

2016 Annual Report

Honor THE PAST | Empower THE PRESENT | Ensure THE FUTURE



▶ READ MORE ABOUT ANDRANIK'S STORY ON PAGE 2

About FAR

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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 290 relief, social, educational and cultural projects valued at over \$300 million.

“Our experience with FAR has been excellent. FAR has helped us visit project sites, introduced us to the personnel responsible, sent us periodic updates with photos of the work in progress, and taken us to see the finished product. This has guaranteed transparency and established a friendly relationship based on trust.”

—MURIEL MIRAK-WEISSBACH OF THE WEISSBACH FOUNDATION

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN ▼

Dear Friends,

Bearing witness can make all the difference in the world. It can capture our hearts. It can open up our minds. It can compel us to act.

During 2016, we had dozens come to Armenia to observe the work that we do. Many, like the members of our Board of Directors who visited as a group in September, were longtime friends. Others were completely new to FAR. Each of these visits was equally important.

The visitors we had this past year came to Armenia for various reasons, and whether those reasons were purely philanthropic or personal, most of them came away deeply touched by their experiences and greatly impressed by our work.

Through their own actions each of them was able to support and take part in that work, which ultimately broadened their experience, and deepened their feelings and connection to Armenia. In turn, they enriched our programs with their agency. This is what made their visits so valuable. Some served food to the hungry at our soup kitchens while others connected with the vulnerable children at the FAR Children's

Center. Whatever it was that touched them the most, FAR was the vehicle that made it happen.

There is so much that we in the diaspora can do to help Armenia, and there is so much willingness from within the diaspora to make a difference. For nearly 30 years FAR has been the bridge through which we have worked to build our vision for a stronger Armenia. We are so fortunate to have supporters whose generosity, dedication, and actions serve to strengthen our mission.

Whether or not you visited Armenia with us during 2016, we thank you for your active support in our mission. You are a part of this great family, and as such part of what makes our work matter so much.

Abp. K. Barsamian

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, President

Randy Sapah-Gulian

Randy Sapah-Gulian, Chairman

“FAR truly provides a vital link between us Armenians in the diaspora and our brothers and sisters in Armenia. This fact was evident during our pilgrimage to Armenia. Our pilgrims were able to experience Armenia for everything that Armenia is, including not only the beautiful churches, rich history, and delicious food, but also the emotional journey of connecting with our homeland and its people. Visiting many FAR projects allowed our pilgrims to gain a stronger understanding of the realities facing today's Armenia, as well as the passions, struggles, and motivations of its people. This was a vital element and would not have been possible without our partnership with FAR.”

—ARAM CIAMICIAN, HOLY MARTYR'S CHURCH PILGRIMAGE TO ARMENIA 2016 PARTICIPANT

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Economic Development

Andranik Khachatryan, 34, has been serving his country at the border in the Tavush region for 10 years. Although Andranik chose to uphold his country's dignity, his meager earnings from the army were not enough to ensure the dignity of his own family.

He and his wife Alvina, 29, together head a family of 11 in a two-room house. They were stretched to the absolute limit, and were lacking basic necessities such as reliable plumbing and sustainable food options. "Although my husband had a job, we could hardly make ends meet, and I recollect times when I would go to the village store and borrow meat and dairy," Alvina says.

Andranik and Alvina were able to start a new trend through the Breaking the Cycle of Poverty Program (BCPP). They received livestock, which increased their monthly income and allowed them to renovate their bathroom and plumbing to supply hot water. "Maybe for many people a hen or a pig is just a livestock, however for us, it's a sustainable resource that has changed our life."

Alvina was also able to receive tools that allowed her to start a hairdressing business from home. "Thanks to FAR, I got the tools and now, I earn some extra money," Alvina reflects.

Gyumri Information Technology Center (GTech) continued to transform the economic landscape of the Shirak Region, and Armenia's IT industry as a whole, during 2016. In addition to giving Armenians the opportunity to gain IT skills, GTech continues to play an influential role in both professional and business development and continues to gain more exposure abroad. Participation in

the *Armenia: IT Forum Convention* in Mountain View, California, in June increased visibility.

In addition to conducting its two-year program from which 20 graduated in 2016, GTech has also become more involved in several initiatives that bring opportunity for professional development and IT education to the greater region. *Trainings for Gyumri and Vanadzor Technology Centers Program*, for which FAR was the lead implementing organization, enabled 630 young people to take part in free mobile, web, and computer engineering courses. After completing the year-long program, many were able to move on to internships at IT companies. The program also encouraged several IT companies like



Synergy Armenia and Volo IT to create branches in Gyumri. Beginner-level training classes in web programming were also offered to 60 teenagers in Shirak and Lori provinces for the third year in row. GTech also continued the FFPMC Project, which enabled 215 people to be trained as IT specialists.

