



THE
FULLER CENTER
FOR HOUSING

ARMENIA

Building on A Higher Ground

Summer 2010, Issue 5



100 Homes: A Milestone!

“If the entire village stands together, it can break a log.”

~ Armenian proverb

For 19 years, Senik and Karine Karapetyan and their four children were forced to move from place to place, having no permanent home, withstanding the bitter winter cold, struggling every day for their children’s health, and praying for a better future.

That changed on December 2005, when the Tufenkian Foundation and the Hye Dzmer Pap Foundation provided funds to obtain a piece of land for the Karapetyans

and the family began building their home. VivaCell-MTS and the Tufenkian Foundation provided further support to build the foundation and walls, and then, with a zero-interest loan provided by the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia, the family realized their dream of so many years.

The house was completed as part of His Holiness Karekin II Work Project. Staff and volunteers from the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia, Tufenkian Foundation, Hye Dzmer Pap Foundation, Armenian General Benevolent Union’s Young Professional Group, and many other vol-

unteers joined the Karapetyan family to complete the construction of their house. On June 28, the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia and its partner

organizations celebrated the dedication of the Karapetyans’ home as its **100th house milestone.**

A year ago, this family could not even imagine that they would soon have their own home, that their children would wake up under a sturdy roof, and that Christmas of 2010 would mark the realization of their dreams. Their new reality is thanks to all of those who joined forces to make it happen.



Celebrities work for the elimination of poverty housing



The village of Dasht had never seen so many celebrities in their village. They had not come to act or perform, but to help build a home for the first time with FCHA.

Some of the well-known names included Hrachuhi Utmazyan, Erik Karapetyan, Der Hova, rap artist Davo, R.P., and staff members of ATV Television Company. They joined the Global Builders volunteer team from the United States led by Suzanne Daghlian (who has led volunteer teams to Armenia since 2006). The youth volunteers were especially excited as they finally had the opportunity to meet, work and even sing with musicians they’d admired from the US.

The family had started the construction of their house in 1990, but could not complete it because it was impossible to take care of the fam-

ily’s needs while also continuing the construction. For 20 years the family lived in one room of the unfinished house, where they raised their two sons and daughter July 7, 2010 will remain forever in the memories of the Gharibyan family. That was the day when they laid the concrete floor with their special guests.

“I am glad to be able to join Gharibyan family and help to construct their house with my friends. I would like to encourage local Armenians to join such projects by volunteering or providing financial support just like this group of Diasporan volunteers did,” said rap artist Davo.



What Our Global Builder Volunteers Say

“This was a great experience to not only visit our homeland, but also to serve our brothers and sisters!” Denise Harabedian.

“I enjoyed working on the home and seeing everything that we accomplished. I could see that the Armenian people are hard working and were great to work with. I also enjoyed seeing a lot of the country; it’s very diverse and beautiful”.

“My family told me stories about Armenia, but nothing compares to the sight of Mount Ararat in person. I feel a new, deeper connection with my homeland and I’m so glad I was able to serve Armenians while I was here”.



“Our job was completed and one family now has a home, but my experience will affect me the rest of my life. Bravo!!!” Barbara Haroutounyan.

“After five years I thought I might go to some other country in 2011, but my husband, who had joined me for his first time this year, now understands why I have returned so many times. He says, “You will go back next year.” He is right, Armenia lives in my heart so I must return and do as much as I can each year.” Susan Bosovich.

“I know from experience that all the volunteers were absolutely thrilled to be there and help. For me this was a first. My husband has been there six years in a row. I now have complete understanding as to why. I may be back here in the States but my heart and my soul are back in Armenia. I would very much like to live there one day and see what else I could do to help our brethren there. Apres!!!!” Sona Manuelian.

“This is a perfect opportunity to travel with teenagers and parents and their odar (non Armenia) friends.” Nadya Esenyan.



“I knew nothing about Armenia before going, and am so glad that I had this brief, intense and most meaningful experience. The combination of hard work with volunteers, locals, and travel to see Armenia were perfect!” Gayle Friedman.



