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A U T U M N E D I T I O N

in the SMALL corners



FRIENDS OF WARM HEARTH, INC. NEWSLETTER

✧ Finding our Way ✧

A new way forward is found to help Anna & Sassoon

A GARDEN HOUSE

As many of you know, our Armenian director, Alya, was in the USA to visit different group homes in July. During that time Bridget, our board member, Natalie and Alya (pictured here) were able to visit various group homes and consider ways to help Anna and Sassoon. The trip was a learning experience for all of us. We made lists and notes of ideas for our home. We were also happy to see that our residents have a fullness and a quality of family in their lives that is hard to come by. Thank you to each of you who made this trip possible, who spent time with us and who opened your doors and spoke into our story. Upon returning to Armenia and reflecting

on the trip, Alya proposed the idea of a small house to be built in the garden which would provide an additional space for Anna or Sassoon should they need it if more intense behaviors arise. The board was thrilled at the idea and see it as a viable solution for these beloved residents of ours who have been in the clinics for too long. We in a space of gathering together building/contracting estimates, policies that will guide the way we use this garden house, and long-held-almost-let-go-of hope. Our plan is to try to build the garden home before the fury of winter and bring one of these residents home in January.



Armine

has lived at Warm Hearth since 2008. In a recent conversation with our psychologist she said that she is very happy at

Warm Hearth. There is nothing she would like to change. She said that she appreciates all the caregivers and has two caregivers with whom she can share her heart and a dear friend in our resident, Gayane. She enjoys working in the kitchen very much as well as listening to music and watching television. She attends Yerevan State Humanity College and is a passionate and committed carpet-weaver. Her goal is to study well so that some day she might be able to find work. Armine would be a valuable employee and we hope that by the time she graduates and is ready for work that an Armenian business is also ready to open its doors to her. Armine is a kind, committed, busy soul and her presence in our home and in the world is delightful.

A Winding Path

In June's newsletter we announced that the Armenian government promised to cover 60% of our current operating expenses in 2012. We celebrated this news and breathed a sigh of relief. However, due to the economic crisis in Armenia (the country was just rated by Forbes as having the second worst economy in the

world), the government has rescinded their offer to our residents as well as to other long-standing publicly supported projects in Armenia. We are disappointed and frustrated. We also are accustomed to the unexpected. It is not the first time we have come to the end of a long and winding path only to turn



and begin up another. So we turn, together, and look for another path. And in the meantime, we continue to rely on your company and conversation. We take solace in the fact that we are more hopeful about Anna and Sassoon's upcoming homecoming than we have been in a long time.



In Another's Eyes - by Tamar Gasparian

Warm Hearth is truly one of the most amazing experiences of my life. Most of you know the levels of social stigma and discrimination against people with disabilities have always been very high in Armenia and it will take a very long time to change this. However, with Warm Hearth it doesn't seem so impossible any more. I grew up in Armenia, in a society where we carried the Soviet ideology that considered people with disabilities a burden. I know families, even relatives, who were hiding their children because they had a disability. They were ashamed or

simply didn't want to take care of these children so they ended up in an orphanage. I grew up thinking the same way. I didn't know any better and when I realized how wrong we were, I was ashamed. Then I felt helpless because I didn't know how to change this. Warm Hearth is my hope. This organization is not only helping its residents. It is also helping Armenians like me who want to change their country but can't do it alone. [Tamar helped to conduct the first staff training of Warm Hearth. She now lives in New York and continues to find ways to support and uphold our residents.]

**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
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SUNNYSIDE, NY 11104

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WWW.FRIENDSOFWARMHEARTH.ORG

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NOTES & NEEDS

- It is the season for another trip to the West Coast as Natalie prepares to meet with many of our supporters in L.A. and San Francisco from October 7th - 12th. Please contact us: 1) if you would like her to speak to your community, 2) if you have a vehicle she can use during the trip or 3) if you would like to be included in one of our events. We would love for you to take part.



- Thanks to Juliet Setian for representing Warm Hearth at the Orange County Armenian Festival on September 17th and 18th. If you would like to join her or attend, please contact us.



- We just received some of our residents' meticulously hand-woven carpets (pictured above) and pillows. If you would like to view or purchase these items, please go to:
smallcorner.blogspot.com

- If you would like to pre-order hand-made Christmas cards (pictured to the left), please contact us.

*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 2011 Goals
sustainable & loving care
for our residents,
and a solution for
Anna & Sassoon*

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