

# ARMENIA FUND USA ACTION NEWS

Affiliate of Hayastan All-Armenian Fund, US Eastern Region

ARMENIA FUND USA ACTION NEWS Fall 2011 Issue 11.2/11.3

## KICKING OFF OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WITH PRIDE AND OPTIMISM



With this newsletter, Armenia Fund USA is pleased to officially launch our 20th Anniversary Celebration. It begins at the turn of the New Year and lasts through September 23, 2012.

This past September, Armenia celebrated its own 20-year milestone as an independent state. The one-year age difference between the new republic and Armenia Fund USA demonstrates how quickly the Armenian-American community was able to respond to the perilous challenges facing a newborn Armenia and, soon after, Nagorno-Karabakh.

With the support of so many Diasporans inspired by a free homeland, Armenia Fund USA was established as the first international affiliate of the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund. With nation building at the core of our mission, we set our sights on large-scale, sustainable infrastructure projects.

It was a decision that has served the Armenian homeland well in highways built, roads paved, water systems overhauled, lives saved, medical conditions treated, jobs created, youth educated, farmlands cultivated, families strengthened, and towns and villages on the path to renewal.

### **A nation-building organization that was waiting to happen.**

In hindsight, Armenia Fund USA was well poised to take on such an ambitious goal. Back in 1988, with the whole world reaching out to Armenian earthquake victims, the Armenian-American community mobilized as never before.

United behind a single cause, volunteers from the community were able to manage an outpouring of donations as well as organize large emergency relief shipments in record time. Little did the inspired volunteers know that they were preparing for a mission far grander in scope and possibilities—rebuilding their ancestral homeland.

*Continued on page 2*

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE.....	Page 2
HEALTH CARE INITIATIVES .....	Page 3
NEUROSCIENCE TRAINING.....	Page 4
AFFILIATE NEWS .....	Page 5
INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENTS .....	Page 6
DONOR SPOTLIGHT .....	Page 7
NEW BOARD MEMBERS.....	Page 8
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	Page 9

## TELETHON 2011

was a  
multimillion-dollar  
success!

We are still  
accepting donations.

See page 5 for all giving options.

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends:

This is the first time I have the honor of writing to you as Chairman of Armenia Fund USA, although I am certainly not new to the organization.

As Armenia Fund USA's board secretary and legal advisor for the past eight years, I have enriched my perspective on nation building and deepened my appreciation for Armenia Fund USA as a driver of infrastructure renewal and economic development in the Armenian homeland.

And thanks to the thousands of donors who have stood with Armenia Fund USA throughout these years, we have distinguished ourselves by our extensive experience, know-how and insights in the complex business of nation building.

I am also very pleased to be working alongside another longtime member of the team, our executive director, Irina Lazarian. Her integrity, perseverance, unique skill set and receptivity to our donors are attributes we could not have succeeded without. This year marks Irina's 8th year as executive director and 12th year of outstanding service overall.

In the weeks and months ahead, I look forward to working with the board, executive staff and other affiliates to develop a new plan that addresses two critical issues facing Armenia and Karabakh today—employment and health care.

That may sound like a familiar refrain for us here in the US. But for Armenia and Karabakh, these issues are directly linked to their national security. Without jobs and reliable health care delivery, border communities will continue losing their young people to other countries—and the youth are the lifeblood of survival on the nation's frontiers. The first step, of course, is building the strong infrastructure foundations that are necessary to spur and foster economic growth.

There is much at stake. We have come too far to risk losing ground. Yet, in light of all that we have achieved in just 20 years, I am optimistic that, together, we can turn these fragile communities into model places to work, live and raise healthy families.

I will keep you informed of our progress and welcome your thoughts on how we can make the next 20 years even more productive than the last.

Sincerely yours,



Khoren Bandazian  
Chairman

## Kicking Off Our 20th Anniversary Celebration with Pride and Optimism from page 1

### An impressive portfolio of projects, programs and special initiatives.

Over the past 20 years, the number of affiliates across the continents has grown to 22, with three new ones added just this year. Nevertheless, as the first affiliate in the US, Armenia Fund USA remains among the most experienced and active in the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund family.

