

What shall we sing...

We can sing only specifics, time's rambling tune, the places we have seen, the faces we have known. I will sing you... (Annie Dillard)

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Highlights of 2016

- January** We created a Community Life Coordinator position and hired two new staff.
- March** Some of our residents started volunteering at a local orphanage.
- August** We celebrated our ten-year anniversary.
- December** Our residents participated in World Disability Day at a UN Exhibition.

Note from the founder

It is always a joy to sing of our residents, to show you their beautiful faces that are graced with smile lines as they age. It could have been so different. It nearly was. And it is a joy to sing for you, our band of friends and supporters. Many of you have supported us through not-so-glorious years. But this last year has been particularly sweet. We celebrated ten years in August. We established a new life-giving staffing structure that has allowed us to care more consistently and carefully for all our residents. We won an exhausting four-year legal dispute over our land boundaries. And we are adding a position for a Development and Advocacy Officer that will begin this year, helping us to move slowly but surely toward expansion. We are seeing the strides of growth, joy and tenderness in our residents and staff members alike. There is not much that is more important than tenderness.

Gratefully Yours,

Natalie Bryant-Rizzieri



All great things are simple,

and many can be expressed in a single word:
freedom, justice, honor, duty, mercy, hope.

(Winston Churchill)



Changing a Culture One By One

For many years, we have worked to bridge the divide between staff and resident by encouraging empathy. Now that work is taking root.

We ask the staff to reflect each year on their work, their vocation as caregivers and their relationships in the home. We try to encourage our staff to identify with all of our residents, especially those who at first glance seem to be “other.” The responses this year are particularly poignant in light of our long endeavor that often felt fruitless. It was not too long ago that Sassoon and Anna were still living in institutions, not considered “fully human” by most people in Armenia—including, at times, our staff. The following staff reflections are a testament to the way that culture can begin to change one person at a time.

Describe your relationship with each resident: *There is no one at Warm Hearth who does not love Sassoon. He is so kind and transparent. I am very attentive toward him and love having conversations with him. He is also attentive toward others.*

Give a specific example from your daily life with the residents about how you are growing in forgiveness and celebration: *When a resident has a behavior problem my forgiveness is in that I approach him or her with an attitude of understanding and tolerance. I try to understand the triggers and reasons behind the negative behaviors. I try to be empathetic. When I came to Warm Hearth yesterday morning, one resident was very restless; she could not control herself. I tried talking to her and was empathetic toward her – by resting my hand on her shoulder. I took her upstairs to her room, all the way showing that I wanted to help her. She was able to pull herself together and began talking with me.*

Give a specific example from your daily life with the residents about how you are growing in the value of simplicity: *This is a very important characteristic in interacting with the residents. I never isolate myself when I am with them. I behave as if we are*

equals. This way they are able to interact with me and trust me with their problems. My favorite thing about this work is the joy the residents give me. It is pleasant when one gives the residents such a small thing – a little bit of knowledge one has acquired through the years – and in return one receives such tremendous love, which can never be replaced. For me, giving [the residents] joy is a life.

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Celebrating Ten Years Together

Lee Ann Williams is a passionate supporter and a Friends of Warm Hearth board member. She traveled to Armenia with her husband, Jon, to celebrate the ten-year anniversary of Warm Hearth.



It had been nine years since I last walked through the doors of Warm Hearth and I was overjoyed to see the changes that have taken place during those years. Not only have there been physical changes to the house, such as the renovation of the third floor and the addition of the garden house, our residents have gone through a renovation, and there have been additions to their lives as well.

Upon entering the house, the handicrafts of our residents are beautifully displayed for all to see. There is now a room with two looms dedicated to weaving rugs and separate art room where each resident has a bin for the projects he

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or she is working on. They have planted and maintained a garden of their own and they have helped elderly residents in their neighborhood with yard work.

As part of the ten-year celebration, the board of directors for Friends of Warm Hearth thought it would be nice for our residents to have a give

back, or rather, pay it forward. The Christian ministry Young Life invited our residents to join an Armenian youth camp in Bujzhakan for a day of games, entertainment and the opportunity for the residents to serve the young campers.

Prior to leaving for camp, the residents baked cookies to share with the campers. They also prepared skits to demonstrate acts of kindness vs. unkindness and practiced songs to sing for the campers. During the bus ride to Bujzhakan, our residents spontaneously started singing songs together. It was such a joy to hear their voices fill the bus.

At the camp, some of our residents participated in the games while the others cheered them on. Later, they performed their skits and songs for the campers. They were well received with a standing ovation, which brought tears to my eyes.

The day of our formal ten-year celebration, our residents were dressed in colorful shirts and were so excited to share their prepared skits and songs with all who came to celebrate with them. There were

many guests and visitors. Rita Davtyan, the director from the orphanage in Kapan where our original eight residents are from was present along with friends from the Peace Corps, Young Life, the National Leadership Institute, Aleppo (a program for Syrian Armenian refugee families with children who have special needs) and a representative from the Ministry of Labor and Social Issues.

Spending time with our residents and getting to know them



personally is something Jon and I will always treasure. It doesn't seem fitting to call them "residents" any more; they became our friends. Similarly, they are no longer orphans; they have become family.

Stewardship

Values-Based

We at Friends of Warm Hearth are committed to being effective, transparent stewards of the resources that you have entrusted to us. We strive to be frugal without compromising on quality and loving care for our residents, respecting our staff and in this way honoring our supporters.

