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ANNUAL REPORT

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HONOR THE PAST
EMPOWER THE PRESENT
ENSURE THE FUTURE

Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to honoring the past, empowering the present and ensuring the future for people in Armenia, Nagorno-Karabagh and Javakhk.

Founded by the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern) in response to the 1988 earthquake, FAR was reorganized into a private voluntary organization and recognized as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit by the IRS in March 1993.

Since then, FAR has implemented more than 250 relief, social, educational and cultural projects valued at over \$300 million.

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ABOUT FAR

Through the support of our global partners and our worldwide Armenian family, FAR gives hope, guidance and opportunity to those in need, empowering them to create a better present and helping them pave the way to a stronger future.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN

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Archbishop Khajag Barsamian
President

Randy Sapah-Gulian
Chairman

Abp. K. Barsamian

Randy Sapah-Gulian

Dear Friends,

In November, we lost the founding member of the family that makes up Fund for Armenian Relief when Doctor Edgar M. Housepian passed away at the age of 86. While it would be impossible to capture in just a few words the essence of what made him a truly special and unique soul, we can continue to reflect on and be inspired by his work.

When the 1988 earthquake struck Armenia he, along with the late Archbishop Torkom Manoogian and the late Kevork Hovnanian, rushed to the disaster to help mobilize assistance for the thousands who had lost everything. It was out of that wreckage that the spirit and the energy to further help Armenia grew, which eventually became FAR. For more than two decades Dr. Housepian was a tenacious and enthusiastic leader, and a true visionary when it came to FAR’s

healthcare programming. He helped to establish FAR’s Continuing Medical Education Program. Through the program’s dynamic approach, hundreds of Armenian physicians have had the opportunity for professional development, improving their practice and their administration of medical care, and thus impacting the country’s wider population.

His legacy will continue to change the face of the Armenian healthcare system. He was a truly remarkable man – also an internationally renowned neurosurgeon who always retained a great sense of humility and kindness for others.

We will continue to draw inspiration from his work and his vision. As you will read in this report, 2014 was another great year for FAR. We continued to engage the younger generation in a burgeoning culture of philanthropy. We sent more young Armenians to college and we helped more vulnerable youth to get the protection and support they need. We continued to work to lift hundreds of families out of poverty, and give more young people the opportunity to pursue worthwhile careers. This is all because of your generous support. You will see for yourself in this report the great things you have made possible. Bolstered by the spirit of the founders of this organization like Dr. Housepian and partnership with supporters like you, we will continue to lead the way in building the strength of Armenia. Once again, we thank you for a wonderful year.

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Ararat & Sonya Hacet Family Foundaiton
Armenian American Chamber of Commerce Abroad (AmCham)
Armenian American Health Professionals Organization (AAHPO)
Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA)
Armenian Engineers & Scientists of America (AESA)
Armenian EyeCare Project
Armenian Missionary Association of America
Armenian National Science and Education Fund (ANSEF)
Armenia Tree Project
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United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)
Women’s Guild Central Council of the Eastern Diocese
World Food Program
World Vision
YerazArt

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PARTNERS IN CHANGE

Ten-year-old Arsen, who attends Special School #14 in Yerevan, is one of the beneficiaries of Ayo!'s Braille Printer project. Special School #14 is the only school in Armenia that helps visually impaired children. The 92 children who attend have varying degrees of disability, from slightly impaired vision to complete sightlessness. As Braille textbooks and workbooks are extremely

expensive the school had limited copies, most of which were worn out and nearly useless. Now, the school can print its own materials so that they are not only current but also accessible to each student. When the Ayo! team spent a day with the kids after the printers were installed they were able to help Arsen by typing out the story from his homework assignment and printing it out on the

Braille Printer. It was the first time that he would be able to read and study stories in Braille at home. He could barely contain his excitement.

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BENEFICIARY STORY



Designed as a way to empower young people who wish to take change into their own hands and give agency to those in other parts of the world who seek to contribute, Ayo! was created to invest in unique and manageable ideas that will make profound difference by raising money for them through crowdfunding.

