



Summer 2008, Issue 1

**Fuller Center Armenia
Highlights**

May-July 2008

- **Date Launched:** May 2008
- **Houses under construction:** 25
- **Funds raised locally:** \$130,750
- **Funds raised in US:** \$61,012
- **Number of donors:** 63
- **Partnerships signed:** Armenian Relief and Development Association; Armenian Hope, Heifer Project International
- **Global Builders Teams Hosted:** 2

Message of the Fuller Center Armenia team

Dear Friends,

For many of us home is a safe heaven where we can find peace and harmony, feel loved and protected. However, for thousands of families in Armenia

decent home is but a dream, and they have to raise their children in metal shipping containers, dark, dump basements, deprecate shelters or overcrowded apartments.

Housing poverty is not merely an indicator of low life-standards. It has a huge impact on the psycho-moral atmosphere of the family, on health, birth-rate, migration and other

significant factors. The multi-fold increase in the prices of housing and construction market makes it almost impossible for low-income families to build or purchase a house on their own.

According to the UN Economic Committee on Europe report, 40,000 families in Armenia are without permanent shelter.

Housing loans offered by banks are at high interest rate, and are not accessible to the needy population.

The solution offered by Fuller Center for Housing Armenia found a great response in the communities. The demand for long-term, non-profit, interest-free housing loans that we are offering is very high. For thousands of families it is the only possible way to have a home.

The dream of a decent house



can become possible only with the assistance of organizations, churches, businesses and devoted individuals in Armenia and all over the world.

We thank you all for your good will and wholehearted support. May God bless you all.

In faith,

Fuller Center for Housing Armenia team

Family Story: Zalinyans

Zalinyan Family:

- **Father: Aghabek** 41 years old
- **Mother: Armenuhi** 34 years old
- **Son: Robert** 16 ears old
- **Son: Ararat** 14 years old
- **Son: Artur** 11 years old
- **Son: Armen** 7 years old

The large family of Zalinyans – Aghabek, Armenuhi and their 4 sons, live in Gargar, Lori region. Before the marriage of Aghabek’s younger brother, the family lived with Aghabek’s parents. In 1994 they moved to a domik, a metal shipping container.

It was extremely difficult to

raise four children in such deplorable conditions. There was no sanitation system, kitchen and water-lines. The natural lighting was poor. Rainwater often leaked in.

The ceiling got covered by mold spoiling the air in the room. They suffered from heat in summer and unbearable cold in winter. The children often got cold and had to be absent from school.

The income of the family from potatoes, grain, fodder and the cow, as well as Agha-



The family resumed construction with great deal. They are looking forward to the day of their home-blessing, so that finally, after 19 years of sufferings, they can sleep under a safe, decent shelter.

bek’s wages as manual laborer has not been enough to finish the half-built house that they started in 1989, 19 years ago.

“The inclusion in the housing program of Fuller Center for Housing was a real blessing”, said Armenuhi. “We are happy to receive interest-free loans, and pay back little by little with our own sweat”.



International volunteer teams

Buckets full of concrete pass hand to hand, full of energy and care. It is the spirit of volunteerism, the desire to help their neighbor that has inspired these wonderful people to travel from the United States to Armenia.

Two teams worked in Khor Virap village this summer. Suzanne Daghlian's team helped complete the half-built house of the family of Kirakosyans that was started in 1987. The family now live in 2 small rooms in a condominium building without a kitchen, bathroom and other basic amenities.

Leo Manuelian's team helped the Khachatryan family—the parents and 6 children live in their neighbor's house.

Despite the heat, the team is actively working with spades and buckets to finish the concrete flooring of rooms and

the roof insulation. Apart from construction sites, Fuller Center Armenia takes the team members to sightseeing in Armenia.

"I'm grateful that Fuller Center for Housing was established. It enables me to fulfill my dream to visit my



ancestors' homeland, do volunteer work, and travel. I hope to return again next year and continue building homes for people in Armenia", said Lori Hovsepian.

"This trip has fulfilled so many dreams of mine all at once...visiting my homeland,

bringing my children to connect with their homeland, and helping villagers build their home... I feel, as we are working, Mt. Ararat is watching over us and blessing our work", said Nadya Yesenyan who visited Armenia with her daughter Ani.

Armenian Hope teams:

In partnership with the US-based "Armenian Hope Organization" (AHO) started by the members of the Pilgrim Armenian Church of Fresno, and Fuller Center for Housing Armenia have started a project in Lusaghbyur village, Lori region. Lusaghbyur has been destructed during the earthquake of 1988. In 2008 four families that have unfinished houses in the village will get long term interest-free loans and, after years of deprivation, will be able to provide their children with safe, simple, comfortable houses.



In July the AHO, sent 2 teams to build in Lusaghbyur. Both teams worked hand in hand with the local community, sharing bread and work with the locals. The partnership will grow and there will be more families in Lousaghbyur to complete or renovate their dwellings.

Fuller Center Armenia is looking forward to hosting 2 more teams this year, one to Vayots Dzor and another to Lori region.

For information, please send an email to: volunteer@fullercenterarmenia.org.

To support our program:

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.

Millard Fuller has announced that the first \$100,000 raised for the Armenian program will be matched 1 to 1!

THANK YOU!

Fuller Center for Housing Armenia Sponsorship Costs:

Completion of half-built house: **\$10 500**

Renovation: **\$3 500**



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