

## THE SOURCE OF LIFE

# ARMENIA FUND USA ADOPTS "WATER WAYS"

## An Effort to Rehabilitate Drinking Water Distribution in Karabakh



For centuries past, water has been considered the very source of life. Nomadic communities traveled in search of it, great civilizations blossomed on its banks and it has altered the geopolitical map

of the very globe itself. In short, water is one of the most essential elements for life and many villages of Armenia and Karabakh struggle with their water supply every day. Commensurate with Armenia Fund USA's ongoing mission to champion sustainable infrastructure projects in the two republics, the Fund has proudly selected the construction of water pipelines in Stepankert and Maghavuz as the newest focus of its 2004 humanitarian efforts.

Creating effective, sustainable systems to rehabilitate Armenia's water supply is an ambitious, large-scale undertaking. Water resource issues plague village residents daily, where water is typically supplied only two to six hours a day. In Armenia, over 200,000 people live in rural areas where water supply and sanitation inadequacies seriously endanger their health and hamper economic development. In due course, the cycle of poverty and powerlessness is reinforced entangling villagers in a quality of life that is marked by mounting challenges.

Ever more frustrating is the reality that Armenia and Karabakh are considered moderately rich in water, however the resources are disproportionately allocated thus necessitating the geographic redistribution of water through large-scale drinking water pipelines. Currently, 80% of the existing water pipelines are outdated and 57% of the pipelines that are 20 years or older are exhibiting water losses between 55-65%.

In wealthier parts of the world, the convenience of running water for domestic and personal use, such as bathing, cooking and cleaning is regarded as the norm. The association between water, hygiene and health has become so automatic for the western world, that it seems nearly inconceivable that many populations cannot afford access to continuous clean water in their homes.

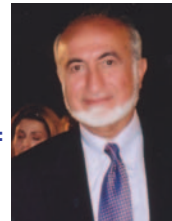


On a planet where 71% of the surface is covered with water, one billion people (80% rural dwellers) do not have access to basic water supply, while several billion suffer from water contamination, which is a primary cause of death and disease. It is these appalling statistics that compelled the United Nations to proclaim the period from 2005 to 2015 as the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life," pledging to cut in half the number of people without clean water.

Working in concert with the global humanitarian community, Armenia Fund USA has launched "Water Ways" in response to the pressing need for improved water systems in Karabakh. Hayastan All-Armenian Fund, our pioneering parent organization, has marked the last decade with comparable projects; constructing and reconstructing over twenty water mains spanning close to 85 miles in length. Armenia Fund USA is committed to increasing this figure through its signature practices of accountability and efficiency. Armenian villagers deserve the chance to care for their families, tend to their crops and build sustainability in their communities with clean and accessible water systems.

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Dear Donors and Friends:



The Fund's annual newsletter serves as a forum to keep you in touch with our programs and initiatives in Armenia and Karabakh, and the Fund's community here on the East Coast. Before I give you a brief overview of our progress and new developments I would like to take a moment to thank each and every one of you. Thank you for your commitment to building the infrastructure upon which Armenia can prosper; thank you for your contributions that have been supporting projects such as the burgeoning North-South Highway and the desperately needed Polyclinic in Karabakh. It is your vision and tenacity that effectively changes the lives of countless many everyday, as bricks are laid and skills are honed on the road towards progress.

In the coming year the Fund will continue raising support for the burgeoning North-South Highway. We will also be launching Water Ways, a new initiative to rehabilitate and clean drinking water in select villages. There will be many new opportunities through which to support the Fund and involve yourself in the East Coast community. We are planning regional functions in various cities on the East Coast and will also extend the broadcast of the telethon to reach more of our constituents. The Fund is also launching its planned giving and endowment fund options, giving vehicles that you can further explore in the "News Corner" section of this newsletter.

In an effort to provide you with an effective channel for building a solid future for Armenia, the Fund continues to cultivate its dedication to both transparency and sustainability. First and foremost we strive to ensure that your every contribution is maximized by relying on strict quality control, from the bidding process up through implementation.

