



## Global Builder Trip to Yerevan, Armenia

Dates: June 30 to July 14, 2012

### About Armenia

A land of rugged mountains, extinct volcanoes and fast-running rivers, Armenia is the smallest of the former Soviet republics. The Republic of Armenia gained independence in 1991 but has since been a nation occupied with social and economic reform. Income levels and unemployment remain critical issues, as nearly 50% of Armenians live in poverty. As a result, many Armenians cannot afford satisfactory housing and remain heavily dependent on remittances from relatives abroad to meet their basic needs.

Yerevan, with a population of 1.2 million, is the largest city and capital of Armenia. As the center of Armenian culture, Yerevan is home to museums, theaters and an opera house, several universities, and several large public libraries. It is a growing, vibrant and bustling city to be enjoyed on foot, with restaurants, clubs, and shopping areas abundant throughout the city.

### The Fuller Center for Housing Armenia



1988 earthquake.

FCHA was founded in May, 2008 in Yerevan. The families in FCHA's focus live in villages in deteriorated housing with cramped quarters and limited water and heat. Many families live in unfinished houses because they had to abandon construction due to the severe economic crisis. Other families live in "domiks," metal shipping containers (left) without insulation, brought to Armenia as temporary shelter following the devastating



1988 earthquake. FCHA is using several approaches to helping families solve their housing problems and help complete construction on unfinished homes. In an effort to keep building costs at a minimum, a readily available indigenous stone known as "toof" is used in house construction. Depending on the stage of construction, our team will work on a variety of tasks, such as shoveling and passing buckets of water, cement, or rocks into the house to build floors, or spackling, sanding and painting walls. No construction experience is required for Global Build participants—volunteers are trained on site and well-supervised at all times. (A finished home is at right.)

## Itinerary

Team participants are encouraged to travel with the team departing from the NY area on Saturday, June 30 and departing Yerevan on Saturday, July 14.

The itinerary is not final yet, but may look like this:

- Saturday-Sunday: Fly from NY area airport to European city airport and then on to Yerevan.
- Monday: Orientation with FCHA staff. Tour Garni and Geghard—ancient sites. Then drive to northern region and to city of Vanadzor (2 hours).
- Tues, Wed, Thurs: work
- Fri: tour/rest
- Saturday: work
- Sunday: tour/rest
- Monday-Tuesday: work
- Wednesday: Lake Sevan, then to Yerevan
- Thursday-Friday: Yerevan touring (Khor Virap, Etchmiadzin, city tour, free time)
- Saturday: depart Yerevan early morning, connect through Europe, arrive NY area airport late afternoon/evening



## Accommodations/Meals

Accommodations throughout (in Vanadzor for 9 nights, Yerevan 4 nights) are double or triple occupancy rooms with private baths in a hotel. Breakfast is served in the hotels. Hot lunches will be served by the partner family at the building site, and dinners will be enjoyed at local restaurants. Bottled drinking water is provided at the work site and for off times as well. Food is abundant, fresh, organic and delicious! Alcohol is not allowed at the work site and not included with any meals. If anyone wants alcohol at meals or in the evenings, they are welcome to purchase it separately/



## Cost

The trip costs approximately \$1,500. This price includes lodging, food, in-country transportation, tours, orientation materials, traveler's medical insurance, and a donation to FCHA. Participants need to arrange and pay for transportation from their point of departure to Armenia and back (approximately \$1200 round-trip from NY area to Yerevan).

## Team Leader

Suzanne Daghlian is a member of St. Leon Armenian Church in northern NJ. She is a Marketing Director at a

children's book publishing company. She participated in her first volunteer trip to Armenia in 2006 and has been back 7 times since then to build, five times as a team leader. For more info, go to: [www.fullercenterarmenia.org](http://www.fullercenterarmenia.org)

Or contact Suzanne at: [suzydags@yahoo.com](mailto:suzydags@yahoo.com).

