



## The "Armenian Dream"... We Can Do It

**D**o you believe in a viable Armenian state? An economically independent and competitive nation whose citizens' dreams are inspired with hard work, self-reliance and a secure future?

Realization of the "Armenian Dream" - that is what Armenia Fund is all about. That is what the founders of the organization- Louise Simone and Hirair Hovnanian had in mind when they brought together their communities to establish the Fund 15 years ago, an organization that will become the hub of an extraordinary nation-building effort. That is also what many in the Diaspora around the world envisioned when they joined forces to strengthen Armenia Fund's history-making mission.

The leadership of Armenia Fund USA revealed the "Armenian Dream" at an evening of appreciation to the Diaspora that was held at the United Nations on October 6, 2007. The 15th Anniversary Gala assembled many distinguished guests and speakers among them Hirair Hovnanian, founder of Armenia Fund in 1992; Armenia Fund's outgoing Chairman, Kevork Toroyan, his predecessor Chairman Emeritus Hagop Kouyoumdjian; incoming Chairman Raffi Festekjian, AGBU

President Berge Setrakian and Keynote Speaker Vartan Oskanian, Foreign Minister of Armenia.

"This organization was born out of dire need to address urgent challenges of the newborn Republic in those dark and cold days following independence," said Hovnanian. Hirair Hovnanian's support of Armenia Fund, both in leadership and material contributions, are what has made most of its major initiatives possible, including road and highway construction, health-care, agriculture and infrastructure projects and other ambitious nation-building programs. "You have to go to Armenia and see for yourself what a beautiful country we have," said Hovnanian expressing gratitude to the over 300 attendees

*continued Page 2...*

### In this Issue:

The "Armenian Dream" We Can Do it	1
A Can-Do Organization Building a Can-Do Nation	2
Two Childhoods	3
<i>I Support Because...</i>	3
Donor Acknowledgement: <i>In Memory Of/In Honor Of</i>	4

gathered for the 15th anniversary celebration.

Chairman Raffi Festekjian spoke of Armenia Fund's vision of “building Armenia's tomorrow today”. With over \$170 million raised for the Fund's many initiatives, he recalled the founding mission of Armenia Fund: “To transform this tiny, landlocked former soviet republic with little name recognition into a productive, prosperous, respected nation; to make this new Homeland an endless source of national pride and inspiration to every Armenian—anywhere in the world.”

## A Can-Do Organization Building a Can-Do Nation

Armenia Fund today is represented through 18 affiliates in five continents. For over 15 years, the Fund has met enduring challenges with dedication and visionary leadership. Among the hundreds of projects implemented are live-changing initiatives in infrastructure, economic and social services, healthcare and medicine, road building, culture and sports. The Fund has committed to going beyond “bricks and mortar” to implement programs that foster sustainability and long-term development.

Over the past 15 years Armenia Fund has become a symbol of unity and strength of the Armenian Diaspora worldwide. Since the early days of independence, the Fund has become the “Can-Do” organization building a “Can-Do” nation.



### Shushi Dance Ensemble at 15th Anniversary Gala en-

Thanking the Diaspora for “building Armenia's tomorrow today”, Armenia Fund's 15th anniversary celebration marked a renewed vision to build the homeland.



Armenia Fund USA friends and benefactors George and Huguette Pagoumian, 15th Anniversary Gala.

## Rural Development Program

Social and economic revitalization of rural Armenia and Artsakh is the focus of Armenia Fund's efforts for the next five years.

Today, half of Armenia's poor live in rural communities. This segment has benefited only modestly from Armenia's overall economic growth.

Armenia Fund is bringing donors and investors together to promote viable partnerships for rural development. This ambitious effort depends on the successful interaction of a variety of entities and factors: the population of each rural community and their local institutions, the Government of Armenia, the various international aid agencies, and the know-how and financial support of the Armenian Diaspora. Armenia Fund will lead this challenge.

