



Fund for Armenian Relief

Honor THE PAST | Empower THE PRESENT | Ensure THE FUTURE

2015 Annual Report

About FAR

CONTENTS

- 1 | Message from the President and Chairman
- 2 | Child Protection
- 4 | Social Services
- 6 | Healthcare
- 8 | Education
- 10 | Economic Development
- 12 | Ayo!
- 14 | 2015 FAR Supporters
- 24 | 2015 Financial Highlights
- 26 | Board of Directors



ABOUT FAR

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-Karabakh 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.

Doing More

Dear Friends,

FAR grew out of the disaster and tragedy of the 1988 earthquake. Twenty-eight years later we are still leading the way in Armenia's development.

This year was a difficult one for many charities. Raising more support is always a challenge with each passing year but in 2015, as usual, FAR rose to that challenge and you, our loyal supporters, continued to stand with us in solidarity.

There are many who have made it possible for us to remain strong and continue to grow over more than two and a half decades. The first of these is FAR's Board of Directors, whose supervision and guidance enables FAR to not only do but to do *more*, month after month, year after year. Your leadership has been essential for FAR's pursuit of quality programming and partnerships which, in addition to being diverse and innovative, securely tie into our mission and vision, and help us continue to achieve.

Our loyal friends and donors also continued to come through for us during 2015. What is especially wonderful is that so many of our supporters have become more and more involved in our projects as well, focusing on the facets of FAR's work that speak to their passions. Your ownership and your expertise have really enabled us to expand our vista. Our assistance to the Gavar Special School, our ever-expanding

scholarship programs, which support students in so many different disciplines, and our soup kitchens are just some of the examples.

There are also the new supporters who joined the FAR family this past year, those who contribute to the work of both Ayo! and FAR. It is inspiring to know that we are attracting new attention to our work. It goes to show that there is, indeed, a way for so many people to unite on a cause that speaks to them.

Finally, there are the unsung heroes of our work—FAR's staff in the field. Day-by-day they tirelessly make change happen by implementing FAR's projects with professionalism and dedication, inspiring all of us along the way.

Together, we make FAR possible. Together, we continue to make Armenia stronger. Thank you for another great year.



Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, President



Randy Sapah-Gulian, Chairman

PARTNERS IN CHANGE

Ajemian Foundation
AmeriCares
Antranig Berberian Educational Fund
Ararat & Sonya Hacet Family Foundation
Armenian American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham)
Armenian American Health Professionals Organization (AAHPO)
Armenian American Wellness Center
Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA)
Armenian Educational Foundation
Armenian Engineers & Scientists of America (AESA)
Armenian EyeCare Project
Armenian Medical Fund (AMF)
Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA)
Armenian National Science and Education Fund (ANSEF)
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Friends of Gavar Special School
Galoust Galo Educational Fund
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Mardigian Foundation
Margaret Ajemian Ahnert
Mathevosian Foundation
Megerian Rugs
Microsoft Innovation Center, Armenia
Ministries, local governments, universities, health establishments in Armenia
Mirak-Weissbach Foundation, Germany
Nazarian Family Foundation
Nishan & Margrit Atinizian Family Foundation
Orange Foundation, Armenia
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Positive Planet Foundation
Rotary Club of Yerevan
Rutgers University, School of Engineering
Sahman NGO, Armenia
Sapah-Gulian Foundation
Sarkis & Siran Gabrellian Foundation
Save the Children
SJS Charitable Trust
Strategic Development Agency, Armenia
Sunday School of the St. Mary Church of Costa Mesa, CA
Sunday Schools of the Eastern Diocese
TF Educational Foundation
Tim Irving, Millbank Music Store, Canada
UNICEF
United Armenian Fund (UAF)
United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)
Women's Guild Central Council of the Eastern Diocese
World Food Program
World Vision
YerazArt

Child Protection

CHILD PROTECTION

Eleven-year-old Svetlana is the only child of her single mother, Gayane, who works as launderer at Yerevan's Military Hospital and lives in an old railroad car in an industrial park on the outskirts of Yerevan. With no proper kitchen or even a bathroom, Gayane decided to send Svetlana to the FAR Children's Center during the weekdays so she could have a decent bed to sleep in. With her \$120 monthly salary not enough for her to rent a better place, she will lean on the Center until she can find a solution.

