

ARMENIA FUND USA In ACTION

Affiliate of Hayastan Himmadram, Eastern Region

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ARMENIA FUND DECLARES 2010 "THE YEAR OF SHUSHI"



In an effort to jump-start socioeconomic development in the legendary town of Shushi, Karabakh, Armenia Fund USA and its worldwide affiliates will launch a comprehensive program of infrastructure and business development projects beginning in 2010.

"In the 1990s, the Armenians won the pivotal battle for liberation in the hills and fields of Shushi. Today, they are fighting a very different battle: a war on poverty," explains Armenia Fund USA Chairman, Raffi Festekjian.

"Too many residents, jobless and living

in unsafe ruins, have been forced to leave these hard-won lands for which they or their compatriots sacrificed so much," Mr. Festekjian goes on to say. "Somehow, the inspiration from military victory has been slowly overtaken by economic paralysis and social apathy. Time is running out to win back the hearts and minds of those residents remaining."

The Armenian-Azerbaijani war left Shushi almost completely destroyed. The town center is a gloomy picture of half-destroyed houses built in the 18th and 19th centuries. With so many abandoned

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Telethon 2009 Awareness Campaign: All About "Our Shushi."

The Armenia Fund "Our Shushi" campaign will officially kick off on its annual Thanksgiving Day Telethon, with supporting pre-Telethon fundraising drives, such as direct mail and phone campaigns, conducted by Armenia Fund USA and other affiliates in the All-Armenia Fund global network.

Just as Shushi was the turning point in the war for the liberation of Karabakh, this year's Telethon will be the turning point that wins the war on poverty in Shushi.



When the battle of Shushi was won by the Armenians, it became an instant symbol of triumph and victory for Armenians all around the world—reason enough to choose the theme "Our Shushi" to drive the Telethon 2009 fund-raising campaign.

"Not only is it a rallying cry to wage a new battle—this time against poverty—but also to reinforce the message that Shushi's fate depends on Armenians everywhere," explains Irina Lazarian, Executive Director of Armenia Fund USA.

Although the government of Nagorno Karabakh has committed itself to bringing

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends:

As the global economy shows positive signs of recovery, the outlook for hundreds of rural families in Armenia and Karabakh remains clouded by hard-core poverty. Whatever financial negatives we face in the U.S., developing nations—especially Armenia and Karabakh—have been hit much harder. These economic setbacks have reverberated most in the rural areas, where hope is already fragile.

We have acknowledged that the best way to build a long-term solution to poverty is for Armenia and Karabakh to become financially independent. The creation of jobs and of thriving businesses provides not only a vehicle for financial independence, but also an economic foundation upon which a self-sustaining nation can be built. Fundamental to the success of any economic development initiative, however, is that the infrastructure be in place to support growth: safe and well-equipped schools, open and accessible healthcare facilities, and clear roads, pipelines, and power lines. That is why Armenia Fund USA is taking a two-pronged approach to the way it is helping to transform Armenia.

First, we will continue to focus on infrastructure in the areas that need investment most. From this standpoint, the situation in Shushi is especially dire; the Armenia Fund 2010 "Save Shushi" program can not start a moment too soon. You will be hearing and learning more about this long-overdue initiative in this newsletter issue, as well as in the weeks to come as part of our annual Phonathon and Telethon fundraising efforts. We hope you will support this indispensable endeavor, given that Shushi holds special meaning as the turning point of the liberation of Karabakh.

Alongside its continual efforts to support infrastructure and development in Armenia, Armenia Fund USA has spearheaded a large-scale initiative to introduce economic development programs in select villages in both Armenia and Karabakh. The elements of what is being called "Microeconomic Development" are being established specifically to create jobs and income-generating opportunities for local businessmen, women, and young adults, as well as to help Armenia and Karabakh develop its own economic infrastructure so that it can institutionalize its learning.

A pilot project in microfinancing has been under way in Tavush, Armenia, for the past nine months. The findings, thus far, are inspiring and prompt us to implement the project as soon as possible. It is this combination – maintaining an investment in infrastructure while simultaneously introducing economic development – that ensures us of the greatest chance of building a brighter, stronger, and healthier future for the people of Armenia and Karabakh. We look forward to telling you more about these initiatives as they progress.

This year has been one of unimagined challenges and new beginnings. On behalf of the Armenia Fund USA Board of Directors and our Executive Staff, I want you to know that your continued involvement is especially appreciated. We do not take your support for granted, and we are committed to ensuring that your contributions are working for the greatest good.

Gratefully yours,

Raffi Festekjian
Chairman of the Board of Directors
Armenia Fund USA

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Armenia Fund Declares 2010 “The Year of Shushi” *from page 1*

shelters, many of the mostly jobless residents live with no heat, electricity and functioning appliances. Provincial schools are also physically unsafe and unhygienic, leaving families little incentive to remain in Shushi without hope for a better future.

During the early 20th century, the Armenians of Shushi boasted a population of 45,000, seven churches, 22 newspapers and a public theatre. After the liberation of Shushi, many presumed that this history-making province would be reborn, attracting business investment and tourists, generating jobs, and building strong, robust communities. Despite the best of intentions, the rebirth of Shushi is still a dream deferred.

Today, the officials of the Shushi and Karabakh government, along with leaders of Armenia Fund, have agreed to put Shushi on the economic map. To stimulate growth in Shushi, the government of Karabakh decided to move a number of state institutions from Karabakh’s capital of Stepanakert to Shushi, such as the Supreme and Appeals Courts. Constructing the buildings to house these offices, and paving roads and streets to reach them, would immediately generate local jobs. But that is only a small step toward the substantive change so desperately needed to save Shushi.

Although the government of Karabakh is prepared to subsidize all such infrastructure projects, its limited budget cannot address all the imperatives for revitalizing Shushi within a small window of time. This is where the Armenian Diaspora becomes a critical factor in determining the ultimate fate of this legendary region.

