2010 Annual Report

Honor the past • Empower the present • Ensure the future
Message from the President and Chairman
IN PARTNERSHIP WE CONTINUE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ARMENIA

Dear Friends,

Once again, your unwavering support has enabled us to foster the growth of a stronger Armenia. In 2010 we began the third decade of FAR’s work with strength and determination. FAR was born from the horrible tragedy of the 1988 earthquake, which shattered life in Gyumri and Spitak. Meeting needs during such a critical disaster became our mission. Yet, what the members of our dedicated Armenian family knew was that our motherland would need long-term support after the shock of the quake wore off.

We are so pleased that we have not only accomplished this over the past two decades, but that we are continuing to expand as we move ahead. FAR now focuses our programs on five critical areas: education, economic and social services, health care, child protection and development. Our work in each of these areas grew during 2010, reaching more of Armenia’s people than ever before and empowering them in unique ways.

Our programs expanded, bringing new opportunities like the Garabed and Armine Zambak Scholarship, which gives students the chance to pursue graduate studies in political science, international relations and public administration, and the Margaret Ajemian Ahnert Scholarship, which enables women to pursue careers in journalism.

These are the stories that are made possible because of supporters like you. As we move ahead into the future, we will continue to empower Armenia, making it a more self-sustainable nation.

We will also be expanding our Continuing Medical Education Program so that doctors in high-need areas like Karabagh and Javahk will be able to learn the latest advances in medicine. This will be the first time they will have access to such necessary training.

Within the folds of each of these programs, there are those wonderful personal stories that show how FAR’s work is making a difference. With the help of the Gulamerian Scholarship Program, three sisters from Stepanavan, Margarita, Marieta and Arpik, are thriving in school. The girls had to move into an orphanage after their father disappeared and their mother was hospitalized for mental illness. Today, Margarita studies theater, and Arpik is a design student at Vanadzor State Technological College.

Then there is five-year-old Eva who was maimed when she was admitted to the FAR Children’s Center after being abused and abandoned by her mother. She was in such poor health that she had to be hospitalized before returning to the Center, where she recovered with the help of the Center’s staff.

These are the stories that are made possible because of you — the supporters who comprise FAR’s family. As we move into the future in solidarity, we will continue to empower Armenia, making it a more self-sustainable nation. For this, we thank you.

H.H. Aram I
Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, President

Randy Sapah-Gulian, Chairman

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-Karabagh and Javahk.

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 225 relief, social, educational and cultural projects valued at over $285 million.

Through the support of our global partners and our worldwide Armenian family, FAR gives hope, guidance and opportunity to those in need, empowering them to create a better present and helping them pave the way to a stronger future.

PARTNERS IN CHANGE

- Hagiop S. Toukanian Charitable Fund
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- UNICEF
- United Armenian Fund
- Women’s Guild Central Council (WGCC) of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern)
- Ministries, local governments, universities, health establishments, orphanages in Armenia

FAR 2010 Annual Report
Far CHildren’s Center

Through the FAR Children’s Center, FAR has helped children and families better their lives since 2000. The only institution in Armenia that performs crisis intervention and short-term rehabilitation, the Center is also a national, full-service facility where children and their families can access shelter, counseling, outreach services, healthcare and legal assistance. The Center has touched the lives of nearly 6,000 children and their family members since it opened.

The Center’s toll-free Child Protection Hotline and Helpline enables children in crisis to reach out for support 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

In 2005, FAR partnered with the Armenian government and UNICEF to develop the nation’s first foster care program. Today FAR Children’s Center continues to work with UNICEF-Armenia to make sure children end up in good homes instead of state institutions. Many who come to the Center for help are ultimately taken into the care of foster parents.

Far Children’s Center has touched the lives of nearly 6,000 children and their families since its establishment a decade ago.