The Children's Center is safer for Svetlana, according to Gayane. Meanwhile, the Center's staff discuss all of the possible ways to help this young girl and her mother—teaching Gayane to learn some skills to earn some additional income, or finding her a house to stay in outside of the industrial park. Staff do everything they can to avoid splitting them up.

"The Center is a great place. People here help me to do my homework. I learned to paint here. I learned to make cards, to knit bracelets and make traditional dolls," Svetlana said. "I love the center very much. But I don't want to stay here for long. I love my mom. I want to live with my mom but in a better home than the one we now have. This is my dream. If just there were people to help us fulfill my dream, I promise I would be so thankful to them."



For 15 years, the **FAR Children's Center** has transformed lives by performing crisis intervention and critical short-term rehabilitation to children who are victims of abuse, abandonment, or those crippled with behavioral and emotional problems. A full-service facility and the only institution in Armenia where children can access shelter, medical care, psychological 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. In 2015, the Center's basketball and soccer courtyard was rehabilitated thanks to a generous gift from alumni of the FAR Young Professionals Trip.

The Center is also a key player in the Armenian government's quest to strengthen its child protection services through preventative intervention services, training specialists, and development of the national foster care system.

Since 2010, the Center's Juvenile Justice Program, implemented through rehabilitation centers in the regions of Abovyan and Kotayk continued to help adolescents in conflict with the law receive recovery and rehabilitation. Not a single repeat violation has been registered among those served by the program.

During its third year of operation, the FAR Children Center's **Child Poverty Reduction Program** continued to provide selected families in the Ararat Region with access to improved healthcare, adequate

nutrition, psychological assistance, cash support or any other resources they may need 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 to more than 1,200 children in the regions of Shirak, Tavush and Syunik, in addition to Javakhhk were carried out in 2015. 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)**, a group of dedicated senior citizens who came together to support GSS, which serves physically disabled children in the Gegharqunik Region. In 2015, the Friends in partnership with Ayo! supported construction of a wheelchair accessible elevator, which was officially inaugurated in September.

Aragats Camp, FAR's annual summer camp held in Kotayk Province, gave 140 orphans, children from low-income households, and Syrian-Armenian refugees, the opportunity to participate in 21 days of activities, including sporting events, games, dance parties, and guided nature hikes.

To our generous and loyal donors, we thank you:

Ajemian Foundation

Lisa Chobanian

Arpine & Arda Hovnanian Fund

Dadourian Foundation

Children of Armenia Sponsorship

Program (CASP)

Mardigian Foundation

SJS Charitable Trust

Dr. Richard Deckelbaum, Columbia University

BY THE NUMBERS

FAR CHILDREN'S CENTER



4K+

referral cases handled by the Center



175

children received counseling and rehabilitation for psychological trauma



34

families reunited



140

child care professionals trained



156

calls fielded by the support center hotline

CASP



1,200

orphans and children received financial support*

*provided through the Children of Armenia Sponsorship Program to orphans and children of single mothers

Social Services

SOCIAL SERVICES

Thirty-one-year-old Marta Ghazaryan has lived in poverty practically her entire life. “I lost my mother very early in life and had been living with my grandmother and my uncle’s family. I needed to work hard on their farm in Ararat. They would exploit me, never compensating me properly,” said Marta. She and her husband and their three children Gayane, Arsen and Amalya, now live in Nor Hajn, a former industrial town that today has few jobs available to its more than 10,000 residents.

She and her husband are among the town’s unemployed. Marta and her family have been Nor Hajn Soup Kitchen beneficiaries ever since FAR reopened the kitchen in 2014 after it had closed for two years due to lack of funding.

They receive about \$55 a month as part of their state subsidy, which covers their rent. The additional \$50 her husband brings in each month from collecting and selling bottles is not enough to cover the living expenses for the couple and their children. The family must rely on the soup kitchen for their main meal each day. “People help us by giving us clothes. I take them for my kids, for me, and for my husband. It is embarrassing to say but this is the way I’ve lived all my life, in other peoples’ clothing,” she said. “There were days when I didn’t have money to buy something to eat. My kids are not very demanding and they eat whatever is available. The soup kitchen is a great help for my family. Thanks to the soup kitchen, my kids are not hungry anymore.”



