

2 0 0 7 S U M M E R E D I T I O N

in the SMALL corners



FRIENDS OF WARM HEARTH, INC. NEWSLETTER



Gayane

is articulate and expressive. We recently shared a long conversation in

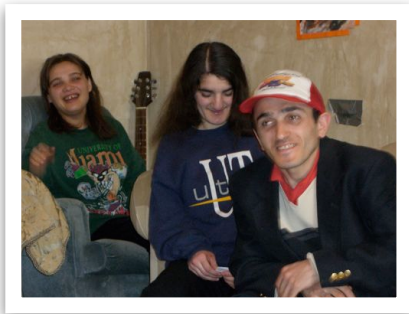
which she told me about life at Warm Hearth: "Life here is very good. We get to go out a lot and sometimes gather vegetables. We get to watch movies and it is wonderful. The days are wonderful and we pass the time well. I feel free here. All the staff are very kind and helpful, but I have my favorites. I only miss my friends from Kapan but I get to speak to them on the phone. There are no problems here that you need to worry about. It is restful and calm. But I think I am ready to live on my own. If it is possible I'd like to do this soon, but still live in this neighborhood, close to Warm Hearth. When I sleep at night and think of all the things you've all helped us do, I cry happy tears. I'm happy and restful." As you can see Gayane has such a nurturing spirit. She is deeply grateful to each and every supporter for the life she can now enjoy.

✧ Becoming Family ✧

*For some this happens naturally.
For others it happens slowly & love is learned.*

WE OPEN OUR ARMS WIDE WHEN IT'S SAFE.

All of our residents were raised in the state-run orphanages. There is an understandable survival mentality in these institutions. Children learn very quickly to protect themselves, to fold their arms across their chests, and to hoard whatever they can so they will have enough for tomorrow. Our staff noticed this mentality in the home and the mental health specialist has been working closely with the residents ever since. They meet together one-on-one and hold small group meetings concerning this particular tendency. Recently



our Program Manager, Alya, spoke of the changes that are slowly happening in the home as the residents become more of a family. She said the residents are beginning to live for one another instead of just for themselves. She said they are beginning to care for one another. They are more of a family and are beginning to relinquish some of the entrenched attitudes of survival as they live together in a safe and consistent family setting. There is so much joy for all of us who keep watch over Warm Hearth as this unfolds.

Another's Eyes

Anna visits Warm Hearth

Anna translated for us in 2006 and has since maintained contact with Warm Hearth residents on her own. Here are some of her recent reflections: "Thanks to Warm Hearth I have started appreciating things I previously found normal and natu-

ral. I visited Warm Hearth again recently and was so glad to see the residents because they are so dear and sincere. I felt at HOME. I felt so comfortable and cozy there. I did not realize how quickly the hours passed. I took part in their small group meeting. Each one had a chance to speak and they



listened well to one another. They know that they are all equal, and that they should respect one another. They treated me as a guest, recited poems and sang songs for me. Afterwards we danced and I taught them a chorus. Roman has a good ear for music. It was such fun. I could go on and on." Photo: Anna to left.



The Abundance of Summer

This summer we are receiving visitors, professionals, & volunteers from far & wide. As the word spreads about our home, we welcome those who've walked with us since the beginning & those who join us now. To name a few, Birthright Armenia, an organization that reconnects Armenians to their homeland & provides volunteer opportunities, brought a group to our home & spent an entire day painting the walls & teaching art lessons. (Photos above.) David Mitchell, art therapist & formerly with Peace Corps (PCV), will conduct a staff training in August. Lee Ann Odabashian Williams, Occupational Therapist & WH

board member, will conduct a one-day inservice for our staff. Armenian doctor & former Fulbright scholar, Dr Hovhannes Manvelyan, has offered to connect our residents with caring medical professionals. Former PCV, Heather Gregg, who worked with our residents in a Special Olympics event many years ago will visit them this summer! St. John's parish in San Francisco visited & were blessed by the residents during their summer pilgrimage. Tamar & Corey Chester, who have worked with us since "day one" are visiting Armenia this summer & plan to organize a fundraiser. As you can see, we are incredibly blessed!

**SUSTAINABILITY
IS ANOTHER
WORD FOR
JUSTICE.**

*Providing a home for
Armenian Orphans
with Disabilities*

Your kindness
makes all the
difference.

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

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Friends of Warm Hearth, Inc.
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~L'ARCHE~
**A PLACE TO
BE & BECOME**

Founded in 1964, L'Arche brings people together, some with developmental disabilities & some without, who choose to share their lives by living together. L'Arche has group homes all over the world. The nearest is in Damascus, Syria. This community has offered to host one of our staff for six months.



This is a valuable experience as we are the first group home in Armenia, and our staff has never seen how another group home operates. Since opening, Warm Hearth has hoped to build a relationship with L'Arche as they espouse the values we reach for. L'Arche



Founder, Jean Vanier, said: "We seek to be communities where people, whatever their race, religion, culture, abilities or disabilities, can find a place and reveal their gifts to the world." We, at Warm Hearth seek the same & hope to learn from them.

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.**

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info@friendsofwarmhearth.org