“Without jobs, good schools and a place to call home, there is very little incentive to stay in Shushi, which is of great strategic importance to the security of Karabakh,” states Irina Lazarian, Executive Director of Armenia Fund USA, Eastern Region. “This is why Shushi’s war on poverty must be fought on multiple fronts: housing, healthcare, education, business and cultural development, not to mention well-functioning institutions that can facilitate growth and progress,” Ms. Lazarian adds.

With funds generated from fall fund-raising efforts, culminating with the Thanksgiving Day Telethon, Armenia Fund intends to break ground early in the new year to build enough momentum to give the people of Shushi a fresh outlook on their future.

Among the many large and small infrastructure projects slated to begin in 2010, under the leadership of Armenia Fund USA and some of its affiliates, are construction and renovation of houses and apartments; local town halls and healthcare hubs; parks and water fountains; plus cultural and recreational centers. Water pipelines, school heating systems, gymnasiums, school facilities, roads and street repairs also will be undertaken.

In addition, a brand new medical hospital is planned to provide villagewide access to emergency and critical health care, plus a state-of-the-art administrative center to help fast-track economic growth and investment. Other business development efforts include a Rug Manufacturers Association and micro-loans for start-up local enterprises. These projects will take place not only in Shushi proper, but in the seven villages within

Shushi province, including Karintak, Kirsavan, Hin Shenk, Mets Shenk, Eghtsahogh, and Lisagor.

“Obviously, this is a massive undertaking. There is much catching up to do and so little time left before the people will give up on Shushi altogether,” notes the mayor of Shushi. “But with the will of Armenians everywhere, who draw inspiration from what Shushi has come to symbolize in our story of national survival, it will rise from the ashes once more. Not only victorious, but prosperous, too.”



Armenia Fund Telethon 2009: All About “Our Shushi.” *from page 1*



Shushi back to life, there simply is not enough time or financial resources for it to meet the challenge alone.

Once again, Armenia Fund USA is building the momentum early with

its second pre-Telethon telephone campaign. Jean-Jacques Hajjar, Armenia Fund Board Member and Phonathon organizer for the East Coast affiliate notes that, “while the name Shushi resonates with many segments of the Armenian community, they may not be aware of the harsh economic realities on the ground in Shushi today.

“Once our Phonathon volunteers start working the phones, explaining how dire the situation is, what the stakes are and what we must do about it, we believe our community will respond favorably and generously” said Mr. Hajjar.

In addition to the Phonathon, conducted November 19-25 in New York, Detroit, and Boston, Armenia Fund has also launched a pre-Telethon direct mail effort.

“We are hoping to generate as many contributions as possible before the Telethon so that at the end of the broadcast on Thanksgiving Day, we can announce a final tally that will send a clear message to the people of Shushi: we haven’t forgotten you and we are behind you,” added Ms. Lazarian.

Stay tuned for the results in our next newsletter, or visit us online at www.armenianfundusa.org.

“Nothing Will Stop Us from Flourishing:” Another Story of Hope and Courage.



There is a small village north of Stepanakert, in the Martuni region of Karabakh. It is called Spitakashen. Some 414 residents live in this small but tight community of hardworking people. Like so many villages in Karabakh, Spitakashen has long been impacted by quality-of-life issues such as water shortages, a crumbling school, and unpaved roads.

Until recently, Spitakashen’s only source of clean water was a type of traditional well, located three kilometers from the village, which collected water from underground springs through a network of stone tunnels. The water reached the village through an old pump.

“Whenever the pump broke down, the village would be left without water for months,” says Armen Khachatryan, the mayor of Spitakashen. “And since the type of pump used at the source has been discontinued from production a long time ago, it was nearly impossible to find spare parts and replace the system.”

Never mind the pump. There was also the problem of chronic water shortage in the village during the summer months, when springs all but dried up due to the sweltering heat.

In 2008, the lives of Spitakashen’s residents were improved significantly when Armenia Fund built an eight-kilometer pipeline, providing the village with a reliable supply of potable water from a number of mountain springs. This vital project was sponsored by the Fund’s Argentine affiliate.

“Things are so much better now,” says Armen Petrosian, a Spitakashen farmer. “Moreover, as we finally have plenty of drinking water, thanks to the new pipeline, we can use the water coming through the old well to irrigate our lands.”

On the heels of the pipeline project, Armenia Fund launched another major initiative in Spitakashen, aimed at revitalizing local education with the construction of a new school.

Speaking of the existing campus, which was

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TELETHON 2009. HELP BRING HOPE AND DIGNITY BACK TO SHUSHI

OUR SHUSHI

YES. Please include my donation to Armenia Fund USA in this year’s Armenia Fund Telethon, sending a message to the people of Shushi that their future matters to us and to our Homeland.

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Day Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

All contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the U.S. tax code.

Method of Payment:

By Credit Card: MasterCard Visa AMEX Discover

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____

By Check: Please make payable to Armenia Fund USA, 80 Maiden Lane, New York, NY 10038
Check Memo: Telethon 2009

Please check your donation amount and check your area of interest on the reverse side.

\$250 \$500 \$1000 \$1500 \$5000 Other \$ _____

Armenia Fund Brings Water to Berdashen Village in Karabakh



The new water-supply system brings fresh, clean water to residents of Berdashen.

Armenia Fund has completed the construction of a water-supply system in Berdashen, a village in Nagorno Karabakh's Martuni region. Comprising 16 kilometers of both gravitational and pressurized water mains as well as an inner network, the new system has already begun supplying the 1,582 residents of Berdashen with fresh, healthful water, derived from a number of mountain springs.

The vitally important project was made possible through the sponsorship of Armenia Fund's Argentinean affiliate, with contributions from benefactors Alicia Vosgerichian de Magarian, Varujan Panossian, and Hovsep Magarian – in memory of Takvor Magarian and Nvart Terzian Magarian.

“The Fund's Argentinean affiliate has implemented a wide range of projects in Artsakh, and the construction of the Berdashen water-supply system is yet another testament to our overseas compatriots' wonderful dedication to their homeland,” said Ara Vardanian, the Fund's executive director.

Past initiatives financed by the Argentinean affiliate include the Martuni region's Kaghartsin-Spitakashen water pipeline, which was completed in October 2008.