Sustainability plays a central role in achieving long-range success. Although the Fund's primary mission is hinged upon infrastructure, we are of the belief that a building without a staff and a mission is much like a body without a spirit and mind. Our focus on training and sustainability is clearly evidenced in the ongoing Polyclinic project in Karabakh, where renowned public health expert Dr. Alina Dorian has teamed up with Johns Hopkins University and UCLA to train and cultivate hospital staff and empower them with the skills to provide state of the art care and just as importantly, to continue the process of renewal. We are pleased to report that USAID pledged \$200,000 medical equipment to the project.

We ask that you join us with renewed fervor to build new roads, better lives and an increasingly sustainable nation in 2004. Thank you again for your dedication and your support.

Gratefully Yours,

Kevork Toroyan  
Chairman, Armenia Fund USA

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# KARABAKH'S NORTH-SOUTH HIGHWAY

## The Fate of a Nation Relies on Those Who Believe that the Future is Built One Mile at a Time



**Highway Statistics • 27 miles built • 22 miles under-construction  
• 56 miles left to build**

On a freshly paved road that rivals that of any U.S. highway, cars and trucks move steadily through the canorous mountains of Karabakh; some carrying crops to the market in Stepanakert, some carrying children to school. On stretches of unfinished highway, laborers who are hungry for work are busy melding concrete sidelines and preparing the ground. The highway in Karabakh has set a tone of progress and hope for the entire region. Foot-by-foot, mile-by-mile, economic sustainability and the prospect of a brighter future unfold upon a region that has undergone tremendous hardship.

have had to rely on treacherous and sometimes deadly travel conditions for far too long. The North-South Highway has already begun to promote economic revitalization, increased security and the beginnings of a viable communication network.

The completed portions of the North-South Highway are already being utilized by the communities of Dashbulagh, Kichan, Karmir-Shuka and Drakhtik. In the village of Karmir-Shuka new vineries have blossomed, in Sasun a polyethylene

The North-South Highway Project is a bold infrastructure initiative that began in 2000 and has thrived since then. Thanks to massive donor support and the goodwill of many, this complex undertaking is materializing into a channel for sustainability for Karabakh and its people. In order to work towards the completion of the Highway, our attention must again turn to the fundraising efforts and generosity that have already built 27 miles of pristine highway.

The Highway will span approximately 105 miles (170 km) upon its completion, winding through Nagorno Karabakh and linking over 100 towns and villages. The roadway passes directly through the capital of Stepanakert, effectively connecting villages to the region's center of economic activity. Armenia and its people

pipes plant has been created, and in Drmbon a copper gold mine is doing successful business.

Considering the current economic climate, the Highway's progress to date is a strong testament to the resolve and determination of Armenia Fund USA and its constituents. A donation to this critical endeavor is a means of securing a place in history and ensuring Karabakh's endurance and prosperity. Schools, hospitals, and businesses alike will experience the financial and cultural benefits an open and connective road can afford.

The promise and potential for true renaissance hangs in the balance, and the lives of countless citizens stand to be enriched by the conclusion of the Highway. Your commitment along with the resources and dedication of Armenia Fund USA will spur the process of nation building for Karabakh. To learn more about the Fund's Telethon to raise funds for the Highway see the corresponding article in this issue.

The North-South Highway is more than a road connecting structures and markets. It's a unifying power, a mark of civilization's advancement and the path towards a better tomorrow. With your support the Highway will continue to bring vitality to the far reaches of Karabakh. The fate of a nation relies on the unsparing support of those who believe that the future is built one mile at a time.

**Cost of Project \$25,000,000**

**Funds Raised to Date \$12,500,000**

## ARMENIA FUND USA GEARS UP FOR THE 2004 TELETHON

### 56 Miles of Highway Left to Build



2004 Telethon – November 25

Armenia Fund USA is in the midst of preparations for its 2004 Telethon to raise funds for Karabakh's North-South Highway. This year's Telethon promises to be an exciting affair with performers from around the globe, engaging donor appearances and project updates from the field. The Telethon, produced by California's Armenia Fund office since 1996, has had increasing success with each passing year and 2004 is gearing up to beat the \$6 million pledged in 2003. In addition to the tri-state area and Massachusetts, Armenia Fund USA is planning to broadcast this year's Telethon to be aired on Thanksgiving Day, in new broadcast areas such as Michigan, Washington, DC and regions of Pennsylvania and Florida. It will also

be broadcast online. We hope the global support for the Highway will continue with donations coming in from Canada, France, Iran, Syria, Russia, and Bulgaria.

