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2005 in Retrospect

“Armenia Fund USA has set the stage for a broad agricultural assistance program in Nagorno-Karabakh”

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Securing the Future through Life-Changing Initiatives

Opening new prospects of sustainable development in 2006!

The year of 2005 was marked by challenges, great successes, changes, improvements and new bold undertakings for Armenia Fund USA. The compassion and support of our donors and friends have made possible the initiation of an impressive range of major large-scale infrastructure projects.

To date, the investments of our donors have produced practical and visible results: the successful completion of many initiatives has set the stage for a major shift from funding separate projects to a more holistic development approach – a three-year regional development initiative put forth and approved by all 18 affiliates of Hayastan

Himnadram at the annual meeting in the summer of 2005.

All 18 affiliates of Hayastan Himnadram unanimously agreed to launch the **Rebirth of Artsakh**, a three-region, three-year regional development program. The main components of this comprehensive strategic plan – agriculture, housing, medical facilities and schools are designed to provide self-sufficient and sustainable economic development. Armenia Fund USA has set the stage for a broad agricultural assistance program in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, aimed at improving the lot of subsistence farmers and, through them, developing the Republic’s agricultural

riches.

The **Agricultural Initiative**, the economic underpinning of the *Rebirth of Artsakh* Regional Development Program, has chosen Mardakert as the first of three regions in which to develop the agricultural economy of Karabakh.



Our mission speaks for itself: your support has changed the lives of thousands.

What is the Agricultural Initiative ?

Armenia Fund USA has set the stage for a broad agricultural assistance program in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, aimed specifically at improving the lot of subsistence farmers and, through them, developing the Republic’s rich agricultural resources. The *Agricultural Initiative* is the economic underpinning of the *Rebirth of Artsakh* Regional Development Program—a three-region,

three-year comprehensive strategic plan entailing agriculture, housing, medical facilities and schools. The program is designed to provide self-sufficient and sustainable economic development for the local subsistence farmers and their families.

There is a growing movement among the humanitarian and non-governmental organizations worldwide towards assessing successes through the social impact of development

projects, entrepreneurship, innovation and long-term sustainability. More and more attention is focused on these factors as important indicators of critical problem solving approaches in development work. By launching the *Agro-Initiative*, by providing jobs to the local people, by teaching to fish rather than giving the fish, Armenia Fund USA is joining the global campaign of putting forward a new approach to the idea of development and humanitarian aid.



Volunteers conducting Phonathon 2005

Volunteers' involvement in Armenia Fund USA's projects and initiatives has always made a difference. This was also the case with Phonathon 2005, conducted on November 17-20. Having such diverse backgrounds, all of them had something in common – eagerness to help Artsakh. The Phonathon lasted for 4 days and was intended to raise funds for the *Agricultural Initiative* of the *Rebirth of Artsakh* Regional Development Program. Among 19 volunteers there were high school and university students, as well as professionals, all of them taking time from their busy schedules to help with the Phonathon. Over 3,000 phone calls were made to Armenia Fund USA's donors and supporters east of Mississippi. Phonathon focused on two main purposes: raising awareness among the supporters and friends of Armenia Fund USA by introducing them to the new initiative the Fund is undertaking to bring hope to the

“Armenia Fund USA was a great experience: it made me feel like I was part of something great for my culture. I felt like I was making a difference for the people of Karabakh...”

-Raele Sabounjian, Volunteer.

Phonathon 2005 was made possible by volunteers from Columbia University, New York University, Hunter College, Shushi Dance Group and many other schools, organizations and professions!

people of Karabakh and Armenia by improving standards of life, as well as raising funds for the *Agricultural Initiative* project that Armenia Fund USA is spearheading this year.

“As a volunteer for the 2005 Armenia Fund Phonathon, it was exciting to come together with other volunteers and work as a group to contact and reach as many homes as we could in just a few short hours. With everyone contributing positive ideas and enthusiasm, the experience was definitely gratifying” said Linda Kalayjian, a student from NYU.

Another Phonathon session, this becoming a fundraising tradition, will be conducted in the spring of 2006. At the end of April, Armenia Fund USA will be welcoming volunteers again to make calls to friends and supporters, explaining the new program of *Rebirth of Artsakh*.

Volunteer Testimonies:

“I'm very happy that I had the opportunity to volunteer with Armenia Fund USA. When I came back to New York after spending my summer in Armenia and visiting Nagorno-Karabakh, I wanted to actively continue my involvement in helping and learning from my homeland.”

-Colette Seter, volunteer, Columbia University

“I am part of the class of 2007 and a physics and mathematics double major at Barnard. My time volunteering with Armenia Fund was well-spent. It is a great way to help rebuild Armenia and get involved with the Armenian community here!”

-Sourpouhi Bedikian, volunteer, Columbia University



Laurie Dabaghian, volunteer

Recruitment of volunteers has started. Call to become a volunteer and make a difference!



Vatche Tchekmedjian, volunteer

“I enjoyed volunteering for Armenia Fund USA. It's a nice feeling knowing that you are helping a good cause.”

