



WARM HEARTH



PROVIDING HOPE AND HOME
FOR ARMENIAN ORPHANS
WITH DISABILITIES.

The Shining and the Muddy

Dear Friends,

It is deep in the heart of winter at Warm Hearth. Our residents gather close to the hearth. It is a time to stay close to home in much of the world; it is a time to reach inward and to tend to the work that is always waiting there below our surfaces.

At Warm Hearth, that work means reflecting on our year—the rising and falling, the shining and the muddy. It means looking hard at the faces of our residents to see if the smile lines are deepening and recognizing where there is room to grow.

As I think back to the year, to the ways our grassroots efforts continue to reach for more water and expand, I am in awe of the ways that so many of you have made Warm Hearth yours. You

are the ones tending the fire. You are the ones gathering the fruit and holding open hands out to the residents.

A few times this year, as inevitably happens, we have stumbled. We saw a resident lost and then, gratefully, found within 48 hours without harm. We have seen another resident spin out of control and despair and we have not been able to contain her pain within the walls of our home.

At every rising and falling, we try to bless and to hope. We try to remember that this work has a long arc, a trajectory that will extend beyond any of us. And we remember that what may seem final in the moment (for good or ill) is probably not final after all. It is just one small part of a larger story, and in the meantime our work is to be

faithful to today—to the art-making and the fundraising, the filing and the thanking, the loving and the dressing, the laughing and the teaching.

We are engaged in home-making for fourteen beautiful souls, who would otherwise be without. In a world that changes so fast and is fraught with uncertainty, what we want to offer our residents is a forever home. Thank you for believing in this simple vision. Thank you for tending to their hearth.

May we find a way, together, to make more homes in Armenia. And may you feel the warmth of your own hearth with those you love gathered close by.

Sincerely Yours,

Natalie Bryant-Rizzieri (Founder)

Year in Review: Concentric Circles of Compassion

Each year people come together from near and far to fill our home with life and love and laughter. Thank you to all of you who gave creatively, soulfully, and diligently in 2014 whether you are mentioned here or not. You know who you are!

WHAT IS REAL TO ME ARE THE CONCENTRIC CIRCLES OF COMPASSION AND ITS CAPACITY TO BRING ABOUT CHANGE... OUR ABILITY TO SHIFT OUR PERCEPTIONS AND SEEK CREATIVE ALTERNATIVES TO THE CONUNDRUMS OF MODERNITY IS IN DIRECT PROPORTION TO OUR EMPATHY. CAN WE IMAGINE, WITNESS, AND ULTIMATELY FEEL THE SUFFERING OF ANOTHER?

-TERRY TEMPEST WILLIAMS

The SOAR (Society of Orphaned Armenian Relief) Birthday Fund was started and provides for our residents' birthday celebrations. Thanks to all of SOAR for all you do for our home.

The Armenian Evangelical Church of New York sponsored a benefit concert on our behalf. The musician was Karine Poghosyan. Thanks to Heather Ohaneson.

Therese Perdedjian, an Australian-Armenian chiropractor, organized a trip for a group of doctors to travel to Armenia and Warm Hearth to provide healing services.

Talin Petoyan, with the Christian Education Council for the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church, organized a Lenten almsgiving program that benefited our residents.

Lee Ann Williams and Sara Nielsen represented our residents at St. Gregory's and St. Vartan's respectively. Thank you to those generous churches for providing space for us.

Sophia Colello chose our residents as the recipients of her Gold Award Project for Girl Scouts. She will create an ongoing project that educates her community.



BEAUTY

THANKS TO THE KALENC FAMILY OF YEREVAN, OUR RESIDENTS WERE ABLE TO EXHIBIT THEIR ARTWORK AND HANDICRAFTS AT A LOCAL GALLERY IN ARMENIA. ARMENIA-BASED SUPPORT SUCH AS THIS IS A GIFT TO OUR RESIDENTS BECAUSE THEY GET TO SEE FIRST-HAND HOW THEY ARE CONNECTED TO THEIR COMMUNITY AND TO THE WORLD.