2004 is marked by many initiatives to help the Fund develop a deeper relationship with its constituents; the Telethon is one of the ways to join the dialogue of rebirth for our homeland. The 2004 Telethon will offer donors the benefit of sharing their voice with the community. On Thanksgiving Day, donors will have the opportunity to broadcast a video message with a specified contribution amount. In keeping with last year's acknowledgements, the name of each donor,

continued on page 3

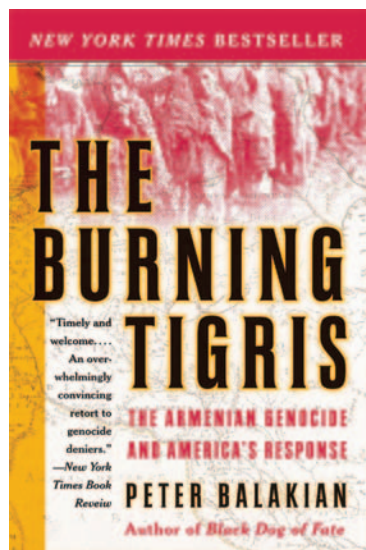


# Armenia Fund USA Online Opening the Doors for Dialogue [www.armenianfundusa.org](http://www.armenianfundusa.org)

“Armenia Fund USA is doing powerfully important work to help keep Armenia and Karabakh running and growing.” – Author, Peter Balakian

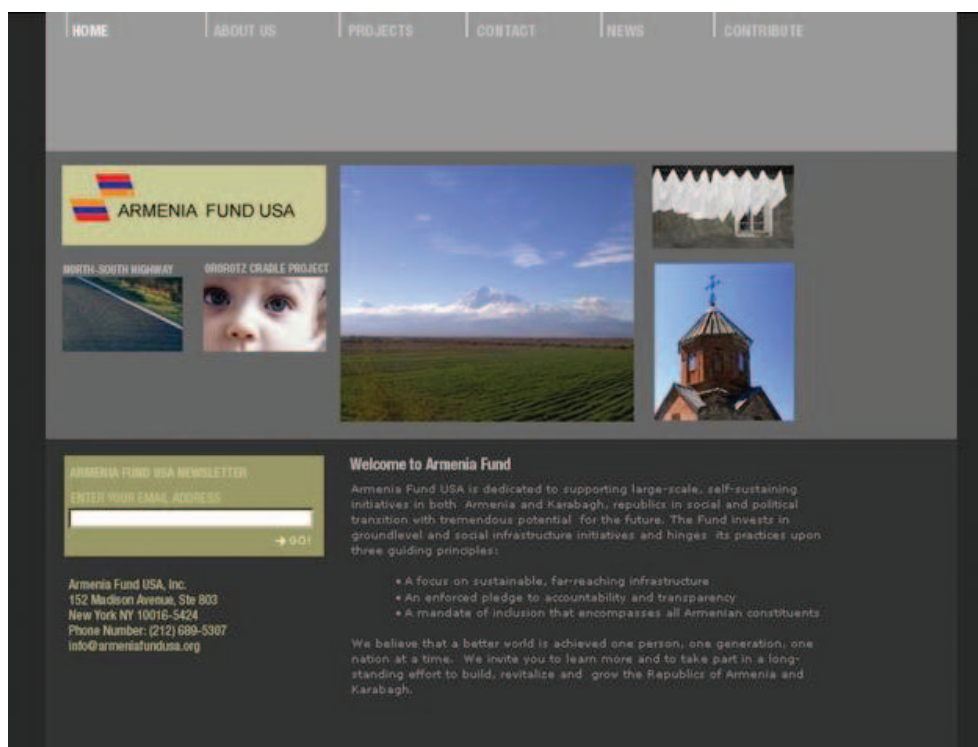
Do you ever wonder about the progress of your favorite project or how your donations are changing communities in Armenia and Karabakh? Our new website, launched in October 2003, provides you with regularly updated information about our new, ongoing, and completed projects. Now, you can track the progress of your favorite projects, read first-hand accounts of how your contributions are improving the lives of locals, and voice your opinion about the kinds of aid that you would like Armenia Fund USA to sponsor.

