

# WARM HEARTH

## In the Small Corners

### And finally, peace.

Dear friends,

Marieta (pictured here) is a refugee from Artsakh, the disputed territory otherwise known as Nagorno-Karabakh. She came to us in the thick of the recent war. Despite the loss of home and family that she recently experienced, she brought light with her, and into our homes and our hearts. Her mere presence is a joy in such a difficult and heartbreaking time. She will likely be with us forever. It is hard to imagine otherwise.



All those we care for and love (and I include both staff and residents in that phrase) have been profoundly affected by the loss, trauma, uncertainty and unrest that accompanies war. Some of their losses are unspeakably tragic. And we grieve with them. We worry with them. We are afraid with them. And we are grateful with them that the violence has ceased, even though that won't bring back the dead. It is the task of Warm Hearth to be with those we love in times of grief as well as joy — to cultivate a safe place where we can unravel and be stitched back together.

Even as the region was embroiled in turmoil and fear, our residents and our staff found ways to bring light into the small and shadowed corners of this time. The residents get a small personal stipend each month that they can either spend or save. Not only did they welcome someone new into their home, many of them chose to offer what little money is their own and give it away — to the soldiers, the families in need, the refugees. After doing so, one of them said, “And finally, I have some peace.” They are the light — the bright flame burning that reminds us that there is still reason to hope no matter what else rages.

Sincerely Yours,

*Natalie Bryant-Rizzieri*

Founder & Executive Director



### Hrach

Hrach's smile lights up the whole room. He is a joyful, and positive man. He loves to dance. Sometimes when I watch him in a moment of joy or exuberance, I wonder if he can even bear the weight of his own joy. It is beautiful to behold. He is eager to help around his home. He enjoys cooking. He has deep friendships and is dearly loved by the staff. He was abandoned as a babe and we have no known information about his parents.

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**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 war (September 27 - November 10), our Armenian government funding of \$90,000 annually is at great risk of being cut. Please consider contributing to our **emergency fund** to ensure that we can continue to provide the same care for our thirty residents.
- Thank goodness for celebrations, songs, treats, and gathering around a fire. We do not take these things for granted this year. Our residents are busy preparing for Christmas. Thanks to SOAR and to each of you for making their celebrations possible.
- Thanks to each of you for your gifts that have allowed us to change our practices in order to be more safe through the global pandemic. While some residents have been infected, we are grateful to report that they have all recovered at this time.
- Thanks to *Focus on Children Now* for the new porch swings!
- Follow us on Instagram - [@friendsofwarmhearth](#)

