

WARM HEARTH

In the Small Corners

Inroads to Joy

Dear friends,

The last few months have been a time of unfolding. The new residents at Arinj are unfolding their hearts and days into the loving hands of their caregivers. We are hearing stories and learning slowly about the texture and patterns of their lives. We are making inroads to their places of joy and are memorizing their places of pain.



The residents at both homes are unfolding into new friendships with one another, celebrating birthdays together, going on excursions together around Armenia, and participating in camps. Some of them attended an art camp in Moscow and another group of residents were invited to the Young Life camp in Armenia. Summer was full and bursting with life and travel and volunteers and celebrations.

Summer also entailed leaning into one new resident's pain as he struggles gravely with his fears. Please keep him in your heart as we try to trace his pain and learn how to help him hold it. It is hard work—to hold the pain of others. It is also an honor.

Seven of our new residents just started attending the three-year vocational program at the local college (pictured above). Their days are full and inspiring. We are grateful for the ways that our new residents have been welcomed into the structures and scaffolding that was already in place from years of hard work. We can't exactly sit back and relax, but it does feel like there is a tray of shining fruit for us to enjoy together.

Sincerely Yours,

Natalie Bryant-Rizzieri

Founder & Executive Director



Armen

Armen came to our Arinj home this May after spending twelve years at the Kapan orphanage. Armen was abandoned as a babe and never knew his family. Armen enjoys solitude, playing ball, and participating in communal works. Armen is also the resident who has been reckoning with his fears and disequilibrium in the last couple of months (mentioned on page one). At the moment, he is staying at a local psychiatric clinic until he is stable. We hope and pray that we can give him the support he so desperately needs upon his homecoming later this month.

Our 2018 Goals: sustainable and loving care for our residents and two forever homes that are increasingly independent.

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

- Thank you to **Hannah Pollack** for spending three weeks in Armenia offering art classes and hands-on support to our residents and staff. Your heart touched our residents.
- Thank you to **Amber Balakian** for visiting our home and spending time with our residents. Your presence was a gift.
- Thank you to the **Committee on Sustainability Assessment** (and especially **Saurin Nanavati** and **Fredeline Joseph**) for offering your expertise, services, time and heart to sustain and strengthen our work.
- Thank you to the group at **Habitat for Humanity** (Longmont, Colorado) for visiting our home and bringing joy to our residents.
- Thank you to **Maria's Children** for hosting some of our residents and staff at your art camp this summer (pictured below). Thank you for inspiring them with joy, beauty and their own ability to create. That is a lifelong gift.