Over the past two decades, we have raised over \$55 million from our loyal base of donors, contributing to the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund's total of \$215.8 million raised worldwide since 1992.

Given this generous support, we have facilitated greenlighting such high-profile infrastructure projects as the Goris-Stepanakert Highway, the North-South Highway, the reconstruction of the Vanadzor School and the new construction of the Armine Pagoumian Polyclinic and Anna and Hirair Hovnanian Diagnostic Center in Stepanakert.

We also are a primary driver of comprehensive programs of longer duration, including the "Rural Development," "Rebirth of Shushi" and "Water Is Life" efforts, working with the government of Karabakh and coordinating with other affiliates.

Finally, Armenia Fund USA takes great pride in our groundbreaking work in the emerging field of telemedicine. The enthusiastic response to the concept quickly led to our partnership with Yerevan State Medical University and the Armenian American Health Professional Organization (AAHPO), under the banner of HyeBridge Telehealth.

The program encompasses diagnostic consulting, education and training as well as remote medical monitoring. Together, these innovations will help Armenia and Karabakh take better care of their citizens—their most valuable resource.

Our 20th anniversary marks an opportune time to reflect on how far Armenia Fund USA has come in delivering sustainable, transformative solutions to the Armenian homeland. In this issue, we start at the beginning.

### Reflections: the early years.



In 1991, the long-held dream of Armenians everywhere is fulfilled practically overnight. Armenia is a free and independent state.

The celebration is short-lived. The fledgling nation is beset with challenges on every front. Conflict in Karabakh. Mass refugees. Crumbling institutions.

A fuel blockade thrusts Armenia into darkness—with no heat, electricity or water. Armenia's best and brightest emigrate,

in what would reduce the population by one-third in less than a decade.

The response from America is swift, united and inspired. In September 1992, Armenia Fund USA is founded in New York City—the first international affiliate of the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund, our umbrella organization in Yerevan.

### A race against time.

Focused on long-standing infrastructure problems, yet ready to meet the urgent needs of a newborn nation, Armenia Fund USA procures supplies for a mass humanitarian airlift to Armenia, in cooperation with United Armenian Fund.

Meanwhile, tensions between Karabakh and Azerbaijan escalate into all-out combat.

*Continued on page 3*

# HYEBRIDGE TELEHEALTH CONTINUES TO CLOSE THE GAP IN HEALTH CARE DELIVERY



From VCU, Dr. Ronald Merrell, pioneer and leading expert in telemedicine, lectures physicians in training at YSMU in Armenia.

Last February, Dr. Ronald Merrell of Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) in Richmond began a lecture at 8 a.m. from the VCU Telemedicine Center. For the attendees in Yerevan, however, it was 5 p.m.

As a preeminent leader in the growing field of telemedicine, Dr. Merrell began his presentation with a brief history of the status and

trends of the practice in the United States, starting in 1972, when the term “telemedicine” was coined.

The lecture was organized shortly after Armenia Fund USA and Yerevan State Medical University (YSMU) formally sealed their partnership under the banner of the newly established HyeBridge Telehealth.

With the explosive rise of the Internet and social networking, health care professionals in Armenia and Karabakh are well aware of the advantages that the telemedicine model affords remote cities and villages in which health care delivery is severely compromised.



Audience looks on as Dr. Ronald Merrell delivers his brilliant lecture.

## Exciting prospects for mobile, home and emergency telemedicine.

Dr. Gevorg Yaghjyan, board member of Armenia Fund USA and vice dean of postgraduate education and CME at Heratsi Yerevan State Medical University, has been instrumental in the launch of HyeBridge Telehealth. Dr. Yaghjyan stresses the huge potential of distance medicine—specifically in the area of mobile, home and emergency medicine. He describes them as “a new vision and concept for Armenian doctors.”

Mobile medicine uses a patient’s own smartphone to enable doctors to monitor the patient’s progress. Mobile medicine may also include automotive units equipped with satellite features that facilitate real-time consultations en route to a local medical facility.

With home medicine, doctors have access to a web-based management system. There are also multifaceted devices that collect data and enable video consults. Now doctors can be in two places at once, so that patients at home can receive timely medical attention.

Plus, there is now web-based online meeting software that allows up to 25 participants at once to consult on a rotating basis.

