

WARM HEARTH

In the Small Corners

3rd Home Opened

Dear friends,

As you know, 2019 took us by surprise, plain and simple. We were getting our bearings having opened a second home in Arinj. We were dreaming up how best to include seven more residents who had been promised a home a few years back. We were contemplating expanding our Arinj home to make room for them. But then in one fell swoop, the plans changed when Alya (our director in Armenia) received a call from the Armenian government promising some funding for our Arinj home and a third home, if we could open it right away.



Our first response was tentative. Is this what's best for those individual and for our organization? Do the numbers support this path. After considering all these questions and more, we were met with a resounding yes. We were thrilled that these individuals who had been impatiently waiting for a home of their own would have one sooner than we had dared to hope. So, we dove right in and bought a third home (pictured here) in the quiet village of Geghanist. And from that moment on, our foundation in Armenia took the lead. They found staff and trained them. They stocked the house with couches, beds, knives, sheets, and blankets. They washed the windows while dreaming of a beautiful life alongside our newest residents. And finally, they tucked clean sheets on the new beds, fluffed the pillows and brought these people from Kapan to their forever home in late February.

Thank you for making room in your heart for this gorgeous whirlwind of change and the wild hope that abandoned individuals with special needs could have a forever home. We could not do this without you.

Sincerely Yours,

Natalie Bryant-Rizzieri

Founder & Executive Director



Natasha

Natasha (pictured above left) moved into our Arinj home in 2018. Last year she began attending a three-year vocational college program where she is thriving, learning life skills and carpet weaving skills. At home, she is happily learning basic kitchen skills and makes coffee and tea for others with love. She has learned to take care of herself as well. Relationships are of the utmost importance to her. She has close relationships and likes to spend time talking with the staff about friendship.

Our 2020 Goals: sustainable and loving care for our residents and three forever homes that are increasingly independent.

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

- Due to the coronavirus, our residents are sheltering in place. We are limiting visitors to the home to medical and psychological support. We are limiting staff who have had exposure. Group homes are especially vulnerable to pandemics. Please keep our residents and our staff in your thoughts and prayers during this time.

-Connie Koumjian, a social worker from the USA, has just traveled to Armenia to live and volunteer at Warm Hearth Arinj (after we lift restrictions on visitors). We are so grateful for her commitment to this work and her desire to serve.

-Special thanks to Knapp, Petersen & Clark for sponsoring the Mix and Mingle held in March in Los Angeles, which raised \$21,000. Special thanks to the Vartanyan family for hosting.

-Thank you to Satenik Grigoryan and her family for hosting our board for a two-day retreat in Glendale, California. She went above and beyond to make our retreat a success.