-Yeva Jermakyan, volunteer, Hunter College

Telethon “Tales”

Telethon 2005, fundraising for the Regional Development Program of *Rebirth of Artsakh*, was a 12-hour live broadcast airing throughout the United States, Europe, South America, and the CIS and the Middle East. While most New Yorkers were hunkered down in front of their TV watching Macy’s Thanksgiving parade, and smelling the aroma of roasting turkey, freshly baked pies, and hot rolls, the staff of Armenia Fund USA and its volunteers were assembling. The reason? Telethon 2005!

A few “Telethon Tales”...

A 10-year old boy in **Massachusetts** is so touched by the plight of children in Armenia and the NKR, he donates \$100!

A 90-year-old Catholic priest in **Illinois** sees the telethon and donates \$100 because of his “great respect” for the Armenian people and their Biblical history.

An 11-year old boy from **Maryland** has his father call to make a \$25 gift for him.

A gentleman in **Iran** sees the telethon via the

“It is not what you choose to give, it is about what inside you makes you choose to do so...”

**Armenia Fund
USA**

internet and calls with a \$5,000 gift.

A family of four in **Massachusetts** is so anxious to give their \$1,000 that they call before Telethon 2005 programming begins!

A young couple calls to make a gift in honor of elderly grandparents in the **Netherlands** who are genocide survivors.

A gentleman in **Dubai UAE** calls in his gift for \$50 in support of “Rebirth of Artsakh!”

THANK YOU to EVERYONE who called! Talking to you made up for missing or delaying our Thanksgiving celebrations. **WE LOVE HEARING FROM YOU!**

We will be in touch with you soon! Armenia Fund USA is conducting Phonathon 2006 in April to raise funds for the Agricultural Initiative that will greatly improve the economic well-being of farmers and their families. The implementation of the Program starts in spring of 2006.

Son of Genocide Survivor supports Armenia Fund USA

“**H**ello President Arkady Ghoukassian. I am happy your land prospers and progresses with clean drinking water, new roads, and new jobs for the people of Artsakh. In 1920 my father escaped genocide, got to Ellis Island in New York City, married my Irish mother, he escaped the genocide...Little grape tomatoes grow now in my garden. I am happy to donate my U.S. Army pension of WWII to help the projects Armenia Fund USA will be doing in Artsakh and Armenia, our farmers need our help. God Bless” .

The above is Arthur Zareh Luledjian’s letter to Armenia Fund USA dated July 8th of 2005.

Reading about Armenia Fund USA and the projects the organization has been implementing in Artsakh and Armenia, Mr. Luledjian, who is also a son of a survivor of the Armenian Genocide, decides to send his WWII U.S. Army pension because he felt his gift was the best way to share his hopes and optimism for the future of Artsakh and Armenia. Very closely following each new project or new initiative launched by Armenia Fund USA, he is very happy to be able to support his and his parents’ motherland.

Mr. Luledjian speaks cheerfully about achievements in bringing prosperity to Armenia and Artsakh. How delighted will he be when he



Mr. Luledjian shows the little green grape tomatoes that are growing around his woodpile

finds out about a new project, the *Agricultural Initiative*, that Armenia Fund USA has launched in 2005 with implementation beginning in 2006!

The *Agricultural Initiative* is a three-year three-region strategic agricultural development initiative that will eradicate poverty in Nagorno-Karabakh, provide jobs for the local farmers and help them move from mere subsistence farming towards export-production units.

ARMENIA FUND USA in ACTION

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Find us on the Web:

<http://www.armenianfundusa.org>

Armenia Fund USA is
recruiting
VOLUNTEERS!

For the upcoming Phonathon in
April

We need YOUR HELP!
If interested, call us at
212-689-5307 or e-mail:
info@armenianfundusa.org

Our Mission and Beliefs

We believe that a better world is achieved one person, one generation, one nation at a time. With your help we can continue to forge unbreakable foundations for a thriving national future.

We invite you to learn more and to take part in a long-standing effort to build, revitalize and grow the Republics of Armenia and Karabakh.

Founded in 1992 as part of *Hayastan Himnadram* and incorporated as Armenia Fund USA in 1995, our mission is the development of strategic economic and social infrastructure in Armenia and Karabakh, focusing on major projects such as major highways, schools, drinking water to communities and humanitarian programs in education, training and medical facilities. The Fund has adopted a policy to go "Beyond Bricks and Mortar" in supporting projects it sponsors to provide sustainability.



**Phonathon 2006
Coming up in April!**

**Volunteers like Alexandra
Papazian from Paris will be
calling you!**

Why Support Armenia Fund USA?

- ◆ We improve health, provide jobs and give new hope to the people of Armenia and Karabakh through strategic social and economic development projects.
- ◆ Our projects create a fundamental infrastructure that equips local people to sustain and expand upon our work.
- ◆ All constituents of the Armenian Diaspora are served and included in our collaborative efforts.
- ◆ We have a long track record of sustainable development projects and we hold ourselves accountable to donors, partners and supporters.