COMMUNITY

IN 2014 WE FOCUSED ON COLLABORATING WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS TO INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR RESIDENTS TO BE WITH OTHER PEOPLE. THANKS TO UNISON FOR INVITING OUR RESIDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN ONE OF THEIR ART PROGRAMS. IT BRINGS MANY SMILES TO OUR RESIDENTS' FACES!



GROWTH

IN JANUARY, THE STAFF HAD A TRAINING ON POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORT AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION. THE STAFF WORKED HARD AND LONG DAYS. THANK YOU TO GOGIAN FAMILY FOUNDATION FOR SUPPORTING OUR GROWTH AS AN ORGANIZATION IN THIS AND MANY WAYS.

As in any family, forgiveness is the foundation. A staff member reflects on how forgiveness shapes her days.

Siroush served as a caregiver in our home in 2014.

In response to a question about how she is growing in holding both suffering and joy in her daily life with the residents, Siroush (pictured bottom right) said, "I am deeply grieved when I see how much Susanna, Davit, Alina and Arsen suffer when their sisters, aunts and brothers do not visit them. And I rejoice with them when I come to work and hear about a visit from one of their loved ones."

In writing about her interactions with a more difficult resident, whom Siroush clearly has deep affection for, she said: "Forgiveness is the foundation of our work. I have no problems with [him] because I have a powerful weapon which I use often with him. That weapon is forgiveness. I love him very much and cannot imagine Warm Hearth without him. With [another resident], I

also use forgiveness often. The staff jokingly tell me that [he] is my son and I accept that."

"It is impossible to have a bad relationship with Sasso. His goodness and childlike simplicity create a positive atmosphere around him. In the winter, I put a blanket on him. He got up, went to our room, came back with a blanket and put it on me."

"I learned embroidery from Gayane. Two days ago, I was doing embroidery and when Gayane saw my work, she really liked it. I smiled and said, "I marvel at your embroidery and you at mine, Gayane."

Siroush graciously exhibits a deep sense of identification with the residents and a familial love for them. The give and take in her relationships with the residents is profound. We stand in awe of the work she and the staff (pictured below) do each day.

WE MAKE
OURSELVES LARGE
OR SMALL, HERE
OR THERE, IN OUR
EMPATHIES.

- REBECCA SOLNIT



KARINE (STAFF) AND ARSEN



OLGA (STAFF)



DAVO & SIROUSH



Chronicles & Testimonies

MY FIRST VISIT TO WARM HEARTH

BY ARAXI BEZDJIAN,
SUPPORTER

We had one free day [on our trip to Armenia] and decided to visit Warm Hearth. We took our friends with us. Our visit was most enjoyable and heart warming. It was the highlight of our trip.

Olya (staff) did a wonderful job introducing the residents to us. [However] she did not have much to do as the residents introduced themselves.

They are real jewels. You can't help but love them and hug them.

They are masters in weaving, rugs, embroidery, painting, and most of all in singing. They sang to us, recited poems, and showed us their handiwork and art work.

You would not believe how attached we became to all of them. We enjoyed Armine, Anna, Susanna, Agappy, Gayane, Yulia (even though she did not speak), and Davit. I cannot remember all their names.

We were very impressed with how happy they look, how clean they are, and how respectful and loving they are.

Our friends were so touched that they promised to support Warm Hearth whenever they can, and I know they will.

Joe and I cannot stop talking about our visit and how much we appreciate your

hard work and of course, the work of the capable staff, too.

May God make all [the residents'] wishes come true.

PASSION AND PURPOSE

BY BRIDGET BROWN,
FOUNDING BOARD MEMBER

I continue to feel grateful for the gift of Warm Hearth.

The residents and staff are shining examples of "supports and services" that are focused on human-ness and home.

I first met some of the residents in 2001. When I reflect on the changes in the residents over the past 14 years, I am in awe of how beautifully the story of Warm Heart unfolded.

Warm Hearth's story epitomizes how passion and purpose can bring people together from around the globe to be "carriers of hope."