With the expansion of consulting sessions and the use of online scheduling tools, greater cost efficiencies can be realized.

## Armenia Fund USA proactively supports the advance of telemedicine.

Armenia Fund USA has formally announced its agreement to collaborate with the government of Karabakh to further expand telemedicine activities across the region.

Armenia Fund USA’s executive director, Irina Lazarian, is a strong advocate of the program. Having spearheaded the telemedicine initiative in the US, she says, “Our affiliate has adopted telemedicine because we know how timely and accurate diagnoses can improve outcomes. As for postsurgical patient care, regular follow-ups are essential to recovery. Home telemedicine and real-time monitoring can turn such challenges around for countless patients.”

Dr. Mihran Nazeretyan, one of the participants in Dr. Merrell’s telemedicine conference, notes, “Telemedicine’s main assignment now is to leverage the professional and public enthusiasm for the practice and turn it into a mainstream activity.” He points out that reliable access to appropriate interpretation of clinical data can bridge the health care divide in the Armenian homeland.

## Expanding Armenia’s physicians’ knowledge base through telemedicine consultations.

HyeBridge Telehealth continues to facilitate real-time consultations between doctors in Armenia and the United States. These sessions are especially helpful on cases that are difficult to diagnose. A young Armenian-American pediatrician, Tsoline Kojaoglanian, for example, is working on her second case with her Armenia-based counterpart, Dr. Satenik Harutyunyan. Together, they are treating a 10-year-old female with a grave illness.

Armenia Fund USA will continue to advance and optimize HyeBridge Telehealth, working with YSMU and the government of Karabakh as well as telemedicine experts like Dr. Merrell. To learn more about this groundbreaking initiative, go to [www.armeniamfundusa.org](http://www.armeniamfundusa.org) or contact Irina Lazarian at 212-689-5307.

## 20th Anniversary Celebration from page 2



Aerial view of North-South Highway.

When a cease-fire takes hold, Armenia Fund USA mobilizes funding for our first large-scale infrastructure project, the Goris-Stepanakert Highway, referred to as the “road of life.” Connecting Armenia with Karabakh, the highway allows critical supplies and goods to reach remote provinces in 4.5 hours versus 12.

Three years later, construction of the North-South Highway begins, also known as the “backbone” of Karabakh, linking 150 villages in Karabakh through a main artery.

*To be continued...*

# BOARD MEMBER DR. ARTHUR GRIGORIAN'S MASTER PLAN FOR NEUROSCIENCE TRAINING MOVES FULL SPEED AHEAD



In collaboration with Armenia Fund USA, the complex neuroscience program in Armenia has grown dramatically over the past 10 years.

Soon after his most recent trip to Armenia in February 2011, Armenia Fund USA board member Dr. Arthur Grigorian took some time from his busy schedule to discuss the eight surgeries he performed during his visit to Yerevan State Medical University (YSMU). His innovative procedures had never before been performed in Armenia. But thanks to the training program he developed especially for Armenian neuroscience specialists, that is about to change.

## Bringing relief to victims of acute stroke and hemorrhages.

In collaboration with Armenia Fund USA, Dr. Grigorian's program is designed to help treat the large numbers of Armenian citizens who suffer from acute strokes and the complications caused by brain hemorrhages.

Even when Dr. Grigorian is not present, resident physicians in Armenia are able to perform these advanced procedures, equipped with the knowledge gained by working alongside Dr. Grigorian, his talented nurses and his frequent colleague, Dr. Arthur Ulm of Louisiana State University. Both doctors also consult with the students at YSMU through Internet-facilitated videoconferencing, via the HyeBridge Telehealth network with its educational, diagnostic and remote monitoring capabilities. Over 30 physicians have already been trained, and more are ready to start.

## Armenia's rising stars of neuroscience earn prestigious fellowships.

As a complement to the training, the program also arranges for fellowships with leading American universities and medical centers. Currently, there are two Armenian fellows attending Louisiana State University who take turns so that one is always available to pass on the training to peers back at YSMU.



Physicians from the complex neuroscience program at YSMU perform surgeries under the guidance of Dr. Arthur Grigorian (second from right).