The school also increased its activities through the initiation of *Tech Fridays*, which brought representatives in Armenia's IT sphere to GTech to speak. In addition, GTech began holding Q&A sessions with alumni.

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty: Developing Thriving Communities (BCPP), FAR's multi-faceted and comprehensive project to reduce the effects of poverty in Tavush Province entered its fourth year in 2016. The program aims to address poverty at its roots and break its cycle that has become endemic in parts of Armenia. Through their individually tailored plans, families are able to mitigate the crippling effects of poverty and become more self-sufficient in the long-run through improved access to education, housing, better nutrition and healthcare, job and income generation activities, and other significant resources. In addition, BCPP aims to help strengthen overall economic activity, infrastructure, healthcare and education in now 18 villages and towns in the

Berd Region of Tavush. Six new villages were added to the program in 2016. Support for alternative agriculture, land and infrastructure rehabilitation and cultivation, community engagement, health, and education all contribute to the program's vision.

Support packages have already shown a reduction in poverty amongst families. One hundred six new families joined BCPP in 2016 and received individual assistance plans.

Construction and rehabilitation of drinking water systems started in five communities, which will allow 4,000 people to access potable water in their homes by the time work is completed in June 2017. Four new agricultural cooperatives were established, in addition to the already existing 12, each provided with much needed supplies like tractors and plows that resulted in the revitalization of 440 hectares of land.

The **One Village: Empowering Zangakatun to Development**, which closed in 2016, brought many positive changes in terms of sustainability, infrastructure, healthcare and education to 1,200 residents in Ararat Province, including renovation of the town's entire irrigation system, establishment of new farming cooperatives, and an improved ambulatory system.



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AND LOYAL DONORS
WE THANK YOU:

Greg & Meline Toufayan

*Harry & Suzanne Toufayan
Foundation*

Howard & Catherine Atesian

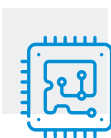
Mardigian Foundation



BY THE NUMBERS



12
years serving
Gyumri



845
students trained as
IT specialists through
additional initiatives



100%
employment rate
for 2016 graduates



5
villages to
have access to
potable water



15
schools and
kindergartens
rehabilitated



45
children served
through new
Children's Center



100
families considered
economically
self-sustainable*

*For 2016 alone



Child Protection

Five-year-old Jivan found shelter at the FAR Children's Center about one year ago. Police discovered Jivan when he was begging in the streets with his mother, and immediately brought him to the Center.

His mother visited him in the days following, along with many others who would introduce themselves as his "relatives," but Jivan showed no emotion, even when his mother tried to persuade him to come back to her. Instead, he became further withdrawn, tense, and restless when staff interacted with him. In addition, he lacked social connection and had difficulty playing with other kids. He could not properly express his needs, spoke very little, and showed very low cognitive activity. Yet, after nine months of intensive psychosocial work with experts at the Center Jivan's personality seemed to shift.

Today, Jivan is cheerful and lively. He initiates games and plays freely with other children. His communication and verbal skills have improved and he's become a fully engaged member of the Center's social life. With luck and permission from his mother, Jivan will soon be placed into one of 50 loving foster homes that have recently been trained by the Children's Center newly revitalized and pioneering Foster Care Program.

Sixteen years after its opening, the **FAR Children's Center** remains the only facility of its kind in the country. Its competent team of professionals continues to transform the lives of children and youth by performing crisis intervention and critical short-term rehabilitation to those who are victims of some of the most horrible predicaments, including abuse, abandonment, and neglect, and behavioral, emotional, and psychological problems. The Center has helped more than 10,000 children since it opened, handling 1,375 cases during 2016 alone.

A full-service facility, the Center offers access to shelter, medical care, counseling, and legal assistance for the most vulnerable. In addition, it offers children many sources of educational and psychosocial support.

The Center's Juvenile Justice Program, which is implemented through rehabilitation centers in the Kotayk Region, has helped adolescents in conflict with the law to receive recovery and rehabilitation. Six years since its start, not a single repeat violation has been registered among participants.

The Center is also an integral player in the government's quest to strengthen its child protection services through preventative intervention, capacity building initiatives, and the development of the national foster care system. The system has enabled 25 children



to be in the care of loving foster families since 2006 and is expected to expand so that even more children receive placements during 2017.

Now in its fourth year of operation, the **Child Poverty Reduction Program** made an incredible difference during 2016 for 50 new families in the Ararat Region by catalyzing access to previously unaffordable, yet life-altering healthcare, skills training, monetary assistance, or any other resources needed to realize their individually-tailored sustainable living plans aimed to move them out of extreme poverty. This, supplemented by the support they and 100 existing beneficiary families receive, has enabled many to also start entrepreneurial activities, leading them on a path toward greater self-sufficiency.