AYO!

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Ayo! launched in November 2013 to raise funds for development projects exclusively proposed by Armenians for Armenians. Designed as a way to empower young people who wish to take change into their own hands and give agency to those in other parts of the world who seek to contribute, Ayo! was created to invest in unique and manageable ideas that will make profound difference by raising money for them through crowdfunding.

Ayo!'s website – www.weareayo.org – features three projects at a time, where potential supporters can find all practical information and make an informed decision about how to donate and, ultimately, engage in creating local change in Armenia. All projects are initiated and introduced by different groups of young Armenians. Once funds are raised, FAR executes those projects transparently and to the highest standards.

During its first full year of operation, Ayo! invested in unique ideas that will make a difference for Armenian communities, while also encouraging young people to embrace a culture of philanthropy and social justice.

Four of Ayo!'s projects were fully funded and more than \$48,000 was raised, of which over \$6,500 came directly from donors in Armenia. The first project raised enough money to purchase two Braille printers for Special School #14 in Yerevan. The Accessible Schools project raised enough to install an elevator at the Gavar Special School in the Gegharquniq Region, which serves 50 students with primarily physical disabilities.

Ayo! then purchased enough kitchenware to serve the 500 elderly and low-income families who frequent the Berd, Yerevan and Gyumri soup kitchens every day. A new oven was also purchased for the Berd Soup Kitchen. Finally, Ayo! successfully launched an aggressive campaign to raise money to build a protective wall in front of the Aygepar Village Kindergarten in Tavush. Just meters from the border with Azerbaijan, the town and its schools in particular, are in need of additional protection from cross-border gunfire. Construction on the protective wall will begin in the spring of 2015.



To our generous and loyal benefactor, we thank you: Marta Batmasian

Arzin Nikolyan was one of a handful of young people who graduated from the Gyumri branch of the State Engineering University of Armenia's Department of Power Engineering in 2013. After graduation he set out on an aggressive job hunt but was unable to find a position well suited for his skills and aptitude. He decided to expand his credentials and try his abilities in programming. GTech

proved to be the perfect testing ground. Now, Arzin is a second-year student in GTech's Web Technologies Department who's involved in the Enhanced Workforce Skills and Business Development via Quick Start Methodology project. He also finally found the right job when he started at Big Brain IT company in September.

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BENEFICIARY STORY



Seven BCPP team members closely assisted 260 beneficiary families by addressing their specific needs through individually tailored plans. These packages are designed to help each family overcome their obstacles in a way that allows them to be more self-sufficient in the long-term.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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98% of them are currently working at Armenian IT companies. Several GTech alumni are now teaching at GTech themselves. During 2014, GTech furthered its outreach through its continuation of GTech Direct, a service through which GTech-educated IT specialists from Armenian-owned and Armenian-run companies are contracted by GTech to support clients. GTech also worked on software development for an e-learning web module in partnership with UNICEF Armenia, which will allow those in remote areas with limited resources and mobility to access IT training opportunities. It also started a partnership with USAID EDMC on the Enhanced Workforce Skills and Business Development via Quick Start Methodology project, which aims, among many things, to provide the students with dependable job prospects.

Gyumri Information Technology Center (GTech) started in 2005 as a way to give motivated Armenians the opportunity to gain the Information Technology (IT) training they needed to compete for the most prestigious jobs in Armenia's IT sector. In the nine years since its inception, GTech has become a brand name institution. It has consistently provided excellent IT training to more than 600 Armenians, producing an educated and highly qualified workforce of software engineers.

GTech has an amazing record of employing its graduates. Since its inception, 98% of them are currently working at Armenian IT companies. Several GTech alumni are now teaching at GTech themselves. During 2014, GTech furthered its outreach through its continuation of GTech Direct, a service through which GTech-educated IT specialists from Armenian-owned and Armenian-run companies are contracted by GTech to support clients. GTech also worked on software development for an e-learning web module in partnership with UNICEF Armenia, which will allow those in remote areas with limited resources and mobility to access IT training opportunities. It also started a partnership with USAID EDMC on the Enhanced Workforce Skills and Business Development via Quick Start Methodology project, which aims, among many things, to provide the students with dependable job prospects.

