



## *Millard Fuller has been called to home*

Millard Fuller, the founder of Habitat for Humanity and then The Fuller Center for Housing, died early in the morning of Feb. 3 after a brief illness. He was 74 years old. He will be greatly missed around the globe as he touched so many lives, gave hope and inspired to many to serve. We at The Fuller Center for Housing in Armenia are especially mourning the sudden loss of a true servant leader who had a genuine heart because he had visited us and we had a personal rela-

tionship with him.

Words are never enough to express how fortunate we have been to have had a visionary like Millard. His determination and strength did not recognize any boundary to find ways to serve God's people in their housing needs.

At the same time, we are glad that he rests in heaven now -- that he was able to see his vision rise again from scratch and that he was surrounded by so many people willing to fol-

low him in his mission to others.

We will carry on his dream to continue helping more people in their housing needs.



## *50 families Celebrated Christmas in their own houses: Khachatryan Family*

The Fuller Center for Housing Armenia was registered in May 2008. Since then, we have created many partnerships and worked hard to support 50 families. One of these fortunate families was Khachatryans family from Khor Virap village.

Slavik and Gayane raised their five daughters and one son under very difficult conditions. Their main income is from farming watermelon, tomatoes, and corn. Slavik is also a tailor.

The Khachatryans used to live with Slavik's brothers and their families. Slavik's large family had only one

room in a four-room house. With so many people crowded into the small place, it was only natural for the family to think about building its own house. Meanwhile, they moved into the unfinished house of a neighbor who was in Russia and lived frugally to save money. Last year, they started their dream home, yet it has been very hard for a family of eight to go through the numerous inconveniences of an unfinished house.

All but the youngest child, Rebecca, attend school. "If only we could have one room with safe conditions, where the children could do their lessons, and it would-

n't be so cold in winter and so damp in autumn," lamented Gayane when speaking about the cherished dream of the entire family.

The Khachatryans were overwhelmed by the news of their selection by The Fuller Center for Housing Armenia. Their dream was coming true. On November 23, the Khachatryans celebrated a house blessing. It was the most anticipated day for the whole family, a day when all sourness and sadness disappeared from their children's eyes.



# Global Builders 2008: 4 teams in 1st year!



*During 2008, The Fuller Center for Housing Armenia hosted four Global Builders teams (short-term mission trips) from the USA. In addition, there were teams from AGBU and the Pilgrim Armenian Church. All these teams worked shoulder-to-shoulder with local families and volunteers. In their own words, here are some highlights of their experiences.*



*“I am an Armenian and was born in Istanbul, Turkey, but lived in the USA for long time. This trip has fulfilled my many dreams all at once -- visiting homeland, bringing children to connect with their homeland, and helping villagers to build their home. The members came from diverse places, represented an age group ranging from 14 to 68 years, but they came with a mission that is truly admirable.” -- Nadya Esenyan*



*“My favorite time was when we all laughed together – when an empty bucket went to the full line or a full bucket went to the empty line.” -- Andrea Carden*

*“The food that the families prepared for our lunches and their hospitality was just outstanding.” -- Dan Igielski*



*“My family in Armenia expands each time I come and work. I am blessed and my cup runs over. Thank you, God, and thank you, Armenia. I love you so! “ -- Suzanne Daghljan*



*“I really appreciate the opportunity to do this trip. I absolutely LOVED Armenia. I almost extended my trip two weeks to stay in Yerevan. I cannot wait to go back next summer. Thank you so much.” -- Cari Salwasser*



*“They all sent me off with many blessings for my family and thanked us. They all asked us to share a meal and drink with them. It was all from the bottom of their hearts! I left*

*the village with tears in my eyes, joy in my heart, and proud to be Armenian.” -- Zareh Salmassian*

## VivaCell-MTS-Armenian Habitat-FCHA and Zalinyans from Gargar



One of these families is out of the domik.. the Zalinyans.



Last year, the partnership between VivaCell-MTS, Armenian Habitat and The Fuller Center for Housing Armenia brought happiness to 15 families from eight regions in Armenia. Though these organizations work in different spheres, they share one common goal: the elimination of poverty housing for low-income families in Armenia by assisting them in finishing the construction of their half-built houses and improving their housing conditions.

Aghabek and Armenuhi Zalinyan from Gargar village in Lori region raised their four sons under the hardest conditions. The family had been living in a metal domik for 14 years. Even though construction had begun on their house in 1989, they were never lucky enough to have enough money to complete a house and move

Thanks to donations from VivaCell-MTS and the initiative of FCHA, the dream of the Zalinyans to have their own stone house came true. The family celebrated Christmas and New Year's in their safe and bright house that features three bedrooms, living room, kitchen and bathroom.