Child protection remains a core focus of the **Breaking the Cycle of Poverty Program (BCPP)** and in 2016 a new children's center was established in Tavush Province. The center helped 45 children in conflict with the law through the provision of direct services, including psychological assistance, art therapy, and special hobby groups.

The **Children of Armenia Sponsorship Program (CASP)** provides supplemental financial support to orphans and the children of single-mothers in low-income households until they turn 18. CASP financial stipends enable families to afford the things that improve their quality of life, including food, fuel, and clothing. One round of stipend distributions to 967 children in the regions of Shirak, Tavush, Syunik, and Javakhk, Georgia, were carried out during 2016. An additional 69 children of 29 fallen servicemen from April's Four-Day conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh were awarded stipends, which they will continue to receive.

The annual **FAR Summer Camp** held in Kotayk Province gave 126 orphaned kids and children from low-income, single parent households, along with Syrian-Armenian refugees, the opportunity to enjoy nearly three weeks of activities, including music, dancing, sports, and hiking. The experience provided an opportunity for children to immerse themselves in a new environment, to connect with learning opportunities, and forge new friendships.



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AND LOYAL DONORS
WE THANK YOU:

Ajemian Foundation

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Dadourian Foundation

*Department of Youth & Education—
Sunday Schools*

Friends of Gavar Special School

Hamparian Family Foundation

*Harold & Josephine Gulamerian
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Knights and Daughters of Vartan

Kristine Toufayan Casali

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Paul & Sonya Karakashian

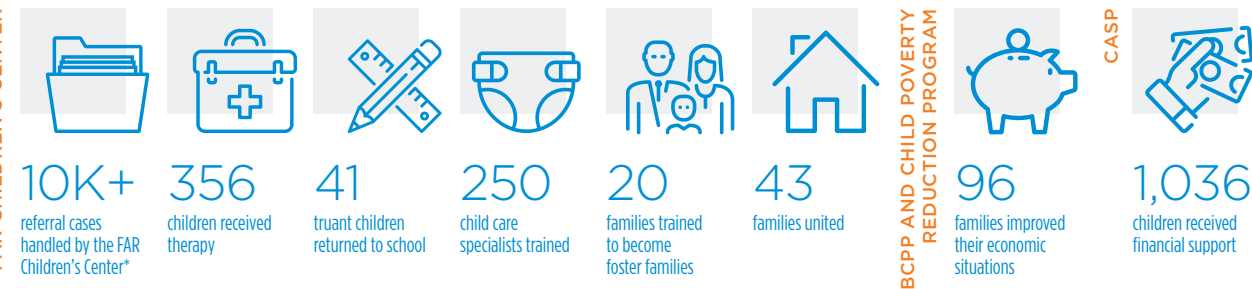
*Peter David & Myrna
Sarrafian Onanian*

Sapah-Gulian Foundation

SJS Charitable Trust

Women's Guild Central Council-CASP

BY THE NUMBERS



*Since the Center opened in 2000

Social Services

For the past 15 years, Amalya Manukyan, 52, has visited FAR's Yerevan Soup Kitchen with her husband and two sons, and now with her daughter-in-law and grandchildren.

Amalya is no stranger to a difficult life. Her husband has struggled with alcoholism, and five years ago her elder son Artur was in a car accident which left him nearly blind and unable to work. The entire family scrapes by in their one-room apartment with Artur's monthly \$50 poverty subsidy and Amalya's monthly \$60 working as a cleaner. 18-year-old Gurgen, Amalya's younger son, tries to help by working odd jobs when he's not studying at the State Trade Industrial College,

which he is able to attend only because his tuition is state sponsored. In addition to severe anxiety, Gurgen suffers from a bone deformity that requires surgery only available in Europe — an expense the family is unable to afford. While the Manukyans struggle to overcome their many challenges, they are able to receive their main nutritious meals at the soup kitchen each week. "We lack money nearly all of the time and that's why the soup kitchen is a great help for my family," Amalya said.



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 for 800 individuals in Yerevan, Nor Hajn, Berd, Gyumri, and Byureghavan, some of the towns that have been hardest hit by economic decay. Many of those who come to the soup kitchens rely on them year after year. Often elderly, they have had to cope with the dissolution of work opportunities following the fall of the Soviet Union, from which they have never been able to rebound. Others have had to cope with the onset of health problems or disabilities that have prevented them from working or leading a normal life. These setbacks often plunge them deeper into the debilitating hardships of poverty. For them, FAR's soup kitchens are often a lifeline. In addition to offering what is for most their healthiest and most balanced meal of the day, the kitchens also offer a sense of community where they can find solace in the presence of others. In-kind donations, like winter clothing, hygiene supplies, and vouchers for public baths, are also given throughout the year. In 2016, beneficiaries received TOM's shoes, winter boots, and clothing, among other items.