A neuroradiologist will begin a three-month fellowship at Emory University before returning to Armenia to train others in this specialty.

Armenia Fund USA is also exploring avenues by which to train physicians in neuro-anesthesiology and intensive care, two fields necessary to support the neurosurgical procedures that Armenia's health care system is now equipped to offer.

As the complex neuroscience program takes shape, the students who benefit from the fully funded fellowships are not just the brightest neuroscience specialists in Armenia today. They also possess the quality credentials needed to be admitted to some of the most prestigious medical institutions and programs in America.

## A new grant to help support complex neuroscience programs.

Such achievements have not gone unnoticed. Armenia Fund USA recently received a grant from Covidien, a leading global provider of health care products, through its neurovascular division.

"The donation is in support of the newly created neuroscience facility in Armenia designed to bring best practices to physicians in the area and increase access to quality care and treatment options for its citizens," said David Mowry, President, Neurovascular Division, Covidien.

In acknowledging the grant, Dr. Grigorian said that it was another vote of confidence in Armenia's potential to become a center of excellence in complex neuroscience—just what a doctor of his vision, persistence and dedication would order.

Thanks to the efforts of Dr. Grigorian and companies like Covidien, Armenia Fund USA has received thousands of dollars' worth of gifts in kind made to these neuroscience programs. If you are interested in supporting and/or learning more about this program, please contact Armenia Fund USA at [info@armeniasfundusa.org](mailto:info@armeniasfundusa.org) or call us at 212-689-5307.

# HAYASTAN ALL-ARMENIAN FUND LAUNCHES THREE NEW AFFILIATES

Continuing to expand its reach around the world, the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund recently launched three new affiliate offices—two in Latin America and the other in Europe.

**Argentina:** This is the second affiliate, reflecting the large Armenian community of 70,000, with an enclave of 10,000 Armenians in the city of Córdoba alone. It is in this city that the second affiliate was established. This makes Argentina the third country, after the United States and Canada, to have two affiliates.

**Uruguay:** After an eight-year hiatus, the affiliate in Montevideo was reopened to enable the relatively small Armenian community there to streamline its efforts to assist the homeland. The establishment of the Latin American affiliates was assisted by Hrach Hovhannisyan of the Fund's executive board.

**Romania:** In 2010, the Armenian-Romanian community contributed over \$14,000 to the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund for 2011 projects. Establishing their own affiliate will help them organize and streamline future fundraising efforts for the Fund. In response to the launch, the editors of the *Ararat* biweekly and *Nor Gyank* monthly and a popular radio station in the town of Constanta have agreed to publicize news about the Fund, its activities and its projects.

Commenting on these recent launches, Mr. Hrach Hovhannisyan, member of the board of the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund, said, "The establishment of every new affiliate not only is cause for great celebration in Armenia and Karabakh, but also further energizes the Diaspora's existing affiliates and brings the Diaspora and homeland closer together. Our continued growth gives them a wonderful sense of being part of a bigger and stronger family."



## Channels for Giving

**Donate Online:** If you prefer the convenience that the Internet affords, you can donate to Armenia Fund USA through our secure online server at [www.armenianfundusa.org](http://www.armenianfundusa.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 "Memorial Gift" or consider a gesture such as "In Lieu of Flowers" to help others commemorate a passing.

**Text Donation:** Donate **\$10** by texting **ARMENIA** to **80088** and reply with **YES** to confirm your donation. By replying with **YES** to confirm your donation, you accept that \$10 will be charged to your cell phone bill. Help us spread the word by telling 10 of your friends to donate 10 dollars.

*Message and data rates may apply. For full terms visit [www.mGive.org](http://www.mGive.org).*

# KARMIR SHUKA: WHERE THERE'S PLENTY OF WINE, THERE'S FINALLY ENOUGH WATER

To view its lush landscape, one would assume that the town of Karmir Shuka has abundant access to water. But the 1,050 residents of this picturesque mountain town, famous for its winery, have been coping with a water shortage for as long as they can remember.

The existing delivery network, built in the 1930s, limits regular water access in various ways. First, the 300 households must share one water spigot, which is located in a lower-altitude section of the town. With luck, there is water for six hours a day. The rest of the time, the water is available for just an hour or two every couple of days.