Berdashen's old water-supply system, built in 1960, had long ago fallen into disrepair, making daily life extremely difficult for the residents. Currently, with the new system ready for utilization, engineers are helping the villagers install water meters and hook up to the inner distribution network.

Commenting on the new water-supply system, Berdashen mayor Ernik Gevorgian said this much-anticipated milestone will not only significantly improve the lives of the residents, but boost prospects for continued community development and prosperity.

Another Story of Hope and Courage from page 2

built 70 years ago and is now in a state of disrepair, schoolteacher Maria Poghosian says, “We do our best to keep it clean and tidy so that the children would feel comfortable coming to classes every day, but the building is simply too old and run down.” As she glances at the schoolchildren playing outside and the cranes on the construction site, Poghosian adds, “The pipeline and school projects are wonderful milestones in the life of our community.”



The children of Spitakashen will soon attend the newly built school in their community.

The new-school initiative, sponsored by Armenia Fund's Toronto affiliate, has filled Spitakashen with great anticipation and a renewed sense of hope.

For Spitakashen resident Boris Arakelian, a truck driver, good roads are of crucial importance. Roads in and around Spitakashen become nearly impassable during winter, effectively cutting off the community from the outside world. Arakelian says he is eagerly awaiting the completion of a major road-construction project currently being implemented by the government of Nagorno-Karabakh. “Once the road issue is solved too, there is nothing that can stop Spitakashen from flourishing,” he adds.

The projects now being carried out in Spitakashen are yet another example of the invaluable partnership between the government of Artsakh and the Armenia Fund, reaffirming the far-reaching benefits of a comprehensive approach to community development.

U.S. Ambassador to Armenia Visits Armenia Fund USA



Ambassador Yovanovitch with the members of the Armenia Fund USA Board and staff, as well as young professionals and volunteers at the New York office.

As part of a series of meetings in four major Armenian-American communities in Greater Boston, New York, Washington, DC, and Southern California, U.S. Ambassador to Armenia Marie Yovanovitch visited the offices of Armenia Fund USA in New York on June 22, 2009. Ambassador Yovanovitch met with the members of the Armenia Fund USA Board and staff, as well as young professionals and volunteers.

The meeting was an opportunity to familiarize the ambassador with the completed and ongoing projects that Armenia Fund is implementing in Armenia and Karabakh. Some of the most

exciting news in the field of healthcare has been Armenia Fund's Telemedicine project—the HyeBridge Telehealth program, through which Armenia Fund aims to improve the delivery of healthcare to Armenia and Karabakh on two fronts – digital diagnosis, and distance learning and continuous education.

The ambassador expressed special interest in this innovative program, and took this opportunity to report on the numerous important and beneficial projects that the U.S. government is pursuing in Armenia on behalf of

the American people.

In an earlier interview with Armenian-American newspapers, the ambassador had acknowledged that many in the Diaspora feel very strongly about Armenia and the challenges the young democracy faces. She reiterated some of these issues during the meeting, indicating that real efforts are being made by the State Department to enlist more Armenian-Americans, not only by participating in State Department-sponsored humanitarian initiatives, but also by investing

in public-private partnerships in Armenia.

The meeting presented an opportunity for the Armenia Fund leadership to express its thoughts on how the U.S. government can more effectively leverage the good work already being done in Armenia by civil society and nongovernmental organizations. “An important conclusion from the meeting is that an economically prosperous Armenia is a shared goal for both the U.S. government and large Armenian-American organizations such as Armenia Fund. The real challenge is how to best assess our respective strengths and make an impact where help is most needed,” said Armenia Fund USA Executive Director Irina Lazarian.



Ambassador Yovanovitch in the offices of Armenia Fund USA.

Armenia Fund Named Beneficiary of Edgar Hagopian Tribute

Armenia Fund is very grateful to have been named the beneficiary of an unforgettable event honoring Edgar Hagopian. On September 20, 2009, nearly 300 people from across the nation gathered at the stylish Royal Park Hotel in Rochester, Michigan, to demonstrate their great admiration for a man who has earned a stellar reputation and has been labeled a humanitarian, prominent businessman, philanthropist, leader, and friend.



Irina Lazarian presents an award to Mr. Edgar Hagopian in appreciation for his continuous support of Armenia Fund USA.

As a teen, Edgar worked with his father, Haroutun, in the family cleaning business. The company expanded and in 2009 the Hagopian Family of Companies celebrated 70 years of business. The third generation of Hagopians, including Mr. Hagopian's son-in-law Ken Snow, is now operating the business with the same ideals of community involvement, and a mission to move forward. Through it all, Edgar remains an unusually humble man.

The Hagopian World of Rugs showroom, with its hundreds of extraordinary Oriental rugs and

carpets, serves as a backdrop for Armenian gatherings that feature authors, professors, scientists, and even Turkish scholars. Many writers have had solemn wine-blessing ceremonies performed on their books there. Guests are encouraged to seat themselves on these priceless works of art as authors showcase their literary accomplishments in this rarified atmosphere of stimulating conversation reminiscent of the great salons of Europe, all the while they freely partake of an ample assortment of food and refreshments generously provided by the Hagopian family.

The tribute had been in the planning stages for several months, and was brought to smooth fruition by a loyal group of Mr. Hagopian's friends known as the Armenian Festival Committee because of their summer outdoor food and music festival, which attracts thousands. They are a band of Armenian-Americans dedicated to perpetuating the Armenian spirit by uniting the community. Hagopian is quick to give credit to this group for their many successful projects, while they, in turn, say he is their inspiration.

Guests were greeted warmly by members of the Hagopian family and committee members as they arrived at the candlelit, floral-filled reception area of the Royal Park for the cocktail and hors d'oeuvres hour.

Among the dignitaries who shared their thoughts, love, and respect for Mr. Hagopian

were Edgar's long-time friend and former congressman, Joe Knollenberg, who gave the toast, stating "this day should have come long ago," referencing how Edgar worked to increase military aid to Armenia, and Congressman Thaddeus McCotter, who, with Hagopian, worked hard to get "Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day" signed into Michigan law.