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, Nor Hajn, Berd, Gyumri and Byureghavan. Many of the unemployed, the sick and the disabled in Armenia must grapple with the debilitating hardships of poverty. For them, adequate food, clothing and decent housing are simply out of reach, making FAR's soup kitchens a lifeline. Often, the meal provided by the soup kitchens is the only one they receive each day. This support is supplemented by in-kind donations such as clothing and hygiene and non-

perishable food packs FAR receives through many of its partners. Not just a source of sustenance the soup kitchens offer a connection to the community and a home away from home.

In 2015, FAR also worked closely with partners to help serve Syrian-Armenian refugees. In addition to scholarship support, FAR also helped to ship 61,000 pairs of Tom's shoes to Armenia, where they were distributed to refugees. Twenty Syrian-Armenian children were also able to attend Aragats Summer Camp for three weeks, where they partook in sports, games and build friendships.

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. A year of fundraising efforts enabled the reconstruction of the main road that leads to VOAH, enabling smoother and faster access for deliveries and medical assistance. In addition, a wellness initiative enabled all residents to receive thyroid sonograms, something many had not received for years.

To our generous
and loyal donors,
we thank you:

Hamparian Family Foundation

Bay Area Friends of Armenia (BAFA)

Ararat & Sonya Hacet Foundation

Nazarian Family Foundation

Nishan & Margarit Atinizian Family Foundation

SJS Charitable Trust

United Armenian Fund, USA (UAF)

Kevork & Sirvart Karamanuk Foundation

BY THE NUMBERS

SOUP KITCHENS



800

Armenians
provided
with hot,
nutritious meals*

VOAH



250

low-income
seniors continued
a comfortable,
healthy life†



61K

pairs of shoes
shipped to
Armenians and
Syrian-Armenian
refugees



50

low-income
seniors received
medical check-ups/
physicals at VOAH

*free days a week, year-round at FAR's soup kitchens †at VOAH and Atinizian Senior Center



Healthcare

HEALTHCARE

As part of the healthcare component of FAR's Child Poverty Reduction Program, eight children from Ararat Province were able to receive necessary medical treatment, including surgery, at some of Yerevan's leading hospitals. *Ani Avagyan, 16*, was one them. As someone who has struggled with cerebral palsy throughout her life, Ani's family was previously unable to afford palliative surgery and she did not qualify for state-funded medical assistance.

So she was forced to cope with one of her legs being shorter than the other, as well as constant back pain which meant spending much of her time in a reclined position to deal with her discomfort. Ever since FAR made her surgery a reality Ani's life has drastically changed. Her legs are now the same length. She can sit up now with comfort and ease. As someone with an incredibly upbeat spirit, Ani now has even more resources to face life head on. She loves reading and she loves school. "There are limited jobs for people like me, so I need to study to be able to work one of these jobs. I need to work to be independent, and to help my mother and my father since they work hard," she said, smiling.



The **Continuing Medical Education Program (CME)** in 2015 celebrated a decade of its contribution toward changing the face of medical care in Armenia. CME was developed to fill the gaps in healthcare leftover from the fall of the Soviet Union. Even now, decades after independence, many of Armenia's doctors do not have access to the latest resources in medicine; many continue to use outdated methods. CME has helped many Armenian doctors to refresh their skills, learn new approaches, and join a growing global network of healthcare providers. In total, 506 doctors from Armenia and 120 from Nagorno-Karabakh have received professional development and enrichment through CME since its inception.

During 2015, CME organized dozens of symposiums, conferences and trainings led by visiting professors from leading U.S. and European medical schools and hospitals, which benefitted hundreds of doctors from rural areas. CME also helped many physicians to attend trainings in the U.S.A. and Austria, and was a leading participant in the 4th Annual International Medical Congress of Armenia.

FAR supports the **National Medical Library (NML)** in Yerevan, which offers medical professionals access to the latest publications and technologies in the field. Renovations of the entire library were completed during 2015, and the facility will

be renamed after FAR founder and dedicated NML supporter, the late Dr. Edgar Housepian.

FAR also **fights childhood malnutrition through Breaking the Cycle of Poverty: Developing Thriving Communities (BCPP)** and its effort to reduce childhood poverty in the Tavush Province, which is sponsored by the Mardigian Family Foundation, as well as its **Child Poverty Reduction Program** in the Ararat Region, which is sponsored by The Ajemian Foundation.

