The parishioners of St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian Church of White Plains, New York, have generously raised funds to construct a fourth home for a deserving Armenian family in need of decent housing. The fruitful partnership with St. Gregory and the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia began in 2012, and this is the fourth consecutive year that the church has sponsored the construction of a home.

In September 2015, St. Gregory donors and parishioners, along with Parish Priest Fr. Karekin Kasparian, visited one of the beneficiary families - the Gdoyans from the Silikyan District of Yerevan. In 2013-2014, the Gdoyans received support to construct their house.

Highlighting the visit was a home blessing, and the new homeowners expressed their genuine gratitude for this precious gift. The church members were able to witness with their own eyes how their church’s continued support has had a life-changing impact on vulnerable families.

“We, as a parish family at St. Gregory, take to heart the responsibility and opportunity to partner with Fuller Center in providing housing for deserving families in Armenia. A safe and sound place to live is a basic requirement that fosters good family life and strong communities. We stand by our commitment to continue this tradition,” said Ellie Krolian, Parish Council member and liaison to Fuller Center for Housing Armenia.

This year, the loving support from St. Gregory’s parish is being used to help the Avetisyan family from the Pokr Vedi village in the Ararat region. This young family of four has been living with the father’s parents and brother in desperate circumstances – a total of seven people in a tiny house. In 2014, Avetis, the father, started building a separate home for his family, but could only build the walls because of financial difficulties. Now thanks to generous support from St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian Church, their house is being built, and this beautiful family will soon be moving into their new, safe, and decent home.

New Partnership with UWC Dilijan College

Lebanon, Italy, USA, South Africa, Portugal, Costa Rica, Vietnam, Syria, Brazil, Malaysia, Zimbabwe... the UWC Dilijan volunteer team with members of different nationalities have come to prove that philanthropy knows no nationality and became advocates of the family’s right to live with dignity.

In October 2015, a new but already a productive partnership started with UWC Dilijan College. Three days 15 volunteer members joined FCHA in Dian Village of Aragatsotn Region to help Hamazaspyan family in need of decent housing build their home.

The only breadwinner of Hamazaspyan family, Sargis, is 23. He lives with his mother and two sisters in a two-room deteriorated house, without basic housing conditions – no kitchen, no bathroom, concrete floors and wooden ceiling...

This was also a great way of team building and fostering in an out of a college environment. The volunteers worked hard 3 days doing graveling and concreting work. The family members kept telling that they would have done the work the volunteers did in 3 days in more than a month period.

“Our house is deteriorated and it can be destroyed at any moment. I could not even imagine that there will be people who will help us build our home. I am unable to express my gratitude…” shared the mother of the family, Mrs. Anahit.

“To see the work from our hands truly creating something, and something with meaning, was the most rewarding thing I could have hoped for... Sargs and his family made us feel so comfortable that the project does not truly deserve the term work. Our team is hoping to return to the family at our next opportunity to continue the relationship we have begun.” – UWC Dilijan student from USA.
ARDI is a 5-year program funded by the USAID and being implemented by FCHA and Heifer Armenia. The program aims to increase rural employment by tackling constraints to rural economic development of select rural communities in the Syunik, Vayots Dzor and Lori regions of Armenia. The program supports interventions in three main rural economic sectors/Value Chains involving Dairy Processing, Fruit Processing and Rural Tourism. To read ARDI program updates please [click here](#).

To support our programs, please make online donation through our website: [www.fcharmenia.org](http://www.fcharmenia.org)

Or send a check to:
The Fuller Center for Housing, PO Box 523, Americus, GA 31709, USA
Please add “Armenia” in the memo line.

For “Honoring 100 Years by Saving 100 Families” project please add “Armenia-100”
For “Artsakh Project” please add “Armenia-Artsakh”
Donations are tax-deductible.

Greetings from McKinney, Texas! I’m not a native Texan nor did I get here as fast as I could but overall it’s an okay place to escape from a couple of times a year.

I was excited to join the legendary Boots & Ramsay Team in Armenia for my sixth build – third with Fuller Center for Housing. The “build bug” bit me after spending a week in Minya, Egypt in October 2010. Since then I’ve joined builds in Honduras, Peru, India, and the Philippines.

I’m fortunate that my job affords me the time off to see the world while assisting people living in substandard housing improve their lives. I enjoy visiting places I’ve not been before so when I saw a build in Armenia led by Boots & Ramsay, I quickly signed up. At the time, I knew very little about Armenia other than having a former regional director whose family emigrated from there. I knew nothing about the 1915 genocide and looked forward to learning more about it.

It was dark and raining when I arrived in Yerevan so I didn’t see much on the ride from the airport. I awoke the next morning to the breathtaking sight of Mt. Ararat and to a sparkling clean city. I enjoyed meeting the FCHA staff and learning about the housing situation in Armenia. I had read the information on FCHA’s website but was still surprised to learn about the number of unfinished homes in Armenia. And, to learn that “our” family started their home 25 years ago was shocking.

After working with the FCHA team for nearly two weeks, the cleanliness and organization of the worksite impressed me. I had not plastered before so the demonstration was appreciated. I was impressed at the attention to detail in construction and plastering. I know the family appreciated that as well.

I enjoyed working alongside the FCHA team, the sightseeing trips, and group dinners. I truly had a wonderful experience and would love to visit the rest of the beautiful country that is Armenia.”

~ Lesylee Hodge
USA, Texas, McKinney
a member of “Global Builders” volunteer team, led by Boots and Ramsay Walker

This Fall the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia hosted two Global Builders volunteer teams, led by experienced team leaders Boots and Ramsay Walker and Brenda Sawyer. The teams helped to build a home for the Hayrapetyans from Pokr Vedi village of Ararat Region. Both teams did fantastic work leaving a lasting positive impact on the life of the family.

Lesylee Hodge with the family members from Pokr Vedi village, Ararat Region

GB team, led by Boots and Ramsay Walker

GB team, led by Brenda Sawyer

A Volunteer on Her Experience with Fuller Center for Housing Armenia

A Volunteer on Her Experience with Fuller Center for Housing Armenia