

WARM HEARTH'S FIRST
LONG-TERM GROUP HOME
IN ARMENIA OPENED IN 2006.
ITS CONTINUED GROWTH
IS A SIGN OF HOPE.

Motivation

We actively prevent individuals with disabilities who have outgrown the orphanages from being forced to spend the rest of their lives in psychiatric institutions. Warm Hearth provides long-term community-based care.

OUR MISSION is to provide a loving and safe community, and a place of peace and nurture where vocational, social and individual possibilities can unfold.

We believe that our residents deserve:

- ~ holistic & integrated care that promotes dignity, independence, fulfillment and reintegration into society
- ~ opportunities to build friendships in an environment dedicated to personal and social renewal and continued healing

Friends
of WARM HEARTH
& JERMİK ANKYUN FOUNDATION

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Friends of Warm Hearth is a U.S. 501(c)(3) organization.
Jermik Ankyun Foundation is a registered Armenian foundation.

PROVIDING HOLISTIC CARE
FOR ARMENIAN ORPHANS
WITH DISABILITIES



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WWW.FRIENDSOFWARMHEARTH.ORG

“ALL THE WORLD IS FULL OF SUFFERING. IT IS ALSO FULL OF OVERCOMING.”

~Helen Keller

Social Change

Warm Hearth communities, family-like homes where orphans with disabilities can share life, **GIVE WITNESS** to the reality that a better life is possible for this vulnerable population.

Armenian orphans with disabilities and mental illness have long been forgotten, placed in institutions where they are neglected and excluded from society.

Our homes are models of an alternative to psychiatric institutions, a model which we hope will be replicated.

We advocate and implement quality **COMMUNITY-BASED** care for orphans with disabilities and mental illnesses. We value inclusion and honor the uniqueness of our residents.

With the exception of Warm Hearth, Armenia currently has no suitable infrastructure in place to meet the pressing need for long-term **COMPASSIONATE** care.

Join us in challenging the notion of what it means to have a disability in Armenia.

Warm Hearth group homes are also places of welcome for **FRIENDS, VOLUNTEERS, NEIGHBORS, CHURCHES** and **SOCIAL SERVICE GROUPS**. We are honored to receive whatever you have to offer whether time, resources, skills or passion.

All donations, in any shape, form or amount, are a kindness that extends to our residents in Armenia. We are committed to using all resources with integrity and transparency.

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Confronting the Past A SOVIET LEGACY

During Soviet times those with disabilities and mental illnesses were relegated to large institutions where they were treated inhumanely, isolated, over-medicated and sometimes euthanized. These institutions still exist today and are deemed “graveyards” by Armenians.

The institutions and mental health system are part of an ideology that was inhumane from conception and stigmatized individuals with disabilities.

Though the societal stigma attached to this ideology still lingers, **CHANGE** is apparent. As awareness spreads, Armenians are joining together because they believe that individuals with disabilities are worthy and capable of being included in society and living lives of dignity. Slowly, we are working together to **HEAL THIS SCHISM**.

Warm Hearth

FRIENDS OF WARM HEARTH

is the U.S. branch and nonprofit which promotes respect for Armenia’s culture and a **sustainable future** for all our group homes. As a support organization, it supports our group homes in administrative, legal and financial matters. It strives to provide support to Armenians as they find solutions to Armenia’s challenges and fulfill the mission of Warm Hearth. Based in New York City, Natalie Bryant Rizzieri is the Executive Director and Founder of Warm Hearth.

JERMİK ANKYUN

(“WARM HEARTH”) FOUNDATION, our partnering organization and an Armenia-based nonprofit, is part of the courageous **grassroots movement**, which is committed to rescuing as many people as possible from the inhumane conditions of the institutions. Jermik Ankyun Foundation implements and carries out the overall mission of Warm Hearth. Based in Yerevan, Armenia, Alya Kirakosyan is the local Executive Director.