More than 300 children who attend local kindergartens in nine villages throughout Tavush now have free and nutritious lunches on a daily basis as part of BCPP's malnutrition component. FAR's health team in partnership with local doctors also tested more than 700 children for anemia, stunting and parasites, of which 373 were treated and continue to show signs of improvement.

In addition, FAR carries out various trainings for healthcare professionals, along with broader social and educational efforts. In Tavush and Chinchin villages, two "Mothers' Classrooms" and a health post were renovated and furnished. Community trainings on public health issues for mothers and young women were launched in the Mothers' Classrooms at the end of 2015.

To our generous
and loyal donors,
we thank you:

Dadourian Foundation

Sapah Gulian Foundation

Nazarian Family Foundation

United Armenian Fund, USA (UAF)

Dr. & Mrs. Gary & Mariann Zamanigian

BY THE NUMBERS

CME



10

years of
providing
Continuing
Medical
Education



626

doctors
provided
with
Continuing
Medical
Education*



680

doctors
reached
through
seminars,
symposiums
and trainings



35

local
physicians
and
nurses
participated
in CME
trainings†

BCPP AND CHILD POVERTY REDUCTION



300

kindergartners
received free
and balanced
nutritional
lunch daily



146

children
treated
for
parasites



74

women
treated
for
anemia



64

community
public health
trainings
with more
than 1,000
participants

*in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh since 2005 †in Yerevan and Training of Trainer courses in Berd

Education

EDUCATION

Many of FAR's scholarship students share the desire to make their country stronger. *Eighteen-year-old Ruzanna Yeghoyan* sees her future in politics. A public administration major at Yerevan State University, Ruzanna believes a career in public service is the best way to serve her country. Seeing that future a bit clearer is now possible as she was one of the 90 ambitious students chosen during 2015 to receive a Mathevonian Scholarship. All recipients come from low-income families who cannot afford higher education.

Even though she's only now just a freshman at school Ruzanna has already decided that she wants to eventually return to her home town of Yeghegnadzor in the Vayots Dzor Region and lead changes there. "I want to make at least a small contribution toward strengthening Armenia's statehood," she said.

Then there's Avetik Nersisyan, a native of the Tavush Region, who studies economics at Armenia's State Institute of Economics, also as a Mathevonian scholar. Last summer, he spent three weeks as a team leader at FAR's Aragats Camp, where he managed activities for a variety of age groups. His dream is to take his newfound skills once he finishes university and return to his home town. "It's difficult to attract people to Tavush Province," he said. "Many people want to move to the capital from their villages; others even want to go live abroad. But they seem to easily forget that those villages are their home. They are the places where their parents were born. I, for one, cannot live in Yerevan. Nature is closer to my heart."



FAR's **scholarship program** enables hundreds of young Armenians to attend universities and vocational training programs every year. By providing hope and opportunity for young Armenians to advance their knowledge and gain the tools they need to succeed, the majority go on to pursue careers that contribute to the growth and development of their country. FAR's scholarship program continually adapts and caters to populations most in need. This year, the Gulamerian Scholarship specifically targeted Syrian-Armenian refugees from single-parent households, providing scholarships to four promising individuals. Six Syrian-Armenians were included in the Mathevorian Scholarship Program and one received a Nishanian Foundation Scholarship. In addition, 2015 also saw the addition of the Michael Halajian and the Kevork Niksarli scholarships, both of which support students studying history and genocide studies.

FAR is a generous supporter of **school rehabilitations** throughout Armenia, as it brings these institutions closer to their full potential and capacity to propel students forward with their educations. During 2015, 14 schools and kindergartens were renovated in the Tavush Region through BCPP, ultimately benefitting more than 1,500 students and teachers. Projects also focused on improving the quality of sports and physical training areas, thus propelling students to be stronger, healthier citizens.

In addition, the Galoust Galo Educational Fund was launched during 2015 to specifically support the Octet School of Music, which FAR and several partners rebuilt and reopened in 2013. The Fund currently covers tuition for 50 Octet students from low-income families and funded the purchase of new resources, such as new instruments for students.