Hagopian's involvement in local, national, and international causes is legend and his contributions too numerous to mention. Edgar is a man who loves all things beautiful—art, music, literature, architecture, and people—but more than that, his wish is to bring the Armenian community together in unity, the best gift he could receive.

The Very Reverend Diran Papazian delivered a fitting and beautiful blessing commenting on Mr. Hagopian's true Armenian spirit and generosity. These qualities became apparent, once again, when Mr. Hagopian requested that the net proceeds from the event be donated to Armenia Fund USA.

Irina Lazarian, Executive Director of Armenia Fund USA, took the floor thanking the Hagopian family for their continued generosity to Armenia Fund. She reminded everyone of the Odzun project that the same community supported in 2008. "The Odzun Center is already completed and scheduled for inauguration at the end of next week," said Ms. Lazarian. "And although I could not bring the building with me this evening, what I could do is share with you an image of it, along with the joy and gratitude of the village residents and officials who stand to benefit from the center. Please accept this original poster created to announce the new Odzun Cultural Center. I hope it will serve as a reminder to you of the fruit of your tireless efforts to make it a reality."

Ms. Lazarian assured the community that the proceeds of the event will go toward the completion of yet another successful project benefiting thousands in Armenia.

Armenia Fund Initiates Reconstruction of Noyemberyan Hospital in Tavush Region

In July of this year, Armenia Fund launched a major development project to rebuild the Noyemberyan Hospital in Armenia's Tavush region. The initiative is cosponsored by the Fund's German, Australian, Swiss, and Lebanese affiliates. Additional support, in the form of



Major work is being done to rebuild the Noyemberyan Hospital in Tavush.

medical equipment, will be provided by the Union of Armenian Physicians and Healthcare Professionals of Germany.

Currently crews are working on the first phase of the reconstruction project, demolishing the existing building and laying the foundations of the future structure, which will comprise an area of 2,600 meters square. Slated to be completed in the fall of 2010, Armenia Fund's ambitious initiative will result in an outstanding, state-of-the-art healthcare facility offering a broad range of medical services.

"I think it's wonderful that our compatriots in the Diaspora continue to make a concerted and decisive effort in helping secure the ongoing progress of our homeland, which hinges to a great degree on the physical health of the Armenian public," said Ara Vardanian, executive director of Armenian Fund in Yerevan.

"The reconstruction of the Noyemberyan Hospital is an important step toward that goal."



The first phase of the reconstruction project is well underway.

Commenting on the project, Henrik Harutyunian, chief physician at the Noyemberyan Hospital, said that the facility serves some 1,400 individuals per year, admitting patients from not only Tavush but the neighboring Lori region as well. Dr. Harutyunian added that the Noyemberyan Hospital has long been in a state of disrepair and the need for major renovations had reached a critical stage. "Thanks to Armenia Fund's initiation of this project, we expect to have a first-class facility," he said.

Armenia Fund HyeBridge Telehealth Program Shines at Armenian Medical Congress

Programs and benefits of Armenia Fund USA's recently unveiled HyeBridge Telehealth™ program were presented at the 10th Armenian Medical World Congress held in New York City in early July.

"Our HyeBridge Telehealth program is the next important phase of our already successfully implemented healthcare programs. This program builds on our experience in delivering direct care to patients, educating healthcare providers, and building and equipping clinics," says Irina Lazarian, executive director, Armenia Fund USA. "We are taking many of these successful elements to the next level. Armenia Fund has never shied away from new challenges – rather, we look at this as a tremendous opportunity to build a hallmark program."



HyeBridge Telehealth Benefits Discussed

Live Diagnostics

During the conference, Armenia Fund USA showcased its healthcare experience and outlined HyeBridge Telehealth's various programs and patient benefits. Armenia Fund used Polycom videoconferencing technology to broadcast the conference's plenary sessions live to Armenia and Karabakh and to facilitate a live diagnostic session.

The interactive technology enabled more than 400 doctors, nurses, and university administrators in Armenia and Karabakh to participate in the conference. Not only did use of the technology save remote participants significant time and money, it turned the conference into a more effective and dynamic event.

Conference attendees participated in a diagnostic session where the healthcare needs of a seriously ill child were discussed. Armenia Fund used this opportunity to stress that HyeBridge Telehealth is designed around the essential role that people, not necessarily the technology, play in delivering critical healthcare services efficiently and successfully to those who need it most.

"It was a very successful and positive exercise," said Dr. Vicken N. Pamoukian, vascular surgeon, Lenox Hill Hospital, New York, and United States cochair of the conference. "I am very happy we were able to collaborate in this fashion."

Doctors at Yerevan State Medical University (YSMU), a key HyeBridge Telehealth partner, were impressed by the program's broad impact and expressed excitement about the future of Armenian healthcare.

"I am happy to say that the telebroadcast of the 10th Armenian Medical World Congress was successful and accepted with great enthusiasm by the Yerevan State Medical University after Mkhitar Heratsi, including the Department of Postgraduate Education and CME, and the representatives of various regional hospitals," said Dr. Mikhail Z. Narimanyan, Vice Rector for Educational Reforms and Integration. "The telehealth consultation segment was particularly interesting to us all, since the input of all the New York participants was of great practical importance here in Armenia. We strongly support and look forward to the continuance of this initiative. On behalf of all the university's doctors and staff, we would like to express our gratitude for the opportunity to participate in this congress through the HyeBridge Telehealth network."



Armenia Fund's high quality video broadcast allows the panel of medical professionals in New York to collaborate with doctors at YSMU, Armenia, and contribute to the consultation of seriously ill patients.

Continuous Medical Education

Aside from videoconferencing, HyeBridge Telehealth provides much needed access to the most up-to-date medical information and education available today. Armenia Fund showed attendees how the program delivers, via the Internet, education modules, access to medical databases, and live training sessions to remote healthcare providers. HyeBridge Telehealth builds on the ten healthcare related lectures and seminars held between Yerevan and Karabakh in 2008.