## Water Works –A Short Film with a Big Vision

Take one dream; add plenty of water and mix well, preferably in a clay pot. There is no telling what happens next to change the destiny of a poor but talented villager, his family, and the economic fate of their community. A humble Potter living in a remote village in Armenia imagines all the ways that life could improve for him, his family and the entire community if only he had a basic resource like running water...

This heartwarming story, filmed in Armenia's rural countryside and produced in Yerevan, celebrates the unique talents and hidden dreams tucked away in the hills and valleys of Armenia's heartland.

Displayed for the first time at the Armenia Fund 15th Anniversary Gala, “Water Works” is available on-line at <http://ArmeniaFundUSA.org/videos/20071226.htm>.

“My sister was two years older than I was and already going to school, and I was in kindergarten dreaming of going to school. I used to say, ‘Send me to school soon!’ but when I went there I realized that the kindergarten was better. The school was located in shabby temporary cabins,” recalls Gayane Makarian, a tenth-grader at a Vanadzor school named for Catholicos of All-Armenians Vazgen I. She was born two years after the 1988 earthquake and



Gayane

like others, her age lived through all the hardships of that disaster. “I was going to go to school ten years ago, I imagined a big, bright building, but now all I remember from my first years is the smell of petroleum,” said tenth-grader Tigran. His classmate Taron

shares the same memories: “In those cabins all we thought about was getting warm. No one thought about studying.”

There is a generation in Vanadzor, Gyumri, Spitak and other towns in the area who have spent the ten years of their schooling in cabins, perhaps never even imagining what a real school is supposed to look like.

But things changed for Gayane, Tigran, Taron and their classmates in 2000 when they started their fourth grade in a bright new school building.

This school, named for Catholicos of All-Armenians Vazgen I, was sponsored by Armenia Fund USA. “We

always believed that we would have a nice school but we didn't know when,” Taron said, adding that this building, with its style and comfort, was even better than they had expected. “When we first came to this school, it was so big that we couldn't find each other”, Gayane smiles. “It was the school we had dreamed of. When we walked in, we ran around in the corridors, even in the basement admiring the colorful walls,” Taron recalls. And in Tigran's opinion, the cheerful building, the heating, and everything else, help the learning process.



Tigran

This year they will bid farewell to their schooldays which they have spent two childhoods – dark and light, cold and warm, miserable and dignified.

The Vanadzor School, the oldest and most famous school in the Lori Marz, has educated Armenia's leading artists, politicians, scientists and writers. After the devastating earthquake of 1988, Armenia Fund USA led an aggressive campaign raising a record \$650,000 to not only restore the existing infrastructure, but also provide more classroom, laboratories, computer facilities, a new cafeteria, library and a sport complex. Going “beyond bricks and mortar”, more than 1,500 donors and supporters became part of this inspiring and life-changing project.

## I support because...

January, 2008

“In 1996 I visited Karabakh for the first time. The trip was long and arduous, along a decrepit road that would challenge the most powerful SUV. One-way from Yerevan took almost nine hours back then - last year it took only four.

Recently, I also had the pleasure of cruising the North-South Highway in Karabakh that Armenia Fund had completed in 2005. It's as beautiful a black-top as you've ever seen.

Cutting through pristine mountains and emerald fields, the road unites the country and allows access to remote villages. One day on the highway, we stopped to admire an orchard of beautiful pome-

granate trees. The woman of the house saw us taking pictures of her trees, and rushed out to offer us a handful of ripe fruit. As we chatted, I asked her how the road has made a difference for her, and she gushed ‘The road has changed our lives. My husband can go to work and we can go to market. Traveling is no longer a burden, it is easy.’

The work of Armenia Fund is tangible and real. The impact is immediate, and the results are long-lasting. Through unity, efficiency and leadership, they have brought vitality and life to the people of Armenia and Karabakh. That is why I support the Armenia Fund.”