The **Vanadzor Old Age Home (VOAH)** provides a loving home to 55 low-income elderly Armenians, access to support for all of their physical and psychological needs, and medical care. Through the provision of a nurturing and loving environment, residents can easily find their niche in this community and make it their own.

FAR also provides **supplemental support to those who seek help at the Atinizian Senior Center** through the Gyumri soup kitchen, and by providing access to public baths for those who do not have the means for keeping up with their hygiene.

In 2016, FAR also worked closely with its partners **to provide support to the Syrian-Armenian refugee community** through the distribution of winter hats, clothing, bags, and hygiene supplies to 88 children.

At the close of the year, FAR also **provided supplemental food packages** to 60 extremely needy families who are beneficiaries of FAR's scholarship programs, CASP, and the FAR Children's Center to help them offset the costs of food during winter's harshest months.

BY THE NUMBERS



800

beneficiaries provided with hot and nutritious meals*



55

senior citizens led a comfortable, healthy life



170

senior citizens provided with vouchers to use public bathing facilities



88

Syrian-Armenian refugee children received clothing and hygiene items



60

needy families provided with supplementary food basket items

*Five days a week, year-round at FAR's five soup kitchens

TO OUR GENEROUS AND LOYAL DONORS WE THANK YOU:

Ararat & Sonya Hacet Foundation

Armenia Artsakh Fund (AAF)

Bay Area Friends of Armenia

Berge Sarkissian

Dadourian Foundation

Diane Zanazanian†

Edward & Jayne Pompeian

James Kalustian Family Fund

Kevork & Sirvart Karamanuk Foundation

Levon & Selma Margosian

Mardigian Foundation

Nazarian Family Foundation

Nishan & Margarit Atinizian Family Foundation

SJS Charitable Trust

Healthcare

Larisa, 67, is a tuberculosis specialist with 40 years of experience in Gyumri. In 2016, she was one of 10 physicians selected to be trained by FAR's Continuing Medical Education Program (CME).

"I learned the latest news about drug-resistant tuberculosis and how to fight it. I learned new ways of conducting and analyzing X-rays," said Larisa. She's also been able to participate in computer classes through CME, which have enabled her to start to shift towards electronic records for her own patients.

In addition to her medical knowledge and experience, the digital skills that Larisa gained through CME allow her to treat those suffering from tuberculosis in a much more efficient way. One such patient is 58-year-old Andranik Hakobyan, who contracted tuberculosis while working in Russia. Like many from his native Gyumri, Andranik traveled there in the early 1990s to find seasonal work when faced with the deteriorating social conditions that resulted from the 1988 earthquake. It is in Russia that he contracted tuberculosis, which has not responded to any of his numerous treatments throughout the years. Because of Larisa's efforts, his treatment course has been much more effective.

The **Continuing Medical Education Program (CME)** provides Armenian doctors and healthcare professionals with the means to acquire crucial professional development to hone their skills, update their practices and tap into a network of global healthcare providers. CME was developed to fill the gaps in healthcare leftover from the fall of the Soviet Union, which still remain

prevalent even decades later, particularly in Armenia's rural areas. Many of Armenia's doctors still do not have access to the latest resources in medicine and often use outdated methods. Since it started in 2005, CME has enabled 765 medical professionals to receive training. In 2016 alone, 101 professionals participated in CME, including 17 from Nagorno-Karabakh.

In 2016, CME organized and facilitated workshops and conferences held in partnership with local professional organizations, thus catalyzing coordination between major players and stakeholders in the healthcare field. One particularly notable event was the Second Annual Nutritional Conference, organized with the help of Columbia University, which highlighted the lack of micronutrients in



Armenia's population and their link to the country's overall health problems and economic stability.

The Wound Care Project, a joint effort between Armenian and Armenian-American physicians, was also launched after April's Four-Day Karabakh War, which highlighted a need for improved care in this area as medical staff were unable to treat the influx of the injured. Modern equipment was acquired for eight medical institutions in Armenia and Karabakh, and supplies were also delivered to regions of Nagorno-Karabakh following the conflict.

FAR also supports the **National Medical Library (NML)** in Yerevan, which offers medical professionals access to the latest publications and technologies in the field. The library also enables CME participants to come to mentoring events and computer trainings free of charge. FAR provided new computer equipment to the library during 2016.

