



Transforming Lives through New Partnerships



This year on June 6, Cascade Insurance staff members joined Fuller Center for Housing Armenia helping to build the house of a family in need. This was a new partnership between Cascade Insurance and Fuller Center for Housing Armenia

towards eliminating poverty housing in Armenia

“On behalf of the whole Cascade Insurance team we would like to thank “Fuller Center for Housing Armenia” for organizing this charity event. Helping the family of Davtyans also gave the company a teambuilding opportunity, thanks to which the staff is more united,” mentioned Hasmik Olson, head of marketing department of Cascade Insurance ICJSC.



When you give a family an opportunity to live with dignity, then you give him a stake in the society. This year the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Fuller Center for Housing Armenia are partnering to assist 15 families (last year 4

families were assisted) in need to build their houses. Through this project, the partners contribute to enhancing a conducive environment that enables to have means to answer their needs and to better cope with their daily life, and the state of uncertainty they are living in.. The selection of families was done by the joint forces of partners. The families will receive long term, interest free, no inflation included loans. The repayments will be invested to assist families within this partnership again.

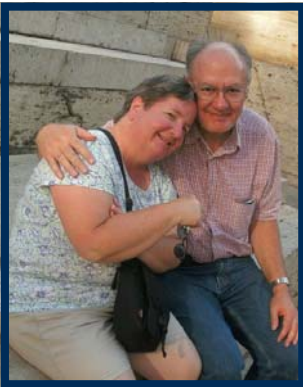
Many Hands Make Light Work: Joining Forces to Eliminate Poverty Housing in Armenia



The act of helping others is often what makes it possible to get through tough times.

This summer the following groups as well as the US Embassy in Armenia again joined forces with FCHA to help more families longing for home.





Bill & Frank Chattin ...we did not even know Armenia existed...

Three years ago we did not even know Armenia existed. Then we hosted an exchange student, Hasmik, from Armenia, and we learned about the great Republic of Armenia. As we began planning our trip, we learned of FCHA through facebook. When we arrived in Yerevan, we joined the rest of our work team and traveled to Vanadzor, near by we would be working for the next two weeks. We worked with 2 different families, one for 5 days and the other 2 days. At both sites the family was always waiting for us along with friends and extended family members who had come to help. Both families worked so hard, and really impressed me with their strength and endurance. The friendship and the acceptance of us non-Armenians was some-

thing that we felt very strongly, and will always cherish. One thing that we have taken away from this whole experience is the attitude and spirit of the people we helped. They have very little in the way of material possessions. And they have a very hard life. But they have not given up.

...nothing quite like building a home with your own hands... Kristi Rendahl

There is nothing quite like building a home with your own hands. Some of my fondest memories are of time with the staff, volunteers, and partner families of Fuller Center for Housing Armenia on sites around the

country. Even the drudgery work of laying a foundation is exciting, because it's the base on which lives will be nurtured for years to come. I leave feeling inspired by the resilience of the Armenian nation, seeing that people

can find common ground when they try, knowing that communities can solve problems. It changes how you view each and every day for the better.



Susan Bosovich ...the greatest gift I have received from giving to others...

The rugged beauty of the countryside was always in my camera lens. I absorbed more history though discussion and sightseeing than I thought possible for a country the size of Maryland. My heart grew to contain Armenia within it. We worked alongside the homeowner's family, relatives and friends each day.

We ate with them, played with them, laughed with them, and sometimes were able to celebrate the House Blessing with them, which was both an

honor and a blessing. Each year the time spent working with families has been precious. Hearing how last year's family has had a wedding and is expecting a birth brings home the truth that with a safe, warm home families lives can move forward in joy! The changes in my world view are the greatest gift I have received from giving

to others. I recognize the abundance I have, but were it not for family and obligation I would give it up to spend a lifetime helping others. As it is, each year I plan another return trip and hope to share this purposeful experience with as many others as are willing to step up and say, "I will go!"