**Pierre Hacopian,**  
Hoboken, New Jersey

# ARMENIA FUND USA In ACTION

East Coast Affiliate of Hayastan Himnadram

Armenia Fund USA, Inc.  
80 Maiden Lane, S- 301  
New York, NY 10038  
Toll Free: 1-866-446-6237  
Fax: 1-212-689-5317

Armenia Fund USA, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization (Fed ID #13-3696515)

## Donor Acknowledgement (through December 5, 2007)

### In Honor Of...

#### Regoum Antreasyan

by Mari Antreasyan

#### All Armenians

by Nina R. Hagopian

#### Paul Boghosian's birthday

by John & Alice Bogdasarian

#### Mardiros and Aghavni Boyajian

by Elizabeth B. Roberts

#### Joan A. Drevins' Birthday

by N. Arpi Haroutunian

#### Rose and Aram Kazanjian

by Diane Bazikian

#### Garabet Kahwajian

by Donor Anonymous

#### Takouhi and Garabed Khanbegian

by Peter Khanbegian

#### Andre and Jessica Manguikian's

#### Wedding

by Susan Porter

#### Mary

by Arsen G. Tashjian

#### Arthur Martirosyan

by Michael R. Mekenian

#### Juan Carlos Merdininian's Birthday

by Rene & Linda Chirinian,

Hagop & Sonia Krouchian, and

Silva Zadourian

#### Noury and Lydia Ounjian

by George E. Ounjian

#### Mugurdichian and Sharigian

by Mary Mugurdichian

#### Mr. and Mrs. Paul Tacorian's

#### wedding guests

by Tro & Anna Piliguian

### In Memory of...

#### Garabed Afarian

by Ken Afarian

#### Paul & Azniv Alexander

by Arthur P. Alexander

#### her husband Arsen Anooshian

by Mary Ann Anooshian

#### Mr. and Mrs. Abram Apakian

by Popkin & Alice Harabedian

#### Samvel Arakelyan

by Tiran Nalbandyan & Emma

Arakelyan

#### Arukian & Parounakian Families

by Hratch S. Arukian

#### Helen Arutunian

by Gregory Arutunian

#### Abraham & Zarhouie Asdoorian

by Rose Asdoorian

#### Kenneth Asbedian

by Isabel S. Vartanian

#### Mary Atamian Pourloshian

by Marjorie K. Nanian, Esq.

#### Iren and Sahag Avanesian

by Flavia Galuppo

#### Garabed Ayanian

by Haiganoush Ayanian

#### Karaker and Serpouhi Balukjian

by Margaret B. Bonner

#### George Bozian

by Armen Bozian

#### Sarkis and Mariam Bulgarjian

by Grover H. & Yebraksy Rodgers

#### Vartan Deir Avanesian

by Hazel Barsamian, and Mario A.

