

# WARM HEARTH

## In the Small Corners

### The Bounty

As summer has come and nearly gone, we have seen the fruit of many long labors swell, grow and sweeten.

One thing that has come to pass this summer is that Anna came home again. She is one of our residents who has been in and out of institutions for most of her life. After last year's staff trainings *and* welcoming new staff members, we felt ready to try to support her again at home. Our staff are taking one day at a time. But for now, Anna is once again in her own home, with friends and beauty around her, and with people who love her.



It feels significant that her homecoming has occurred the same year as our ten-year celebration. So often we want change to happen quickly and with ease. In reality, the things that mean the most can take years and years. We have to all change from the inside out and so does the world around us.

Summer in Armenia is always a time of abundance in terms of welcoming visitors and volunteers, donors and supporters. We have welcomed so many people this summer who have long loved the residents from afar, who have worked quietly on their behalf from the United States, and who finally got to be with them in person. What a joy it is to extend the hospitality of Warm Hearth to the people who make it possible.

Last, but not least, the ten-year anniversary celebration is taking place this week in Yerevan. At this celebration, we will cheer and reflect on what Warm Hearth has become. We will remember why we exist in the first place. We will look forward and back with joy and hope. One of our board members, Lee Ann Williams, is present and celebrating in Armenia. The rest of us are there in spirit.

Sincerely Yours,

*Natalie Bryant-Rizzieri*

Founder & Executive Director



**WARM HEARTH**  
& JERMIK ANKYUN FOUNDATION





## Anahit

When I last saw Anahit, she said that the best thing in her life is her carpet work. She could not think of a "worst" or most difficult thing in her life. She loves to work in the kitchen and she loves the caregivers at Warm Hearth. She said that she feels love for everyone at Warm Hearth, even the resident who at times frustrates her. She said, "This is our home and we will stay here until the end." Yes, dear Anahit, you will.

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**Our 2016 Goals:** sustainable and loving care for our residents and a home that is increasingly independent.

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

*Lee Ann Williams, our board member who is in Armenia now for the ten-year celebration, reflects on what these last ten years have meant to her.*

I feel honored to be a part of the board and to have been a small part of what Warm Hearth has become and is in Armenia. What has impressed me over the last ten years is the board and staff's commitment to Anna and Sassoon. It has been tumultuous along the way but we have remained committed to them. Sassoon is now stable and we have found a way to care for him. I love that we have not given up on them. The staff's willingness to bring these residents home and to stay in touch with them when that is impossible speaks to our vision and to who and what Warm Hearth really is.

Warm Hearth also brings me such great joy. We are turning a corner and becoming more a part of the Armenian community. I'm encouraged at the collaboration and partnerships that are forming. We have come a long way in ten years.

