He was only four, when we first met him... a child with deep, green eyes, where one could not find hope for future.

Aghabek is the second son of Aghekyan family of six from Arayi village of Aragatsotn region. They have been living in an old and damp house without basic housing conditions.

In 1993, Aram, Aghabek’s father, left abroad (Russia) to work; he was injured seriously in a car accident and Lala, Aram’s mother, due to lack of financial means, sold their house and left for Russia to take care of her son.

After long-term treatment, which lasted three years, Lala, with her son, returned to Armenia. Since then, they have been living in their relative’s old house, which was given to them free of charge till they would have been able to build or buy a house. Later, Aram got married and Aghabek and his two sisters were born.

In the Spring of 2018, the family started their own house construction, and the entire family was involved in the construction works.

Aghabek was so excited! He was carrying heavy buckets, to finish the house construction.

During summer many volunteer teams joined the Aghekyans to help them in building their long cherished home.

After the construction was finished, we visited the family and we saw a boy with smiling eyes... as if his childhood was returned to him!

Thank you everybody for making this miracle come true!
GB TEAM, LED BY PETER SEXTON, BUILDING HOME AND HOPE

There are people in the world who care about others no matter how far they are...

This year, the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia was honored to host six Global Builder volunteer teams. Global Builder volunteer team from USA, led by Peter Sexton joined Fuller Center for Housing Armenia team to help the Aghekyan family from Arayi village, Aragatsotn region to sooner finish the house construction. Seven days of hard and productive work, seven days of fun and joy, hope and strong bonds between the team and the family members... There was no work that the team couldn’t manage-concreting, graveling, plastering, sanding...

Helping the family as well as teaching the young members of the family some English words, playing with them and making fun, made the trip memorable for the team members and unforgettable for the family.

UWC DILIJAN COLLEGE & FCHA PARTNERSHIP

At the end of October, when the 17th Summit of International Day of Francophonie was taking place in Yerevan, the UWC Dilijan College volunteer team joined Fuller Center for Housing Armenia team to help build a home for Aghekyan family in Arayi village, Aragatsotn region.

The International group of students from 18 countries: Armenia, Netherlands, Serbia, Georgia, Portugal, Albania, Colombia, USA, Iran, Norway, Japan, Lebanon, Bethlehem, Italy, Ukraine, Malaysia, Denmark, India helped with graveling, concreting, plastering, painting making the final touches of the construction ...

It is already the fourth year the UWC Dilijan College students join to help a family in housing need spreading happiness and showing how humanism affects life.

Three days of hard work - graveling, concreting, caring big stones, sanding and panting... everything to finish the construction a day earlier and to help the family to sooner move into their new decent home.

AGBU TEHRAN HELPING BUILD A HOME

On 3 September, 25 volunteer members from AGBU Tehran joined Fuller Center for Housing Armenia in Nor Geghi Village of Kotayk Region to help Gasparyan family to sooner finish the construction of their dream home.

The Gasparyan family of 6 has lived in a rented house for 12 years. In 2012, they purchased a half-built house and tried to finish the house construction to move to live in there, but couldn’t afford finishing it.

Tolik and Rita had three children. Their eldest daughter passed away a few years ago. Their son, Lernik, lives with them. Lilit, their youngest daughter has 1st degree of disability. The income of the family is the pension and the family benefit.

It was a joyful time for the students as well as for the family. The young ladies were helping to pass the heavy buckets with concrete, helping the family to sooner complete the construction of the long awaited home.
TEACH FOR ARMENIA AND FCHA PARTNERSHIP

Partnering with Teach for Armenia had become a good tradition. It is the second year, Teach For Armenia staff joins Fuller Center for Housing Armenia mission to help a family in housing need to sooner finish the construction of their dream home. In an out of office environment, the Teach for Armenia staff members were happy to pass the heavy buckets full of concrete, do shoveling, smoothing and other construction works.

This year the teams worked in Tatul Village, Aragatsotn region and spent a productive day working side-by-side with the Mkrtchyan family to finish the construction of their long cherished home.

After the working day everybody was tired but happy, knowing that one more Armenian family is one step closer to having a decent home to live in.

ACCOMPLISHING DREAMS... NINE YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP

It is already the 9th year KPMG Armenia is joining Fuller Center for Housing Armenia in its mission of helping the families in need of decent housing.

With its financial support and volunteering activity KPMG Armenia makes a real difference in the lives of Armenian families in housing need as well as spreading happiness and hope for a better future.

This time, on 6 September, 2018, volunteer staff members from KPMG Armenia joined FCHA with an annual build helping the Midoyans from Tatul village of Aragatsotn region who have been living in a metal container many years.

The team also gave a gift of a lamp for the new home of the family with the message of “new light in the new home”.

KNIGHTS AND DAUGHTERS OF VARTAN WITH THE MISSION TO HELP...

On September 22, Knights and Daughters of Vartan members from U.S.A. were welcomed to Dzhumyan family house in Nor Gyugh village, Kotayk region celebrating house blessing and sharing with the family the happiness of owning a new, decent home.

Anush and Kamo got married in 1999. In 2006, the Dzhumyan family bought a land and a metal container in Nor Gyugh village and moved to live in there. The family lived without basic conditions for 12 years. Despite all the efforts, the family income was never enough to finish the construction of the house. Now, with the generous donation from Knights and Daughters of Vartan the family has a beautiful and cozy home. Knights and Daughters of Vartan have been collaborating with the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia for many years helping build homes and encouraging their members to lead or join volunteer teams.
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 30-YEAR-OLD PROBLEM SOLVED THROUGH VIVACELL-MTS & FCHA PARTNERSHIP

VivaCell-MTS and Fuller Center for Housing Armenia evaluated the current year’s accomplishments. The housing program launched in spring came to its end. Partner organizations report that one of the most important accomplishments of the fiscal year was the transformation of the state of mind of beneficiary families of different regions of the country. Another accomplishment is that the 30-year-old problem was solved in Koti village.

“I have always considered this program one of the most successful ones. There are several reasons; an important work is being done and people overcome the problem of years with dignity. I’m especially happy for our compatriots living on the border. The supported families will celebrate the New Year in their new homes. Let, hereinafter, life offers them only the pleasant. Thank you for cooperation,” said VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian.

“In the current year, a particularly important accomplishment was the support to one of the families from Koti village. The family, having lived in the metal container for 30 years and having protected the children from the potential danger of the enemy’s firings, from now on will continue living in their native village, but this time, already in a safe, stone built house. Despair is no longer a state of mind for them; people start smiling and believe in the future. First time in their life, the Bejanyans’ thirty-year-old sons started thinking about forming their own families,” said Fuller Center for Housing Armenia President Ashot Yeghiazaryan.

The Bejanyan family living in Koti village of Tavush region have lived in a metal container for three decades feeling the real danger coming from the enemy firings during that period. The family father, Babken, has spent most of his life inside the 27-square-meter metal walls. His wife Nune, has overcome the difficulty of frosty winters, the summer heat, the horror of the enemy’s shootings and every time lived the happiness of being miraculously survived. Their daughter, Gohar, is the one who has survived miraculously; the particle found in the crib as a result of the enemy firings could have been irreversible for the newborn. Now she is a mother of a five-year-old son.

“This is the happiest year of my life. I’m getting ready for the New Year. Having moved to a light and large house is so unusual that I am confused. My sons have their own bedroom, we have ours. Now the firings are not so terrible; the stone walls are stronger, and I have a full sense of safety. I have a great dream--I want my sons to get married in the new house,” said the family mother Nune Bejanyan.

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To support our program, please make an on-line 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!