Program Partners and Providers

Armenia Fund encouraged conference attendees to become involved in HyeBridge Telehealth. Currently, Armenia Fund is working with a number of groups in Armenia and the United States to deliver healthcare and medical education.

"HyeBridge Telehealth is about people," said Ms. Lazarian, Armenia Fund USA. "The program's state-of-the-art buildings, equipment, and technology are critical to our success. But they don't save lives...people do. We saw the congress as an opportunity to talk about our program to people deeply committed to providing the best care possible to those who need it most."

Current Partners

Yerevan State Medical University, a non-private, state-run institution of higher learning, is Armenia Fund's primary collaborative partner in Armenia. YSMU serves as program manager and the main technology and information hub for the program. YSMU creates continuing medical education modules, oversees necessary training, facilitates diagnostic sessions, and manages the overall IT network. It also oversees the training and allocation of newly graduated residents in the healthcare centers and hospitals in rural Armenia where Armenia Fund implements its healthcare program.

"Telemedicine is a great opportunity for all Armenian doctors in Armenia and the Diaspora to collaborate and bring state-of-the-art medical knowledge to Armenia," said Gevorg Yaghjian, Vice Dean of Postgraduate Education and CME, Yerevan State Medical University. "This is a place where all Armenian doctors can consolidate their efforts."

Armenian American Health Professionals Organization (AAHPO), representing health professions in the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut region, and the host of the 10th Armenian Medical World Congress, partnered with Armenia Fund in providing medical expertise and U.S. site support to the live

consultations sessions. The group is dedicated to improving healthcare provided to the local community, as well as to brethren in Armenia.

Armenia Fund is also partnering with iCons in Medicine to provide Web-based teleconsultations using that group's iConsult services. Armenia Fund will continue to establish relationships with additional program partners. Healthcare professionals or organizations interested in providing healthcare services to rural Armenia through HyeBridge Telehealth are encouraged to contact Armenia Fund.

Karabakh Telecom, a leading provider of Internet and other telecommunication services to the Nagorno Karabakh, and VivaCell, a cellular service provider in Armenia, are contributing their services, which allow participating healthcare facilities to connect with YSMU.



Cochairs of the Armenian Medical World Congress (AMEC) stop by the Armenia Fund USA booth to learn more about the newly launched HyeBridge Telehealth program. L to R: Dr. Larry Najarian, President of AAHPO and cochair of AMWC; Irina Lazarian, Executive Director of Armenia Fund USA; Raffi Festekjian, Chairman of Armenia Fund USA; and Dr. Vicken Pamoukian, cochair of AMWC.

"We are excited by HyeBridge Telehealth's success and are thankful for the many in-kind gifts and volunteer hours both here in the United States and in Armenia," said Raffi Festekjian, chairman of Armenia Fund USA. "Our goal is to expand from these pilot sites to all of rural Armenia and Karabakh, thus enabling connectivity between rural Armenia, Yerevan, and the United States. We are confident that HyeBridge Telehealth will continue to advance Armenians' health, expand the community's medical knowledge, and most importantly, improve quality of life."

Armenia Fund Completes the Reconstruction and Furnishing of Khashtarak School in Tavush Region



Students, teachers, and community members celebrate the opening of newly rebuilt school.

On a beautiful September day, Khashtarak, a village in Armenia's Tavush region, celebrated the opening of its newly rebuilt school with a jubilant ceremony attended by hundreds of community members as well as government officials, spiritual leaders, and Armenia Fund benefactors and representatives, many of whom had traveled to Armenia to participate in the event.

Built in 1973, the Khashtarak school had not undergone upgrades until recently, when Armenia Fund stepped in to fully rebuild and furnish the campus. The reconstruction project was financed by the Fund's French, German, and Swiss affiliates as well as the Germany-based Armenian Merchants' Union. Also contributing to the initiative were the Fund's Australian affiliate, which donated classroom furniture and related fittings. In addition, the Fund's British affiliate donated various school supplies. The total cost of the project is \$480,000 USD (close to 180 million AMD).

Guests of honor at the school's opening ceremony included Armen Gevorgian, Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of the Territorial Administration of the Republic of Armenia; Armen Ghularian, Governor of the Tavush

region; Mikael Vardanian, Deputy of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia; Reverend Torgom Tonikian, Vice-Primate of the Gugark See of the Armenian Apostolic Church, Tavush region; Haik Kamalian, Mayor of Khashtarak; Avedis Kizirian and Gilbert Momdjian, Chairmen, respectively, of the Fund's Swiss and German affiliates; Murad Skyuz and Arman Derderian, representatives of the Armenian Merchants' Union of Germany; and Anahid Kazarians, representing the Fund's British affiliate.

The school reconstruction project has resulted in a modern, fully equipped, and spacious campus. The Hayastan All-Armenian Fund has rebuilt the school's three main structures, including the gym, cafeteria, and events hall. New furniture donated to the school includes desks and chairs, chalkboards, bookcases, and lockers,

as well as equipment for the physics and chemistry labs. A major addition has been the establishment of a computer lab, complete with furnishings and computer systems, which were donated by Mr. and Mrs. Martin Weidemann. The reconstruction project also encompasses the landscaping of the school's grounds and surroundings, and provision of school supplies—this year some 350 schoolchildren of Khashtarak began the academic year with new schoolbags and ample paper, donated by the Fund's British affiliate.

Commenting on the reconstruction project, Minister Armen Gevorgian expressed high praise for the Fund and Diaspora benefactors, thanks to whose steadfast support, he said, the number of renovated schools continues to grow throughout Armenia.

"It's every parent's dream to have their child study in an airy and bright, beautiful school," said Ararat Khghatyan of the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund in an interview. "Every time we complete the renovation of a school, we're filled with pride as we witness the joy of parents and students alike." In his address during the opening ceremony, Gilbert Momdjian congratulated the Khashtarak community on the launch of the rebuilt school and called on the students to take good care of their new home away from home. Momdjian also informed the attendees that the Armenian



The school reconstruction project has resulted in a modern, fully equipped, and spacious campus.

community of Germany was the first to respond to the appeal for sponsoring the reconstruction of the Khashtarak school.

