Building on Faith in process

The “Building on Faith” Project was started on July 21, 2009 with the blessing of His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians and with the efforts of local and international volunteers. As a result of this partnership between the Armenian Holy Apostolic church and The Fuller Center for Housing Armenia, **20 families** will soon have a decent place to live in and raise their children to be healthy and happy.

Five families out of 20 have already moved into their completed homes; the rest will be able to complete their homes this summer. The selected families are spread in 11 different communities.

The Torosyan family from the Khor Virap, Ararat region is one of the selected families. They have completed their house and celebrated its dedication on Sept. 4, 2009. The family consists of five people. The father is a veterinarian and the mother is managing family’s farm. Previously they have been living in their parents’ house that was damaged and needed urgent reconstruction.

“It is very difficult for me to express my feelings. It is the happiness of a mother who knows that now her children and grandchildren are under a safe roof and have a healthy yet simple place to live,” Seda, the grandmother in the family, said.

Another selected family, the Nazaryans from Lusadzor village, lived in a “domik” (metal container) for 13 years. Currently they are building their home and should complete it soon.

The mother of the family expressed: “Now I believe in miracles. After 13 years of living in a metal container I have already lost hope that someday we will have an opportunity to live in a decent, healthy home. And now this dream is so close.”

The celebration of joy: Aslanyan family from Ujan village

In 1994, Hakob Aslanyan moved back into his parents’ home where he lived with his brother and his brother’s family. It was very difficult while they all lived in this 30 sq./m home. In order to be able to afford building their future home, Hakob was working very hard each day.

The Aslanyan family from Ujan village was looking forward to having a completed home of their own one day. However, in 1990, Hakob had to go into the army to protect the borders of his homeland. His wife and two daughters had no choice but to move in and live with Hakob’s parents.

One of Hakob’s friends owned a half-built home and suggested that the family might want to invest in the half-built home and pay him back slowly. In 1998, the Aslanyan family moved to that half-built home. Hakob was trying to build the house but with the limited income he received as a driver, it was impossible to take care of the family expenses in addition to completing the house construction.

In 2008, when Hakob’s second and youngest son was born, the family managed to finish another room by selling some of the cattle.

The Aslanyan family prayer was heard when, in 2009, they were selected as a partner family of The Fuller Center for Housing Armenia and as part of the “Building on Faith” project, their house was completed. On Dec. 26, 2009 the Aslanyans celebrated their Home Blessing ceremony. Today the two sisters are honor students attending the Yerevan State University.

“Everything looks like a miracle. Sometimes I think this is a dream and soon I will wake up...but no, thanks God, no, that is true. It is real. Our children are in a safe house now. Now our family prays for those in housing need, for those parents and children that are homeless and have no roof over them. Thanks to all our supporters we have our own home. May God bless them all,” Shahandukht, the mother of the Aslanyan family, said.
Global Builders review for 2009

Ron Greenwald: “I enjoyed the responses from the kids. At first they were very wary of us, but gradually we “earned” their trust, and I was very moved when the little boy gave me a hug when we left.”

Marisa Fenarjian: “This has allowed me to reconnect with my roots while getting to know and work next to a wonderful family, who has set a great example of Armenian hospitality and warmth.”

Perry Sarkisian, NJ, NY: “This makes us to be happy to knowing that many families will live in simple, comfortable houses which are every human right. Let’s make a difference everywhere there is a need.”

Vasilia Anayiotos, 15 years old, Greece: “…Armenian people are so friendly, hospitable and beautiful. I met villagers and worked with them shoulders by shoulders with my team members, enjoyed work and meal together. Thank you Fuller Center Armenia for this chance.”

Nicole Ker- beykian NY, student: “The most interesting part of our trip was working side by side with family...”

Cynthia Erickson: “While growing up, I came to be quite interested in Armenian things and my heritage, probably primarily because of my Armenian grandmother, Khashkhatoun, a Genocide survivor. Food, foreign languages, accents, talk of her homeland are all aspects of what she gave to her grandchildren. … I am really looking forward to helping fellow Armenians obtain a home of their own as they live and work in the homeland of my grandparents. Every time I return to Armenia, the experience is just as rewarding as past visits have been.”