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty: Developing Thriving Communities entered the second year of its five-year comprehensive approach to reduce the effects of poverty in the Tavush Region, one of Armenia's poorest. Seven local BCPP team members closely assisted 260 beneficiary families by addressing their specific needs in a comprehensive way through individually tailored plans. These "micro programs" are designed to help each family overcome their obstacles in a way that allows them to be more self-sufficient in the long-term through improved access to education, better nutrition, child protection, healthcare or other significant resources. By utilizing FAR's multi-faceted programs and working in partnership with the government, civil society and the private sector, FAR is empowering communities in Tavush to become more self-sustainable and break the devastating cycle of poverty by addressing it and treating it at its core.

BCPP's economic component progressed during 2014 through the creation of farming cooperatives and the provision of much-needed farming supplies to seven different communities. This equipment brought 40 hectares of arable land back to life, which for 116 farmers means a source of food and potential income. Ten families and one school were also provided with greenhouses so they are able to use them as a sustainable food source. Three playgrounds and one gymnasium were renovated at three schools located in the Berd Region, which serve a collective total of 270 children, giving them new opportunities for play and exercise.



To our generous and loyal donors, we thank you: James & Marta Batmasian Family Foundation + Dr. Aram Chobanian Family Foundation + Sarkisian Foundation + Mr. Patrick Sarkissian + Sandra Shahinian Leitner, SJS Charitable Trust + Mr. & Mrs. Dennis & Linda Tarzian

Dadourian Foundation + Harold & Josephine Gulamerian Foundation + Hamparian Family Foundation + Mardigian Foundation + Mr. & Mrs. Greg & Meline Toufayan + Harry & Suzanne Toufayan Family Foundation

Sixteen-year-old Armen came to the FAR Children's Center with problems not unlike many of the others who go there to seek refuge. His father is not in his life and he is estranged from his mother. When he arrived he was dealing with behavioral issues, as he had been previously spending most of his time on the streets and getting himself into trouble. He was depressed and

aggressive. Like other children who arrive at the Center, he initially had a difficult time trusting others. He was closed off, distant and hard to reach. Yet, by using their experience and expertise, the Center's expert social workers, psychologists and other specialists were able to reach Armen. Gradually, he learned to trust them and with time he began to heal. He has made some friends at the Center,

his aggressive tendencies have dissipated, and he now reaches out to others.

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BENEFICIARY STORY



Renovations of the FAR Children Center's art classrooms were completed during the spring of 2014, which has been a boon to the Center's robust art therapy program.

CHILD PROTECTION

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counseling and legal assistance, the Center offers hope to the most vulnerable Armenian children who often have none. Children also receive outreach services, as well as access to creative outlets for learning, like the Children's Center Technology Lab. Renovations of the Center's art classrooms were completed during the spring of 2014, which has been a boon to the Center's robust art therapy program.

Since 2000, the **FAR Children's Center** has transformed lives by performing crisis intervention and critical short-term rehabilitation to children who are victims of domestic violence and trafficking, who are runaways, or those crippled with behavioral and emotional problems. A full-service facility and the only institution in Armenia where children can access shelter, healthcare, psychological

Since 2010, the Center has also run the Administration of Juvenile Justice Program, through which it has established two rehabilitation centers in Abovyan and Kotayk marzes, to help adolescents in conflict with the law receive recovery and rehabilitation. More than 1,000 youth have received help from the project over a four-year period.

During its second year in operation, the Center's **Child Poverty Reduction Program** successfully identified families in the Ararat Region as the first group of beneficiaries for this project, which is shepherded by The Ajemian Foundation. The

project provides the families with access to improved healthcare, adequate nutrition, psychological assistance, cash support or any other assistance they may need in order to realize their individually-tailored sustainable living plans aimed to move them out of the lowest rungs of poverty.