Armenia Fund USA’s website was created by Sarkissian|Mason, one of New York’s cutting-edge media design agencies. The group, headed by Patrick Sarkissian, has also created interactive websites for a multitude of distinguished clients including Ford Motor Company, BMW, Sony Playstation, Ebay, and most recently Mazda Corporation. Sarkissian|Mason has received numerous awards for their innovative website designs from leading media critics, such as Macromedia.com, ID Magazine, and Print Design. The agency is actively engaged in supporting various humanitarian causes such as Juvenile Diabetes and Armenian philanthropic causes.



Receive an autographed copy of Peter Balakian’s new book, “The Burning Tigris” with an online donation of \$500 or more

The Armenia Fund USA website features updated images of current construction sites, such as The Armine Pagoumian Polyclinic Complex, North-South Highway and before-and-after images of our completed projects. The website also features cutting-edge photographs of Armenia’s striking landscape and ancient historical landmarks. As a



Project updates, news, images and more. Log onto [www.armenianfundusa.org](http://www.armenianfundusa.org)

visitor, you can find updates on Armenia Fund’s projects and programs and details on upcoming events that we are hosting in your area.

Most importantly, the new website gives you a chance to communicate directly with the Fund. We want to know about your interests, funding priorities and concerns and the website is an effective channel through which to make your voice known. Armenia Fund USA was created as a tool through which you can exercise your conscience by creating sustainability in the homeland. Without your active involvement, our mission remains unfulfilled. Take a moment to visit us online today.

## 2004 TELETHON from page 2

regardless of the size of their contribution, will be displayed on the screen.

The need for your support is ever vital as the Highway winds its way through the rocky terrain of Karabakh. A pledge of \$150 translates to (approximately) one meter of Highway, one meter towards changing the fate of a region. “Karabakh is not an internationally recognized country and stands on ambiguous political ground,” says the Fund’s Chairman Kevork Toroyan. “Organizations such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund do not provide support. The responsibility of developing the region rests on the shoulders of the Diasporan community. Our commitment to building the Highway and forging a future for Karabakh is crucial.”

In order to support our mission through our website, author Peter Balakian, of the bestseller and now classic Armenian-American memoir, “Black Dog of Fate” has donated autographed copies of his latest book, “The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America’s Response.” The book debuted at # 4 on the New York Times’ Bestseller list. While supplies last, you can receive a signed copy of this critically acclaimed book with an online donation of \$500 or more. Make your 100% tax-deductible donation (less the cost of the book) through our secure online server now by visiting us at [www.armenianfundusa.org](http://www.armenianfundusa.org)

The North-South Highway will facilitate economic growth in the war-torn and isolated republic of Karabakh. It will allow merchants and farmers to bring their goods to market, connect children to schools in neighboring villages, and boost the regions’ sustainability by creating an effective travel artery. International investment in the country has increased in tandem with road construction. An investment in the North-South Highway is a direct investment in the future of Karabakh and its people.

Tune into Telethon 2004 to help secure the future of Karabakh’s largest-scale humanitarian project. We look forward to hearing from you. For more information visit [www.armenianfundusa.org](http://www.armenianfundusa.org), or call (212) 689-5307.

# NEWS CORNER

## A New Look

Armenia Fund USA is soon to reveal a new brand identity. One of New York's top advertising agencies, Ogilvy & Mather, is currently developing the Fund's refreshed look and feel. Keep your eyes peeled for our new visual identity.

## Bring a Friend

The Fund announces its "Bring-a-Friend" Program. Introduce a friend, colleague, or family member to Armenia Fund USA and any of its projects and receive a 10% discount to our next event along with special recognition. You don't have to do any work. We will be asking all new donors how they heard about us, and if your name is mentioned, you are placed on a list of key players in the Armenia Fund USA community. Our gratitude will be evident. Help spread the word about projects that help build a better future for us all.

## New Channels for Giving

As a donor you have the power to designate your contribution. You can make a Project-Specific Donation to support projects such as the North-South Highway,

Ororotz or Water Ways, or allocate your funds to building sustainability through our Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund is a new step further solidifying Armenia Fund USA's commitment to maintenance and training long after infrastructure has been set in place. Here are some new ways of making a difference:

**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.

**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, upfront donations.

**Donate Online:** If you prefer the convenience the Internet affords, you can donate to Armenia Fund USA through our secure online server at [www.armeniasfundusa.org](http://www.armeniasfundusa.org)

## New Doors for Dialogue

The Fund is your channel for shaping the future of the homeland and the doors for dialogue are open to you. We have taken on a charge to listen more closely to you and to provide you with channels through which you can express your interests, experiences and concerns.