Access to more water will mean great things for the residents of Karmir Shuka.



Villagers must await their turn at the one water spigot, shared by 1,050 residents.

## The Challenge: One pipeline cannot reach two altitudes at once.

Though the nearby mountain springs produce an ample water supply, the main pipeline first serves the cluster of families living at the lowest altitude. Families at higher altitudes must wait until the downhill neighbors stop using the water long enough for it to accumulate and build up

enough pressure to pump itself back up the mountain. As a result, residents at the highest altitude often go without water for days.

## The Solution: Add new water sources, extend the pipeline to each household and revamp the internal distribution network.

With cofinancing from the government of Karabakh, Armenia Fund USA is working on a three-pronged solution. First, it is adding new sources to the existing network, which generates more water. Then it is extending the pipeline to reach every household, so that 1,050 inhabitants are not sharing only one spigot. This will enable villagers to use water as needed and turn it off when finished, and will allow continuous access for those living at higher altitudes.

The existing system is being upgraded to include an additional water line from a new source at a higher elevation. This source will have its own reservoir and filtration system and will eventually connect to the existing water network.



Water distribution system.

## How many gallons of water does it take to supply a family of 16?



Katia with six of her 14 children.

Katia, a resident of Karmir Shuka, is the mother of 14. She and her husband live off what they grow in their backyard orchard and garden. They also have their own cows and other farm animals to sustain them.

Living off the land, however, requires both potable water and irrigation water. Plus,

with so much laundry to hand wash, so many baths to give and daily meals for 14 hungry mouths, securing enough water per day is a daunting task. Not only that, but the water supply lasts only six or seven hours a day—on a good day.

Thanks to Armenia Fund USA and the government of Karabakh, water shortages will soon be history for Katia and her family. They will have their own in-home potable water system with continuous access to water drawn from the abundant mountain springs of the Karmir Shuka region.

## A community primed to make a constant supply of potable water.



Connecting the pipes that will complete the village's water distribution network.

Karmir Shuka has fared relatively well in spite of its water problem. Its winery is known as one of the best in the region, and the land is fertile enough to support orchards and many varieties of crops.

Irina Lazarian, executive director of Armenia Fund USA, recently returned from a field trip to the town. She reports, "This is an entrepreneurial

community. Even with limited access to water, there are orchards and livestock. The winery nearby is currently undergoing a major renovation, which, when completed, will attract more visitors to the area."

The soil is good and can accommodate other types of crops. The town is lush, green and beautiful. "It has a pastoral lifestyle but is nonetheless a functioning, familial community," says Ms. Lazarian. "With potable water available around the clock, there's no telling how much Karmir Shuka can prosper in the years ahead."



This trench will bring water down from the mountain to the village below.

# DONOR SPOTLIGHT

## THE MEMORY OF GIRAGOS VAPURCIYAN ENDURES IN A PLACE WHERE LIFE BEGINS.



We are proud to carry forth the legacy of Mr. Vapurciyan through our Martuni Hospital project.

Last June, a major donation to the Martuni Regional Hospital was made from the estate of Giragos “Greg” Vapurciyan, one of Armenia Fund USA’s most loyal donors. He passed away on February 5, 2011, endowing a portion of his estate to our affiliate.

Some of these funds have been allocated to the maternity ward of the new hospital that is currently under construction; over 26 percent has been completed over the course of several months.

Located on the second floor of the new structure’s east wing, the entrance to the maternity ward will bear a plaque with the inscription “*The Giragos Vapurciyan Maternity Ward. Where life begins...*”

The new facility is designed to house ob-gyn and birthing centers, a prenatal care ward, predelivery, delivery and postdelivery rooms, neonatal intensive care, and examination and vaccination rooms. It also will have sterile linen, space for equipment storage and offices for physicians and nurses.

The executor of Mr. Vapurciyan’s estate, Harutun Vapurciyan, donated \$100,000 to the project, in accordance with his late brother’s wishes. “Such a generous gift will ensure world-class health care delivery for expectant and new mothers,” stated Armenia Fund USA’s executive director, Irina Lazarian. “These women are from a region that fought very hard for the liberation of Karabakh. They deserve a safe and secure setting in which to bring new life into the world.”

