

2 0 0 9 S P R I N G E D I T I O N

in the SMALL corners



FRIENDS OF WARM HEARTH, INC. NEWSLETTER

✧ Space to Dream ✧

Solid ground allows us to push off once again.

...AS INDEPENDENTLY AS POSSIBLE



Hasmik

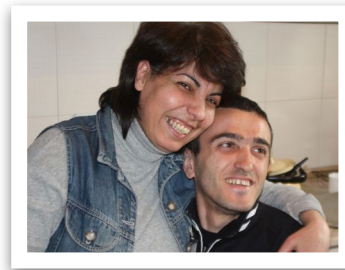
is one of our new residents. She is a tender-hearted person,

sensitive and shy. She is one of the kinder people I have met, smiles often and has the sort of heart that is open to any and all love and affection. She often tucks her chin in and down and waits for an embrace. In this way she is both vulnerable and very human. We all need warmth, but few of us can ask for it or receive it unabashedly as Hasmik can. She is a somewhat solitary soul at this time, but we are hoping that she will develop deep friendships as time goes on and she adjusts more and more to life in what is now her home. She loves babies and spent hours playing creatively and beautifully with our director, Alya's, daughter one afternoon. I have rarely seen someone so gentle with a child. She also loves to work with paper mache and to participate in the housework. We are blessed to have her as one of ours.

The fruit trees around Warm Hearth are again covered in pink blossoms. Beehives next door make "street music." As I walk down the alley to our home, I hear singing from our living room. It's a sweet sound. It's a gift to see that our efforts have grown into life, *your* efforts have grown into life. We have six new residents who bring a spark & uniqueness to our home. Our staff is stronger than they've ever been. Many of the systematic aspects of running a group home, including daily logs, individualized care plans, tracking functionality in residents, have become a regular & helpful part of the life of our home. They've shown us that we have a few residents who

might be ready to spread their wings in the near future. In our mission we promise to protect the rights of our residents to live "as independently as possible." Today there is a sense that we stand on solid ground, which lets

us dream & hope for more & consider this new possibilities. With this newfound space, I have been reminded to hope for home(s) for those residents who have learned the life skills needed to

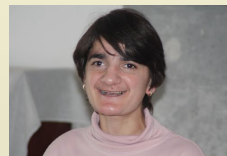


live & integrate more fully into the community. It takes courage to dream. We all know this. It takes courage for our residents as well, but without this, we might stand too still. Let us walk steadily forward together. And let us give thanks.

Another's Eyes Visitors & Volunteers

Tatevik visited Warm Hearth in April for the first time. It wasn't her first introduction to our home as she has been vigilantly translating the website into Armenian for some time. Her words of reflection echo her spirit and are worthy of

print: "I am so glad I finally visited Warm Hearth. It felt really good that I could make the residents smile. I really enjoyed it & at the same time I got sad just by thinking about all the unfairness that exists in this world. I think since the world is already like this, then it is every citizen's job to take care & generally



be concerned about the others who do not have all the opportunities we do. I have started trying to get people around me to help in one way or another, even if it is just visiting since money is tight for most Armenians. In fact, mental support is even more valuable in some cases. I am glad I got to see them."



Leaps & Bounds

As many of you know, we've tried & tried again to find a way to help Anna (above right) & Sassoon, our special two who have been in a clinic for too long to count. Many times it has seemed like chasing windmills. However, we made significant progress this month with the help of Erik Logan (above left with staff), a specialist & nurse from Seattle. He spent a week training the staff in how to manage more difficult behaviors. He was able to effectively harness his 19 years of experience in the field & transfer his knowledge to our staff. At the end of his training, with the help of our friend & translator, Anna (above, 2nd from right),

Erik said he was impressed with the staff's work, skills & innate abilities. He said he believed that they now have the training needed to help residents with more acute needs both safely & effectively. He understood their fears & concerns as well, which gave them the ears to hear his words. He ended his training by asking them to think about bringing Anna home soon. And they are thinking about it. A staff meeting will be held tomorrow & we hope to make a decision by the end of April. But we have more reason to hope on behalf of Anna & Sassoon than we have had in a long time. We are especially grateful & hopeful today.

**SUSTAINABILITY
IS ANOTHER
WORD FOR
JUSTICE.**

*Providing a home for
Armenian Orphans
with Disabilities*

Your kindness
makes all the
difference.

DONATIONS CAN BE SENT TO:
FRIENDS OF WARM HEARTH
PO BOX 1037
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It is worth any sacrifice, however great and costly, to see eyes that were listless light up again, to see someone smile who seemed to have forgotten how to smile; to see trust reborn in someone who no longer believed in anything or anyone. (D. H. Camara)



Thank you to all those who sent much-needed clothes, food, medicine and household items to our home.

EASTER CELEBRATIONS

Our residents carefully painted easter eggs, grew sprouted grains to couch them (see below) ...



...feasted on the traditional pilaf, khoriz gata (a delicious pastry), and other tasty treats! They practiced easter songs to share with one another on the day of Easter and went to the nearby church to celebrate as well. Our staff do such a careful and beautiful job creating rituals and traditions. Each of our residents is able to enter in and partake of this essential element of *home*.

Fundraising Update

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

FINANCIAL DETAILS
CAN BE PROVIDED
UPON REQUEST.

*Our 2009 Goals:
loving care for all
our residents.*

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