GLOBAL BUILDERS VOLUNTEER TEAMS: GOOD WILL IN ACTION

This summer Fuller Center for Housing Armenia was honored to host three Global Builders volunteer teams, led by Leo Manuelian, Jacqueline Melkonian Elchemmas, and Carey White & Stewart Essey. The teams worked in Vayots Dzor, Ararat and Aragatsotn regions spreading happiness and giving hope to the families showing good will in action.

GB team, led by Leo Manuelian: Leo Manuelian has led 12 volunteer teams (out of which 8 years with his wife Sona Manuelian as a co-leader) with the mission of diminishing poverty housing in Armenia with Fuller Center for Housing Armenia. During all these years 141 volunteer members joined Leo Manuelian’s team and came to Armenia to help more and more families to sooner finish the construction of their dream homes.

“...I cannot think of a better and more Christian way, to help my Armenian brothers and sisters in the homeland. The Fuller Center for Housing Armenia is the only program that has a 100% success rate in stemming immigration. Once a Fuller family builds a decent, affordable home, their standard of living, physical health, mental health, and economic situation improves...” shared Leo Manuelian.

GB team, led by Jacqueline Melkonian Elchemmas: 9th year of leading volunteer teams to Armenia with 117 volunteers joined Jacqueline Melkonian Elchemmas’s team throughout these years — a real dedication that knows no limit, no end...

It has become a good tradition for St. John Armenian Church of Greater Detroit community volunteers to join Fuller Center for Housing Armenia mission of diminishing poverty housing in Armenia by helping more and more Armenian families in need to enjoy the happiness of living in a decent home. This is also a great way to create strong bonds between people from the Diaspora and the Homeland.

This year St. John Armenian Church of Greater Detroit community sponsors the 21st house.

GB team from Arnold Foundation, led by Carey White and Stewart Essey: As stated one of the team leaders, Carey White, Armenia is the first country he has returned the second time and even hopes to come back again; this once again proves that FCHA’s mission is a great way to create strong bonds between people.

“What an experience! Spending a week working with a lovely Armenian family, great group of local Fuller Center for Housing Armenia volunteers, and 6 American citizens. At 79, I had no idea what traveling with my 16-year-old granddaughter would be like when we “signed up” to join the Fuller team,” shared Lois Peacock, a volunteer team member.
NEW AND PRODUCTIVE PARTNERSHIPS

The magic formula of happiness—good will mixed with sand and cement, sweat equity and joy, creates hope for a better future.

NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH MICROSOFT ARMENIA

This year, the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia started a new and a productive partnership with Microsoft Armenia by helping an Armenian family in need of decent housing to complete the construction of their home by volunteering their labor for a full day of various construction activities. On June 19, the enthusiastic team of Microsoft Armenia employees worked in Geghaskh village of Kotayk region helping the Yeghiazaryans family to build their dream home. The team did an incredible job, which was a huge support to the family who were at a loss as to how to express their happiness and gratefulness of them who selflessly volunteered their time and efforts. The Yeghiazaryans family of five had been living in a small metal container for many years in a no bathroom, no kitchen, no separate bedrooms. Tatul, the head of the household, is the only breadwinner, his work is seasonal, and the small income has never been enough to complete the construction of the half-built house, which the family had begun a long time ago.

“We are delighted to be able to help the Yeghiazaryans family build the home they have longed for so many years. We have had an incredibly rewarding day of hard work, fun and bonding under the scorching Kotayk sun and it has been a privilege to get to know this extremely deserving family and be a part of a Fuller build. We’re all looking forward to coming back in a few months and seeing their new home!” said a volunteer member from Microsoft Armenia team.

ELIMINATING SUBSTANDARD HOUSING IN ARMENIA

AUA LADIES BUILD! AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ARMENIA (AUA) VOLUNTEER STUDENTS JOIN THE MISSION OF

The FCHA mission would not be possible without the support of those who share their time, efforts and willingness to improve the life quality of the families, increase the self-esteem and self reliance of the family members and bring positive changes in the area of health by helping build a decent home for the family.

On June 22, volunteer young students from American University of Armenia (AUA) Volunteers’ League student organization joined the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia (FCHA) to help build a decent home for a family in need of decent housing. All of the volunteers were young ladies and it was pleasant to recognize that they joined FCHA with the humanitarian mission and did fantastic work helping the Yeghiazaryans from Geghaskh village of Kotayk region to finish the house construction; and it is even more surprising, and in the meantime, gratifying to see those young ladies helping us build our dream home! Thank you for the great support,” shared the family father.

“AUA Volunteers’ League were proved to be powerful, hardworking and enthusiastic in the construction process. We were honored to have an opportunity to help the family build their long-awaited home and we are proud to have our contribution in it!” shared Anna Tantsioshian, an executive board member at AUA Volunteers’ League.

“Thank you for the great support,” shared the family father.

“The ladies from AUA Volunteers’ League were proved to be powerful, hardworking and enthusiastic in the construction process. We were honored to have an opportunity to help the family build their long-awaited home and we are proud to have our contribution in it!” shared Anna Tantsioshian, an executive board member at AUA Volunteers’ League.

