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S U M M E R E D I T I O N

in the SMALL corners

FRIENDS OF WARM HEARTH, INC. NEWSLETTER



Davo

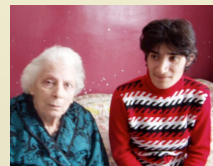
as we like to call him, is one of our new residents. His full name is actually Davit.

Davo came to us after his mother died. They had been on the streets for some time. The Armenian government suggested that he come to Warm Hearth when they were called by another local nonprofit that was looking for housing for Davo. He has been with us ever since and brings a lot of joy and life to our home. He has incredible energy and despite the difficulties he has faced in his young life, he has a joyful and generous spirit. One of the things I love most about him is his compulsion to dance (and convince everyone else to dance) when there is music playing. He claps his hands and says in his booming voice, "Opa" (a common colloquial phrase in Armenia). This brings a smile to everyone's face. He is ours, through and through. It doesn't take long.

Another's Eyes Our residents volunteer

Because our residents are often on the receiving end, we look for ways that they can cultivate charity and practice generosity. It is also important to us that they realize that they have much to give the world. Recently, our residents received

an over-abundance of donated clothes. Together they decided to give some of those items to others in need and chose an elderly home nearby. The residents went together and gave not only the clothing, but also their hearts and time. They spent time with the residents of the elderly home and were blessed by them.



Alya (our director in Armenia) wrote, "All the elderly people came up and thanked them for their good and kind work. Our residents knew that they did very important work today and helped people who needed help." There is no more important work. May we learn this lesson along with our residents.

✕ College-Bound ✕

Residents enroll in a three-year special education program.

MORE THAN WE DARED TO HOPE

In April, I wrote about our desire that our residents live as independently as possible. Since that day, there has been an opportunity for many of our residents that is more than we had dared to hope. Huysi Kamurj, an Armenia-based nonprofit, has facilitated a three-year program for individuals with disabilities with a local college. The individuals enrolled in the program will have the opportunity to choose between traditional carpet-making and permaculture/gardening as their major. Most of our residents have been approved and enrolled in the program and will begin classes in September. This



is an opportunity for them to work toward a diploma, develop their skills, gain confidence, integrate more fully into a wider community and grow as individuals. We are proud of them and anticipate with joy their immersion into college life. We know that it might be a difficult transition for some of them but also that growth shapes us while it stretches us. For the few residents who will be unable to participate in the program, we hope to provide an alternative focus. At the moment, we are considering repairing the chicken coop so that they can raise chickens and sell the eggs in the local village markets.



The Substance of Things Hoped For

In April, I wrote that our staff was considering bringing Anna home after the spring training. While the newsletter was still hot off the press, I received word that they had made a unanimous decision to bring Anna home, to try with all their hearts. Then, on May 27th, Anna did come home and the first two weeks were difficult and wearisome for all of us. We weren't sure we had done the right thing. We weren't sure we had it in us. But the staff bravely continued to employ the skills and techniques which they had acquired through the training. They worked long and hard. And today, things on the home front are calm and safe.

Anna has adjusted well to Warm Hearth, along with the other residents. The staff have a sense of confidence and accomplishment. As Anna eases out of survival mode, due to her two-year institutionalization, we see the scars and the grief that need healing. Her pain is fresh. So, we walk with her, through those dark places and we hope that she can stay home. We think that she can. We hope we can protect her and all of our residents. We think that we can. We continue to hope for more, yes, but we also rest in the fact that today, she is well and that today she is home. It has been a long and holy journey. It continues to be.

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 50061
BROOKLYN, NY 11205

(480) 921-1181

WWW.FRIENDSOFWARMHEARTH.ORG
NATALIE.RIZZIERI@GMAIL.COM

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



THANK YOU...

- Kathy Samuelson and your sister for the beautiful hand-knit scarves for our residents.

- Jessica Barrett Simpson for representing us at the Alexandria Armenian Festival.

- Juliet for your tireless work translating resident life-interviews and staff evaluations.

- ARDA for your recent commitment and help to our home and residents.

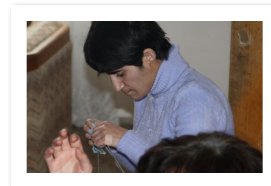
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WE ARE GRATEFUL

2009 NEEDS

- transportation to the college beginning September 2009

- chicken coop repairs and supplies (including chickens) and someone to teach our residents how to care for them.



- Armenian contacts in New York City . *Note: the Friends of Warm Hearth office has just re-located. Please make note of our new address (left).*

- volunteers who can translate written material from Armenian to English

- prayers, hopes, words of encouragement for our staff

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 &
a solution for Sassoon.*

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PARTNERING
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