hill Inn in Hackensack, NJ. With music, dinner, and dancing, over 100 friends and family members from near and far gathered together to celebrate Anahid's milestone.

Anahid was born in 1935 in Tripoli, Lebanon to Hagop and Never Beylerian, both originally from Kayseri, Turkey before fleeing to Lebanon after the genocide. She attended Soorp Nichan Armenian School and, from a young age, valued and respected her Armenian heritage. Ani, as most of her friends call her, has always made family and friends top priorities in her life. Known for her gregarious personality and love of life, she inspired guests to spend much of the evening reminiscing about her many good deeds and love of family.

Moving to New Jersey in 1981, she settled

with her children, mother, brothers, niece, and nephew in Woodcliff Lake. Though Ani has faced many of life's difficulties, those who know her agree she always has a smile on her face and a helping hand to lend. She continues to be a devoted mother, aunt, sister, and grandmother to her extended family and loves to spend time with them all. She is also blessed to be surrounded by many wonderful friends.

Ani's family knew she would want the evening to help others in a positive way. To this end, the family decided to collect donations in order to provide necessities for school children at the Abovyan School in Karabakh under the auspices of Armenia Fund USA. Her son and daughter-in-law, Hagop and Serda Belekdanian, said, "Her appreciation for education and her love of children were a perfect fit for such a donation. We are glad to honor our mother's spirit of generosity in this way." Close to \$8,000 was raised.



The Beylerian family raised close to \$8,000 to be distributed through Armenia Fund for school children at the Abovyan School in Karabakh.

Last year, I wanted to support projects involving children and the elderly in Armenia. The elderly in our society, more often than not, do not receive the love and dignity they deserve. They have a special place in my heart because I was raised by my grandparents, since my mom, a single mother, had to work very long hours to support our family. It is now a cause near and dear to my heart. I ran for the elderly for the first time in 2007, as well as last year in memory of my grandparents and Mrs. Anna Kayaloff, a dear family friend who passed away in 2008.

Dedicating a run or a walk to a cause makes the experience so much more meaningful. I hope my run inspires others to run, no matter what the distance, for a cause close to their heart.

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Anahid Ugurlayan, a New York attorney, at the 2010 Hamptons Marathon on October 2. She has been a supporter of Armenia Fund since 2007.