Today the German-Armenian community is once again behind a major development project in Armenia, having sponsored, through Armenia Fund's German affiliate, the current reconstruction of the Noyemberyan Hospital, in the Tavush region.

Also delivering remarks during the opening ceremony was Avedis Kizirian, who extended his gratitude to Armenia Fund, the builders, and leaders of Khashtarak and Tavush.

Khashtarak is the site of a number of significant development projects implemented by Armenia Fund. Earlier this year, the Fund built a gas pipeline, providing 122 families with access to natural gas, and rebuilt the community clinic. Presently, the Fund is rebuilding the Khashtarak-Lusahovit-Ditavan irrigation network. When completed next year, the new system will secure the irrigation of about 600 hectares of land, greatly boosting local agriculture.



Armenia Fund benefactors and representatives participate in school opening ceremony.

Armenia Fund Continues Ororots Project for Infants



Armenia Fund distributes infant packages to socially and economically vulnerable families in Tavush.

The Armenian ministries of Social Security and Health and various NGOs estimate that over 5,000 families in Armenia with children under age one live in conditions of extreme poverty. The Ororots, or “Cradle” Project, was initiated in May 2002 by Armenia Fund USA in order to aid rural Armenian families in the care of their newest members.

As part of this project, Armenia Fund distributed infant Survival Kits to 30 socially vulnerable families in Armenia’s Tavush region in August. The urgently needed packages included shoes, clothes, baby formula, and various other infant-care items such as diapers.

Implemented within the framework of the Ororots Project, the initiative was made possible through a 5,000 euro donation by Mr. and Mrs. Martin Weidemann of Germany.

Project beneficiary Gohar Mkhitarian, a resident of Berd City, said such assistance goes a

long way in terms of helping relieve the daily burden of disadvantaged families. “It also brings a measure of warmth into our lives,” she noted.

Established in 2002, the Ororots Project provides vital infant-care assistance to socially vulnerable families with newborn babies. The Ororots Project is active throughout Armenia.

Since its creation, the Ororots Project has supported 1,150 families across the republic. It is Armenia Fund’s hope that concerned donors such as the Weidemanns will enable the project to continue its work well into the future, helping secure the health and well-being of Armenia’s most vulnerable children.

The projects ultimate goal is to promote healthy, warm, and nourished children and a stable family environment. The project is designed to help families minimize the cost of caring for their children, which often drives fathers to emigrate in search of work or pushes desperate parents to place their children in orphanages.

The Ororots Project supports newborn children by providing their families with pediatric care, medical and nutritional supplies, and awareness programs to ensure healthy development in the critical first year of life. The program includes proper prenatal care for mothers, along with child care education in local clinics, hospitals, and community institutions.

The Survival Kits are designed to complement the four maturation stages

of a baby’s first year. The kits include essentials from baby powder, bed linens, and bottles to hygiene products, blankets, and baby clothing. Funding a full year of an infant’s essential needs through a Survival Kit costs \$150. With \$900, Survival Kits for six infants for one year can be funded. No overhead is taken from the funds donated to the Ororots Project and every dollar results in direct aid to safeguarding the well-being of Armenia’s most precious resources.

Ororots is the first program to pool the resources of the Armenian Ministry of Social Security and the Ministry of Health, as well as various NGOs, businesspeople, and Diasporan donors, to address early childhood care throughout Armenia. Financing needs were \$860,000 for the first year of the program and \$750,000 for each year thereafter.

Every Armenian infant’s first breath is a defining moment in our national destiny. Your support can ensure that Armenia’s neediest babies make it beyond the cradle and into a life of possibility.



The distributed packages, intended for newborns up to age one, help relieve the daily burden of disadvantaged families.

Agriculture: A Renewed Focus



Agronomist, Ara Hovhanissyan provides training to farmers in Lusadzor.

A stagnant agricultural sector with outdated machinery, no fertilizers or equipment, was continuing to cause widespread poverty and migration from Armenia’s Tavush region. In interviews and visits conducted by Armenia Fund, local residents complained particularly of inadequate farming equipment, missing parts, and defunct existing agricultural machinery.

These conditions sparked renewed interest by our donors and supporters, who contributed to the Fund’s Agricultural Initiative, established in 2005 to address some of the most critical issues in rural Armenia.

“There is no working agricultural machinery in our village,” said Sergo Grigorian, a resident of Ditavan, a community in Tavush. “Whatever we have is already 20 or more years old and is simply useless in the field.”

“You need to plow the land two to three times before planting the seeds, but there simply aren’t enough tractors for people

to be able to do it,” echoed Mamikon Aramian, a Khashtarak village local. “We end up cultivating the land just once before planting.” “We have ended up going back to the medieval methods of agriculture, plowing the land mostly by hand and only seldom using tractor for tilling,” said Antika Sardarian, a resident of Lusadzor village.

Still other farmers from the region’s various communities, including Aknaghbyur, complained about the lack of harvesters and combines, which they said resulted in inefficiency, underutilization of land, and crop waste.

Today, while agricultural prospects remain dire in much of rural Armenia, and farming equipment often consisting of rusty relics from the 1960s, vast improvements have been made in six Tavush communities: Khashtarak, Lusahovit, Ditavan, Aknaghbyur, Lusadzor, and Azatamut. The transformation of farming in these villages has been made possible through the recent establishment of an agricultural-machinery park, a vitally important project financed by Armenia Fund.

Our agricultural development hubs serve all six communities. The program provides local farmers with the machinery they need for optimal cultivation and harvesting. The initiative has already proven instrumental in boosting the area’s economic development and helping stem the tide of migration – a major threat to Armenia’s rural development.

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LEADERSHIP AND PLEDGE OF ACCOUNTABILITY

WE WELCOME OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER

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Prelate of the Eastern Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America

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Executive Director

Karine Manukyan

Armenia Fund USA works closely with its board members to ensure the transparency and accountability in all projects. We are happy to announce the addition of our new board member - Armen Arslanian. His professional talent and commitment to helping Armenia and Karabakh will greatly contribute to Armenia Fund USA's mission.