I am thankful for the many ways that Warm Hearth benefits our residents.

THE IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL COMMUNITY

BY JESSICA B. SIMPSON,
FOUNDING BOARD MEMBER

I have been involved with Warm Hearth as a supporter and Board Member since 2006.

In the early part of my career, I worked in international development.

With some of the larger-scale initiatives I was involved in, it was harder to see the impact of the work.

But with Warm Hearth, I find great satisfaction from being involved in a community-based project that helps individuals whom I know by name.

The board has spent some time discussing the long-term strategic plan for Friends of Warm Hearth, particularly our desire for the home to be financially sustainable.

We had previously considered different ideas for income-generating projects, such as running a bakery, starting a drop-in day center, or selling more handicrafts.

In September 2014, we had the opportunity to have a team of Cornell University students work with us. The students were in a graduate Public Administration program and they were interested in international work.

Natalie and I met with them over the course of several months as they conducted an in-depth analysis of the possibilities for financial sustainability of Warm Hearth.

In the end, they presented us with a report containing the analysis and their recommendations.

Their work has provided us with solid research to help with decisions about how to ensure that Warm Hearth is always here for the residents and that it continues to be a home that is rooted



Arts Program & Small Business

Since 2010, SOAR-Colorado's January Art Show has increased the annual budget of Warm Hearth's art program to nearly \$5,000 a year. To the right are a few of the paintings that were shown and sold in 2014. We have been so grateful for SOAR-Colorado's commitment to our residents' artistic development. So much of life is in the grace and madness and glory of art, and we are so glad that our residents can experience life more fully.

"ONE MUST TAKE OUR RESIDENTS INTO THEIR HEART TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO CARE FOR THEM." (MARIA STEPANYAN, CO-ORGANIZER OF THE ANNUAL JANUARY ART SHOW.)

As many of you know, we have been working with a micro-enterprise specialist on viable small business ideas. Together with the Cornell graduate students Capstone Project (see p. 4), we have determined that expanding our residents handicrafts and art sales will be most in line with our residents skills and passions. We will continue to work together to create a viable plan. Thanks to SOAR (Colorado chapter and National) we have secured some funding for this endeavor. We look forward to seeing the residents' skills sets expand and to seeing their work bring in finances for the long-term financial wellbeing of our home.

This effort and direction would not be possible without the concerted efforts of Gary Kilmer, Korakot Janteerasakul and Weihua Fu (Cornell graduate students), Jessica Barrett Simpson, SOAR-Colorado and SOAR-National. Thank you for believing in our residents' gifts and in helping us bring those gifts to the world.

<http://www.friendsofwarmsheart.org/shop-12>



ROMAN

ROMAN'S PAINTING IS CALLED "MOOD." HIS DEPTH OF INSIGHT BLESSED US AS HE TALKED ABOUT THIS PAINTING. HE SAID, "I AM HAPPY AND I AM SAD." THAT RINGS SO TRUE FOR WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HUMAN. IT IS ADMIRABLE THAT HE HAS LEARNED TO HOLD BOTH IN HIS HEART AT THE SAME TIME. MAY THE SAME BE TRUE FOR US.



DAVIT

DAVIT'S PAINTING IS TITLED "MY FAMILY." IN SPEAKING ABOUT THIS WORK, HE SAID, "THIS IS MY HOME: ME, MY GIRLFRIEND AND CHILDREN." DAVIT UNDERSTANDABLY LONGS FOR HIS OWN FAMILY. WHILE WARM HEARTH CANNOT STAND IN FOR A BIOLOGICAL OR ADOPTED FAMILY, WE DO OUR BEST TO BRING JOY TO DAVIT AND THE OTHERS.



ANNA

HERE ANNA IS HOLDING HER PAINTING, "MY GARDEN: IN SUMMER WE HARVEST." WE ARE SORROWFUL TO REPORT THAT IN 2014, ANNA DE-STABILIZED AFTER TWO YEARS AT HOME. SHE IS CURRENTLY IN A PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTION BUT WE VISIT HER REGULARLY AND CONTINUE TO TRACK HER PROGRESS IN HOPES OF BRINGING HER HOME SOON.