Thanks to the late Giragos Vapurciyan, the newborns of Martuni and the region have the best chance for a healthy start in life.



Taken from the old Martuni Hospital.

## EDGAR HAGOPIAN OF DETROIT LEAVES A LEGACY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE.



Mr. Hagopian leaves a legacy; proceeds from Armenia Fest to benefit Armenia Fund’s projects.

Armenia Fund USA mourns the passing of one of its most enterprising and steadfast supporters, Edgar Hagopian. He passed away on March 27, 2011, at the age of 80.

Born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, Mr. Hagopian was a pillar of the Detroit Armenian-American community. He managed to galvanize fundraising support from fellow Armenians to advance various causes dear to his heart. He was instrumental in organizing the Detroit Armenia Fest, launched in 2007, with the proceeds donated to Armenia Fund USA

projects and other Armenian charities. To date, more than \$25,000 has been raised through this annual event.

“Armenia Fund USA could always count on Edgar to lend the full extent of his support. He became an ad hoc ambassador and worked tirelessly on our behalf,” remarked Irina Lazarian, executive director of Armenia Fund USA. “His hard work, dedication and

philanthropy are beyond our individual appreciation; it extends throughout the Armenian Diaspora.”

Mr. Hagopian’s pride in his Armenian identity compelled him to help pass the 2002 Michigan Public Act 558, which recognizes the Armenian Genocide. In 2006, through the Hagopian Family Foundation, he began the “Facing History and Ourselves” project to promote Armenian Genocide awareness.

An accomplished businessman, Mr. Hagopian grew the family business into what is today the 72-year-old World of Rugs and Cleaning Services. The fruits of such success motivated Mr. Hagopian and his wife, Sarah, to give back in ways large and small.

The Detroit International Institute inducted Mr. Hagopian into its Hall of Fame in 2002, and three years later he received the prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor for his immense dedication to community service, the exploration of ancestry and the facilitation of cultural exchange in the United States and abroad.

## ONE WOMAN’S STEADFAST SUPPORT FOR TB PATIENTS INSPIRES OTHERS TO JOIN THE CAUSE.

The World Health Organization’s estimates put the total number of tuberculosis cases at 107 per 100,000 people in Armenia in 2009, compared to 4.5 per 100,000 in the United States the same year. Furthermore, the number of new cases of TB also holds steady with 73 per 100,000 Armenians in 2009 becoming infected, compared to four per 100,000 Americans.

In 2007, Armenia’s challenges in coping with this particularly resistant strain of TB came to the attention of Meline Tufenkciyan of New York City. Ever since, she has not only been a source of great compassion for the patients and their families, but also a reliable source of funding.

After approaching Armenia Fund USA to learn how to best support the TB victims, Ms. Tufenkciyan decided to direct her funds to the TB hospital in Gyumri, Armenia. The limited Armenian government budget on which the hospital relied could not support the vitamin-rich meals needed to boost patient immune systems, which would include lean proteins, fresh fruits and vegetables.

Ms. Tufenkciyan came to the rescue with a generous gift of \$15,000, followed by \$20,000 over the next two years and \$25,000 in 2010. As the word spread about her “Meals and Meds” program, other donors came on board, generating an additional \$3,000 by the end of 2010. This extra donation allowed the hospital to purchase new beds and side tables to improve sanitary conditions.

Hospital director Karine Tonoyan is effusive in expressing her gratitude to Ms. Tufenkciyan for her special relationship with the hospital. In turn, Ms. Tonoyan regularly confers with Ms. Tufenkciyan, reporting how funds have been allocated and deciding how best to serve the needs of staff and patients alike. As a result of these discussions, Ms. Tufenkciyan designated a small portion of her most recent donation to procuring new, higher-quality linens. This will add the extra measure of sterility that is essential for treating TB patients.

While TB maintains its grip on the Armenian populace, institutions like the Gyumri TB Hospital and donors like Meline Tufenkciyan—as well as those following her lead—are able to show patients how much they are valued and cared about.



A patient receiving treatment at the Gyumri TB Hospital.