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, allowing these researchers to stay in their home country and further contribute to a knowledge-based economy. In 2015, ANSEF's research council awarded 30 scientific research groups made up of 108 individuals, grants of \$5,000 each to pursue their respective work in the areas of biology, physics, chemistry, biotechnology and astronomy, among others. Nineteen principal investigators of the winning groups were under the age of 35, and 15 of them women, an increase from 2014 and further indication of ANSEF's push to give greater support for diversity in the sciences.

To our generous and loyal donors, we thank you:

Dr. Aram Chobanian Family Foundation
Avanessians Family Foundation
Constantinople Armenian Relief Society (C.A.R.S.)
Dadourian Foundation
Harold & Josephine Gulamerian Foundation
Jerair Nishanian Foundation
SJS Charitable Trust
TF Educational Foundation
Galoust Galo Educational Fund
Mathevorian Foundation

Overall, FAR made higher education a reality for more than 380 disadvantaged and low-income youth during 2015. FAR's scholarships include:

Antranig Berberian Scholarship Program
Avedis & Arsho Baghsarian Scholarship Fund
Daughters of Vartan-Anahit Chapter Scholarship Program
Emil Artin Jr. Mathematics Fund
Ester Ajemian Scholarship Program
Garabed & Armine Zambak Scholarship Fund
Gulamerian Vocational Training Program
Harry & Suzanne Toufayan Scholarship Program
Jerair Nishanian Foundation Scholarship Program
Kevork & Alvina Niksarli Scholarship Program
Mardigian Scholarship Program
Mathevorian Scholarship Fund
Michael & Hilda Halajian Scholarship Program
Sayan Scholarship Fund
SJS Scholarship Program
Thomas & Dora Verne Garabedian Scholarship Program

BY THE NUMBERS

RENOVATIONS



1,500

children and teachers positively benefitted from school improvements

SCHOLARSHIPS



380

scholarships given to disadvantaged youth during the 2015-2016 academic year



95%

employment rate of FAR Scholarship Program graduates*



60%

employment rate of students who completed vocational training

ANSEF



30

scientific research groups received ANSEF grants (in 2015)

*studied at higher educational institutions

Economic Dev

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

During its third year the *Breaking the Cycle of Poverty Program (BCPP)* continued to touch the lives of the people of the Tavush Region in diverse ways. In the wine region of Berd, FAR worked with local vineyard owners in four different villages to form cooperatives. Uniting their efforts, farmers received four tractors, which enables them to increase vineyard productivity. They also financed 25% of the equipment themselves.

"These grapes are money," said Avag Arzumanyan, an owner of two vineyards who considers it to be lucrative to be involved in agriculture in Armenia. "It is as profitable as if I was working in Russia."

There's also Arman Ghukasyan, who was previously in Russia for work himself until he lost his job and had to return home to Tavush. His mother Manush was one of the first to receive a greenhouse through BCPP, which she has diligently maintained. Arman had never been interested in agriculture yet upon his return home he suddenly found himself immersed in its care, learning new cultivation techniques and installing a new irrigation method. As someone who has dealt with addiction and emotional problems, Arman has found a passion, a new creative outlet for his energy, and an additional source of income, right at home.



The year 2015 marked one decade of catalyzing transformative, positive change for **Gyumri Information Technology Center (GTech)**. What was started as a way to give Armenians the opportunity to gain valuable training needed to compete for more prestigious IT jobs has become a brand-name institution and a tool of economic force and revival, which has drawn greater business attention to the region. More than 25 IT companies have opened branches in Gyumri since GTech started, and the Armenian government even launched the Gyumri Technology Center in 2014, further contributing to economic growth.

The number of GTech's highly-qualified workforce of software engineers who work at Armenian IT companies continued to increase. GTech's educational programs continued to diversify, thus offering greater opportunities for a broader audience which, in addition to the main academic curriculum, includes preparatory summer courses, evening courses, short-term custom tailored training on selective topics, and basics of IT literacy for teens.

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty: Developing Thriving Communities (BCPP) entered the third year of its five-year comprehensive approach to reduce the effects of poverty in the Tavush Region, one of Armenia's poorest. Local BCPP team members closely assisted beneficiary families by addressing their specific needs in a comprehensive way through individually tailored plans designed to help each family

become more self-sufficient in the long-term through improved access to education, better nutrition, child protection, healthcare or other significant resources.

