

2 0 0 7 S P R I N G E D I T I O N

# in the SMALL corners



FRIENDS OF WARM HEARTH, INC. NEWSLETTER



## Alina

Alina has such a gentle and unassuming presence. She is

an artist and will spend hours perfecting one flower. Recently I had a long conversation with her and wanted to share some of her words with you: "I feel free, restful and calm here at Warm Hearth. I'm very busy. I have learned how to do everything in this house (she smiles proudly). I'm slowly learning how to cook, even. I really love our village. I trust the staff. I know that they will help me if I need it and I would help them. I would love to live on my own someday with Gayane. I would love if I could have you over to my house and every time you came to Armenia you would come near to me. The only thing else I want to tell you is that I want my sister to come see me soon and I'm going to miss you very much. From our side, please tell your family and friends hello." Alina has also recently been diagnosed with Type I Diabetes of which both her parents died. We are currently seeking treatment.

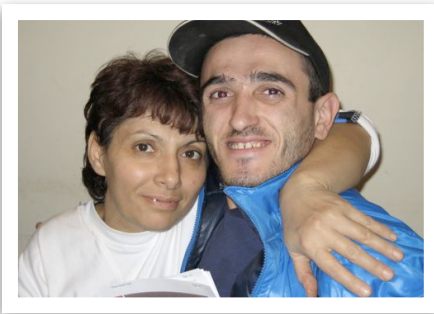
## ✧ On the Receiving End ✧

*An advocate for people with disabilities recently visited Warm Hearth & provided a retreat for our staff.*

### GIVE THE WORLD THE BEST YOU HAVE.

Anahit Mkhoyan opened the time of reflection with this prayer by Mother Teresa: *The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow; do good anyway. What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight; build anyway. Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough; give the world the best you have anyway.* This rang true for our staff. It spoke to their weariness, to the sustained efforts we ask them to make in the face of limitations (their own, the residents' and the nation's). It spoke to the value of their work which is humble,

human and hard. While acknowledging this, Anahit reminded us that though we feel like we give and give, we also need to recognize how much we receive from the residents. This sparked a conversation about the ways in which our staff are on the receiving end. Margarit gave the example of the joy she has when Yulia learns a new word.



This work we are involved in is both "never enough" to solve the depth of societal injustice and more than enough when we consider the gifts we receive from the residents.

## Another's Eyes

*Susan Barnes travels to Armenia.*

It was a joy to share Warm Hearth with Susan and a strength to have her steady presence. I was grateful for another pair of compassionate and conscientious eyes. Here are some of her impressions: I've loved meeting the people that

have lodged themselves so deeply into so many hearts. I have glimpsed the hard work the staff is doing. They are parenting and teaching people who've had no parents, and who've had no advocate for them in this world until now. My favorite line from today came from a sweet



resident named Gayane, who stands all of three feet tall. She said, "Thank you Natalie for watching out for our souls, for thinking about us and for not sleeping." I am glad that the residents feel that sleepless kind of love thanks to all of those who care for the residents of Warm Hearth.



## Looking Hard for Hope

*May we walk through life and not be so distracted  
by pain that we cannot partake of joy.  
And may we not be so obsessed with happiness  
that we turn our heads from suffering.*

Recently, the staff and I had to make the difficult decision to place two residents in a short-term psychiatric clinic until we have the resources and training to care for them. We spent the days looking hard for hope and help, and are still searching. We are trying to hold onto this idea that despite the inherent sadness we come up against in this work there is still much joy. And

though I am disappointed that these beloved residents have to stay in the clinic even for a short time, it is the best local clinic. And I do believe that it honors our commitment to all the residents. These are weighty and unexpected decisions. While they reveal our limitations, they push us forward. While they reveal our weaknesses, they make us fall back on our strengths -- one of which is being small enough to make decisions particular to those in our care. It has been a human decision and was made face-to-face with our residents, staff, & the clinic staff. Please keep our residents close to your hearts in this intermediate time.

SUSTAINABILITY  
IS ANOTHER  
WORD FOR  
JUSTICE.

*Providing a home for  
Armenian Orphans  
with Special Needs*

Your kindness  
makes all the  
difference.

MAIL DONATIONS TO:  
FRIENDS OF WARM HEARTH  
PO BOX 1037  
TEMPE, AZ 85280

(480) 921-1181

[WWW.FRIENDSOFWARMHEARTH.ORG](http://WWW.FRIENDSOFWARMHEARTH.ORG)

[NATALIE.RIZZIERI@GMAIL.COM](mailto:NATALIE.RIZZIERI@GMAIL.COM)

Friends of Warm Hearth, Inc.  
is a 501(c)(3)  
charitable organization.



### HANDICRAFTS FOR SALE

The purchase of these handmade paper mache bowls creates opportunities for our residents to share their work and giftedness with the world. All proceeds go to the furthering of vocational development within Warm Hearth. A minimum suggested donation of \$15 is appreciated. To see all the bowls, go to [www.whsupport.blogspot.com](http://www.whsupport.blogspot.com).



### FUTURE GROUP HOMES

We have been meeting with Armenian government representatives & social policy reform groups to discuss the possibility of opening further group homes using the "Warm Hearth



model". As the conversations progress, Warm Hearth is becoming more and more "Armenia's" as we had hoped. It is possible to adapt Warm Hearth to meet additional societal needs. We are excited about these possibilities!

### Fundraising Update

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

FINANCIAL DETAILS  
CAN BE PROVIDED  
UPON REQUEST.

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

Please consider  
partnering with us.

*If you have questions, please  
contact Natalie Rizzieri.*