

# WARM HEARTH

## In the Small Corners

### Promise in the Air

In the summer, I wrote that we were looking for a new way forward and for a way to open in regard to providing a forever home to the orphans in Kapan who have more recently come into adulthood.

Shortly after writing, we received word from the Armenian government that we have been promised three years of partial funding beginning in 2018. I did not dare to imagine that government funding would be part of this new way forward.



After belaboring over government funding for nearly ten years, after persistent efforts and applications, after losing hope that this was any longer a possibility, the doors were flung open. The doors were flung open and there is promise in the air that our home and future homes will be sustained and even multiplied. There is promise in the air that change is happening in Armenia and that our residents and others like them are valued by their people and government on some basic level.

When you are entrenched in this work and tending to the daily needs and grit, sometimes it takes news like this to take a step back and to see the wide-reaching vision again, to see that small revolutions do occur, to see the beauty and the vastness of this work. I, for one, have been astonished at the beauty in the last few weeks. I, for one, have been grateful for the honor and privilege of working alongside of our residents and our staff and *each of you* in your true-hearted and committed efforts to create lasting change in the nation of Armenia.

Sincerely Yours,

*Natalie Bryant-Rizzieri*

Founder & Executive Director



**WARM HEARTH**  
& JERMIK ANKYUN FOUNDATION



### Susanna

Susanna is one of our residents who could potentially live in a more independent setting. We are considering an apartment home for Susanna and three other residents that would be visited daily by a social worker to ensure their wellbeing and safety. This possibility would be a huge shift toward the value of independence for people with disabilities and we are hopeful that it would be a sign of hope for others like Susanna.

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**Our 2017 Goals:** sustainable and loving care for our residents and a home that is increasingly independent.

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## Your kindness sustains our residents, our hearts and our home.

**Janet & Araik Garibyan and Juliet & Guy Setian, together with friends and family who are too numerous to mention,** hosted a Dinner Circle in the Los Angeles area. It was a beautiful gathering. We feasted on traditional Armenian food and on the company of good friends, new and old. We talked about the shifts that are happening in Armenia and what they mean for our home and our residents. We asked questions. We shared stories. We dreamed together of future possibilities. We blessed and thanked one another. And somehow in the midst of it all, and thanks to their efforts, love and passion, we were able to raise over \$3,000 for our home and our residents.

The **Gogian Family Foundation** gifted Friends of Warm Hearth with a grant of \$20,000 for our operating expenses in Armenia. Thank you to each of the board members and to the Gogian family for your firm commitment to a better life for individuals with disabilities and for trusting us to carry out this work in Armenia. We are honored. We are blessed.