The **Children of Armenia Sponsorship Program (CASP)**, which is sponsored by the Women's Guild of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, gives orphans and children of single-parent households supplemental financial support with which they can purchase items that improve their quality of life, like school supplies, nutritious meals, adequate clothing and fuel. Distributions in Gyumri, Tavush and Syunik were carried out in 2014. In addition to enriching the lives of Armenia's youth, CASP offers support and hope to entire families.

Since 2008, **FAR has partnered with the Friends of Gavar Special School (GSS)**, New York, a group of dedicated senior citizens who came together to support GSS. The school was established 35 years ago in the Gegharquniq Region to serve mentally and physically disabled children. In 2014, the Friends donated a new van equipped with accessible facilities that can safely transport students to and from school all year round. They also supported construction of a wheelchair accessible elevator, and donated winter shoes for each child. FAR looks forward to continuing this great partnership to brighten the lives of these vulnerable children.



To our generous and loyal donors, we thank you: Ajemian Foundation + Children of Armenia Sponsorship Program (CASP) University + Friends of FAR Children's Center + Friends of Gavar Special School for Disabled Children + Harold & Josephine Gulamerian Foundation

Dr. Aram Chobanian Family Foundation + Ms. Lisa Chobanian + Ms. Annette Choolfaian + Dadourian Foundation + Dr. Richard Deckelbaum, Columbia Arpine & Arda Hovnanian Charitable Trust + **Mardigian Foundation** + Sapah-Gulian Foundation + Sandra Shahinian Leitner, SJS Charitable Trust

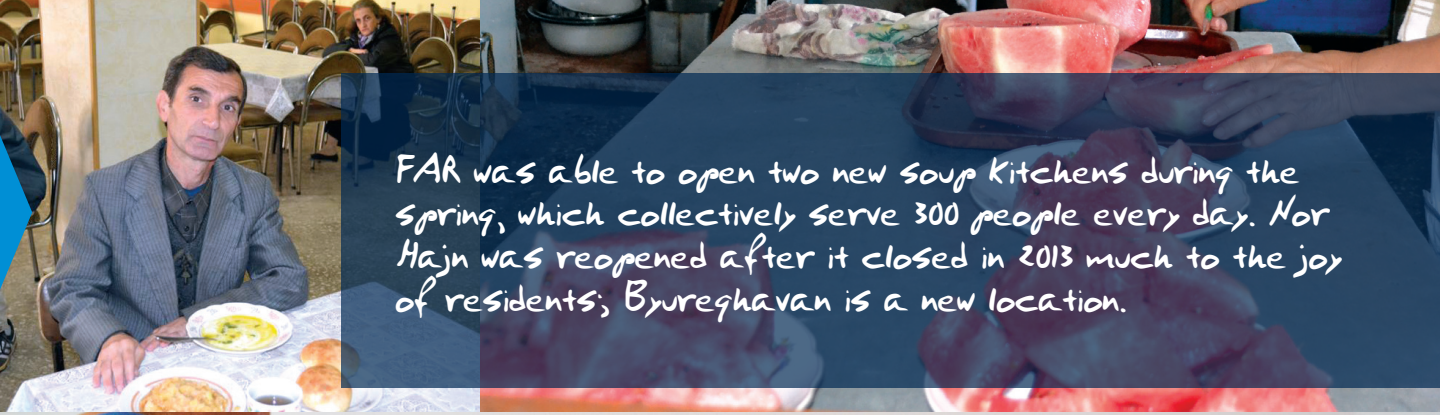
For Ararat, a FAR soup kitchen was his last chance for hope. Ararat spent his unhappy youth in Yerevan after his stepmother verbally abused him and eventually threw him out of the house when his father died. He found shelter in a cramped, damp cellar devoid of heat and electricity. There, he hid from the world for years, growing increasingly isolated and withdrawn until a neighbor discovered him. Vulnerable and fragile, Ararat was

taken to a psychiatric clinic where he was treated for acute psychological stress, and upon release found himself alone again. The small benefit he started receiving from the government at the time was too paltry to live on. News of FAR's soup kitchen in Erebuni was Ararat's last hope for sustenance. He visited daily until it closed in 2013. Now, he uses a precious 10,000 AMD (25 USD) – nearly half of his monthly allowance from the government