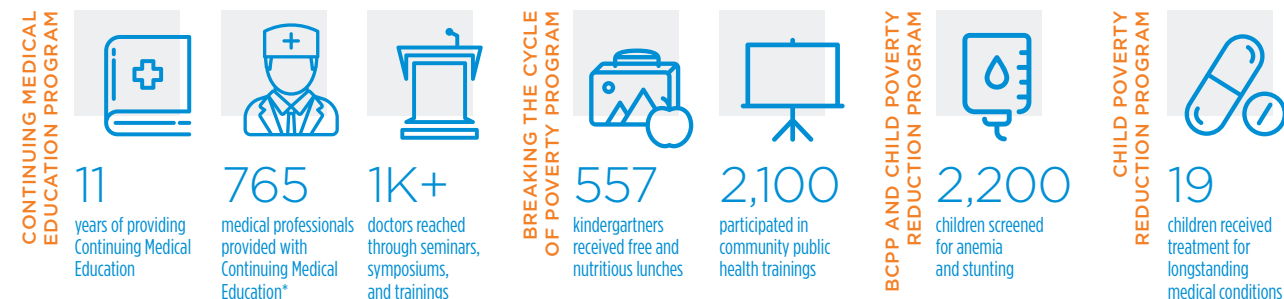
FAR's multi-faceted **Breaking the Cycle of Poverty Program (BCPP)** also greatly impacts the public



health of those in the Berd Region of Tavush Province through its **child health and malnutrition component**. In 2016, FAR provided free and nutritious meals at 14 kindergartens in the region, benefitting 557 children. In addition, children and women received a number of healthcare screenings, including 1,200 children who were tested and treated for anemia and stunting. Trainings for community members and local healthcare providers were also held on topics like family and maternal health, childhood nutrition, and pediatric infectious diseases. In addition, 14 medical clinics received supplies and equipment.

Through family stabilization the **Child Poverty Reduction Program** also aims to fight childhood malnutrition in the Ararat Region. During 2016, screenings for anemia were conducted for 1,000 children and identified cases treated. In addition, the project assisted 19 children with pressing untreated medical conditions to access proper diagnosis and treatment.

BY THE NUMBERS



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Nazarian Family Foundation

Education

Vehanush has defied the odds stacked against her by using education as the tool to propel herself forward. In 2003, Vehanush was awarded FAR's Mathevosian Scholarship that enabled her to attend university during a very trying time for her family.

"My father was unemployed and my mother could hardly care for us on her low salary as a chemistry teacher back then. I would never have been able to study if not for FAR," she said. The scholarship allowed her to study at Yerevan State University's (YSU) Faculty of Economics and Management where she received her bachelor's degree in 2007. In 2016, she received her PhD in economics. Vehanush was also recently awarded one of FAR's Armenian National Science and Education Fund (ANSEF) grants for her research on the structural changes of the energy market.

Vehanush was an active scholarship student. She was involved in many public and social projects at YSU, and also volunteered to help many of FAR's projects, including the Vanadzor Old Age Home and soup kitchens. She even managed to pursue her passion for the cello, and continued to excel in her studies throughout. Today, Dr. Marukhyan is a lecturer at the Department of Mathematical Modeling in Economics at the Faculty of Economics and Management at YSU.

FAR's **scholarship programs** and the **Gulamerian Vocational Training Program** give young Armenians the opportunity to attend universities and vocational training programs they otherwise would not have. For many from poorer families the dream of a degree or a certain career path are simply out of reach. Yet when given the chance,

these young people can contribute greatly to the growth and development of their country, while also improving their own quality of life. In the 2016-2017 academic year, FAR's 13 scholarship programs supported a total of 460 students who attended university and vocational training in journalism, political science, biology, chemistry, mathematics, social work, culinary arts, carpentry, and electrical engineering, among other fields. Graduates of FAR's scholarship programs during 2016 had an 85 percent employment rate. Sixty percent of those who embark on vocational training programs with FAR's help also found work. In addition, to adapt to the growing impact of the Syrian crisis, 30 scholarships were given to Syrian-Armenian students from disadvantaged families so they could pursue their educations.



Photo by Robert Kent



FAR's support for **school rehabilitation** helps to bring many of Armenia's diverse learning environments closer to their full potential, making them safer and more effective places for students to obtain their educations. In 2016, FAR helped to rehabilitate and refurbish 12 schools and three kindergartens through its Breaking the Cycle of Poverty Project in Armenia's Tavush Region, one of the nation's poorest.