Progress continued at a rapid pace during 2015 as BCPP's implementation expanded from eight to 11 villages. Support for alternative agriculture, land and infrastructure rehabilitation and cultivation, community action, health and education, all served to contribute to the program's vision of poverty reduction, income generation and increased self-sufficiency. 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 Province to break the devastating cycle of poverty by addressing its core.

Fourteen schools were improved through renovation and refurbishment of their classrooms, sports fields, and water pipelines. In some areas, attendance rates increased immediately following completion. Vineyard owners successfully formed eight cooperatives through which they were supported through the provision of partially self-funded sprinklers and plows. And renovation and expansion of 70 hectares of the local irrigation system now enables farmers to regularly water their crops with ease. BCPP also supported local efforts to improve access for household drinking water, in addition to renovation of a 3.5 km road, which gave the remote village of Itsaqar better access to pastures for their livestock.

To our generous
and loyal donors,
we thank you:

Harry & Suzanne Toufayan Family Foundation

James & Marta Batmasian Family Foundation

Mr. & Mrs. Greg & Meline Toufayan

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis & Linda Tarzian

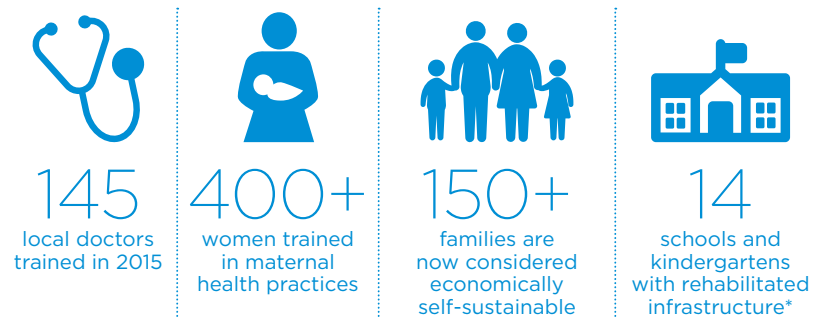
Dadourian Foundation

Mardigian Foundation

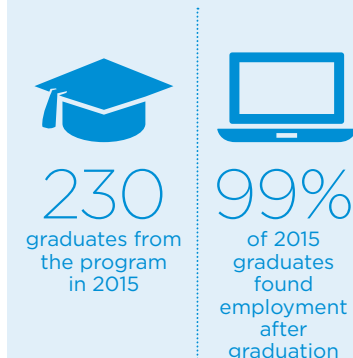
SJS Charitable Trust

BY THE NUMBERS

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF POVERTY



GTECH



*created more favorable and safe learning environments for about 1,500 children

Ayo!

AYO!

10-year-old Gayane Adamyan says that from where she's from going to school everyday takes some courage. In her tiny village of Ayegpar which sits along the Tavush Region's border with Azerbaijan, cross-border shooting is a regular occurrence, and Aygepar's school and the road leading to it likely targets. "We would never walk around there as a group," said Gayane. "Or if we did, we would just quickly run. After school we used to play football in the yard, however it would always get stopped once the shootings started."

"We would run and go hide in the basement of the building." Ayo!'s efforts to raise money to build a protective wall around the area culminated in its construction over the summer. It has already succeeded in stopping several bullets, which are now lodged in the cinder block. It means children like Gayane and her classmates can live normal lives with a greater sense of protection as opposed to fear. "It was the most urgent and the necessary thing for our village. Today, the most dangerous road leading to school is not dangerous anymore. The protective wall that has been built is saving us. The fear and anxiety we had before is now gone."



Ayo! successfully completed its second full year of raising funds for local development projects exclusively proposed by Armenians for Armenians. Designed as a vehicle to engage and empower young people who wish to take change into their own hands and give agency to those who seek to contribute, Ayo! invests in transformative ideas by raising money for them through crowdfunding.

Potential supporters can find all practical information and make an informed decision

come directly from donors in Armenia. During 2015, Ayo! plowed ahead, successfully implementing five projects and launching several ongoing campaigns.

More than \$21,000 and a generous in-kind donation provided six defibrillators for hospitals and ambulances in Tavush Province. Another \$4,800 was raised to launch Siramark, an Internet-based platform database geared to draw clientele to newly opened Syrian-Armenian businesses in Yerevan. The Gavar Special School

which promotes healing and creative expression through photography, will eventually bring the children's nature photos to the bleak wards of Armenian hospitals where they will provide an additional source of hope and calm to patients.