– to travel to FAR's soup kitchen in Nor Nork. For Ararat, the sacrifice is worth the reward of sustenance and support because for him the soup kitchen is not just a daily meal, it is a family for a man without one.

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BENEFICIARY STORY



FAR was able to open two new soup kitchens during the spring, which collectively serve 300 people every day. Nor Hajn was reopened after it closed in 2013 much to the joy of residents; Byureghavan is a new location.

SOCIAL SERVICES

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FAR's **soup kitchens** meet the critical needs of the most destitute by providing nutritious daily meals and an outlet for social connection and care in Yerevan, Berd and now Byureghavan and Nor Hajn. FAR was able to open two new soup kitchens during the spring, which collectively serve 300 people every day. Nor Hajn was reopened after it closed in 2013 much to the joy of residents; Byureghavan is a new location. Both kitchens were established in honor of two women, Yeghsapet Jambazian-Mangoian and Yeghsapet Ambarian-Ouzounian, who had difficult lives but always shared what they had with those who were less fortunate. For many, the meal provided by the soup kitchens is the only one they receive each day. Not just a source of sustenance the soup kitchens offer a connection to the community and a home away from home.

The **Atinizian Senior Center** in Gyumri and **Vanadzor Old Age Home (VOAH)** give low-income elderly a chance for support through living environments that meet their physical and psychological needs, including access to medical care and social services. These homes also nurture the spirits of their residents, as they are truly caring and loving communities that residents can call their own.



To our generous and loyal donors, we thank you: Nishan & Margrit Atinizian Family Foundation + Bay Area Friends of Armenia (BAFA) Nazarian Family Foundation + Sandra Shahinian Leitner, SJS Charitable Trust

Ararat & Sonya Hacet Family Foundation + Kevork & Sirvart Karamanuk Foundation + Mardigian Foundation Sunday Schools of the Eastern Diocese + Women's Guild Central Council of Eastern Diocese

Marlena Manukyan had an upbringing where the odds were stacked against her. Her father left Marlena and her mother Larisa just days after Marlena was born. The two lived in a cold garage as Larisa eeked out a living working various engineering jobs. With no family around to rely on and Larisa's health deteriorating under the strain of poverty, she decided to move

Marlena to the FAR Children's Center and later to Gavar Orphanage. After graduating from high school Marlena was able to attend Yerevan State University through the help of FAR's Gulamerian Scholarship Program and now studies international relations, specializing in political science. When Marlena moved back to Yerevan to go to college she was also able to move back in with her mother who

now struggles with health problems. Marlena keeps her perspective and continually tries to approach all of her obstacles with an open mind and the will to surmount adversity.

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BENEFICIARY STORY



FAR re-opened the completely revamped Arsen Saryan Music School in the village of Argavand in Ararat Province. Six months of renovations made it possible for the children to return to their studies in a building that looks brand new.

EDUCATION

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and development of their country. The programs provide hope and opportunity for young Armenians to advance their knowledge and gain the tools they need to succeed. During 2014, FAR made higher education a reality for more than 300 disadvantaged and low-income youth. FAR's scholarships include:

Ester Ajemian Scholarship Program
Avedis & Arsho Baghsarian Scholarship Fund
Antranig Berberian Scholarship Program
Emil Artin Jr. Mathematics Fund
Thomas & Dora Verne Garabedian Scholarship Program

Gulamerian Vocational Training Program
Mardigian Scholarship Program
Mathevosian Scholarship Fund
Jerair Nishanian Foundation Scholarship Program
Philadelphia Armenian Education Fund Scholarship Program