Since 2008, FAR has also partnered with the **Friends of Gavar Special School (GSS)**, a committee dedicated to supporting GSS, which serves children with physical disabilities in the Gegharkunik Region. They were especially active in 2016, renovating the school's roof, five of its dorm rooms, its kitchen, and cafeteria. They also made it possible for the school to purchase new equipment for its dining areas, new water tanks, washing machines, and ceramic flooring. FAR also supported GSS through the renovation of the school's psychotherapy classroom.

In addition, FAR carried on the now ten-year tradition of helping the **Daniel Varuzhan School** in Yerevan, which enabled the school to renovate its concert hall and gymnasium during 2016. The roof

was partially renovated for the Anush Mathevosian School in Vanadzor, and the gym renovated and equipped with supplies at the Yervandashat Secondary School in Armavir Province.

As part of its ongoing support for victims of the Syrian crisis, FAR also launched a **tutoring program for Syrian-Armenians** at four different middle schools. A total of 70 students participated in the program, which focuses primarily upon math and science, and also helps them to integrate into their local environment.

The **Armenian National Science and Education Fund (ANSEF)** enables scientists and researchers to pursue their cutting-edge research at home in Armenia, ultimately helping them to promote social and economic growth by further contributing to the knowledge-based economy. In 2016, FAR awarded 32 scientific research groups made up of 100 scientists with ANSEF grants. The program has made great efforts in recent years to diversify the scientists it supports, and 2016 was no exception. Eighteen of the lead researchers were under age 35 and 13 of them women.

BY THE NUMBERS

SCHOLARSHIPS



460

scholarships given to disadvantaged youth during the 2016-2017 academic year



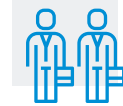
30

scholarships given to Syrian-Armenian students from disadvantaged families



85%

employment rate for FAR scholarship program graduates*



60%

employment rate for those who completed vocational training programs

SCHOOL REHABILITATION



3,853

children and teachers benefitted from school rehabilitations

ANSEF



32

scientific groups received support for their research from ANSEF grants

*Those who studied at university

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AND LOYAL DONORS
WE THANK YOU:

Antranig Berberian

Ara & Pontish Yeramyan

Arsen Tashjian

Avanessians Family Foundation

*Avedis & Arsho Baghsarian
Scholarship Fund*

*Constantinople Armenian Relief
Society (C.A.R.S.)*

Dadourian Foundation

Dennis & Linda Tarzian

*Dr. Aram V. Chobanian
Family Foundation*

Galoust Galo Educational Fund

Greg & Meline Toufayan

*Harold & Josephine Gulamerian
Foundation*

*James & Marta Batmasian
Family Foundation*

Jerair Nishanian Foudation

Mardigian Foundation

Margaret Ajemian Abnert

Mathevosian Foundation

SJS Charitable Trust

TF Educational Foundation

Ayo!

Twelve-year-old Spartak participated in Ayo!'s Changing Landscapes project that provided him a creative outlet as a restorative and healing tool.

He was one of many vulnerable children from the FAR Children's Center who benefited from the project's photography training component. Spartak learned to express himself through art, producing photographs that would eventually be hung in hospitals – to extend the healing power of art to patients, their families, and staff. Previously uninterested in photography, Spartak now tries to take pictures every chance he gets and spends hours creating videos with his brother Mikayel, 13. He has even volunteered himself to be the Center's "unofficial" photographer and videographer! Center staff say that Spartak's newfound art form has broadened his horizons. He now seems happier

and more at ease with people, and has become a swift problem-solver in all aspects of life.

Hakob, also 12, had always wanted to play clarinet but his family wasn't able to get the money together to purchase his own. As a student at the Anahit Tsitsikyan Music School in Yerevan, Hakob was able to realize his dream after Ayo!'s Music School project raised enough money to purchase a supply of woodwind instruments for the school. He's since started taking lessons and practicing around the clock. He's already preparing for his first competition in early May, where he will perform in front of a large audience for the very first time.



Photos of Spartak by Armen Amnaghikyan



FAR's crowdfunding platform Ayo! emphasizes the power and agency of the Armenian people and their ability to make positive changes in their society by providing a vehicle to raise money for local development projects. Ayo! was designed 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!'s website www.weareayo.org provides a platform through which potential supporters can find all information about any number of current projects, choose a project that speaks to them, and directly choose to contribute, thus becoming part of a global community that is working toward positive change in the country. Projects span a number of sectors, and have promoted public health, education, art, and local business development through the provision of resources, awareness raising, and partnership. Each of them have been 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. In its most successful

year since inception, Ayo! raised \$50,373 in 2016. Ayo! celebrated the start of its third year with a renewed pledge to receive coverage for its operational costs from James and Marta Batmasian, thus allowing all funds raised through crowdfunding initiatives both globally and on the ground in Armenia to continue to go directly to its local projects.