Have you been to Armenia lately? Have you seen any of our projects? What do you consider funding priorities for Armenia and Karabakh? What is your dream for the homeland?

We want to know.

We will soon be launching a voting and feedback mechanism on our website ([www.armeniasfundusa.org](http://www.armeniasfundusa.org)). We hope you will make use of this tool, amongst others, to voice your thoughts. The prospect of a prosperous Armenia and Karabakh belongs to us all.

### "PEOPLE WITH A MISSION" from page 6

Armenia and Karabakh. With the help of a third party, he received \$100,000 worth of clothing as a donation from a major department store. Over the last 18 months he has shipped 20,000 pounds of clothing to villages in Armenia and Karabakh, which has helped to sustain many families with essentials we often take for granted. "Today, Yerevan has become a metropolitan city due to a good deal of incoming development. Now, the villagers are most in need," he said.

Harry Chantikian is one amongst many of the Fund's special donors. His generosity and sense of responsibility have been an inspiration to many. People such as Harry Chantikian are beacons of light for a region that is quickly leaving an era of darkness behind.

## Make your contributions work for you

Your philanthropic goals, and financial future may have more in common than you think.

Learn more about Armenia Fund USA's Planned Giving Program today by calling (212) 689-5307

# Training for Sustainability

## Putting the Future Back into the Hands of the People of Karabakh

Armenia Fund USA is redefining the very idea of sustainability by taking training to a new level with the staff and physicians of the new Pagoumian Polyclinic and Diagnostic Center in Karabakh's capital of Stepanakert. Under the leadership of public health expert Dr. Alina Dorian, the Polyclinic project has blossomed into a comprehensive health care program that involves everything from intensive training for administration and health care professionals to state of the art equipment with technicians and Armenian language manuals.

"Developing a quality health system is a long-term process requiring fundamental changes in the culture of quality," says Dr. Alina Dorian. "The scope of quality includes not only the achievement of best outcome but also equity, safety, effectiveness, efficiency, appropriateness, availability, access, acceptability and user choice. The main challenge is to bring together the key stakeholders; this project brings together health care providers, health authorities and the community to apply evidence-based thinking at the level of everyday practice." On board for the development and implementation of the training modules is an impressive list of collaborators including: UCLA's Center for International Emergency Medicine, Yerevan's Academy of Medicine, the American University of Armenia's Center for Health Services Research and Development, Johns Hopkins University's Center for International Emergency Disaster and Refugee Studies, MediTech Company, and members from Karabakh's local community for whom the Polyclinic is the only viable channel for medical care.

Comprehensive training and the power of new medical knowledge and treatment modalities constitute the most direct route to ensuring the sustainability for both the Center and the state of healthcare in the Republic. Health care professionals in Karabakh have not undergone retraining since 1988. Since independence, the system has been severely plagued with a lack of funding and shortages of basic supplies, reagents and modern equipment for diagnosis, treatment, and sterilization. Health education and counseling training are non-existent in the current health institute curricula.

Once buildings are complete and equipment is delivered, it is the administrators, health professionals, and support staff, that must manage and promote new standards for healthcare in Karabakh. The Center's training program involves four Modules that cover the spectrum in care and management.

Modules three and four will utilize multimedia



Dr. Alina Dorian in a preliminary training session with Polyclinic nurses.

CD-ROMS created exclusively for the health care needs of Karabakh, a first for the region. The educational program will aim to improve the history and physical examination skills of care providers. The multimedia medical education program is efficient, portable, realty-based, and cost-effective. Large volumes of medical information, radiographic images and patient-care scenarios are compiled into a resource that is both portable and easily duplicated. In order to provide comprehensive training support, five personal computers will be provided to the Polyclinic for ongoing educational purposes.

"We are not just producing a building; buildings don't save lives. We are focusing on the physicians, the nurses and the very people themselves. We are giving Karabakh an opportunity to be their own primary care givers and takers; we are empowering them with the ability to heal themselves, and that is far more powerful than the most impressive of building exteriors." Close to \$300,000 worth of X-ray, ECG, EEG, and MRI equipment is being acquired from Meditech, a medical equipment and technology company based in Yerevan. The equipment will come ready with Armenian language operating manuals and will be staffed by engineers specially trained to maintain and repair the equipment. Furnishings ranging from beds and curtains to conference rooms are also incorporated in the facility plan.