“Coming to Geghard Village, meeting the Babayans, and working with them and Fuller Center for Housing Armenia was an opportunity I promise none of us will forget. Knowing that we contributed to the building of this lovely family’s home, ensuring a warm home in the winter and a cool home in the summer, is one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. Hard work and teamwork truly create miracles,” said Arpi Vartanian.

ARMEANIAN ASSEMBLY OF AMERICA HELPING BUILD A HOME

On July 16, Arpi Vartanian, Regional Director of the Armenian Assembly of America and interns of the Assembly’s Summer Internship Program in Armenia joined FCHA with the mission of helping build a decent home for a family in need.

The volunteers came with a humanitarian mission and did fantastic work helping the Babayans from Geghard village of Kotayk region have the blessings that many of us have – a decent home to live in.

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MILESTONES WITH OUR LONG TIME PARTNERS

We are grateful to all the volunteers who joined us this summer making a real difference in the lives of Armenian families in need of decent housing.

10TH YEAR OF PARTNERSHIP WITH AGBU DISCOVER ARMENIA

In 2017, the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia (FCHA) and AGBU Discover Armenia celebrated 10th year of successful partnership. During all these years, AGBU Discover Armenia team of young volunteers from different parts of the world, led by Mrs. Hermine Duzian, Chief Coordinator Diaspora Youth Programs in Armenia, joined Fuller Center for Housing Armenia mission helping build homes for more Armenian families through volunteering activity, also creating strong bonds between younger generations of the Diaspora and people living in Armenia.

Younger generations inspire us to better our world, our communities. Their aspiration in action makes us work even harder to provide decent housing for more and more Armenian families.

This year a group of 53 enthusiastic AGBU Discover Armenia young volunteers worked in Nernkin Bazmaberd village of Aragatsotn region to turn the dream of Manukyan family of four to have a decent home into a reality. The Manukyans had been living with the family father’s, Hrach’s parents and other family members, 15 people in a four-room house.

The hard working ethic of the volunteers is really rewarding and it resulted in creating such a conductive environment in which family members felt they are not alone, that there are people who give them a real hand-up for a better future and it is invaluable.

8TH YEAR OF PARTNERSHIP WITH KPMG ARMENIA

On 22 July, KPMG Armenia volunteer team members joined Fuller Center for Housing Armenia team helping the Minasyan family from Dvin village, Ararat region to build their long cherished home.

It is already the 8th year KPMG Armenia is joining Fuller Center for Armenia not only with financial support but also by volunteering their time, good will and efforts and giving more families an opportunity to raise their children with dignity and in a healthy environment.

The Minasyans of seven, Arsen, his wife, Marine and their five children live in Arsen’s paternal house; 16 people in a three-room house. Three years ago, the family bought a half-built house with the hope that they could finish the construction of the house and would move to live there but could not due to lack of financial means.

“I wish I could finish the house construction and I dream to move from my paternal house. It is a blessing to have a large family but in the meantime it’s difficult to live with 16 members in a small house... Your help is a real hand-up for our family. Thank you!” said Arsen, the family father.

600TH HOME BUILDING MILESTONE WITH CHRISTIAN YOUTH MISSION TO ARMENIA (CYMA)

Picture this: while you and your family are living luxuriously back home with accessible water and other various resources, families in Armenia are struggling to have a roof over their heads. In 2008, FCHA started the rewarding program and paved the way for the construction of hundreds of houses for the families who lived in temporary shelters. Now, FCHA is already celebrating the construction of the 600th home, bringing happiness to approximately 3000 people.

The 600th home construction was celebrated with FCHA long time partner, the Christian Youth Mission to Armenia (CYMA). On July 27-28, the Christian Youth Mission to Armenia group joined Fuller Center for Housing Armenia to help the Minasyan family from Dvin village of Ararat region, to help build their dream home. The family had been currently situated at the home of the family father’s parents house, with 16 members living in a small house together.

It has already become a tradition to join forces with CYMA serving to unify and strengthen the Armenian community by establishing a bridge between Diaspora’s Youth and Our Homeland through participation in the social, religious, professional and cultural life of Armenia. The volunteer members led by Der Krikor Zakaryan, had performed an impactful job, working to make a difference in the life of the Minasyan family.
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.

The Fuller Center for Housing Armenia is a non-governmental charitable organization that supports community development in the Republic of Armenia by assisting in building and renovating simple, decent, and affordable homes as well as advocating the right to a decent shelter as a matter of conscience and action.

WHEN YOU HELP

Over 600 families assisted with over 3000 lives changed forever since 2008
Over 201 volunteers hosted in 2017
Over 44 families assisted in 2017

*Numbers are as of August 31, 2017

To support our programs, please make an online donation through our website at 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!

2018 IS WAITING FOR YOU!

JOIN OUR 2018 GLOBAL BUILDERS VOLUNTEER TEAMS

May 20 – June 2, team leader, Abie Alexander
June 11 – 22, team leaders, Leo & Sona Manuelian
September 15-28, team leader, Peter Sexton

More teams will be registered soon, please check at www.fcharmenia.org

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