The annual Millard Fuller Legacy Build both honors the memory of our founder and highlights the good work that the Fuller Center for Housing does around the world. It is most fitting that this year’s Legacy Build took place in Armenia so soon after they have dedicated their 500th house. The Fuller Center Armenia is leading the way in our worldwide effort to make decent housing a reality for all of God’s people in need,” said David Snell, FCH Inc. President.

The construction started in the spring of 2016. Till the end of the year 12 families will have a decent place; the life of 37 people will irrevocably change to the better.

On July 19, 2016, the weeklong Millard Fuller Legacy Build launched in the City of Vanadzor (Taron 3rd district, Lori Region) to honor the memory of Millard Fuller, the founder of Habitat for Humanity and the Fuller Center for Housing, Inc.

The purpose of the annual, internationally-recognized week of building is to bring attention to the need for simple, decent and affordable housing for every family.

More than 60 international and local volunteers had their contribution in building an apartment complex for 12 families who had been living in metal containers. By the end of the week the construction of the 12 apartments was completed.

“There is a saying: ‘Many people talk about poverty, but few of them talk with the poor.’ Millard Fuller was a person who not only talked with the poor, but also became a bridge between them and the wealthy. He conceived a genius idea, which, in a short time, found fertile ground in almost all parts of the world and took roots in Armenia. Now we are honored to have the Legacy Build here. This event, once again proves that humanity is one big family, there are no limits to humanitarian ideas, and good legacy is always constructive.”

~Asht Yeghiazaryan, the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia President

“The biggest highlight was being involved in the dedication ceremony. To witness the new homeowners see their homes for the first time and be there for the blessing of their new home by the local priest was so moving; it brought me to tears. They were thanking us again and again but I was the lucky one to be able to witness these people in their happiness.”

~ Anne Girian,
Volunteer, Manchester, MA

“I was so touching to see their current living conditions in the domiks (metal container) and then to see their Fuller apartment they will be moving to. They were so happy and excited.”

~Pamela Bland,
Volunteer, Saint Joe, IN

“It is a life-changing beautiful experience that I’ll cherish forever. I saw real poverty and realize how fortunate I am and how I can impact my lovely community. I’ll never forget this phenomenal experience. I’m proud to be an Armenian who has the capability to help their community. But most of all, I’m proud to call this MY HOME.”

~Nicole Madey,
Volunteer, Huntington Beach, CA

“As it was my first time in Armenia and working with FCHA, this has opened up my eyes and heart on what an awesome program this is. It was an honor for me to be a part of helping Armenian families. I couldn’t believe how attached I would become to our family we helped.”

~Joe Gabrielian
Volunteer, Mount Pleasant, WI
It was back in 2008 when Fuller Center for Housing Armenia was registered and now the 500th milestone home is celebrated. It means that 500 Armenian families were supported through decent housing; families who had been living in metal containers, basements, half-built houses or other temporary shelters, now live in their decent homes. This success became possible only thanks to the dedicated partners, individual donors, volunteers, friends of Fuller Center for Housing Armenia.

The 500th milestone home coincided with the 20th house being sponsored by St. John Armenian Church of Greater Detroit Community. The day was celebrated with the Global Builders volunteer team, led by Jacqueline Melkonian Elchemmas, a veteran team leader, who is already the 8th year leading teams to Armenia from St. John Armenian Church Community of Greater Detroit. Already 102 volunteer team members have joined Jacqueline Melkonian Elchemmas’s team. The volunteers spend their vacations lending a helping hand to eliminate poverty housing and give a homeless family great happiness and joy. This longtime partnership transforms lives and gives families the opportunity for a better and brighter future.

“My children never felt the happiness of having a home. My son will go to the army next year and it was our dream to say him good bye from our own house. You can’t even imagine how grateful we are. May God Bless the generous people whose support will change our life,” said Lilit, the mother of Smbatyan family.

The Smbatynans started building a house 10 years ago, but in 10 years they could build only the walls and the roof. Now the family lives in the house of a relative who has left abroad. They live in that temporary shelter with the fear that their relatives will return and they would have no place to live in.

Hopefully, by the end of the year, the Smbatyanans will live in a decent home thanks to the generous donation of Howard and Catherine Atesian and the great volunteer support of the members from St. John Armenian Church of Greater Detroit.
On 20 August, 2016 Armenia Marriott Hotel Yerevan staff, led by the General Manager Hendrik Beye, joined Fuller Center for Housing Armenia team in the village of Sisavan, Ararat region to help build a home for Aloyan family.

It is already the 10th year that Armenia Marriott Hotel Yerevan joins forces with Fuller Center for Housing Armenia team with the highest sense of corporate social responsibility and gives a hand up to a family in need of decent housing by helping build their dream home.

“Marriott’s Spirit to serve makes our culture more vibrant, our business stronger and the world a better place. Investing in the communities where we do business is at the core of Marriott’s Spirit To Serve Our Communities corporate social responsibility strategy. Our commitment to society blends financial contributions with in-kind giving of products and services, and the volunteer service of our associates around the world. Now the time has come to put our actions to another Spirit to Serve our communities event together with Fuller Center for Housing Armenia,” said Armenia Marriott Hotel Yerevan General Manager Hendrik Beye.

The Aloyans are a family of 11. Sargis and his wife, Anie, together with their 2 children live with Sargis’s parents and brothers’ families - 11 people in a-three-room house. The family started building a house for Sargis and his family 4 years ago.

“I could not even imagine that building a home could be such a memorable and happy process. I have dreamed of having a home long time. I could not even imagine that other people, not our relatives or friends, would come and do the work of a week in a day. Thank you,” said Sarkis, the family father.

“Perhaps the most desirable dream of each family is having a home. It is nice to see children’s enthusiasm, the great excitement of adults and the commitment of our loyal partner to help another family in need of decent housing,” said Fuller Center for Housing Armenia President Ashot Yeghiazaryan.

Last year the Armenia Marriott Hotel Yerevan team helped build Fuller Center for Housing Armenia’s 450th home. By the end of the year the number will be increased by 100.
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 visit our website. To support our programs, please make online donation through our website: 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.
Donations are tax-deductible.
THANK YOU!

AGBU DISCOVER ARMENIA HELPING BUILD A HOME

Since the inception of the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia (FCHA) in 2008, AGBU Discover Armenia joins FCHA to build a home for Armenian families in housing need. It is already the ninth year many young volunteers come to Armenia to see the land of their ancestors and to have their contribution in the development of their Homeland by helping build a home for families living in substandard housing conditions.

This year the group of twenty one enthusiastic volunteers worked in Varser village of Gegharqunik region helping Stepanyan family to build their dream home.

Three days of hard work and the result was more than obvious; the volunteers contributed to enhancing a conductive environment for a family in need of decent housing that will enable them to better cope with their daily life and the state of uncertainty they were living in. Even the drudgery work of concreting was exciting, because it’s the base on which lives will be nurtured for years to come.

The Stepanyans are a family of four. They have lived in an 18 square meter metal container (domik) for 17 years without a kitchen and a bathroom. The two small rooms served as a bedroom, a hall and a kitchen in the same time.

“It is already the 17th year we have been living in this domik. My daughter got married from a domik and my elder son, Mushegh went to the army from that domik too. My family is very hard working but the family expenses always were so high that we could only care the everyday needs. I’m so grateful,” said Ani, the mother of the family.