Sandra Shaninian Leitner Scholarship Program
Sayan Scholarship Program
Harry & Suzanne Toufayan Scholarship Program
Daughters of Vartan-Anahit Chapter Scholarship Program
Garabed & Armine Zambak Scholarship Fund

FAR is a generous supporter of **school renovations** throughout Armenia, as it brings these institutions closer to their full potential and capacity to propel students forward with their educations. In 2014, FAR re-opened the completely revamped Arsen Saryan Music School in the village of Argavand in Ararat Province. Six months of renovations made it possible for the children to return to their studies in a building that looks brand new.

The Argavand Music School is the third music school that FAR has renovated in recent years following the Oshakan and Octet schools. The Galoust Galo Educational Fund, which will be officially announced during 2015, has also started to support activities at Octet, including the purchase of new chairs for the school's outdoor performance area and tuition coverage for 50 talented students from low-income families.

The **Armenian National Science and Education Fund (ANSEF)** promotes social and economic growth by sustaining scientists and engineers in their pursuit of cutting-edge research, and by promoting innovation in Armenia by allowing these researchers to stay in their home country and further contribute to a knowledge-based economy. In 2014, ANSEF's research council reviewed 210 applications, and awarded 31 groups with \$5,000 grants focused on research in biology, physics, chemistry, Armenian studies, astronomy, electronics, bioinformatics, medical science and ecology. Eighteen of the principal investigators were under the age of 35, of which 12 were women.

A new partnership was also forged by FAR between Rutgers University and the National University of Architecture and Construction of Armenia thanks to generosity of the SJS Foundation, which resulted in the opportunity for students to enroll in Engineering Project Management and Construction Project Management/Quality Control courses, held in November at NUACA. The 38 students who completed the courses were awarded curriculum certificates from Rutgers University. Encouraged by the success of this first collaboration, Rutgers and NUACA plan to expand their cooperation moving ahead.



To our generous and loyal donors, we thank you: Ms. Margaret Ajemian Ahnert + Avaneassians Family Foundation + Avedis & Arsho Baghsarian Fund
Harold & Josephine Gulamerian Foundation + **Mardigian Foundation** + Mathevosian Foundation + Jerair Nishanian Foundation + Maestro Arsen Saryan

Constantinople Armenian Relief Society (C.A.R.S.) + Dadourian Foundation + Galoust Galo Educational Fund
Sandra Shahinian Leitner, SJS Charitable Trust + TF Educational Foundation + Mr. & Mrs. Ara & Pontish Yeramyan + Garabed & Armine Zambak Fund

A two-time participant of the CME program in Yerevan, **Dr. Marine Grigoryan** is a gynecologist at Shushi Hospital in Nagorno-Karabagh who also works at Stepanakert's maternity ward. She was so pleased with her experience that she initiated a move for FAR to hold seminars in Karabagh to expand its outreach. The result was a two-day seminar on modern trends in obstetrics and gynecology held in late 2014. The

first seminar of its kind in Karabagh, it focused on practical treatment methods for such conditions as thrombophilia and anti-phospholipid syndrome. Since doctors in Karabagh often don't have the capacity to be able to treat all their patients, many frequently need to travel to Yerevan for treatment. Such seminars help Dr. Grigoryan better treat her patients, despite the lack of resources in this region.

BENEFICIARY STORY

FAR's nutrition symposium marked the first time specialists in Armenia presented their own research on malnutrition. As a result, FAR became leader of the Nutrition Advisory Council, which will coordinate all future initiatives in cooperation with doctors from Columbia University.

HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS

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approaches and join a greater network of healthcare providers. This is the key to improving the nation's healthcare system. In total, 450 doctors from Armenia and 120 from Nagorno-Karabagh have participated in CME since its inception in 2005.