STEWARSHIP



INTEGRITY

THE SOUL IS DYED THE COLOR OF ITS THOUGHTS. THINK ONLY ON THOSE THINGS THAT ARE IN LINE WITH YOUR PRINCIPLES AND CAN BEAR THE LIGHT OF DAY. THE CONTENT OF YOUR CHARACTER IS YOUR CHOICE. DAY BY DAY, WHAT YOU CHOOSE, WHAT YOU THINK, AND WHAT YOU DO IS WHO YOU BECOME. YOUR INTEGRITY IS YOUR DESTINY...IT IS THE LIGHT THAT GUIDES YOUR WAY.

- HERACLITUS

Simplicity, Stewardship & Sustainability

Each day we try to manage our finances in a way that respects and honors our residents, staff and supporters. We try to act with integrity. We believe that budgets are moral documents and should reflect the values of simplicity, stewardship and sustainability. We make every effort to ensure that each hour, dollar or item given is used carefully and well.

Program expenditures in 2014 accounted for 77% of our cash expenses. Fundraising costs were 12%

and administrative costs were 11%. Individual contributions totaled \$93,381 in cash and comprised 59% of gifts given. Foundations, churches and organizations gave \$50,138, which was 32% of the total gifts. Our foundation in Armenia secured 9% of cash donations, which amounted to \$14,372.

Donated goods and services were valued at \$20,836.

Still more of you gave in ways that cannot be measured, but we are better off for receiving the gifts of your hearts.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Current assets	2014	2013	2012
Cash	\$263,634	\$211,782	\$166,354
Property & equipment			
Land & house in Armenia	151,022	151,022	143,647
Furniture & equipment	6,964	6,964	8,179
Less accumulated depreciation	-30,023	-26,010	-22,624
Net property & equipment	130,209	131,976	129,202
Total assets	393,843	343,758	\$295,556
Liabilities (accrued payroll taxes)	2,247	2,016	1,891
Unrestricted net assets	391,596	341,742	293,665
Total liabilities & net assets	\$393,843	\$343,758	\$295,556

COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

Revenue	2014	2013	2012
Cash contributions	\$157,891	\$157,304	\$133,075
Contributions of goods	2,210	1,957	1,246
Contributions of services	18,626	24,341	17,597
Interest income	772	673	693
Total contributions & interest	179,499	184,275	152,611
Expenses			
Facility & program	89,128	91,014	99,936
Promotion & fundraising*	25,550	31,528	23,099
Management & general	14,967	13,656	13,380
Total expenses	129,645	136,198	136,865
Changes in net assets	49,854	48,077	15,746
Net assets, beginning of period	341,742	293,665	277,919
Net assets, end of period	\$391,596	\$341,742	\$293,665

*These amounts include \$18,626, \$19,204, and \$12,072 in donated service in 2014, 2013 and 2012 respectively.



**REACH OUT TO
US. IT MAKES
A DIFFERENCE.**

www.friendsofwarmhearth.org

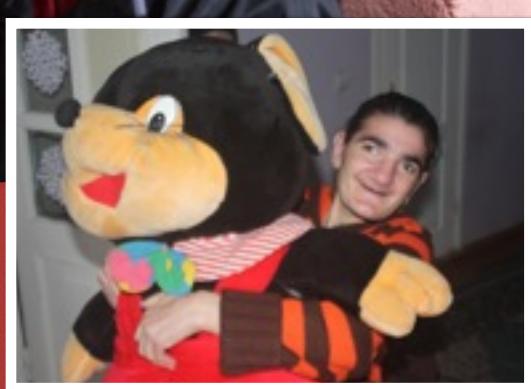
Contact us with questions or answers (we take both), extra courage or ideas:

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TO WORK FOR
COMMUNITY IS TO
WORK FOR HUMANITY.

-JEAN VANIER

Friends of Warm Hearth, Inc.
PO Box 1081
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Providing hope and home for
Armenian orphans with disabilities.