I believe that Armenia Fund USA stands out among the diasporan organizations for its proven ability to tackle the broad-based infrastructure and economic development challenges facing present-day Armenia and Karabakh. It possesses the long track record and on-the-ground

experience to help bring these emerging republics into the 21st century, especially in terms of medical education and healthcare delivery. I look forward to serving as a member of its distinguished board.

Armen Haig Hrant Arslanian, MD, graduated from the American University of Beirut, trained

as a physician in the U.S., and taught medicine at Harvard Medical School as an award-winning educator. Currently practicing medicine and prevention in Boston, MA, Dr. Arslanian continues to pursue his interest in Armenian affairs and culture, a lifelong passion that began at a young age in Beirut, where his family was involved in many charitable and community endeavors.

Having visited Armenia twice since its independence, Dr. Arslanian was impressed not only by the accomplishments in the fields of academics and the sciences, but also in Armenian art and architecture, music, and language.

He and his wife, Araz, are very hopeful that one day the younger generation in Armenia and Karabakh will have the same opportunities as their two daughters, Rose, 14, and Lily, 10 have today.

Agriculture: A Renewed Focus from page 7

"Now we have access to combine harvesters and tractors," said Seyran Sargsian, mayor of Ditavan. "The effect has been immediate as it is so much easier for us to cultivate our lands and harvest our crops this year. The change has been dramatic. All of us felt it."

The farmers use the machinery according strict timetables, set and managed by the communities themselves to ensure that no farmer in need of heavy equipment is left out.

"This project means a lot to our communities," said Ara Sarhatian, mayor of Lusahovit. "It is as simple and as important as being sure that your land will be cultivated properly and all the necessary work will be carried out on time."

"We know we will harvest again," added Antika.



Armenia Fund's Agricultural Initiative targets many critical issues in rural Armenia, including the installation of improved irrigation systems.

TB patients in Gyumri find a loyal friend in Meline Tufenkjian

When Meline Tufenkjian of New York decided to focus her charitable efforts on Armenian patients in Gyumri suffering from a drug-resistant and life-threatening strain of tuberculosis, little did the victims know that she was in it for the long haul.

Over the past three years, Ms. Tufenkjian has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to Gyumri's TB Hospital as it struggles to provide adequate nourishment and medical treatment to an increasing patient population.

In December 2007, Ms. Tufenkjian donated \$15,000 to Armenia Fund USA to help cover the cost of patient medications and nutritious meals through 2008. In December 2008, she increased her generous sum by \$5,000 for 2009,



An elderly patient receives treatment for a life-threatening strain of tuberculosis.

to go toward linens. The funds contributed for 2010 will cover not only meds and meals, but

to ensure every patient would receive adequate nutrition and medication.

This year, upon learning that there was a severe shortage of bed and bath linens at the hospital, Ms. Tufenkjian allowed \$3,000 of her support

also enable the hospital to purchase desperately needed new bath towels, blankets, mattress covers, sheets, and pillowcases. Now the hospital can finally replace the threadbare linens that were compromising the hygiene and comfort of patients, many of whom are isolated for long stretches of time and unable to engage with their families due to their highly contagious condition.

Taking into account 71 patients who are provided two meals per day, this additional \$5,000 can make a real difference in their day-to-day living. Meals can be prepared with healthier ingredients such as real butter and olive oil, and menus can be more varied with offerings of meat, fish, and poultry, and more balanced with the inclusion of honey, jam, fresh yogurt, and other dairy products, as well as bakery goods and some sweets.

"Thanks to Meline's generosity and commitment, our TB patients can count on better treatment, healthier meals, and cleaner and more comfortable amenities. But just as important, they can count on a true friend and supporter in Meline Tufenkjian," stated Karine Tonoyan, the TB hospital's director. "And that can really improve patient morale, which in turn plays a meaningful role in the healing process. On behalf of our staff and patients alike, I wanted to thank Meline Tufenkjian for her generous support and care."

Channels for Giving

Donate Online: If you prefer the convenience the Internet affords, you can donate to Armenia Fund USA through our secure online server at www.armeniafundusa.org.

Corporate Matching Gifts: Would you like to see your donation doubled or even tripled? Over 9,000 companies and their subsidiaries have "Matching Gift Programs." Before you plan your next gift, check to see if your employer can help to increase the power of your donation.

Installment Gifts: Armenia Fund USA is making it easy for you to make your gift in periodic credit card installments that are manageable for you. You can support the projects that are dear to you without feeling the strain of large, up-front donations.

Planned Giving: Consider a planned gift and its many financial benefits. Planned gifts can be in the form of a willed estate or asset, a bequest or the beneficiary status of a pension plan or insurance policy. Speak with your financial planner to learn more or contact us directly.

Pay Tribute to a Loved One: Remember your loved ones with a "Memoriam Gift" or consider a gesture such as "In Lieu of Flowers" to help others commemorate a passing.



Projects completed 1993
Projets réalisés en Arménie 2009
in Armenia & Karabagh
et au Karabagh



- Infrastructure**
 - Water networks / Canalisations d'eau
 - Gas grids / Réseaux de gaz
 - Power grids / Réseaux électriques
 - Roads / Routes
 - Telecommunication Center / Centre de télécommunication
 - Internet relay station / Réseau internet
 - Irrigation canal / Canal d'irrigation
- Education/Culture/Sport**
 - Schools / Ecoles
 - School supplies & equipment / Équipements d'école
 - Gymnasiums / Salles de sport
 - Cultural & administrative buildings / Bâtiements administratifs & culturels
 - Churches / Églises
 - Two year financial support to a dozen orphans and theater companies / Soutien financier à une dizaine d'orphelins et de troupes de théâtre pendant 10 ans
- Social**
 - Housing / Logements
 - Orphanages / Orphelinats
 - Seniorment homes / Maisons de retraite
 - Parks / Parcs
- Health Care**
 - Hospitals & clinics / Hôpitaux & dispensaires
 - Medical supplies & equipment / Équipements médicaux
- Economy**
 - Milking equipment & storage vats / Rayonneurs & cuves de lait
 - Agriculture / Agriculture
- Fuels**
 - Diesel / Diesel
 - Oil / Huile

