



Over 200 Homes Built Owing to VivaCell-MTS & FCHA Partnership

The housing problem remains unsolved in various regions of Armenia and needs solution. Consistently and selflessly, VivaCell-MTS and the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia have been implementing a housing project demonstrating a responsible approach. Their work encompasses identification of beneficiary families across the republic, needs assessment and organization of construction work.

The number of houses built over the years exceeds 200 and is growing.

“We have built many houses and talked to many families. Each of them is unique, yet there is a lot that they have in common – they are hardworking, optimistic, and have a strong willpower. Those of us here on the construction site working hand in hand are different, too, yet we are united by the desire to volunteer. And this program helps to make everyone feel good: home owners feel they are not alone, and get everyone’s positive vibes, and those who are here to work with them, including me, are happy to do some physical work away from office. Having all of us joining in for construction is a major achievement,” VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian said.

“The continuity of the program means fulfilling

long-cherished hopes for many families. Many families have found their happiness owing to our partnership with VivaCell-MTS. Improving the living conditions of the families is a guarantee for a better quality of their lives. I am grateful for this cooperation,” said Fuller Center for Housing Armenia President Ashot Yeghiazaryan.

The procedures of the partnership are clear: the families are selected by the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia based on criteria, such as the social situation, under-aged children in the family, number of people in the family, and others. VivaCell-MTS provides financial assistance, and frequently volunteers in the construction works.

For the implementation of the housing project in 2019, VivaCell-MTS has invested AMD 109 mln.

43 families are getting the assistance through the project: 24 families will finish the construction of their half-built homes and 19 families will renovate their homes in 2019.



Best Western Congress Hotel Yerevan



On June 8, 2019, Best Western Congress Hotel Yerevan volunteer staff members joined Fuller Center for Housing Armenia team helping the Knyazyan family from Parpi village, Aragatsotn region to sooner finish the construction of their long cherished home.

It has become a good tradition for volunteers to switch an ordinary everyday workspace with the unusual and dusty site helping a needy family with the construction work.

The Knyazyan family of three lives in Parpi village of



Aragatsotn region. Sergo and his family have lived in a metal container for almost 20 years. The metal container is in a miserable condition.

"We are so excited seeing all these people helping us. We are so thankful," said Qarmile, the family mother.

The teams did the concreting of the floors of the half-built house. Till the end of the day all the work was done and it made the family one more step closer to their dream home.

Badveli Ara Guekguezian and Gary G Gostanian's Family Joining FCHA Mission



On June 20-23, an enthusiastic volunteer team from the U.S.A., led by Badveli Ara Guekguezian, joined Fuller Center for Housing Armenia and did wonderful work helping the Melkonyan family from Spitak town to enjoy the happiness of living in a decent home.

It was amazing that almost all volunteers were members of one family: three generations of Gary G. Gostanian's family.

It was a really enjoyable and wonderful time for two



families: for volunteers as well as for the beneficiaries.

The Melkonyan family has lived in a temporary shelter since the 1988 earthquake.

During the earthquake, the house was damaged, and the growing family couldn't live there anymore. After the earthquake, they moved to a temporary shelter and have been living there with poor conditions.

Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA)

On June 3, a young team of ACYOA (Armenian Church Youth Organization of America), led by Fr. Hratch Sargsyan, joined Fuller Center for Housing Armenia to help the Mheryan family from Mrgavet village of Ararat Region to sooner complete the construction of their dream home.

The team did tremendous work smoothing the floors with sand, preparing it for the concrete. It was not just passing the buckets with sand and cement but passing the joy and love, and as if the bucket line was a chain of

happiness. It was a real hand up for the family! The Mheryan family have been living in a metal container for almost 12 years. After marriage, they lived with family father's Samvel's parents in their house for a year. Then the family had to move into the metal container. The metal container where they live is in a miserable condition — no bathroom, no kitchen.

"Can't wait to move to our new house. So many years we have been waiting for this moment. It is a miracle for us," shared Tehmina, the family mother in tears.



Engineer Armenia Team

On July 13, Engineer Armenia Team of eight from California, the US, joined the FCHA Global Builders team, led by Abe Ouzounian, to help build a decent home for a family in need of decent housing.

They did fantastic work helping the Torosyans from Jrashen village of Lori region.

The Torosyan's family, was involved in the state-supported project, launched on April 16, 2019, aimed to solve the housing problem of the families living in disaster

zones, left homeless as a result of the 1988 earthquake.

First experience working with FCHA volunteers was spectacular for the engineers. It was so different compared to the work young people do in their everyday life: bucket line instead the computers, cement instead of the pen... New emotions, new feelings and memories for a lifetime.

It was a productive and a happy day for both the Torosyans and the volunteer teams!



Christian Youth Mission to Armenia (CYMA)

On July 18 -19, the Christian Youth Mission to Armenia (CYMA) group joined Fuller Center for Housing Armenia to help the Hovhannissyan family from Mrgastan village of Armavir region, to help build their dream home.