The Polyclinic and Diagnostic Center has many visionary philanthropists behind its success. Hirair and Anna Hovnanian made a generous contribution of \$400,000 towards a journey of healing for the Republic of Karabakh.

Fundraising efforts for the new medical complex were recently closed with a generous donation

of \$125,000 in addition to an existing commitment of \$750,000 from philanthropist George Pagoumian. Pagoumian is a respected leader in the insurance industry and created Napco LLC in 1996. George Pagoumian is also a leading contributor for the North-South Highway, the St. Sarkis Armenian Church, the Diocese of the Armenian Church, the College of Insurance and the Armenia School Aid Project.

Thanks to the conscience of generous benefactors, the leadership of dedicated visionaries and the involvement of leading health advocates, Karabakh stands the chance at providing its people with competent healthcare. Karabakh cannot be a viable and strong nation unless it is first a healthy one. For more information on Armenia Fund USA or the Armine Pagoumian Polyclinic and Diagnostic Center, please call (212) 689-5307 or visit [www.armeniasfundusa.org](http://www.armeniasfundusa.org)

"We are empowering them with the ability to heal themselves, and that is far more powerful than the most impressive of building exteriors"

### Training Goals

- Patient-oriented ambulatory care to the entire community
- Improved knowledge base and practice for care providers
- Increased effectiveness in diagnosis and treatment protocols (data evaluation and knowledge skills)
- Systems and tools for improved management and performance (evaluation criteria, leadership training, job and orientation training, team building and patient care training)



# People with a Mission at Heart



**"Berdzor Village (Lachin corridor), September 2003: A group of students from Yerevan State University came with Chantikian to plant 150 walnut trees along the Goris-Stepanakert Highway. The project was sponsored by the Gourgen Melikian Foundation."**

## Profile: Harry Chantikian

There are countless people who make the Fund's charitable projects a reality. We are tremendously grateful to you all. Here is the story of one philanthropist – a story of dedication that stands to inspire us all.

Harry Chantikian is a native of Cuba and works in the financial industry at Oppenheimer & Company. Chantikian's family migrated to Cuba from Van, Turkey in 1925, but the lack of an Armenian

community inspired them to move to the U.S. in 1947.

Harry began a career in the financial industry once in America, where he assumed various positions within the sector.

Chantikian has been a staunch and active supporter of Armenia Fund USA since 1995. His passion for his heritage impels him to contribute

tireless energy to the development of Armenia and Karabakh. Over the past 12 years, since its independence, he has been an active contributor to organizations that are dedicated to development in the region. His contributions have helped to fund projects such as the Goris-Stepanakert Highway, North-South Highway, and Ororotz – Cradle project.

During the fall of 2003, Chantikian spent three months in Armenia and Karabakh, where he had a chance to plant trees alongside the very highway that he helped

to build. On a recent visit to our office, he spoke to us about the noticeable progress in Armenia and Karabakh over the past decade and the still pressing need to continue with the development. "The Highway has made tremendous progress," he commented. "It has significantly decreased travel time and is effectively promoting trade in the region."

The completion of the North-South Highway will give villagers the means to bring their agricultural products to market. "Many farmers are creating produce but do not have access to safe, reliable roads. This results in families who are further dependent on outside aid. The road is our main vehicle towards creating sustainability for Karabakh."

In addition to his charitable contributions to established organizations, Chantikian has also initiated humanitarian projects of his own. He provides orphans with the means to develop a sense of self-worth by sponsoring educational endeavors. "The most valuable resource Armenia has is its children," Chantikian states with definitive sentiment.

In 2003 Mr. Chantikian also worked to procure clothing for the villagers of

continued on page 4

## "WATER WAYS" from page 1

<b>Stepanakert Phase 1 Estimated Project Cost</b>	<b>\$176,000</b>
<b>Funds Raised to Date</b>	<b>\$0</b>

<b>Stepanakert Phase 2 Estimated Project Cost</b>	<b>\$114,000</b>
<b>Funds Raised to Date</b>	<b>\$0</b>

<b>Maghavuz Estimated Project Cost</b>	<b>\$91,760</b>
<b>Funds Raised to Date</b>	<b>\$0</b>

To extend this vital lifeline so urgently needed by scores of Armenians, we are requesting your financial and moral support to realize our unified goal of steering Karabakh towards a path of prosperity and progress.