Garren Angacian 15 years old, NJ, NY: “I am here with my father. This is my first trip to Armenia and first time with Fuller Center Armenia. I heard about this project from my aunt Nadya who was volunteering last year. I am thankful to her to encouraging us to come and build houses for those who are less lucky than we are.”

Craig Andrews: “I really enjoyed the positive work attitude of the host families and their relatives. The host family certainly appreciated the teams work attitude.

Without a doubt The Fuller Center is definitely making a difference with overcoming the need for World Housing. Fuller Center for Housing has a good understanding of the need for housing in Armenia.”
22 Years of Expectations:

March 4, 2010 was a special day for 16 families from a temporary housing district in Vanadzor city, in the Lori region. This district was formed after the devastating earthquake in 1988 but still some 150 families lived there up until now...

So many years of need and homelessness... Home is the most important component for a family’s happiness. It is difficult for parents who work hard every day and still can't provide a safe place for their children. This can very easily cause people to fall into a deep despair.

Since the spring of 2009 these 16 families have been working side by side with staff and volunteers to build their homes. For most of them, these homes are the first homes that they will own. A dedicated Global Builders team from USA worked with them in October 2009. The 16 families built their homes together never knowing which one would be theirs. On March 4 they gathered next to the Municipality building of Vanadzor city to hold a draw to find out their exact house.

"It is very difficult to believe that at last we will live under a safe roof, have separate bedrooms, living room, kitchen, bathroom...all these we have seen in the movies...so many years of life full of deprivations that sometimes I can't believe that very soon it will be over," Jilayyan Aramayis said. Aramayis came to the ceremony with his grandchildren.

Thanks to all our partners and especially to ARDA. Our joined efforts helped 16 families who lost everything at the earthquake - everything except hope, and now they found happiness and the home of their dreams. Very little is remaining to complete the homes and celebrate the 16 home dedications.

Last year in the frame of the same project, 16 families obtained new houses built by polystyrene foam blocks. So in total, with the partnership of FCHA, ARDA and Vanadzor Municipality, 32 families (169 people) were assisted in two years.

Making difference with Heifer Armenia

During two years of activities, The Fuller Center for Housing Armenia supported 84 families in owning simple houses and 40 families in starting the construction of their homes.

But house construction is not the only way to help the families to rehabilitate after years of need and homelessness. Fuller Center for Housing Armenia, in partnership with Heifer Armenia, is implementing a program that helps the beneficiary families to establish small farms by providing them a pregnant heifer on the assumption that the first calf will be passed to another needy family after three years.

"The appearance of Fuller Center for Housing Armenia in our life seems like a miracle. Knowing that soon we will be able to finish our house was given a chance to start our own farm as well!" Gayane, from Khor Virap village, said. "Yes this is a big responsibility, but this responsibility gives us a stimulus to live, as we know that our monthly repayments will be used to build another home, and the calf that we pass, will help another family to start their own farm. Indeed, this is a very nice project and gives thousands of people the opportunity to start a new life."

Thanks to our partners we at The Fuller Center for Housing Armenia become stronger in our mission by helping those in need to become contributing community members and to experience what it is to be responsible for others.
Many families still waiting for their turn to have a home… Make a difference! Give your hand of support.

To support our programs:

Make an online donation through our website:
www.fullcenterarmenia.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!

GLOBAL BUILDERS TEAMS SCHEDULE FOR 2010

Yerevan Affiliate
June 26 - July 10, team leader Suzanne Daghlian, close team

July 13 - 27, team leader Leo Manuelian

August 14 - 28, team leader Barbara Hovsepian

Vanadzor Affiliate
June 7 - 21, team leader Patricia Zerounian

Aug 26 - Sept 5, team leader Karnig Haladjian

Yeghegnadzor Affiliate
June 19 - July 3, team leader Jackie El-Chemmas, close team

The breakdown of a house cost

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One entrance door</td>
<td>$312</td>
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<tr>
<td>One inside door</td>
<td>$130</td>
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<td>One window</td>
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<td>The roof</td>
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<td>The bathroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Floors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Materials to paint a house from inside</td>
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