

2 0 1 0 S P R I N G E D I T I O N

# in the SMALL corners



FRIENDS OF WARM HEARTH, INC. NEWSLETTER

## ✧ Glimpses of Grace ✧

*Anna thrives at home after two years in clinic*

### TAKEN BY SURPRISE

A year ago I wrote about Anna's homecoming after two years in a psychiatric clinic. The impetus for bringing her home was a crisis management training by Erik Logan, a psychiatric nurse. Her homecoming was a difficult transition for the staff & residents. The bleak environment in which she had lived had taken a toll on her & in those first days we were unsure of how it all would unfold. I am thrilled to report that she is doing well. She is thriving at home. I haven't seen her since she came home & look forward to doing just that in August, but the consistent word is that the staff are doing beautifully at managing her care. Alya, our director in Armenia, says

that I will not believe my eyes when I finally do get to see her - as she is changed. I look forward to that day. I look forward to seeing the healing she is reaching toward with the tender guidance of our staff. I look forward to seeing her home after so many painful visits to the clinic. In our field, there are not enough signs that point toward true turn-arounds, so I thought it important that you hear this. Anna (pictured far left) herself is now a symbol of hope in our home, in our hearts. Thank you for believing in her & in us. Erik is actually coming to Armenia again this summer to conduct another training on behalf of Sassoon.



### Anahit

has been living in Warm Hearth for over a year. She is a passionate person with a love for music, dancing and a



flare for the dramatic. Watching her sing gives you a window into the depths of her soul, the wells of feeling and intensity that she carries inside. We know nothing about her mother except that she was in extreme poverty and left Anahit at an orphanage as a baby. Now at the age of thirty one, Anahit is building a family life in Warm Hearth and making friends at the college. She is one of the best students in her program. She loves to be involved in taking care of the tasks of the home and participates joyfully. She is an active and energetic person and a good friend to all the residents. Through the consistency of our staff and the new community of friends in our residents, she is growing and becoming more secure in our love for her.

### Another's Eyes

*Alya ~ Armenia Director*

Because our vision is a home that mimics family life as opposed to an institutional setting, we have sought to maintain the balance of treating one another as family members, which includes forgiveness and at times, having a strict posture. Thank-

fully our staff, due to their natures & personality, have not erred on the side of being harsh disciplinarians. However, sometimes strictness is necessary in order to keep order in the home. We have sought to let consequences be what they may, and not overly protect our residents from the choices they make.



In the recent past, Alya wrote about an incident that stretched her and the staff. In reflecting upon it, she wrote: *I have learned that we should love all of the residents but that at the same time, we should be strong with them. In our strength, they should see our love and learn to trust us.* I admire her response.



## Open-Minded & Open-Hearted

At each stage in Warm Hearth's growth, a "letting go" has been required. In the life of an organization, there are seasons that ask for everything to be given over - often more than we feel we have to give. And then there are times to sit back, to be watchful & to take care to only step in when it is absolutely necessary. This is a season of the latter variety. And while it has brought deep joy to see Warm Hearth strengthened & soaring, it can be hard to sit back. When you create something, whether it be a home, a piece of art, a relationship, you have to be willing to let it take its own shape in the world apart from you. It has been

our desire from the beginning to assume eventual independence on the part of the project. The scent of change is in the air as we hope to establish a larger percentage of government funding in the near future. This would allow Warm Hearth to be more locally sustained & give it a much-needed longevity. It also paves the way for the government to replicate our model, as we have hoped. Friends of Warm Hearth wants to be responsive to the changes ahead. Join us in looking ahead to consider what our place in Armenia might be in the next two years - whether a new acute home, a focus on advocacy or something yet unseen.

**SUSTAINABILITY  
IS ANOTHER  
WORD FOR  
JUSTICE.**

*Providing a home for  
Armenian Orphans  
with Disabilities*

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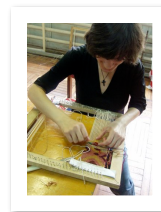
### EDUCATION & GARDENING

- As you know, eleven of our residents started a three-year college program last fall. This has been life-giving to them. At the close of their first semester, I am proud to report that they received the highest marks on their examinations. We celebrate with them.

- In addition, we had hoped to begin caring for chickens. After analyzing this project next to our residents needs, we have decided to focus on a larger backyard garden instead. Spring is just around the corner!

### NOTES & NECESSITIES

- Founder & Director, Natalie Bryant Rizzieri will be taking ten weeks of "modified" maternity leave beginning in April. Please be patient with us as we respond to your inquiries, emails and donations. The processing time will inevitably be slower. Thank you for your understanding.



- Thank you to Juliet for her tireless work on translating Armenian reports and evaluations. If any one else is interested in offering their time to this end, please let us know.

*Everyone can do  
something  
to bring some  
portion of misery  
to an end.*

**OUR DEEPEST  
GRATITUDE  
TO ALL THOSE  
WHO MAKE  
WARM HEARTH  
POSSIBLE.**

FINANCIAL DETAILS  
CAN BE PROVIDED  
UPON REQUEST.

*Our 2010 Goals:  
loving care for all  
our residents &  
a solution for Sassoon.*

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