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A U T U M N E D I T I O N

in the SMALL corners



FRIENDS OF WARM HEARTH, INC. NEWSLETTER



Yulia

Since we last wrote about Yulia, she has changed quite dramatically.

Whereas a year and a half ago, she spoke sporadically, today she is reciting poems for guests, singing songs with the other residents, articulating her needs and desires, participating in daily life, chores & the upkeep of the home and laughing with guests and the other residents. When I called last week to speak with the residents, she even wanted to talk by phone, which is remarkable given the place from which she came, of silence and fear, of hesitation and doubt. Yulia is healthy and thriving. According to the staff members and the Individual Care Plans, Yulia is showing consistent improvement. She is learning new skills, interacting in an increasingly healthy manner with her housemates, and living life more fully as a result. This is what we had hoped when we opened Warm Hearth. We had hoped for healing and joy to be a part of our residents' lives.

✧ We are the Same ✧

*We give & receive from one another.
We walk together toward the fulfillment of a dream.*

SEEING OUR OWN BROKENNESS

What does it mean to be broken? Can we view imperfection as a source of strength? What does it mean to be human? Is there really a distinction between the strong and the weak? I spoke about Susanna recently to a group of Armenians. Moments before the speech, as I went over my notes, I pictured Susanna, all she had taught me and the memories I have with her. I had thought some them too personal to share, but then realized that this is the heart of Warm Hearth. So, I told about a day (pictured above) when saddened



by the prospect of leaving Warm Hearth yet again, Susanna came up to me, took one look at the tears in my eyes and handed me a handkerchief she'd embroidered. After telling me not to worry and wiping my tears she said, "Natalie, you and I, we are the same." And she was right. We are. I am not the strong one. She is not the broken one. We are both, both strong & broken. And we walk together. We help one another. If nothing else, I have learned that if we cannot see ourselves in someone else's eyes, there's a limit to how much we can help them.

Another's Eyes

Erin Tyler visits Warm Hearth.

Erin, a former Peace Corps Volunteer and supporter of Warm Hearth, visited our home in September. Here are some of her reflections: "My trip to Warm Hearth was awesome. It was the best part of my entire trip back to Armenia. Even the po-

etic portrayal of the home could not do it justice. I went in with a critical eye [as I had been asked to evaluate and monitor the home] but was [positively] overwhelmed by both the standard of living and the amount of care in the home. Not to be cliché, but the home truly had a warmth to it that



was uplifting. After a quick tour, the residents showed us their handiwork and ran through a performance for an upcoming celebration. When I asked the residents what their favorite thing about Warm Hearth was, one of the women said that it 'was having a place to live that was a home.' We had a wonderful time."



Anna & Sassoon

As most of you know, two of our residents, Anna & Sassoon have been in the short-term psychiatric clinic. Due to the severity of their conditions, limitations of our staff & the need to protect the other residents, we had to make this difficult decision. Our hope in admitting them into this clinic was that we would have the time & resources to discover & create individual alternatives of care. One of our hopes has been a six-month staff placement in the nearest Syrian group home & that our staff member would learn creative possibilities in caring for these two residents. Another goal was to provide additional staff training & support

mechanisms, which we have accomplished. Still, the waiting seems long for us -- much less than Anna & Sassoon. Recently, on Anna's birthday our other residents visited & celebrated with her in the clinic. Their greetings & time together were warm & peaceful. There was a sense among the residents & staff that Anna is still one of "ours." This means that we will keep trying. It does not mean that we have an answer. As we walk with Anna & Sassoon, we feel the repercussions of their pasts: the abuse, unlove & shame. Facing this is never easy. But we do consider it a unique honor to stay on this journey with them.

**SUSTAINABILITY
IS ANOTHER
WORD FOR
JUSTICE.**

*Providing a home for
Armenian Orphans
with Disabilities*

Your kindness
makes all the
difference.

MAIL DONATIONS TO:
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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF MENTAL HEALTH

In Armenia, October 10th is a day of recognition and celebration. Our residents carefully prepared for this event. They made handicrafts & and displayed them in an exhibition. They organized a meeting and invited people to the home. Both the residents & visitors were enthusiastic.



According to our Program Manager, the residents were overjoyed with the attention. They had prepared a presentation of songs, poetry and recitations. Each of them described their handicrafts and the progress



they have made because of Warm Hearth. Many community members came to congratulate the residents on this day, including past staff members, the Mission Armenia president and journalists. We are grateful for the community's celebration of our residents.

Fundraising Update

**OUR DEEPEST
GRATITUDE
TO ALL THOSE
WHO MAKE
WARM HEARTH
POSSIBLE.**

FINANCIAL DETAILS
CAN BE PROVIDED
UPON REQUEST.

*Our 2007 Goals:
improved care &
\$125,000.*

**PLEASE CONSIDER
A YEAR-END
DONATION.**

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