In 2016, Ayo! completed fundraising efforts needed to make its **Hippotherapy** project a reality for the children of the Kharberd Orphanage. As a home for 300 children with various physical and mental disabilities, the orphanage runs a hippotherapy program with its five horses specially trained to provide therapy for children. The Ayo! project is funding the construction of a larger carriage through which therapists can help several children simultaneously during sessions, instead of one at a time.

All fundraising was completed for the **Changing Landscapes** project, which has brought art therapy to both the young participants at the

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

FAR Children's Center and patients at numerous hospitals around Yerevan.

Within 10 days, funds for the **Breathe Freely** project were raised, thanks to a FAR Board member. A public health awareness campaign, Breathe Freely will combat the extreme prevalence of smoking in Armenia through anti-smoking murals.

The **Gifts to Schoolchildren** project brought 600 needy children in Nagorno-Karabakh gifts in time for Armenian Christmas and New Year from their counterparts at six different Yerevan schools. Not only did the children learn there were those who cared for them and the value of giving, but they also started a worthwhile exchange.

The **Children's Playground** project enabled the construction of a new, public playground to Berd City in Tavush Province that now provides all of the town's 700 children with a free and open place to play. A \$350 surplus raised through this project also enabled Ayo! to distribute food to 20 recently relocated Syrian-Armenian families.

Students at the Anahit Tsitsikyan **Music School** are now able to study clarinet, flutes and the trumpet thanks to the new instruments purchased through the funds raised through Ayo!'s Music School project.

Finally, the final stage of the **Defibrillators** project brought new stretchers and first aid kits to several villages in the Tavush Region.

BY THE NUMBERS



1,200

lives touched in Yerevan and Nagorno-Karabakh through a gift exchange project



\$50K+

raised in 2016 to support community-based development throughout Armenia



700

children have a new playground in Berd



12

hospitals in Armenia have landscape photographs on their walls to bring the healing power of art therapy to their patients