We are excited by the challenges ahead of us in 2004 and encourage your involvement at all levels – through donations, time or simply by calling us to share your ideas on our current projects! Armenia Fund USA endeavors to make

a difference in the everyday lives of the men and women in Armenia and Karabakh at the most fundamental level. Clean, safe, secure, and accessible water is fundamental to the lives, health, dignity and future of our fellow Armenians.

Armenia Fund USA

Water is one of the most essential elements for life and many villages of Armenia and Karabakh struggle with their water supply every day. Commensurate with Armenia Fund USA's ongoing mission to champion sustainable projects in the two republics, the Fund has proudly selected the construction of water pipelines as the newest focus of its 2004 humanitarian efforts.

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LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ APT # \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

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HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

\$150    \$300    \$500    \$1000    other \_\_\_\_\_

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I would like to contribute to:  Stepanakert Phase 1    Stepanakert Phase 2    Maghavuz

**Please return this card with your tax-deductible contribution to Armenia Fund USA:**

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 152 Madison Ave., #803  
 New York, NY 10016  
[www.armeniamfundusa.org](http://www.armeniamfundusa.org)

1-866-HIMNADRAM  
 or 212-689-5307  
[info@armeniamfundusa.org](mailto:info@armeniamfundusa.org)

# Agricultural Self-Sufficiency for Karabakh

Investigations Identify Prospects for the Development of the Agriculture Sector

Nagorno Karabakh currently imports \$7 to \$9 million worth of agricultural products, ranging from meat and dairy products to grains and vegetables. This may strike many as odd, since Armenia is often thought of as an agriculturally robust nation; but the realities of poor irrigation and lack of funding have left the agricultural capabilities of the nation underdeveloped.

In July 2003, Armenia Fund USA sent a team of agricultural specialists to examine Karabakh's agriculture potential. The team, which comprised water resources, agricultural, production, and food processing experts of policy, returned with some intriguing insights. Karabakh could effectively save in imports by meeting its needs internally and could potentially yield a return on export, further enforcing the goal toward self-sufficiency. One of Karabakh's greatest assets is its natural, unpolluted landscape – an ideal location for the development of organic farming, for which there is increasing global demand. The report prepared by the team under the leadership of Andrea Pampanini who has offered his services pro-bono, recommends a first phase of short term development of import substitution, that could free up at least \$5 million a year for domestic investment, create new jobs, and help Karabakh underpin efforts to become economically independent.

The Fund's next step in this nascent undertaking is to formulate a basic food production strategy and identify a number of food production projects requiring only modest investments. The Fund and its



Agricultural Assessment Pioneers in Karabakh

Armenia-based affiliate, Himnadram, are currently developing several economic proposals for presentation to investors.

The Fund plans to upgrade some of the agricultural infrastructure in Karabakh, particularly local irrigation facilities and rural roads required to make the proposed projects viable. The Fund will be working closely with the government of Karabakh to identify investors and set the stage for the future development of the agricultural sector.

Establishing self-sufficiency is central to Karabakh's evolution and long-term viability. In concert with the North-South Highway and the healthcare reform currently underway through the Polyclinic and Diagnostic Center, promoting economic sustainability through agriculture is key to establishing regional stability for

Karabakh. The premises for a strong agricultural industry in Karabakh exist. We are still at a developmental stage, but we welcome your interest and participation in its realization.

Agricultural Assessment Pioneers  
Andrea H. Pampanini,  
Project Leader  
Dr. Steven H. Sharrow,  
Agronomist/Animal Husbandry  
William A Price, P.E.,  
Water Resources Engineering  
Dott. Franco Grassi,  
Food Processing  
Dott. Guido Segre,  
Economist and Logistics  
Annie Sandrik Pampanini,  
Interpreter/Coordinator  
Marcella L. Price,  
Record Keeper/Photo Editor

We now accept donations on-line through our own web site [www.armeniasfundusa.org](http://www.armeniasfundusa.org)

**ARE YOU CONNECTED?**

If you have e-mail, we would like to add you to our directory. Please contact us at [info@armeniasfundusa.org](mailto:info@armeniasfundusa.org)

Your e-mail address will allow us to contact you quickly about important news and events.

