VivaCell-MTS and Fuller Center for Housing Armenia Share the Happiness of the Families Supported through the housing project

In the frames of the housing project, 42 Armenian families started the construction of their half-built houses in the spring of 2016, and now, when the harvest time has come, together with the partnering organizations, they celebrate the long-awaited housewarming.

The Sukiasyans from Stepanavan town, Lori region, are one of many families that have received support through the housing project in 2016. They had been homeless after the 1988 earthquake and had lived in a metal container for 28 years. In 2000, the family bought a half-built house, but was not able to complete the construction and move into a stone house.

“Sixteen long years have passed... and during all these years we were not able to complete the construction of our house. Every time we tried, we came upon an obstacle. My father was even thinking about leaving the country and working abroad to earn the money for the construction, but something kept him and us from doing that. We always thought it is better to live in a metal container, than be separated from each other. Maybe it was the strong bonds with the Homeland that kept us from leaving. I do not know. What matters is that our father is with us, and that we have built a house of our own. I am sincerely grateful for that!” said sixteen-year-old Lilith.

“Five years ago, when we presented apartments to 20 families in Lori region, we were hopeful that the look in the eyes of the children growing up in metal containers would change from sad and desperate to bright and optimistic. A child, who no longer has faith in the future, cannot bring positive changes to the country. Fully acknowledging the seriousness of the situation, we have tried to implement one more program with the aim of supporting socially vulnerable families. Thus, owing to the partnership with Fuller Center for Housing Armenia, we have succeeded in providing decent housing conditions to twenty more families in this region. My hope is that the hard conditions of life in metal containers will stay in the past and will no longer cast a shadow on the happiness of these families that strive to work and thrive in their Homeland,” said VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian.

“The story of this family is similar to that of hundreds of other families. People, growing up in metal containers, basements, get married and move into another metal container or basement or a half-built house. Unfortunately, the end of this cycle is still not noticeable. Nevertheless, the housewarming of each house is a step towards a victorious end,” said Fuller Center for Housing Armenia President Ashot Yeghiazaryan.

In 2016, VivaCell-MTS invested about AMD 105 mln for the implementation of the housing project.
Corporate Social Responsibility as a Core Value of the Company.

KPMG Armenia Helping Build a Home with and for a Family in Need of Decent Housing

It is already the 7th year KPMG Armenia is joining Fuller Center for Housing Armenia in its mission of helping the Armenian families who do not have the blessings of a decent home. With its financial support and volunteering activity KPMG Armenia demonstrates its high sense of corporate social responsibility towards the communities in which they operate by making a positive impact on its environment and economic stability.

On 18 September, 2016, volunteer staff members from KPMG Armenia joined Fuller Center for Housing Armenia with an annual build this time helping the Arakelyans from Tsovazard Village of Gegharkunik region build their dream home.

Janibek and Lusine got married in 2002. They have three children and live in Tsovazard village of Gegharkunik region with Janik’s mother and his brother’s family. The house was built by Janik’s grandfather; it has only two rooms, of which one serves as a bedroom for two brothers’ families (that one room is separated by a wardrobe). The small entrance serves as a kitchen and there is no bathroom in the house.

In 2010, the two brothers started building a new house near their paternal house for Janik and his family. After an accident Janik has had three surgeries on his leg and they could not go on with the construction of the house.

“That through helping Armenian families in need of decent housing, first of all we are increasing the number of the families who are determined to leave Armenia. It’s one of the best ways to decrease immigration from Armenia. It’s has become an annual commitment tradition for our dedicated CSR partner, KPMG Armenia, to join us in our mission of eliminating poverty housing with its financial support and volunteer activity thus making decent housing possible for more families,” said Ashot Yeghiazaryan, FCHA President.

“I am thankful for giving me the opportunity to be a part of that great job.”

~ Lilit Makyian, Finance, KPMG Armenia cjsc.

“It was fun to do the work with our team, we were not the specialists of construction, but somehow we completed it even faster than everyone before. Helping Janik’s family made me feel proud of our team.”

~ Rafik Khachatryan, Tax advisory, KPMG Armenia cjsc.

“‘I am proud to work for an organization that adheres to its core values by encouraging us to give back to the communities. I believe that our hands-on efforts not only help to give Arakeyan’s family shelter in a house but also belief that they are not alone with their problems, security and love that come from home. And finally we had a great day outside of Yerevan with our team!’”

~ Sona Martirosyan, Head of HR, KPMG Armenia cjsc.

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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.

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