& Karineh Viggiani

#### Noyemzar Der Bedrossian

by Lena Derohannessian

#### Aram Der Manouelian

by American Foam Corporation

#### Aram and Araxe Deroian

by Andrew Deroian

#### Sarkis, Garabed & Pilaz Emerzian

by Jerry & Helen Emerzian

#### James Etmekjian

by Lillian K. Etmekjian

#### Malcolm T. Gardner Bardezbanian

by Charles J. Gardner

#### Mr. Mack George

by Vigen Simchian

#### Marjorie Ann Goshgarian

by William & Ariane Goshgarian

#### her husband Sarkis Hachigian

by Sonia Hachigian

#### her mother

by Isabel Hudson

#### Araxie and Nubar Hintlian

by Harry Hintlian

#### Vartivar and Dicranuhi Horigian

by Jose & Nelida Horigian

#### Ohannes Ipekcki

by Masis Harzivarayan

#### Zabelle Isbentchian

by Manuel & Aline Khatchadurian

#### Akop Ishkhanian

by Tigran R. Petrosian

#### my mother Tamara Iserpian

by Michael & Ellen Sikorak

#### Edward Jamakordzian

by Juliet J. Gregorio

#### Arpina Jamgochian

by George & Rose Jamgochian

#### Shake Kalfayan

by Chris K. Kalfayan

#### Karagosian Family-NYC

by Lucy M. Karagosian

#### Bogos and Nazig Karagozyan

by Ohannes & Nivart Altunyan

#### Virginia Kazaroff-Akkashian

by Gregory Arutunian

#### George K. Kerkonian

by Angel & Sargon Jabbour,

Aznive Markarian, and Zohrab &

Arpineh Meneshian

#### Charles Kondakjian

by Thomas & Carol Kondakjian

#### Violet and Jacob Kougasian

by Charles Kougasian

#### Vahan Kroshian

by Dr. Vasken M. Kroshian

#### his father Rene Luledjian Sr., who

#### escaped the 1920 Genocide

by Arthur Z. Luledjian

#### Mom and Pop Malgranian

by Gladys Malgranian

#### Sarkis H. Malkasian

by Marie J. Malkasian

#### Garabed Charles and Satin

#### Manoogian

by Harold & Doris Manoogian

#### Victor Mazian

by Armeney Mazian

#### Richard Mechtel

by Prof. Nishan & Florence Par-

lakian

#### Ardavast Megerdechian

by Harout Megerdechian

#### my parents, Haroutiun and Mary

#### Mekhshian

by Ardash & Yester Garabedian

#### Richard and Freda Melkonian

by Paul Melkonian

#### Sarkis and Harutune Mikaelian

by Dr. Diran & Koudsy Mikaelian

#### Sarkis and Siran Mouradian

by Herbert & Anita Wolfson

#### Harry V. Nalbandian

by Harry & Roxanne Nalbandian

#### Azadouhi Narinian

by Aram G. & Azadouhi Narinian

#### our parents General Arshag Se-

#### bouh and Makrouhi Nersesian

by Mourad S. & Anahid Nersesian

#### Arshag and Makrouhi Noorjanian

by Beatrice Kahaian

#### Arousag Opsoyan Aharonian

by Dr. Sona Aronian

#### Vahram Pahigian

by Helen Pahigian

#### George Philibosian

by Stephen Philibosian

#### Charles Pilibosian

by Dr. Allan & Meline Pickus

#### Astrid and Ostanig Sarraf

by Ronald A. & Ruth Sarraf

#### Ohannes Salibian

by Rachel Feldman, Sevan & Has-

mik Ficici, Silva Ficici, Hourig & Has-

mig Garabedian, Jessica Pucci, Lt.

George A. Rustigian, Nazareth &

Lucy Salibian, Toros & Salpy Yete-

rian, and Anne M. Zartarian

#### my mother, Propion Sayranian

by Rose Sayranian

#### her beloved husband Nigoghos

by Violet Soghomonian

#### Harry and Gulu Soultanian

by Jack & Rose Soultanian

#### Myron Stapanian

by Mary S. Stapanian

#### George and Ana Stepanian

by M. Robert & Madeleine Ste-

panian

#### his father George, mother Mary

and sister Lucy Tajirian

by Edward G. Tajirian

#### Madeline Tamakian

by Adreena M. Harley

#### Mr. and Mrs. Thomas S. Tamraz

by Lincoln S. & Grace Tamraz

#### Milton Tarpinian

by Madeline Tarpinian

#### Alisa and Madeline Tirakian

by Dickran S. Tirakian

#### Karekin, Veronica & Elizabeth A.

#### Tooroonjian

by Alice T. Sangster

#### Sara & Andon Torigian

by Mary Foley

#### Richard G. Toshjian

by Gloria Vartanian

#### Stephen Tutelian

by Stephen Shahabian

#### Dorothy Vartabedian Cook

by Manuel Cook

#### her husband, Nishan Vartanian

by Azaduhe A. Vartanian

#### her parents Anahid and Mihran

#### Vredjian

by Alicia Vredjian

#### Nubar Yenicag

by Krikor Yenicag

#### Haykaz Zhamkochian

by Vahan Zhamkochian