**VivaCell-MTS & FCHA Partnership Continues**

6 Years of partnership  
146 Families assisted*  
733 Lives changed*  
in 57 Communities* of  
10 Regions in Armenia
*The numbers may be updated

“Community development has always been the focus of our attention. We continuously support programs that require long-term commitment, dedication, and ceaseless efforts. The housing program is one of them. It is aimed at providing proportionate development of both urban and rural areas, helping socially vulnerable families to overcome poverty, and awakening their faith in a better future. By implementing construction works, we provide more than merely material assistance, as we also give moral support to these families, which, in their case, is arguably more important,” said VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian.

“This partnership is a vivid manifestation of social investment in the field of CSR. VivaCell-MTS team is guided by. This is one of the best ways to eliminate poverty in Armenia, that can serve as an example for others,” said Fuller Center for Housing Armenia President Ashto Yeghiazaryan.

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**2017 FIRST GLOBAL BUILDERS VOLUNTEER TEAM**

**Johnson State College of Vermont**

This year Fuller Center for Housing Armenia was honored to host a very enthusiastic team from Johnson State College of Vermont. 11 members, full of energy, good will and willingness to make change in the life of a family in need, made a real difference doing fantastic work and helping two families in building their long cherished homes.

The Global Builders team helped two families -- the Gevorgyan family from Kasakh village of Kotayk region and the Hakobyans from Nerkin Bazmaberd village of Aragatsotn region.

The Gevorgyans have lived in a rented house for 13 years. They have four children; two sons and two daughters. In 2013, the family bought a land and started the construction of the house but couldn’t finish it. In several days the team did the work the family would have finished in weeks.

The next family the team worked with, the Hakobyans, have been living in a metal container several years with their two underage children. Last year the family started the construction of their house but couldn’t finish it.

Two weeks of dust and sweat, 14 days of unforgettable memories and overwhelming feelings...

“It was so hard to say goodbye to everyone because we were able to form friendship. This truly rates better than excellent! I have never experienced a Fuller Center trip like this. Although travel is a big part of why I do these trips, I was reminded by this build that even more than travel. I do this because it feels good to help others in need, no matter their culture or race. Projects like these help to unify the world and educate people through first hand experience.”

~ Aslin Trepanier, co leader, volunteer.

“I love the opportunities I have had working alongside community members. It always surprises me how well we can work with people when we don’t even speak the same language. I have formed many bonds that have forever changed me as a person and for that I am extremely thankful.”

~ Kirsty Green, volunteer.
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: 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!

A MULTINATIONAL VOLUNTEER GROUP FROM UWC DILIJAN COLLEGE
Helping Build a Home for a Family in Need

It has already become a tradition for UWC Dilijan college students to join Fuller Center for Housing Armenia and construct homes for families in need of decent housing. It is already the third successive year the college students join and work shoulder to shoulder to help families live a deserving life.

During the period of May 22-24 the young volunteers from Spain, Germany, Great Britain, Serbia, Georgia, the Netherlands, Ukraine, Sudan, Palestine, Croatia, Hungary, Serbia, Mexico, India, United States of America did tremendous work helping the family to sooner finish the construction of the house. They did the graveling of the roof and the concreting of floors of the house which was a big support for the family.

During all these years of partnership the volunteers from UWC Dilijan helped generate positive change for the families in need of decent housing and also get somethin back from the act of volunteering, something very valuable.

This year UWC Dilijan college students worked in Kasakh village of Kotayk region helping the Gevorgyan family. The Gevorgyans have lived in a rented house for 13 years. They have four children; two sons and two daughters. In 2013, the family bought a land and started the construction of the house but couldn’t finish it. Arman is the only breadwinner of the family and his salary is hardly enough to care the needs of the growing family.

UWC Teachers and project supervisors Erin Beard and Vivek Gandhi believe that this was a meaningful experience.

“The time that we spent helping the Gevorgyans and Fuller Center was one that we’ll remember as a highlight of our time in Armenia. We enjoyed working together and getting to know the Gevorgyans. None of the students wanted to leave!” said Erin.

Vivek thought that “We became part of the extended family of Gevorgyans, and our team became much closer as well.”

“Despite that our life was full of difficulties, we love each other. We are strong together. One of our children passed away in four-month age. My elder son’s, Erik’s, hand was injured when he was a born child and his right hand doesn’t function properly, he feels pain all the time. We live in a one-room rented house and hope that very soon we’ll have our dream home. We are so happy to know that we are selected for assistance and by the end of the year my children will live in a safe and decent home,” said Arman, the father of the family.