The **Continuing Medical Education Program (CME)** works to improve a system that has fallen behind. Even decades after the fall of the Soviet Union, many of Armenia's doctors still do not have access to the latest resources in medicine; others continue to use outdated methods. CME is filling this gap by providing an opportunity for Armenian doctors to not only refresh their skills, but also learn new

FAR supports the **National Medical Library** in Yerevan, which offers medical professionals the opportunity to keep up to date on advances in the field through access to the latest publications and technologies. In 2014, FAR supported renovations made to the library, including the reading room dedicated to the late Dr. Edgar M. Housepian.

FAR also **fights childhood malnutrition through Breaking the Cycle of Poverty: Developing Thriving Communities** and its effort to reduce childhood poverty in the Tavush region, which is sponsored by the Mardigian Family Foundation, as well as its **project to reduce childhood poverty** in the Ararat Region, which is sponsored by The Ajemian Foundation. In addition, FAR carries out various trainings for healthcare professionals, along with broader social and educational efforts, including its 2014 nutrition symposium, which marked the first time specialists in Armenia presented their own research on malnutrition. As a result, FAR became leader of the Nutrition Advisory Council, which will coordinate all future initiatives in cooperation with doctors from Columbia University.

IN REMEMBRANCE: DR. EDGAR M. HOUSEPIAN

[illegible]

Dr. Edgar M. Housepian was legendary for his compassionate and pioneering medical and humanitarian work. An internationally renowned neurosurgeon at Columbia University, Dr. Housepian passed away on November 14, 2014, at the age of 86.

As one of FAR's founders who traveled to Armenia to help after the 1988 earthquake, Dr. Housepian was a dedicated board chairman who founded CME, and supported the National Medical Library and the malnutrition component of BCPP. A truly remarkable individual, Dr. Housepian is greatly missed but his legacy will continue to inspire the work of FAR.



To our generous and loyal donors, we thank you: Armenian American Health Professionals Organization (AAHPO)
Mardigian Foundation + Nazarian Family Foundation + Sapah-Gulian Foundation

Dadourian Foundation • Dr. Edgar M. Housepian Medical Education Fund • Dr. Sarkis Kechejian
United Armenian Fund, USA (UAF) • Dr. & Mrs. Gary & Mariann Zamanigian



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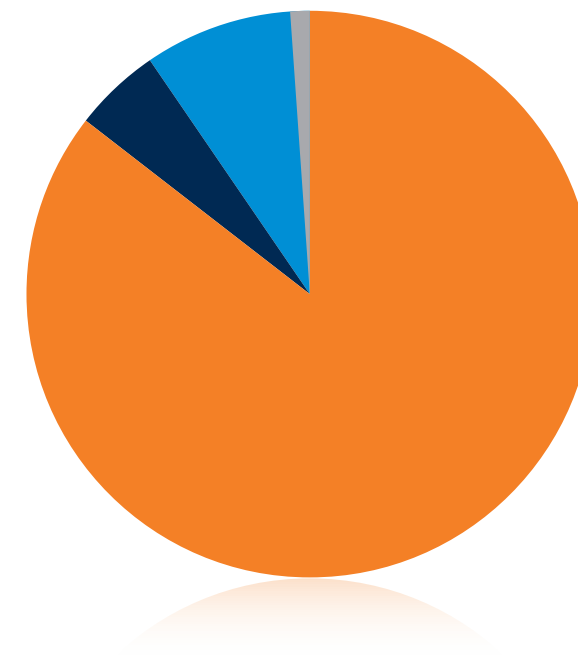
The Independent Auditors issued an “unqualified opinion” that FAR statements conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and that

“the financial statement...present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Fund for Armenian Relief, Inc.” as of the given date. The audit report is available upon request.

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TOTAL ASSETS: \$15,476,294

2014 SUPPORT & REVENUE



| | | |
|--------------------|-----------|-----|
| Contributions | 3,910,347 | 85% |
| Grants & Contracts | 226,501 | 5% |
| In-Kind Donations | 403,877 | 9% |
| Other Income | 59,648 | 1% |

TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE: \$4,600,373



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