

# WARM HEARTH

## In the Small Corners

### Gayane

Gayane (pictured below) has lived at Warm Hearth for over nine years. She is a very active resident. One of her favorite activities is weaving carpets. She also enjoys, and is proud of helping, the other residents with their carpets. She is a natural teacher and takes every opportunity to teach others her skills and ideas. She also finds a lot of meaning and joy in caring for Yulia. Gayane helps Yulia with her clothes, cleaning and personal hygiene.

### Quotables



**Love your neighbor; (s)he is like you.**

(Martin Buber's translation of "Love your neighbor as yourself.")



## The Other Way Around

In January, I was present at a fundraiser for Warm Hearth in Colorado. I had the honor of meeting two sisters (pictured above with their mother). I had noticed them in the crowd; they were shining like jewels. We spoke about how to make Warm Hearth more beautiful. We spoke of goats and soap-making, and about the gifts that we receive when we open our hearts to *all* people whether they have a disability or not. From our conversation, I could tell that these were people who had lived and breathed the realities of Warm Hearth. They seemed to know what I was speaking about intimately. One of the women eventually said that her sister, standing with us, had a disability and that she was her greatest gift, teaching her what it means to be human, to be vulnerable, to live according to what matters. She said that she knows and lives the reality that one group of people is not strong while the "others" are not weak. She has been transformed by loving her sister, and felt she had received more than she could ever give. We know this transformation intimately at Warm Hearth, but it was a gift to be reminded.



### Your kindness sustains our residents, our hearts and our home.

- We are looking for **external monitors** for our home. If you know of anyone living in Armenia who may be interested, please let me know.
- Thanks to **SOAR-Copenhagen** for organizing Armenian dance instruction for some of our residents.
- **Year-end receipts** for 2014 have been mailed. If you did not receive yours, please contact us.
- 2014 **Annual Reports** are available - both hard copies and electronic versions. Reach out if you would like one.

**Our 2015 Goals:** sustainable and loving care for our residents and a home that is increasingly independent.

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### *Growing Together*

Bridget (pictured below with Hasmik) and I will be heading to Armenia in May. We will be co-leading a staff training that is focused around trauma and the brain. We hope that this training will assist our staff in bringing Anna home from the institution. Adrienne Witol, a psychologist from Alberta, is developing the training with us. We are grateful for her expertise and for the soulfulness with which she does this work. While in Armenia, we will also be liaising with local and international organizations doing similar work, seeking to help the residents and staff as they start their small business endeavor. We greatly look forward to spending time with the residents. It will be late spring, which is a beautiful season in Armenia. From the back porch of Warm Hearth, we will be able to see the creeping grape vines, tiny nubs of fruit, and freshly tilled soil. Bridget and I will be in Armenia together exactly ten years after the purchase of our home. She has seen the home in each of its incarnations, which is a gift. Together we will marvel at the residents' changes, the staff's growth, the expansion of the home and be grateful that we all get to grow older together.