# Yerevan Children's Hospital #3 Celebrates the Opening of The Giritliyan Wing

The generosity of Agop Giritliyan has given the children and staff of Yerevan's Children's Hospital #3 a sense of hope and a safe environment in which to heal. The Hospital, which provides care for children from



Agop Giritliyan

ages two to eighteen, is also considered to be the primary emergency care provider for the region. Built in 1982, the Hospital stood as an example of poor, soviet construction before renovations began. There are countless hospitals scattered throughout Armenia and Karabakh that are considered places to die, as opposed to places to heal. Agop Giritliyan's undertaking is a step towards rectifying a problem that plague far too many in Armenia today.

Giritliyan's donation of \$130,000 was allotted toward the repair and furnishing of the third floor of Children's Hospital No. 3. The first two floors of the Hospital were moderately

renovated thanks to funding from the State Department. Giritliyan, who hails from Istanbul, is now 92 and is well known for his assistance to over 5,000 Armenian students in Turkey. In Armenia he is affectionately known as the Santa Claus of the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund.

"The Children's Hospital's third floor sets a new standard for hospitals," said Dr. Nikolay Dallakian, the Hospital's Director, during the opening ceremony. The walls of the third floor are painted white and decorated with inspirational art work appropriately created by other children. Every inch is well lit and newly furnished. There is a communal kitchen where mother's can prepare food. The rooms have matching beds and nightstands and uniform bedding which will be cleaned and sterilized in state-of-the-art washing machines. The floors are tiled and the bathrooms shine with new porcelain.

The newly remodeled third floor is the first step towards providing adequate care to children who are in desperate need; but there is

still much to be done at the Children's Hospital #3 in Yerevan. There are six floors that remain in deplorable condition and the sustainability of the hospital remains a concern. The hospital's annual budget of nearly \$400,000 allocated through the Ministry of Health is barely sufficient enough to pay the salaries of its 550 employees and cover basic necessities. Giritliyan has taken a bold step in breathing sustainability into this crucial hospital and the opportunity to continue what he has begun remains open.

Every child and adult in Armenia and Karabakh deserves the right to proper health-care and accomplishing this calls for a myriad of programs and contributors. The Children's Hospital renovation is a working example of how Armenia Fund USA collaborates with special donors who have a specific philanthropic goal in mind. The Fund's ongoing projects dedicated to the field of healthcare include the Polyclinic and Diagnostic Center in Stepanakert, its corresponding healthcare policy and training programs, and the Ororotz project aimed at giving newborns a healthy start.

## LEADERSHIP AND PLEDGE TO ACCOUNTABILITY

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- Irina Lazarian
- Rebecca Kooshakjian
- Natalie Chitjian

### TRANSPARENCY OF PROCUREMENT

The board of Armenia Fund USA distinguishes itself for implementing diligently sophisticated controls to ensure transparency in the procurement of its projects.

Armenia Fund USA is happy to announce the addition of our newest board members, Linda Chirinian and Zaven Tachdjian.

#### Linda Chirinian

Linda, who joined the Fund in 2003, is a long-time supporter of humanitarian and development projects in Armenia and Karabakh. Her special interest in aid to children and orphans has led her to host many successful charitable events. Linda is an active member of the Prelacy Ladies' Guild, AGBU New York Special Events' Committee, and Tri-State Friends of American-Armenian Mammography University Center. She is an accomplished cook and author of the bestselling Middle Eastern cookbook, "Secrets of Cooking." She attended the Parson's School of Design and is the creator of

Lionhart handbags. Linda's accomplishments, skills, and compassion complement the diversity of Armenia Fund USA's board.

#### Zaven Tachdjian

Zaven Tachdjian graduated from the American University of Beirut with a Masters Degree in Engineering in 1974. He went on to work in Lebanon, overseeing construction projects in the Middle East and Africa. Mr. Tachdjian is currently the owner and president of Stone & Powers, a construction management and contracting firm for high end homes in Westchester and Fairfield counties. In addition to now serving on Armenia Fund USA's board, Mr. Tachdjian is Parish Council Chairman of St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian Church of Westchester, NY.