

2 0 1 1 S U M M E R E D I T I O N

in the SMALL corners



FRIENDS OF WARM HEARTH, INC. NEWSLETTER

✧ Moving Mountains ✧

Armenian Government Offers Financial Support for 2012

SURPRISED BY JOY

In April, we received a letter from the Armenian government promising to provide a portion of our operating costs beginning in 2012. We have been working toward this goal since the beginning - for almost six years. Along the way we often wondered if it was too high a goal or too far to reach. But we continued on, believing that the sustainability of our home matters, deeply, if we are to provide life-long care to those who are in need. We continued on because we believed our residents and others like them would benefit from having *value* to their government and people, expressed in this way. We are rejoicing in this expression of

commitment to our residents on behalf of the local government. This is a significant leap forward for the human rights of individuals with disabilities. It means that the government of Armenia believes that there are options other than institutionalization that work, and should be supported. It means that miracles happen. It means that love can move mountains.

An Armenian proverb, *Ուս ուսի որ տանք, սարեր շուռ կտանք*;, is translated: "once we give shoulder to shoulder, we can move mountains." This has been a shared work. We have carried this, together, on our shoulders and mountains continue to turn.



Davo



loves to listen to music and dance his heart out. He also has a booming and exuberant voice, that matches his

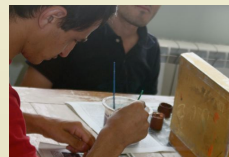
dance moves! Alya wrote recently that he is a very good person and also a true gentleman. He is a peacemaker, living well with our residents and care-givers. Davo almost always has a smile on his face. And even when he is upset or frustrated, he shares his grievances gently. He came to us shortly after the death of his mother. Though noone can take her place, he is dearly loved by everyone in our home. It seems that the staff are mothers to him, in their own way. It has been said that "you are born to one mother, but if you are lucky, you will have more than one. And among them all you will find most of what you need." (Clarissa Pinkola Estes) We hope this is true for Davo.

To Be of Use

Our residents have no shortage of gifts, beauty, energy and insights. We work hard to provide outlets for their gifts, that they might be of use in the world. They have so much to offer and their lives are enriched through giving and working, as ours are as well. One outlet we have created is a new online store (site listed on

page 2) where our residents' unique handicrafts are showcased and available for purchase. In Marge Piercy's poem, "To Be of Use," she speaks to the importance of this aspect of Warm Hearth's mission:

The work of the world is common as mud. Botched, it smears the



hands, crumbles to dust. But the thing worth doing well done has a shape that satisfies, clean and evident. Greek amphoras for wine or oil, Hopi vases that held corn are put in museums but you know they were made to be used. The pitcher cries for water to carry and a person for work that is real.



In Another's Eyes - by Brian Kremer, Peace Corps Response

Before visiting Warm Hearth, I had an unforgettable experience with a neighbor who said, "Armenia is too small a country for people like this to be seen out in the street. Families must keep them at home & build walls around them. Pregnant women should be tested before giving birth in order to stop these problems." This made it clear how important Warm Hearth is. Talking with WH staff, I was given a different perspective. It was clear to me that they didn't see themselves as employees but as part of the Warm Hearth family. Their testimonials of how

they've grown are clear indicators of success. One staff said, "In order for the residents to grow, we learned it was not them we needed to change as much as our way of responding and interacting with them." Spending time with the residents, you know they are truly happy and at home. They are Armenian to the core, with a way of greeting that can make you forget you've ever had a bad day in your life. Their smiles inspire and make me look forward to Mondays. There is a lot that still needs to be done in Armenia, but there are strong roots in Warm Hearth.

**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

(480) 921-1181

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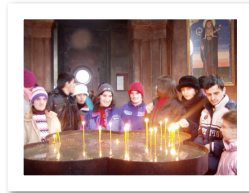


NOTES & NEEDS

- To view or purchase our residents' handicrafts, please visit: <http://smallcornerstore.blogspot.com>. You may also contact us by phone at (480) 921.1181.

- Thanks to the Zohrab Center for hosting our first NYC event on May 12th. Thanks to those who attended and especially to Raina, Tamar, and Rebecca for speaking. It was truly a night of celebration and conversation.

- Thanks to Erin Tyler for representing Warm Hearth at the Alexandria Armenian Festival in June.



- Alya Kirakosyan, our director in Armenia, will be visiting the Seattle area from July 5 - 12, 2011. She will participate in a group home learning exchange that has been hand-tailored to meet her needs. If you have a learning possibility that you think would fit or if you would like to support her visit, please contact Natalie. We are also in need of a car for the week of July 5 - 12.



*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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