Finally, Ayo!'s successful 2014 campaign to raise enough money to build a protective wall in front of the Aygepar Village Kindergarten in the Tavush Region, culminated in its construction during the spring of 2015. Now, children have additional protection

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

about how to donate through Ayo!'s website, www.weareayo.org and ultimately engage in creating local change in Armenia. All projects are initiated and introduced by young Armenians. Once funds are raised, FAR works with its local partners to execute those projects transparently and to the highest standards.

Since its start in 2013, Ayo! has raised a total of about \$90,000, more than \$15,500 of which has

in Gegharkunik, which serves 60 Armenian children with physical disabilities, received its new elevator during 2015. Now, children can move freely around the school on their own.

The first phase of the Changing Landscapes project was launched when two supporters led a 10-day photography workshop in Armenia over the summer with children from the FAR Children's Center. The project,

from cross-border gunfire in this little town that sits just meters from the border with Azerbaijan.

Potential supporters can find all practical information and make an informed decision about how to donate through Ayo!'s website, *weareayo.org*

BY THE NUMBERS



\$90K

raised to support local projects in Armenia, including \$15,000 from Armenians



6

hospitals and ambulances received defibrillators for the first time



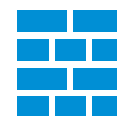
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raised to support Syrian-Armenian online business platform