# LEADERSHIP AND PLEDGE OF ACCOUNTABILITY

## WE WELCOME OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

### TRUSTEES

H.H. Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians represented by:  
H.E. Abp. Khajag Barsamian  
Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern)

H.H. Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia represented by:  
H.E. Abp. Oshagan Choloyan  
Prelate of the Eastern Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America

Hon. Gagik G. Haroutiunian  
Trustee, Hayastan Himmnadram

Hirair Hovnanian  
Trustee, Hayastan Himmnadram

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Khoren Bandazian, Esq.  
Chairman

Aram Pehlivanian  
Treasurer

Zara Ingilizian  
Secretary

Hagop Kouyoumdjian  
Chairman Emeritus

Gregory Amerkianian

Armen Arslanian

Arthur Gregorian

Jean-Jacques Hajjar

Gregory Melconian

Kharen Musaelian

Tro Piliguian

Margot Takian

Joshua Tevekelian

Gevorg Yaghjyan

### MANAGEMENT

Irina Lazarian  
Executive Director

Armenia Fund USA works closely with its board members to ensure the transparency and accountability of all projects. We are happy to announce the addition of our two new board members—Gregory Melconian and Joshua Tevekelian. Their professional talent and commitment to helping Armenia and Karabakh will greatly contribute to Armenia Fund USA's mission.



*"I believe Armenia Fund USA shines in its ability to tackle the fundamental needs of our homeland—health care, education and infrastructure development. With its proven record of success, a clear and achievable mission and a global reach, Armenia Fund USA is an organization I am honored to serve as a board member."*

Gregory Melconian has been an investment banker for over 15 years, with positions at such well-known financial institutions as Lehman

Brothers, Barclays and BMO Capital Markets.

He is currently a managing director and group head at BMO Capital Markets in New York, with responsibility for managing part of the investment banking business and originating financing and advisory transactions for corporations, private equity and sovereign clients in the US and abroad.

Gregory holds an MBA in finance and accounting from the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business and a BA in history from Tufts University. He is also chairman of the Annual Fund and a steering committee member for the Lawrenceville School. Gregory resides in Rumson, New Jersey, with his wife and two children.



*"For me, the beauty of Armenia is not in the landscapes and historical monuments, although important and majestic. The real beauty lies within the promise of the people and the passion of many that drives our country towards excellence. I have been fortunate to meet some of the brightest Armenia has to offer and am amazed by their commitment to grow our nation to its fullest potential. With the cooperation and assistance of a strong Diaspora, our potential is limitless. That potential is what I hope to foster and support as a member of Armenia Fund USA and I look forward to serving on this distinguished Board."*

In 1990 Joshua Tevekelian visited Armenia for the first time to study the Armenian language for a semester, along with our new board chairman, Khoren Bandazian. Since

then he has visited Armenia on 11 other occasions pre-and post-independence, witnessing many of the defining moments in the history of the young nation.

A high-profile member of the greater Boston Armenian community, Joshua holds a variety of positions. In addition to his new duties as a board member of Armenia Fund USA, he is a member of the Camp Haiastan Board of Trustees, a trustee for the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center in Watertown, Massachusetts, a member of the Sardarabad A.R.F. Gomideh, and a former trustee of St. Stephen's Armenian Apostolic Church. He also currently teaches Sunday school at St. James Armenian Apostolic Church in Watertown.

Joshua is a senior accountant at Colony Realty Partners in Boston. He graduated from Northeastern University in Boston with a BS in finance and accounting and a minor in political science.

## A THANK-YOU FROM OUR GLOBAL LEADER

The Hayastan All-Armenian Fund expresses its sincere gratitude to Armenian communities around the world for the continued and growing support of the Fund's nation-building mission. We are pleased to announce that we successfully concluded our 14th International Telethon. Months of preparation resulted in a truly wonderful day full of rich Armenian culture and spirit. The proceeds from the Telethon and the funds collected throughout the fundraising drive will help extend clean drinking and irrigation water throughout Karabakh.

As a result, we will continue implementing water projects through our rural development program in the border villages of Armenia and Karabakh through a comprehensive development strategy. This will help bring visible, feasible and profound change where it is needed most.

If you missed the Telethon 2011 or would like to contribute toward this vital undertaking of improving water infrastructure in the Armenian homeland, donations are always welcome through your regional affiliate.

