

2 0 1 2 S P R I N G E D I T I O N

in the SMALL corners



FRIENDS OF WARM HEARTH, INC. NEWSLETTER

✕ The Soul of a Home ✕

Another Attempt to Bring Anna & Sassoon Home

A NEW FOUNDATION, A NEW HOPE



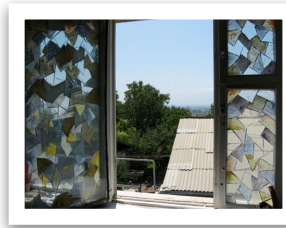
Anahit

When asked what Warm Hearth is to her, Anahit answered, "A home to live in, a place to learn

everything." Anahit has been an avid learner since moving into our home in 2008. She not only has excelled at school, but she takes our home studies and home care just as seriously. Her favorite role in our home is to serve in the kitchen by preparing food and doing dishes. Anahit's closest friend in Warm Hearth is Gayane. She has no contact and no known family members outside of Warm Hearth other than her friends at the college. Her favorite activities or excursions are any special events that include song. Anahit loves to sing and does so beautifully. Her dream and goal is to finish college and get a job as a carpet weaver. She says that there is nothing she would change about her life at Warm Hearth.

The Garden House construction is complete and we are ready to welcome Anna and Sassoon home in April. After an Easter celebration with the residents and an intensive three-day staff training led by Natalie (founder) and Bridget (founding board member), we will drive the winding roads to pick up Sassoon and Anna. Juliet Setian, a volunteer and donor, will be traveling with us, strengthening and supporting this delicate effort. Together we will do our best to prepare the staff to care for these two residents. We will prepare our hearts once again to meet the challenges that are an inevitable part of this work. We will prepare Sassoon and Anna as well. It is a

time of change but this is a change we have long awaited. The hope is that the Garden House will be a transitional living space for any resident with more intense behavioral needs. We have well-laid plans to provide the support and care that Anna and Sassoon will need. These include: a greater staff to resident ratio, positive behavior support plans, visual schedules, and much more. We have worked hard. We have tried to learn from our mistakes. We have built a new foundation. May it be strong and well-laid. May it withstand and support the pressures, the weight, and the soul of this new Garden Home.

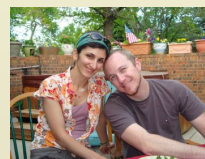


In Another's Eyes

Maria & Charlie

We are proud to support this work through our January Art Show, which is a community effort featuring art made by the residents of Warm Hearth and local and international artists. It started as small as a birthday celebration with family and friends. As a tradition, our guests were asked that instead of bringing gifts they

make a small contribution to one of the non-profits we support and receive an art piece made by Charlie, my husband. After learning about the magnificent work done by Natalie and her friends, we decided to turn our birthday party into a fundraiser for Warm Hearth. We invited more people, asked local businesses for support and encouraged other artists to donate their work. Now this is a cele-



bration of love and peace dedicated to building bridges by coming together over food, music and art. It is gratifying to see how small individual efforts come together to make a big difference. We believe strongly that the efforts of the Warm Hearth staff and volunteers will pave the way for broader changes in Armenia for orphans and people with special needs. It is our job to help it grow.



I Open Every Door

By the time you hold this in your hands, our bags will almost be packed for the long flight to Armenia. The staff training will be finalized. Handouts will be printed and tucked into a folder. Small gifts will be stowed away. And we will be preparing to embark on this trip -- which is simply yet another step on the long journey of trying to find a good solution for Anna and Sassoon. Both of them have been in clinics and institutions off and on for five years. I am nervous as I prepare for this trip. I imagine

that the staff and the other residents are also nervous. So much is at stake for Anna and Sassoon, and for all of us. But "only one feat is possible - not to have run away" (Dag Hammarskjöld). And so we go. We try again. And I am reminded of the Emily Dickinson poem which says: "Not knowing when the Dawn will come / I open every door." This Garden House door is just another door we are opening. May the dawn come, and finally. May it give way into a lengthening spring day.

**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 4784
SUNNYSIDE, NY 11104

(480) 921-1181

WWW.FRIENDSOFWARMHEARTH.ORG

NATALIE.RIZZIERI@GMAIL.COM

Friends of Warm Hearth, Inc.
is a 501(c)(3)
charitable organization.



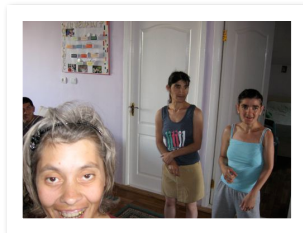
NOTES & NEEDS

- We are looking for a professional web designer and manager to assist us in updating our website.
- We continue to rely heavily upon volunteer translators. If you are interested, please contact us.



- Our residents have completed another full-size carpet while is available for purchase. It is 100% wool and 100% hand-woven.

- Special thanks to Vanya Stier-Van Essen for her assistance and input on the care plans, evaluation forms and support documents for Anna and Sassoon's care.



- Special thanks to our board for their unflagging support and contributions. They are undivided in their concern for our residents' well-being and the long-term well-being of the home.

- If you would like to represent Warm Hearth in your community, there are many opportunities to do so. Please contact Natalie to express your interest.

*Everyone can do
something
to bring some
portion of misery
to an end.*

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

FINANCIAL DETAILS
CAN BE PROVIDED
UPON REQUEST.

*Our 2012 Goals:
sustainable & loving care
for our residents,
and a solution for
Anna & Sassoon*

PLEASE CONSIDER
PARTNERING
WITH US.

If you wish to unsubscribe
from this newsletter or
receive it electronically,
please email us:
info@friendsofwarmphearth.org
natalie.rizzieri@gmail.com