For 2011 Global Volunteer schedule please visit our web site www.fullercenterarmenia.org Get Involved International Volunteer or email volunteer@fullercenterarmenia.org

Armenian Apostolic Church Servants from the Tavush Region Building with His Holiness Karekin II Work Project

“Only by participating in this kind of work will Armenian priests understand the whole sense of serving their mission: not only with prayers but also physically standing at the side of their parishioners and lending a hand,” said Reverend Father Torgom Tonikyan.

Knowing the importance of this mission, Father Tonikyan, from the Tavush region, encouraged priests from all over the region to join the Fuller Center for Housing and build with His Holiness Karekin II Work Project. The build took place on June 16 in Lusadzor village, and the group of priests joined a volunteer group from the United States led by Patricia Zerounian to help the Nazaryan family plaster and paint the walls.

The Nazaryans, a family of four, were living in a domik (metal container) for more than 14 years while trying unsuccessfully in a harsh economy to build their own house next to the domik. They experienced hard times living in what was created to be a shipping container, suffering especially during the cold winters.

After a day of construction, the volunteers went to a home blessing and dedication for the Sardaryan family. The Sardaryans are also a family of four. They used to live in the house of the father’s parents, which had been overcrowded with in-laws. After being selected by FCHA, the family was able to realize their dream with the help of their relatives, the local community,



international volunteers and His Holiness Karekin II Work Project.

Thanks to the 2010 His Holiness Karekin II Work Project, **23 houses in 8 regions (14 communities)** of Armenia have been built. What a blessing indeed!



17 Families Find Happiness after More Than 20 Years of Living In Temporary Shelters

A partnership that started in 2008 is continuing. The idea of eliminating homelessness brought together the ARDA foundation, the Municipality of Vanadzor, and Fuller Center for Housing Armenia. As a result of this partnership, 33 families who previously lived in metal containers in the city of Vanadzor have new homes. These families worked for nearly a year to build these simple and healthy homes.

“It was hard to believe that we were going to live under a safe roof at last, and now we have separate bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen, and a bathroom,” said Marine Sarukhanyan, one of the grate-

ful homeowners.

At the dedication ceremony many guests shared the happiness of the families who had been waiting for their homes for more than 20 years. Steve Lazarian, president of ARDA charitable foundation and American-Armenian philanthropist, was a special guest along with his family.

“I want this project to eradicate metal containers from all communities in Armenia. And I want all Armenian families to have decent conditions in which to raise their children,” said Mr. Lazarian.



Building side by side with families in housing need.



Join us in this life-changing experience: come to Armenia for a 10 to 14 day trip to build and interact with Armenian families in 2011!

Dates are open from May to October.

For more information, write to:
volunteer@fullercenterarmenia.org

**Many families still waiting for their turn to have a home...
Make a difference! Give your hand of support.**

Fuller Center for Housing Armenia Sponsorship Costs:

Completion of half-built: \$10,500
Renovation: \$2,900

To support our programs:

Make an online donation through our website:

www.fullercenterarmenia.org/get-involved/donate

Or send a check to:

The Fuller Center for Housing, PO Box 523,
Americus, GA 31709

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

Donations are tax-deductible.

THANK YOU!

The breakdown of a house cost

<i>One entrance door</i>	<i>\$312</i>
<i>One inside door</i>	<i>\$130</i>
<i>All doors of one house</i>	<i>\$883</i>
<i>One window</i>	<i>\$156</i>
<i>All windows of one house</i>	<i>\$780</i>
<i>The roof</i>	<i>\$2338</i>
<i>The bathroom</i>	<i>\$1429</i>
<i>Floors</i>	<i>\$909</i>
<i>Materials to paint a house from inside</i>	<i>\$520</i>



**Baghramyan 3rd lane, house 10 a,
Yerevan 0033**

Tel: (374 10) 27 14 99

fcarmenia@fullercenterarmenia.org

www.fullercenterarmenia.org