...we came as “odars”, but we no longer feel that way ... Brittani Howell

We came as strangers. We came as volunteers: the Mercer Service Scholars, the FCHA's first university group. We came as *odar*-as non-Armenians, as outsiders. By the time we left we were no longer strangers, and while we may still be *odar* we no longer feel that way. The people there amazed us with their generosity, their kind-

ness, and their cheerfulness in the midst of hardship and hard work. With the Fuller Center we had the privilege of working with, not for, the people we had come to serve, and we came to admire their strength and resilience. I don't think any person on our team can express just how grateful we are for what Armenia and her people have

given us. If you want to know what we mean-if you want to understand the amazing country and people we encountered on our journey-then you will have to go yourself. If our experience is anything to go by, rest assured that you will not be *odar* for long.



My Life Story...



“The construction of our house started in 1991. Before that we had been living at my granddad’s house with the families of my uncles. The family was extended (14 members). In 1992, when my uncle left for Russia with his family to work, we moved into my uncle's house. But in 1995 my uncle came back to Armenia and we moved into the basement room of my granddad's house. In 2000 my eldest uncle again left for Russia and again we moved into his house, as it was unbearable to live in that basement where there were no utilities, no conditions for living. Humid... Gloomy.... Shabby.... Poky.... It seemed to me that no one, no living creature would live in such conditions. When we moved into the house of my uncle I was 10 years old and could understand that we were living in dreadful conditions; I could understand what need was. At that time the semi-built house of my uncle seemed to me a palace: separate bedrooms for kids, and real sun rays instead of diminished light barely penetrating through the small window of the basement.

We started cultivating my uncle's garden so as to solve vital problems. Until 2008 we lived at my uncle's house dreaming of our own, which seemed so inaccessible... Sometimes we would clean the area of rubble and, when having some rest, we children would imagine being in our own house. We would imagine how our living room and bedrooms would look. Each time in my imaginary world I gave special place to the toilet (bathroom) because I knew what “the



long way to the outside toilet and the flu epidemic” meant in freezing winters. I have always dreamed of having a home with all the necessary accommodations like those in big cities so as, at least during rainy weather and winter storms, not to go out. But looking at the gloomy walls of our

house I understood how far my dream was from reality.

In the spring of 2008 my uncle came back from Russia, and again we had to leave not knowing where to go. Granddad's basement room was already too small for our extended family, but we could not move our house because only the walls were built. So my father applied to the municipality and they provided us with a metal container, the roof of which was deteriorated and leaked when it rained. It was just a room full of dangers: snakes and scorpions from under the floor and water leaking from the roof. We tried to somehow renovate, but we had to be alert at all times to avoid snake and scorpion bites.

Now I look back to my family's past way of life and already see that there are rays of hope... that very soon I'll live in the house of my dreams where it is not damp, where I'll have my own bedroom, where I won't be ashamed to invite my friends, where it won't be difficult for my mom to do housework.”

Nareh Mouradyan, 20 years old

/Aragatsotn Region, Kakavadzor Village/

Teams that have worked on Mouradyan Family House





2012 SCHEDULE

FOR GLOBAL BUILDERS VOUNTEER TEAMS

Vanadzor Affiliate

June 3- June 17, team leader Patricia Zerounian/open team/
 June 14-June 29, team leader Cynthia Erickson/open team/
 June 30-July 14, team leader Suzanne Daghlian/open team/
 July 15-July 29, team leader Abe Ouzounian/close team/

Yerevan Affiliate

July 12-July 24, team leader Leo Manuelian/open team/
 July 24-August 7, team leader Susan Bosovich/close team/
 Aug.15- Aug.25, team leader Larissa Printzian,/open team/

To learn more, please visit:

www.fullercenterarmenia.org/get-involved/international-volunteers

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Barbara Hovsepien, NJ, USA
 Cynthia Erickson, MN, USA
 Jackie Elchemmas, MI, USA
 Kristi Rendahl, MN, USA
 Larissa Printzian, CA, USA
 Leo Manuelian, NJ, USA
 Mike Candan, NY, USA
 Patricia Zerounian, CA, USA
 Susan Bosovich, MI, USA
 Suzanne Daghlian, NJ, USA
 Der Yeprem Kelegian, WI, USA

Cost of Construction Materials

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

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, USA

Please add "Armenia" in the memo line.

Donations are tax-deductible. **THANK YOU!**



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