We value simplicity, by which we mean that we follow our straightforward vision and reflect prior to each expenditure whether or not it is furthering our vision in the most simple and effective way. All budgets are moral documents and are reflective of our deepest values and commitments. We believe it is paramount that the Warm Hearth budget reflects the needs of our residents.

Expansion of Facilities

We have been saving and preparing for expansion – for the movement of opening our hearts further. In 2016, the board designated

\$200,000 for an **expansion of facilities fund** to communicate our commitment to expansion and our intention with the funds we have carefully guarded and saved. In addition to saving for expansion, we will hire a Development & Advocacy Officer this year, to support us in 2017 in our growth, expansion and in strengthening further our Armenian-based branch.

How Funds Were Spent

We continue to keep administrative and fundraising costs as low as possible by having home-based offices in both Armenia and the USA and by keeping events and publications simple and straightforward. In 2016 our administrative and fundraising costs accounted for 9% and 11% of our cash costs respectively. Individual contributions totaled \$102,824 in cash and comprised 63% of gifts given. Foundations, churches and organizations gave \$41,556, 25% of

total gifts. Our foundation in Armenia secured monetary and in-kind contributions, which amounted to \$19,619.

Other Ways to Give

One thing that characterizes Warm Hearth giving is that we encourage people to give in whatever way that they can. Donations of time and service were valued at \$25,949 in 2016. Others of you gave in ways that cannot be measured or valued in monetary terms.

We carry all of your gifts in our hearts and lean on your service to us and your giftedness. Our residents carry your gifts and your strength and generosity surrounds them. They have been changed by your love and your efforts on their behalf. And they are strong enough today to begin giving back to their community, which is beautiful to behold.

In Their Own Words

I am very happy to be knitting and doing my writing. Armine and I go to the Izmyrian Orphanage and spend time with the children. We go to the library, check out books and bring them home to read. (Gayane)

I love weaving rugs. We go to the theater, concerts and many different places. I sometimes knit. I paint. I always help the staff with cleaning the house, cooking, and washing dishes. I feel very well. (Anahit)

I'm very happy being here at Warm Hearth, with the other residents and the caregivers. I promise I will become a good person. I will listen to the caregivers and will respect everyone. (Anna)

Once in awhile I read books and write. I feel good at Warm Hearth. Once in awhile we go to nice places. We go to the theater, concerts and other pleasant places. With this much, I am ending my letter. (Susanna)

I wish you good health, happiness and a long life. I am loving you with a whole heart. (Alina)

I have gained skills in sewing and knitting. I would like to gain skills in cooking. I spend my free time very nicely – knitting and painting. I would like to go on more walks. The staff takes good care of me. (Armine)

I would like to learn to work on computers for my work. (Roman)



Carrying Our Hopes and Vision Forward Ten Years Later

I celebrate most of all that this all started with a **small hope and vision** and we are still fulfilling that vision ten years later. It impresses and inspires me every day. I have a strong personal connection but now so does my community here in the USA. (Bridget Brown)



Faithfulness

When I reflect on Warm Hearth ten years later what stands out to me are the faithfulness and the long-term commitment to the residents. We have been faithful to the founding ideas of Warm Hearth and to the residents and are making sure that we are there for them for the rest of their lives. I love all the different gifts that people bring to Warm Hearth, including the residents. We do not have a one-size-fits-all approach, but we are trying to care for the individual needs of the residents. (Jessica Barrett Simpson)

Comparative Statements of Activities

REVENUE	2016	2015	2014
Cash Contributions	161,988	168,036	157,891
Contributions of goods	2,011	2,801	2,210
Contributions of services	25,949	19,882	18,626
Interest Income	1,305	1,092	772
Total contributions & interest	191,253	191,811	179,499
EXPENSES			
Facility & Program	107,833	96,675	89,128
Promotion & Fundraising	28,741*	24,421	25,550
Management & General	19,604	16,183	14,967
Total expenses	156,178	137,279	129,645
Changes in net assets	35,075	54,532	49,854
Net assets, beginning of period	446,128	391,596	341,742
Net assets, end of period	\$481,203	\$446,128	\$391,596

*Includes \$13,532 in donated services.

Comparative Statements of Financial Position

CURRENT ASSETS	2016	2015	2014
Cash	354,950	317,830	263,634
Property & Equipment			
Land & house in Armenia	157,208	157,208	153,268
Furniture & equipment	6,787	6,964	6,964
Less accumulated depreciation	-35,904	-34,036	-30,023
Net property & equipment	128,091	130,136	130,209
TOTAL ASSETS	483,041	447,966	393,843
Liabilities (accrued payroll taxes)	1,838	1,838	2,247
Restricted assets for expansion	200,000		
Unrestricted net assets	281,203	446,128	391,596
Total liabilities & net assets	\$483,041	\$447,966	\$393,843

Warm Hearth is the first long-term group home in Armenia.

We are committed to providing homes to Armenian orphans with disabilities and mental illness who have outgrown the orphanages. Warm Hearth is an organic project with a small focus, but this focus is people. Our vision is to provide our residents with continued peace and nurture. Warm Hearth started in the soil of love and commitment to our first group of residents and has since taken root in the world.

If we move shoulder to shoulder, we can turn mountains.

Partake. Share. Give.



WARM HEARTH
& JERMIK ANKYUN FOUNDATION

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