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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

✕ Safely Home ✕

Sassoon and Anna: Home from the Psychiatric Clinics

THE SEASONS TURN



Yulia

is a cheerful and affectionate presence in our home. On Easter we all went to a local

church service. She stood next to staff and held their hands. She smiles and laughs often, even if on the periphery. She participated in the group dance presentation with the other residents and had memorized the moves closely. On their last day in Armenia, Bridget and Natalie were talking with each resident. When Yulia came in to talk with them, she was hesitant to speak until Natalie gave her a piece of paper to start writing. As she wrote, she opened up, giving them some insights into how she is doing at Warm Hearth. She seems to be thriving and content. She is emotionally present which was seen in her sadness the day that Bridget and Natalie were leaving the country. This is sign of great healing.

The spring blossoms were in full bloom. The sun was gentle on our faces. Sassoon was helping one of our staff members turn the soil of the garden. Some of the residents were milling around on the balcony hanging laundry. Some were in the garden, talking with staff. Anna was playing catch in the yard. By all outward appearances it was a typical spring afternoon at Warm Hearth. But in our hearts there was something deeply joyful and profound about this simple gathering because for the first time in five years we were all together again: Sassoon (pictured here), Anna, and the rest of the Warm Hearth family. The staff had been well-prepared for the job ahead through the training. They



were newly confident that this work with Anna and Sassoon could be carried out. The other residents were calm, welcoming and reassuring towards Sassoon and Anna. We were all hopeful. All of the struggle of the last five years was worth it in that one moment. This was what we had strived towards. This is what mattered. It was our last day in Armenia and it was hard to walk away from such a simple and stunning scene. We are grateful for all who helped bring Anna and Sassoon home. And as the daily work of reintegration continues, we are also grateful for the strength, wisdom and patience of our staff who carry on this work.

In Another's Eyes *Juliet Setian*

I loved meeting the residents. They excitedly showed me their rooms and shared about all the things they can do. Agappy wanted me to know she loves to garden. When we visited her at the Humanities College, she showed us a tree she planted. Susanna wanted to know about my family and talked about her love of learning English. Anahit showed us how beau-

tifully she could dance. Armine and Gayane clapped their hands and jumped when we said we would visit them at college. There we saw the beautiful rugs they make. So many things strike me as beautiful: the residents' enthusiasm and determination to be good at what they do, their patient faithfulness to their daily lives and tasks, their love and respect for one another and the staff. One thing that



struck me poignantly was watching the interactions between the residents and Natalie. I remembered a conversation with Natalie where I asked her how and why she loves them so much. She said she was very loved *by* them and they share in their love, friendship and lives together. I don't think I understood what she meant until I saw their interaction. Indeed, they do share in love and friendship.



In Memoriam - Hank Bersani

Since its inception, Warm Hearth has had the privilege and honor to have the enthusiastic support of Hank Bersani, who was one of Bridget Brown's (board member) special education professors when the idea of Warm Hearth was born. His encouragement, expertise, and resources made a significant contribution to the develop-

ment of the quality programming that now exists for our residents. It is with a heavy heart that we try to absorb the news of his untimely passing. Bridget learned this sad news while in Armenia and was able to see how his legacy lives on in the lives of our residents. He often spoke of visiting in person, but we now believe he is there in spirit.

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JUSTICE.**

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Armenian Orphans
with Disabilities*

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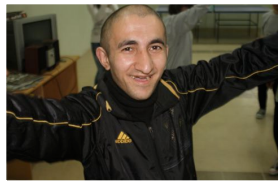
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NOTES & NEEDS

- If you regularly shop online, a percentage of your purchases can be donated to Friends of Warm Hearth if you register through givebackamerica.com and designate our organization as your charity of choice.

- If you donate online through our website, you will notice that we have transferred our online donation system to PayPal.



- We have many new handmade items (including carpets, embroidery and cards) that the residents made. These are all available for purchase. Please see our web-store for examples of items for sale and contact us if you are interested.

www.smallcornerstore.blogspot.com



- During July & August, receipts for your donations may be a bit delayed. Please be patient and if you have any concerns, please contact Natalie by phone (480-921-1181) or email (natalie@friendsofwarmphearth.org)

*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
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*Our 2012 Goals:
sustainable & loving care
for our residents,
and a solution for
Anna & Sassoon*

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