It has already become a good tradition to join forces with CYMA helping Armenian families in housing need. The volunteer members, led by Der Avedis Abovian, did a fantastic job, making a difference in the lives of the Hovhannissyan family.

Koryun Hovhannissyan lives in Mrgastan village of Armavir region with his wife and three children. They have lived in a metal container for three years. In 2014, Koryun started building a new house but due to financial difficulties, it remained unfinished. About a year ago, they sold the metal container, and moved into the semi-constructed building.

All the family members, especially little Gor, who was trying to help the elders, were so excited and happy! Till the end of the year, the family will have a cozy home to live in.



Armenian Assembly of America (AAA)

On 26 July, Armenian Assembly of America (AAA) volunteer team, led by Arpi Vartanian, joined FCHA mission to help build a decent home for Khachatryan family from Saralanj village, Kotayk region. The team did great work helping the family in need to sooner complete the construction of the dream home.

“We had the privilege of working with the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia team to help build a home for the Khachatryan family. Teamwork made all the difference as we helped build the floors in the Khachatryan’s new home.

The sense of fulfillment we received in performing such labor is indescribable. Our interns will forever know that they helped make a dream come true as the Khachatryans moved from a domik (metal container home) to a real home. Thank you Fuller Armenia Team,” shared Arpi Vartanian.

Beth Broussalian, Founder & Executive Director at Homeland Development Initiative Foundation – HDIF, as well as the loyal friend of FCHA also joined the team, working hard with the team; she also presented the team members nice gifts.



Children Help Children to Have a Home



On August 5, two families from Homenetmen Glendale Ararat Chapter joined Fuller Center for Housing Armenia together with their children to help an Armenian family in housing need to sooner finish the construction of their long-cherished home.

Kristina lives in Gyumri city of Shirak region. She lives with her mother-in-law and children in a metal container. Her husband's family has been living in a metal container after the 1988 earthquake. Almost eight years ago, Kristina got married and also moved there. Kristi-



na's husband has serious health issues. He is abroad for treatment. In 2012, they purchased a piece of land and started building a house.

"Mornings are the worst. It's so cold in the morning. I just hope that one day my family would get rid of this metal container, and we would live in a decent home," said Kristina.

The day was productive and fun and educative! Just imagine children help children to have a home.

AGBU Discover Armenia



It is already the 12th year AGBU Discover Armenia team joins FCHA mission. This time, on August 12-15, AGBU Discover Armenia volunteers from 30 different countries joined forces with FCHA to help the Muradyan family from Mayakovski village of Kotayk region to build their dream home.

Young and enthusiastic people did tremendous work helping the family with concreting and graveling.

The Muradyan family moved from one rented house to another for more than 10 years.



In 2006, the family started building a new house but it remained unfinished. Since then, they could only build the walls of the house.

With the help of volunteers, the Muradyan family did the hardest part of the works and came one step closer to their dream home. Till the end of the year, the family will live in their decent home.

"I can't imagine what we could do without your help! It could take months to do what you did in four days. Thank you" said Petros, the young father of the family.

Global Builders in Action

It is truly said that “There is nothing more beautiful than someone who goes out of their way to make life beautiful for others”...

Look at these faces! Aren't they amazing! People, who crossed the ocean to come to help other people in need of decent housing.

This summer, Fuller Center for Housing Armenia, was honored to host seven Global Builders volunteer teams, led by Cynthia Reimers Erickson, Nicole Simmons, Jacqueline Melkonian Elchemmas, Sona and Leo Manuelian, Abraham Ouzounian, Barbara Hovsepien, Bootsaba Shaffer. The teams worked in Lori, Vayots Dzor, Armavir regions shoulder to shoulder with and for the families. The volunteers build not only houses but strong relationships and hope for a better future...



GB team, led by Cynthia Reimers Erickson
May 29-June 11



GB team, led by Nicole Simmons
June 15-30



GB team, led by Jacqueline Melkonian Elchemmas
June 15-30



GB team, led by Sona and Leo Manuelian
June 23-July 5



GB team, led by Abraham Ouzounian
July 6-20



GB team, led by Barbara Hovsepiyan
July 28-August 11



GB team, led by Bootsaba Shaffer
August 18-29



Armenia Marriott Hotel Yerevan



It has already become an annual tradition for Armenia Marriott Hotel Yerevan to join forces with FCHA to help more Armenian families in housing need. Over 10 years of partnership! This time the enthusiastic team, led by General Manager Ms. Catalina Susan, worked in Parpi village helping the Knyazyans to sooner finish the construction of their dream home.



The team did the concreting of the sidewalks. "So many years we were dreaming about having our home.... It was unbelievable that so many people came to help us! I have no words to express my feelings and my gratefulness. THANK YOU!" shared Sergo, the father of the family.

HOW ^{you} can HELP

To support our program, 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!

Why not you?
Why not now?

Join us!

2020 GB VOLUNTEER TEAMS

SCHEDULE

May 18 – 31,

(team leader Abie Alexander)

June 7 – 14,

(team leader Rick White)

June 28 – July 11,

(team leader Sona and Leo Manuelian)