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Projects Completed and Ongoing in 2009

Completed

Project Description	Budget	Region
Water Networks		
Water supply system reconstruction in Dzoramut village	\$89,170	Lori
Reconstruction of Berdashen water-main	\$601,580	Martuni
Construction of Nrnadzor water supply system	\$76,400	Syunik
Reconstruction of Aknaghbyur village Irrigation system	\$107,290	Tavush
Total	\$874,440	
Educational		
Furnishing of Talin N 2 School	\$7,330	Aragatsotn
Furnishing of Artashat N4 School	\$2,600	Ararat
Furnishing of Aygek village school	\$5,700	Armavir
Furnishing of Gavar N 1 & Sevan N 8 Schools	\$6,830	Gegharkunik
Furnishing of Azokh & Tumi village schools	\$2,520	Hadrut
Furnishing of Mets Taghlar village school	\$11,720	Hadrut
Furnishing of Abovyan N 10 School	\$20,000	Kotayk
Furnishing of Charentsavan N 5 School	\$21,730	Kotayk
Reconstruction of Mrgashen kindergarten lavatory	\$1,750	Kotayk
Furnishing of Nor Hachn N 3 School	\$2,110	Kotayk
Furnishing of Khnkavar & Nor Haykajur village schools	\$11,480	Martakert
Furnishing of Ghuze Chartan & Getavan village schools	\$22,940	Martuni
Furnishing of Martuni town kindergarten for 100 children	\$20,780	Martuni
Furnishing of Mmna & Nngi village schools	\$15,490	Martuni
Furnishing of Chartar village kindergarten	\$6,100	Martuni
Furnishing of Sos village school	\$16,960	Martuni
Furnishing of Gyumri N 10 School	\$2,210	Shirak
Furnishing of Nrnadzor village school	\$16,790	Syunik
Furnishing of Azatamut village school	\$4,310	Tavush
Reconstruction & Furnishing of Khashtarak village school	\$558,770	Tavush
Computer room for Khashtarak village school	\$26,230	Tavush
Consumables for Khashtarak, Lusahovit and Lusadzor village schools	\$6,300	Tavush
Furniture to 10,000 students in Armenia and Artsakh	\$517,320	Arm/NKR
Total	\$1,307,970	
Natural Gas		
Gasification of Aknaghbyur village	\$55,300	Tavush
Gasification of Ditavan village	\$148,610	Tavush
Gasification of Khashtarak, Lusahovit villages	\$269,030	Tavush
Total	\$472,940	
Health Care		
Humanitarian aid to Gyumri Antitubercular Center	\$5,590	Shirak
Renovation of the maternity hall in St. Virgin medical center	\$120,940	Yerevan
Total	\$126,530	
Cultural and Social		
Equipments for Artsakh television	\$87,510	Artsakh
Furnishing of Taghoot village Concert Hall	\$5,120	Hadrut
Furtification of "Meghvik" children center building	\$4,720	Shirak
Playground for Aknaghbyur village	\$3,700	Tavush
Furnishing of Ditavan Community Center	\$14,250	Tavush
Construction of Ditavan Community Center	\$124,140	Tavush
Total	\$239,440	

Ongoing

Project Description	Budget	Region
Water Networks		
Water-main for Mets Taghlar, Azokh and Drakhtik villages	\$800,520	Hadrut
Construction of Sos village water supply system	\$404,680	Martuni
Khashtarak, Lusahovit, Ditavan water irrigation system reconstruction	\$683,370	Tavush
Water supply system reconstruction for Aknaghbyur village	\$218,320	Tavush
Water supply system reconstruction for Ditavan village	\$252,730	Tavush
Total	\$2,359,620	
Agricultural Development		
Construction of Milk Collection Center in Azatamut village	\$102,630	Tavush
Provision of seeds to Tavush villages in the frames of Agricultural Development program	\$4,430	Tavush
Nrnadzor village tractor	\$8,100	Syunik
Total	\$115,160	
Educational		
Furniture for Artsakh Schools	\$315,870	Artsakh
Reconstruction of the right-wing and sport building of the Togh School	\$858,960	Hadrut
Construction of Sports Hall in Spitak Town School N 2	\$263,160	Lori
Construction of Vaghuhas village school	\$1,142,320	Martakert
Construction of Gishi village school	\$1,351,010	Martuni
Construction and Furnishing of Spitakashen village school	\$532,220	Martuni
Construction of Chartar village school	\$675,980	Martuni
Reconstruction of Artsakh State University roof	\$34,360	Stepanakert
Construction of Stepanakert N 11 School	\$2,623,690	Stepanakert
Total	\$7,797,570	
Roads		
Construction and asphaltting of the road (1,9km) leading to Vaghuhas Sch ool	\$126,170	Martakert
Maintenance of Goris-Stepanakert 64,4 km road	\$154,450	Stepanakert
Renovation of the access road to Haghartsin Monastery		
Complex, construction of water supply, power transmission and gas supply systems	\$1,328,690	Tavush
Total	\$1,609,310	
Health Care		
Construction of "Zangezur" cardiology center in Goris	\$778,690	Syunik
Reconstruction of Noyemberyan town hospital	\$488,090	Tavush
Renovation of the Second Floor of the St. Virgin Medical Center Obstetrics Department delivery ward	\$219,850	Yerevan
Total	\$1,486,630	
Cultural and Social		
Design and Setup of Artsakh TV and Radio Company's official website	\$27,160	Artsakh
Construction of Cultural Center in Artik	\$406,820	Shirak
Reconstruction of the events hall floors of Our Lady of Armenia Convent Sports and Culture Center	\$40,590	Shirak
Construction of Aknaghbyur Community Center		Tavush
Project "Ororots"- assistance to newborns	\$311,814	Armenia
Total	\$786,384	

Grand Total for 2009 \$3,021,320

Grand Total for 2009 \$14,154,674