

2 0 0 8 S P R I N G E D I T I O N

in the SMALL corners



FRIENDS OF WARM HEARTH, INC. NEWSLETTER



Anna

has been in a short-term clinics for a year now due to difficulty

providing safety

for her, the other residents & staff. Even so, we hold out hope that we might be able to offer her a home again in the future. We still consider her one of our residents. This is because we love her & remember that she has no one else to watch out for her, no one else who will visit her. And though we cannot give her all that we want to give her, we can still give her a constant place in our hearts, some of our time & resources, a cozy blanket for her stay in the clinic, a gift on her birthday. Sometimes when we think about Anna, we are faced with defeat & our limitations. But that is part of this work. We can't always provide what we dream of providing. This has been hard to accept, but we keep her in our hearts & prayers & ask that you would do the same, believing with us that someday we might be able to give her a home again.

✕ Steps Toward Integration ✕

Our residents were welcomed into a wider community & their gifts were celebrated

WARM HEARTH IS REPRESENTED AT EXHIBIT

Armenia's First Lady, Bella Kocharyan, hosted an exhibit and performance for alumni from orphanages and special schools for those with disabilities. The Warm Hearth residents were invited to participate. The event was held at the Opera House in Yerevan. Our residents prepared songs and recitations to share with the audience. Davit enjoyed the presentation so much that he wouldn't leave the stage! He wanted to continue singing alone. Our residents were blessed by the attention and hospitality of the community. They were proud to be

on the stage and to be a part of the festivities. All of our staff and many friends of Warm Hearth were also able to attend. This event represents a movement toward greater integration for the residents. It was a chance for them to be recognized and celebrated for their gifts by a wider community. And in turn, it was a chance for them to bless that community. They



even had their own booth and sold some of their handicrafts and art work at the exhibit. The residents enjoyed sharing their creations with others and went home that night in such high spirits!

Another's Eyes ~Birthday Parties~

We've had two birthdays in the last couple of months. Alina, pictured to the right, toasted Susanna & wished that she might find a husband someday. Susanna's eyes were shining with joy, according to one of our volunteers who

came to the celebration. All the residents, toasted to Susanna for her 25th birthday. Afterwards they danced & sang in the living room & had a wonderful time. In February, the residents & staff celebrated Yulia's 30th birthday by taking everyone to Grand Candy, a special ponchik (similar to



donuts) & hot cocoa stop. Grand Candy has bright colors, a festive & lively atmosphere & is a place of celebration for many Armenian children! Everyone took a walk in the park afterwards. The residents were so happy & excited that day that they didn't want to go home, according to Anna, our Program Manager.



Armenian-American Family

A few words from Natalie: Last week I was invited to the Arizona Armenian Cultural Center to speak about Warm Hearth. I was touched by their hospitality & warmth. I was touched by the way that they surrounded me & Warm Hearth offering what they could & offering it from their hearts. It is an amazing experience to be welcomed into the Armenian-American family as a non-Armenian. It is a gift to share a love & commitment to Armenia & its people. This is what binds us together. I didn't want the night to end because it was such a tangible reminder to me that we do not walk alone. At the end of the night, I left with such a sense of gratitude for this dear community, for the man who invited me after helping me fold newsletters this past winter, the woman with tears in her eyes as she spoke at the end of the eve-

ning, the one who offered dental & medical supplies, the ones who purchased the residents' handiwork, the support of the Armenian Sunday School here in Arizona, the words of courage & faith, the donations of time & resources that were pledged & offered. Thank you to each of you who were present that night, who listened & shared in the continuing story of Warm Hearth. Thank you for not being afraid of the suffering we spoke about, but instead reaching out to try to heal some of it. Thank you for your trust & generosity. Thank you for celebrating with me how far our residents have come. Thank you for holding onto hope with us & for working toward that tenuous & beautiful effort of bringing goodness & beauty into the small corners of the world. Together we can do so much more than alone.

SUSTAINABILITY IS ANOTHER WORD FOR JUSTICE.

*Providing a home for
Armenian Orphans
with Disabilities*

**Your kindness
makes all the
difference.**

MAIL DONATIONS TO:
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Friends of Warm Hearth, Inc.
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NEWS SCRAPS

- Our residents will be receiving comprehensive dental care in the next few months thanks to a generous gift.
- After two years of trying to "register" our residents in Yerevan as individuals with disabilities, they now have received this legal status which provides a small pension & free medical care. Thanks to Anna & Anna for making this happen!



-During the month of May, Natalie & Bridget will be returning to Armenia. Their time will be focused on (1) seeking alternatives for Anna & Sassoon, who remain in the local clinic, (2) organizing & re-structuring our



management for future growth & sustainability, and (3) supporting the residents & staff.

- Conversations with the Armenian Government continue in regard to future funding. We will keep you posted on our progress.

Fundraising Update

**OUR DEEPEST
GRATITUDE
TO ALL THOSE
WHO MAKE
WARM HEARTH
POSSIBLE.**

FINANCIAL DETAILS
CAN BE PROVIDED
UPON REQUEST.

*Our 2008 Goals:
improved care &
an endowment fund.*

**PLEASE CONSIDER
PARTNERING
WITH US.**

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