"His Holiness Karekin II Work Project" Launch

July 21, 2009, The Catholicos of All Armenians His Holiness Karekin II blessed the launch of the project under the slogan "Building on Faith", in Haytagh village.

Earlier this year a partnership agreement was signed between the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia and the Armenian Apostolic Church to combine efforts to eliminate poverty housing in Armenia. It is because of the "His Holiness Karekin II Work Project" that the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia is able to build 37 homes for families in need of housing. This build symbolically represents 36 Dioceses of the Armenian Apostolic Church and the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin. The 20 houses in 6 regions of Armenia will be built thanks to generous donors from the US Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church. "We express our gratitude to our sisters and brothers overseas for their contribution, for their concern about our homeland, for lending their hands to the poor ones here", - said His Holiness Karekin II in his speech at the opening ceremony.

Just after the blessing ceremony, the construction of the concrete ceiling for the Martirosyan family house began. On the building site there were a group of Global Builders volunteers from New Jersey and New York City, Peace Corps volunteers, as well as volunteers from local organizations and the community. "These communities of the US Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church wish to express their love, devotion and concern towards their compatriots, living in their far away homeland, not only by financial contributions, but also, as you can see, by their volunteer work, coming to Armenia and building with and for the homeless families," said Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America.

"It is great honor for us to work side by side with the Armenian Apostolic Church as we share the same mission to help our people in housing need, by advocating the right of everyone to have a decent shelter. We get together around the same idea of helping these families to build, create and raise their children in their homeland." - said Ashot Yeghiazyaryan, the president of the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia.

16 Families Celebrated Home Dedication in Vanadzor

As a result of the fruitful partnership between the Armenian Relief and Development Association (ARDA), the Vanadzor Municipality and the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia - 16 families that had been living in metal containers more than 20 years, moved to their new, safe and decent homes in the Taron 3 district of Vanadzor city, Lori region. The initiator of the project is Steve Lazarian, the president of ARDA and an American-Armenian philanthropist.

For this project, ARDA invested 50 percent of the expenses, while the municipality invested 35 percent and the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia invested 15 percent. In addition, the Vanadzor municipality donated the land for the homes, installed the necessary infrastructure in the district and landscaped the area.

These homes were built using a new technology of polystyrene foam block. It is possible to complete a new home in a month using this technology, rather than the 6 to 12 months required with traditional building materials. Such homes are ecologically clean, reasonably priced and most importantly earthquake resistant.

"It is the priority of the ARDA foundation to make houses that are the most beneficial for the families as they have seen so much sorrow. For each family the foundation has donated kitchen cabinets, a kitchen gas stove, an oven, and a gas heater," said Hrahat Stepanyan, executive director of ARDA's Yerevan office.

"The temporary housing district formed in Vanadzor after the 1988 earthquake turned into permanent shelter for many families who survived the disaster that killed some 27,000 people. Many children grew up in the temporary shelters and now their children are growing up in the same conditions”.

"For many years we have been waiting for this day. On behalf of the beneficiary families, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to three partners: Vanadzor municipality, ARDA foundation, Fuller Center for Housing. May God’s blessing be on you” said Aida Ghukasyan, mother of 3 kids.

The new polystyrene homes are a dream come true for the 16 families receiving them. However, another 16 families are still waiting for the day that they will celebrate their new home dedication...
In July the first Global Builders team of 2009 of Diaspora Armenians from New Jersey and New York City worked with the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia in Haytagh village of Armavir region to build in partnership with the Arschakyan family.

One of team members, Nelly visited Armenia for the first time after 20 years of living in USA. Being originally from Armenia, she had a special reason to be back — to bring her 17 year old daughter to her homeland for the first time. Just after the first day being in Armenia Nelly and Gabriella were looking forward to coming back next year.

The team had a great mixture of first-timers and experienced members. All of them visited their homeland to help the families build their homes. However, there is more in it than just the construction. Part of it is providing moral support for the families, as well as, making new friends and creating new bridges between cultures and countries.

As the team leader Suzanne Daghlian mentioned, -“My family grows every time I visit Armenia”. She was back for the 3rd time, as was her team member Minas. Lori, a young teacher from NJ has been coming to Armenia since 2002 every single year. While the Fenerjian sisters who were here for the first time, are already feeling as if they belong. Their ancestral homeland and their cultural heritage calls on them to return. They share a part of themselves in every act of volunteerism. They share hope with every family they touch.

Armenia Marriott Hotel staff members building in Haytagh village

Armenia Marriott Hotel associates including Management and hourly staff were in the village of Haytagh to help build a house for a disadvantaged family. A group consisting of 12 staff members did not waste an opportunity to help Arschakyan family to get their first ever house and a possibility to raise their children in safe and healthy conditions.

“This joint effort once more demonstrated that core values and culture are the ideals that serve as the foundation of all aspects of Marriott's Spirit to Serve” said Ami Miron, the General Manager of Armenia Marriott Hotel. “The Spirit to Serve the community is demonstrated every day by associate and corporate support of local, national, and international initiatives and programs”. Serving the community is an important part of doing business "the Marriott Way."