100+

children have access to wind instruments to nurture their musical talents

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Mr. & Mrs. Vahan & Ellada Hovakimian
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Mr. & Mrs. Stepan & Siragan Ipekian
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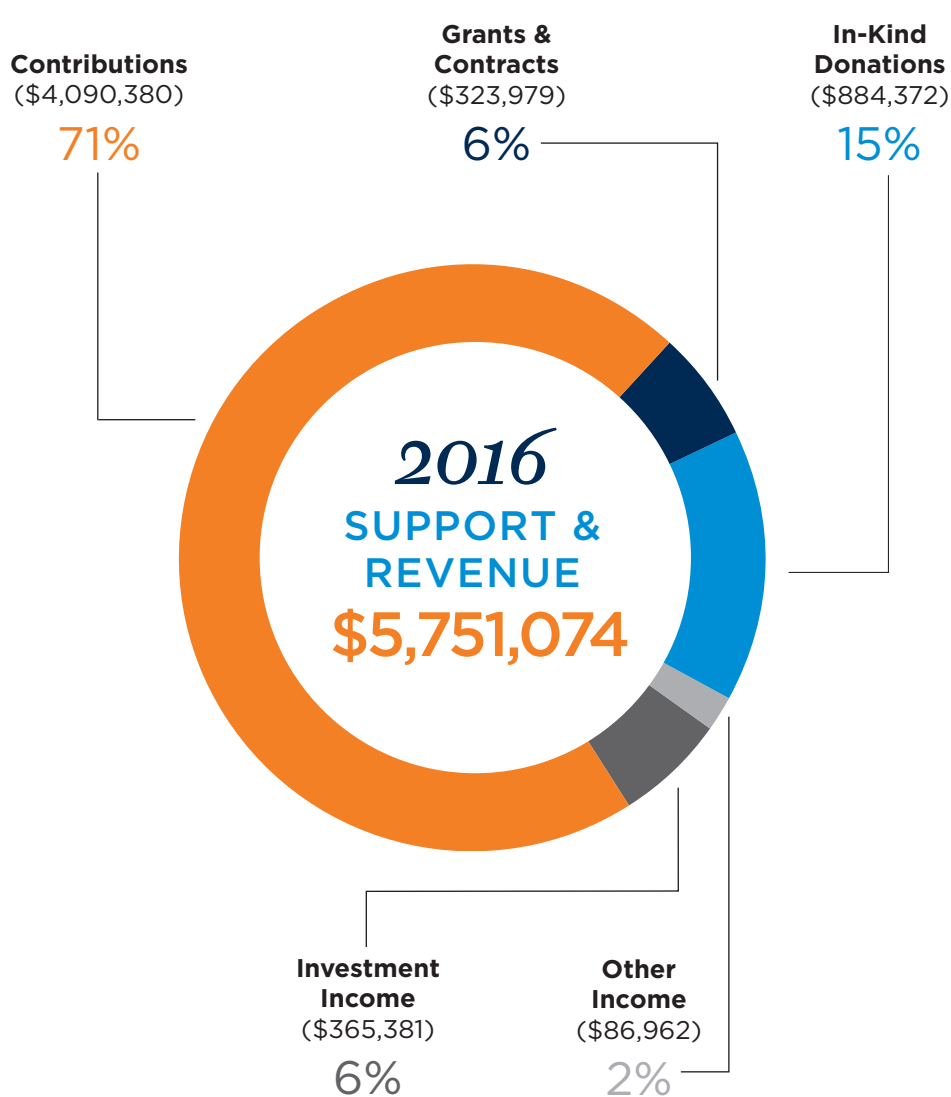
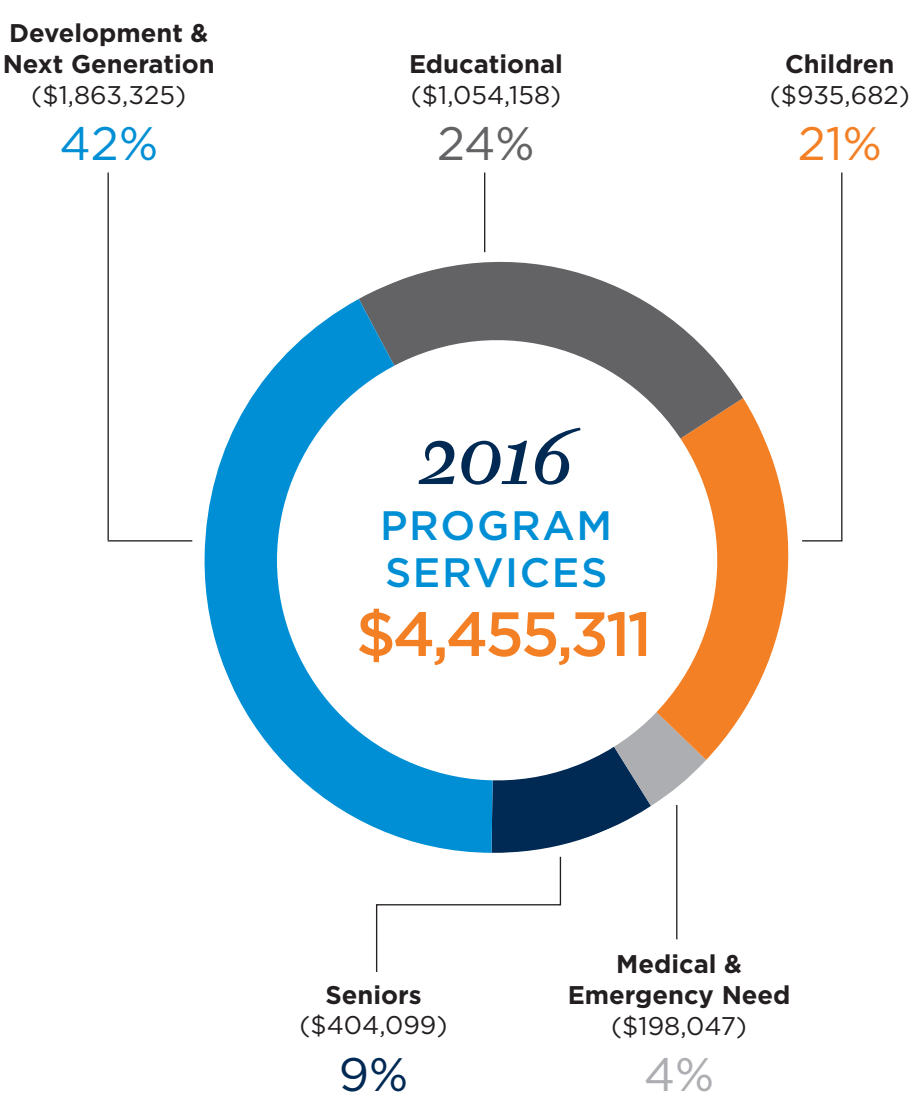
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2016 Asset Base

The financial Statements of the Fund for Armenian Relief, Inc. for the year ending December 31, 2016, 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	\$2,867,933
Investments	\$2,762,553
Contributions and pledges receivable	\$2,113,196
Prepaid expenses	\$1,765
Inventory of supplies and donated goods	\$397,190
Property and equipment, net	\$1,386,117
Beneficial Interest in funds held by others	\$1,810,593
Pooled investments held by ACEF	\$3,134,347
Total Assets:	\$14,473,694



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