60

disabled children have greater mobility with a new elevator



300

children protected from gunfire with the completion of a protection wall

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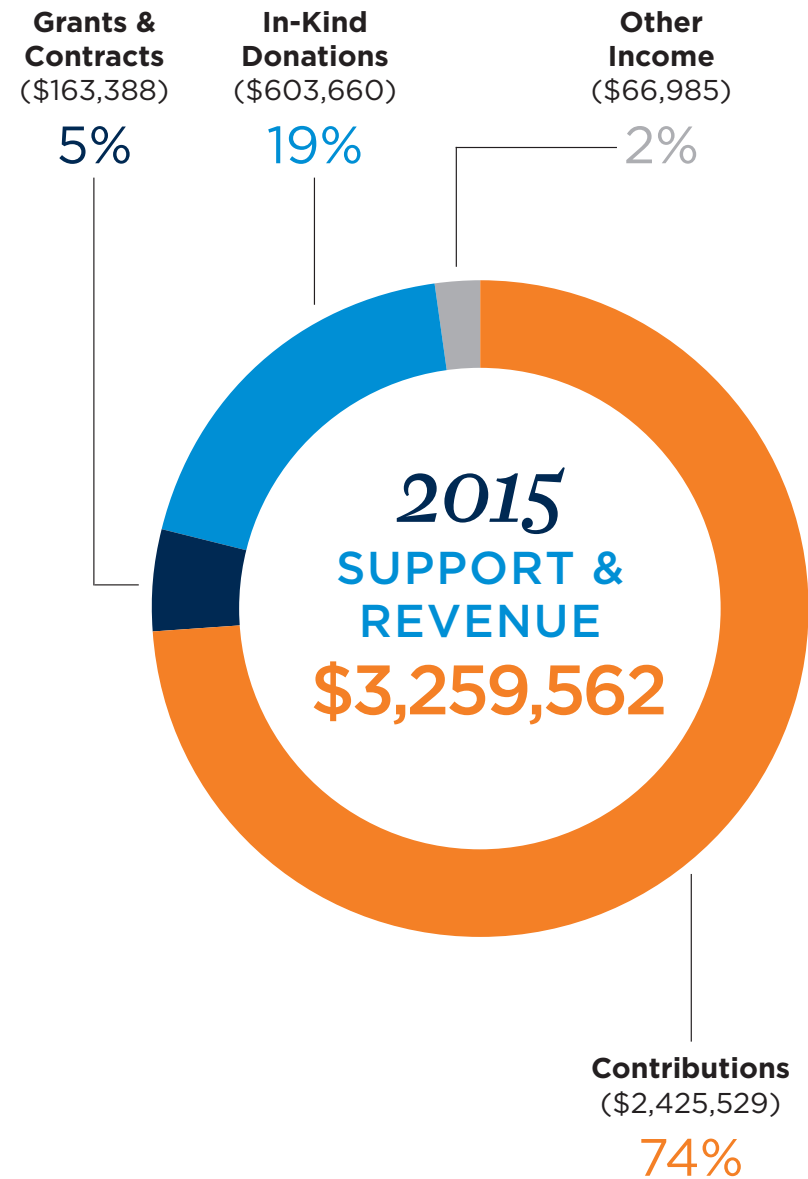
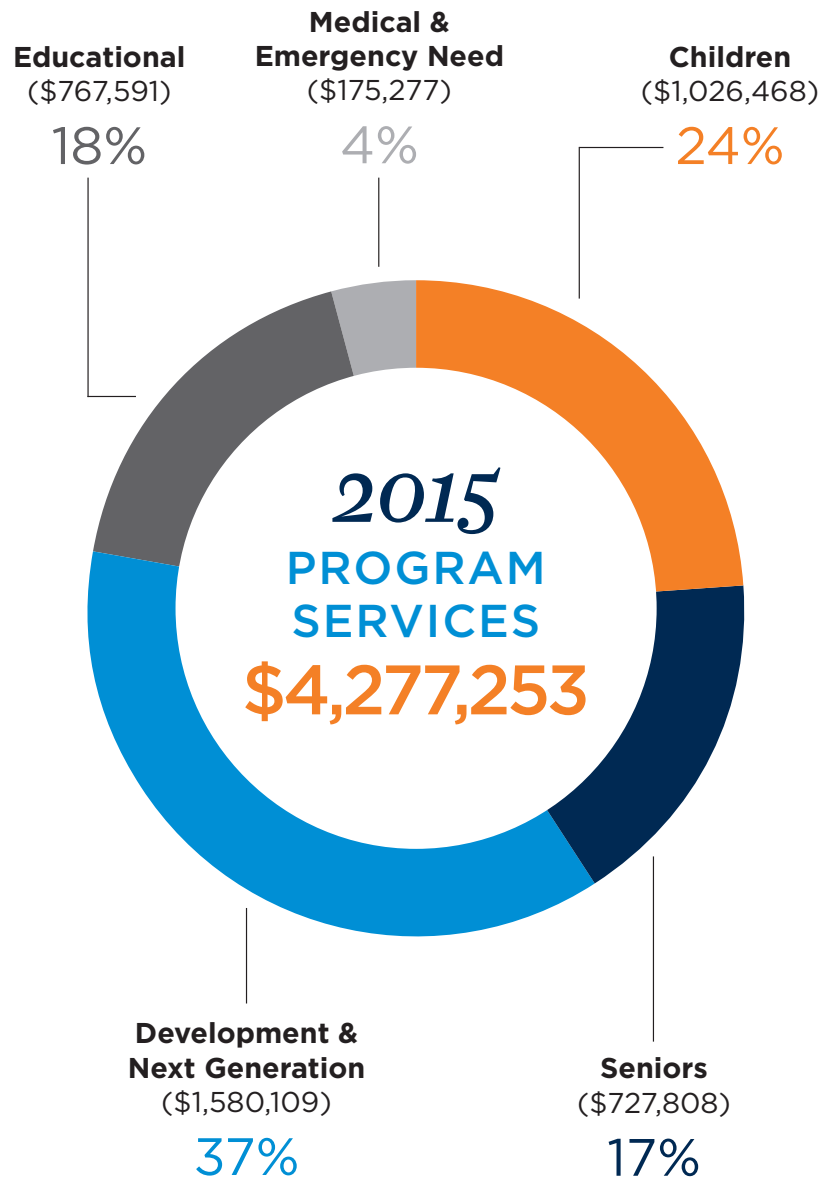
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The financial Statements of the Fund for Armenian Relief, Inc. for the year ending December 31, 2015, have been audited by the accounting firm of WithumSmith+Brown. The independent auditors issued an “unqualified opinion” that FAR statements conform 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.

Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,966,251
Investments	\$3,546,228
Contributions and pledges receivable	\$2,234,816
Prepaid expenses	\$140,494
Property and equipment, net	\$1,409,608
Beneficial Interest in funds held by others	\$1,581,710
Pooled investments held by ACEF	\$3,067,713
Total Assets:	\$13,946,820





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