“We pledge that every Marriott community will be a better place to live and work because we are there”. JW Marriott Jr.

FCH Armenia believes that the core values of Marriott Inc. are related to those of the organization, as both of them are widely involved in community developing activities.

“It is very encouraging to see that a corporation like Marriott Inc is joining FCH Armenia in the common goal to make life in our communities more comfortable and decent for everyone. I believe that the Armenia Marriott Hotel build day will become a wonderful example of serving our communities and lending hand to the families, deprived of basic dwelling”. – said Ashot Yeghazaryan, Fuller Center for Housing Armenia president.
USA Ambassador in Armenia joined FCHA Global Builders’ volunteer team to build a house

Ambassador Marie L. Yovanovitch led a group of U.S. Embassy volunteers to build a house with the Arshakyans family in Haytagh Community, Armavir region. They joined forces for the day with 12 volunteers from the East Coast of the United States to make a difference in the life of an Armenian family in need of housing.

The Arshakyans have two teenage children who don't know what it feels like to have their own home. The half-built home that the family owns was started 10 years ago and is still incomplete. «It is hard to complete construction of a home and at the same time take care of family», - said Ashot, the father.

“What is special about this project is the combination of the volunteerism, What it means is that when we work together we can solve any problem. I think all of us would agree that housing is a basic need, many of us would say it is the basic right”, - said the Ambassador.

The need does not know any borders: the Embassy group, the Global Builders team, local community members as well as FCHA staff all stood together shoulder to shoulder with a homeless family laying the concrete of the living room.

“We appreciate the Ambassador's willingness to join us in our mission. For families living in need for so long it is very important to feel the support of individuals who care about them”, - mentioned Ashot Yeghiazaryan, the President of Fuller Center for Housing Armenia.

Indeed we build more than houses and the children, seeing the Ambassador and overseas volunteers at the site working with their family, will accept the credo to help and be responsible for those in need in the future.

World boxing champion Suzy Kentikyan punches to

On July 30 the Armenian Young Women Association (AYWA) led by Lilit Asatryan and the world boxing WBA & WIBF (World Boxing Association & World International Boxing Federation) champion Suzy Kentikyan joined Fuller Center for Housing Armenia to build with the Martirosyan family in Haytagh village, Armavir region. This was not the first time that Lilit Asatryan led the Armenian Young Women Association to build homes and partner with families that lack adequate housing. Their many volunteer contributions have encouraged others to do the same. It certainly encouraged Suzy Kentikyan to use the strength of her muscles to fight the homelessness away from her homeland.

"I am very glad that I can be useful somehow to those in housing need as well...I wish they finish their home as soon as possible and move in", - said Suzy.

Suzy Kentikyan, her sister and her grandfather who arrived from North Hollywood, as well as the AYWA group comprised a total of 15 volunteers. They joined the Martirosyan family to lay a concrete waterproof layer around the house.

"We will remain strong as long as women like Lilit volunteer with us from year to year and thus make their contribution to the brighter future of our families. We do become stronger, when celebrated sportsmen and sportswomen are standing next to us and build with the needy in Armenia", - said Armen Avetisyan, the Executive Director of Fuller Center for Housing Armenia. "I am sure together we will win this battle against poverty housing in Armenia!"

The Martirosyan family got a chance to build a house many years ago, when they received their plot of land for building. However, a locksmith’s earnings were not enough to complete the home. They were only able to erect the walls. Without a loan they had no means to complete the project and make their dream of a finished home come true. “When we learned that our family was selected as a partner family of the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia, we were so happy, that at last we have an opportunity to complete our home. And now when such people join us and work with us we are proud and more than grateful”, - said Sargis Martirosyan.
Celebrating the 6th anniversary of marriage in the new house

Zorayr Zakaryan and his family were sharing the living space in Zorayr’s parental home with his parents, three brothers and their families. 13 people in total were living in this 100sq.m overcrowded house.

Zorayr and his wife Marine have two little girls – 4 and 2 years old. They always dreamed to have their own house to raise the girls in healthy and safe conditions...

The Zakaryans celebrated the 6th anniversary of their marriage in their new house built in partnership with the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia in 2008. Their little daughters Anahit and Lilit at last have their own bedroom with their toys and drawings. Most of all, they like playing in the living room as the space is bigger compared to where they lived before.

“I spend most of my time here in the kitchen, cooking for my family, washing. This is my room”, - joked Marine, the mother.

On December 8, 2008, the Zakaryans celebrated the blessing ceremony for their new home, along with 4 other families in the same village. That was a real celebration of happiness for those families.

FCHA is grateful to all our friends, supporters and donors for renewing hope for these families!

You can contribute to our programs to assist many more families in housing need...

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tr>
<td>One entrance door</td>
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<td>Materials to paint a house</td>
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</table>

Baghramyan 3rd lane, house 10 a, Yerevan 0033
Tel: (374 10) 27 14 99
fcarmenia@fullercenterarmenia.org
www.fullercenterarmenia.org