"We were living in the wagon-house for many years. Last year, we applied to the FCHA program. They visited us several times and finally the day arrived when, with their support, we have started the construction. I am very thankful to VivaCell and FCHA," said Aghabek.

"We have waited very long to have a house," added his wife, Armenuhi. "I can't even find words to explain how that waiting was for us. Now I am very grateful to our supporters; we entered this home at last and we are happy."

Support from VivaCell-MTS was not only financial, but physical, too. In August, VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian with his staff joined the Zalinyan family to build together.

On December 23, the Zalinyans celebrated their house blessing. Local priest Der Vahan presided over the ceremony. Among the guests were the FCHA staff, the deputy marzpet of Lori region Aghvan Varteresyan, and others.

## ARDA-Municipality-FCHA Partnership

In Armenia, we have a saying: "If a village stands it can break the woods." It means that the biggest and best results are possible when there are strong partnerships.

Spring 2008 saw the start of a three-way partnership project in Vanadzor. The three project partners: Armenian Relief and Development Association (ARDA) charitable organization, the City of Vanadzor and the FCHA.

This is an innovative approach with new technology of building houses in our country: the houses are made of foam blocks, designed by the Lazaryan World Homes organization. The houses are safe and well-protected during earthquakes, and provide protection from coldness and dampness of more traditional houses. Additionally, the cost of these houses are more reasonable compared to similar



houses of toofa stone. The partners share in the cost of the houses: 50% from ARDA, 35% from city government, and 15% from FCHA.

This project sounds like a great solution towards eliminating poverty housing in Vanadzor, particularly assisting residents forced to live in the metal domik containers. For some, the metal containers have been the only property they have owned since the 1988 earthquake centered in nearby Spitak village that killed over 25,000 people and affected nearly half of Armenia.

The municipality and the FCHA family selection committee worked together to se-



lect the domik residents for the new style of housing. All the houses follow the same module: a sitting room, two bedrooms, a kitchen and a bathroom. As in previous projects, family members contributed sweat equity into the construction of each new house.

In October, Cynthia Erickson's Global Builders (GB) team of 10 people from the USA volunteered three days on this special partnership project in Vanadzor. To better understand what their volunteer work meant to the Vanadzor families, the GB team visited a

domik to experience the current housing conditions of the selected families. The musty smell of damp, crowded living conditions. The lack of a bathroom and sanitation equipment. Bad lighting from the two or three small windows. The 20 square meters called "home" by large, impoverished families. Tears welled up in team members' eyes.

But, there were also tears of joy as the families thanked team members for helping -- and for giving the families hope for a better future. Most of the families have lived for 18 years under those conditions and barely held any hope for the future -- until the GB team visited and signaled that a time for change was at hand.

The first 16 homes were completed by the end of January 2009 with a goal of completing 30 houses by 2009. The project will continue for several years with a goal of completing 100 foam houses.

# 2008 Accomplishments

- ◆ 50 families were served by Fuller Center for Housing Armenia!
- ◆ 28 of them completed their half built house.
- ◆ 16 of them built new houses.
- ◆ 6 of them renovated their deteriorated house.
- ◆ 11 communities in 4 regions received our assistance.
- ◆ 4 Global Builders Teams were hosted.
- ◆ Partnership was started with Heifer International, Armenian Tree Project, VivaCell-MTS and Armenian Relief and Development Agency.
- ◆ Local donations exceeded 150,000 USD.
- ◆ US donations exceeded 200,000 USD.



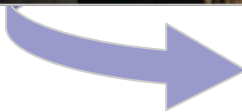
## The breakdown of a house cost

<i>One entrance door</i>	<i>\$365</i>	<i>The roof</i>	<i>\$2475</i>
<i>One inside door</i>	<i>\$155</i>	<i>The bathroom</i>	<i>\$1485</i>
<i>All doors of one house</i>	<i>\$1140</i>	<i>Floors</i>	<i>\$990</i>
<i>One window</i>	<i>\$190</i>	<i>Materials to paint a</i>	
<i>All windows of one house</i>	<i>\$940</i>	<i>house from inside</i>	<i>\$660</i>

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children's  
eyes!**



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The Fuller Center for Housing,  
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Americus, GA 31709

Please add "*Armenia*" in the memo line.

**Donations are tax-deductible.**

**THANK YOU!**

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