Far Children’s Center leads efforts to improve the National Child Protection System, which utilizes all available resources for children in need and lobbies to improve the government’s existing child protection system. In this vein, the Center continually builds the capacity of child and family care specialists, raises awareness for lobbying on behalf of children’s rights and family protection, develops social technologies aimed to identify children and families at risk, and expands and strengthens the nation’s foster care system.

In addition to helping 875 children in 2010, the Center continued its Safe Cell Phone and Internet Program, which teaches children how to protect themselves from becoming victims of cyber threats and attacks. And for the third year in a row, it held the “Best for Our Children” event in honor of International Children’s Rights Day in Yerevan’s Victory Park. Twenty thousand people, including representatives from Armenia’s business, art and political sectors, gathered to bring greater momentum to this movement. In addition, Children’s Center staff held roundtable discussions and conferences on relevant issues like child trafficking, child labor, abuse and mistreatment.

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Five-year-old Eva was admitted to the FAR Children’s Center after being abused and abandoned by her mother. Eva had been left to her 73-year-old grandmother, who soon found herself emotionally, physically and financially unable to care for her. She called the Center’s crisis hotline and Eva was taken into its care. Exceptionally thin and pale, Eva had developed a series of health problems, which caused her to be hospitalized. She returned to the Center, where she was able to start the healing process from her previous life of abuse.

With child protection, we create better futures.
which threaten child welfare and protection in Armenia.

CHILDREN OF ARMENIA SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

The Children of Armenia Sponsorship Program (CASP) offers additional support to children living in poverty, who are denied an education, proper healthcare and a stable home life. FAR manages CASP in collaboration with the Women’s Guild Central Council of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern) to help some of the most vulnerable children throughout Armenia and in the Javakhk region of Georgia.

Through CASP, children under 18 who have lost one or both parents, receive stipends from international sponsors. This incredible support from the Diaspora can change lives. It may enable a child to attend school, buy food, or help with medical assistance. More than 1,500 children receive support through CASP every year.

Also in 2010, CASP once again made it possible for 75 children to spend their summer break at the “Siranoush” camp in Yeghegnadzor, where they were free to laugh, play and make new friendships.

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For 11-year-old Emma Ghazaryan from Meghri, CASP means receiving an income that helps her family survive. Ever since her father died of a heart attack, Emma’s unemployed mother has struggled to try and make ends meet to support her children. After submitting an application for assistance, Emma became a CASP beneficiary. Now, the family receives a stipend each month, which helps them cover day-to-day living expenses like food and winter heating fuel.

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

FAR’s Continuing Medical Education Program (CME) gives doctors from Armenia’s rural areas the opportunity to enhance their modern medical knowledge and practice. Created in 2005 by FAR and the FAR Fellowship Alumni Association (FARFAA), CME aims to bolster the overall health of the nation’s people by improving the skills of Armenia’s physicians. It is one of FAR’s most extensive programs.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the majority of doctors in Armenia’s rural regions have been unable to refresh their medical skills due to the high cost and inaccessibility of certification programs. This has lead to a dearth in knowledge about advances in the medical field, and ultimately a decline in the quality of health care. Through CME, doctors can learn to master innovative approaches and methods, and learn about the
latest technology from top healthcare providers in Yerevan free of cost. The CME network of healthcare professionals also allows them to receive ongoing support from their mentors and colleagues in the capital.

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FAR-sponsored workshops and symposiums also offer opportunities to stay up to date on the latest advances throughout the year. Since it began, CME has equipped over 250 Armenian healthcare providers with the tools to provide quality care to Armenia’s population.

CME participant Doctor Hasmik Muradyan took a break from her work at a hospital in Noy Amberian to become better acquainted with new technologies and equipment for neonatal care at Yerevan Hospital. As one of just two doctors who care for the roughly 30 infants who are treated at her hospital each month, Dr. Muradyan returned home with better knowledge of new techniques, which she passed on to her colleague.

FARFAA also continued to recruit doctors for the Salzburg program during 2010. Beginning in 2003, FARFAA brought the Salzburg International Medical Seminars, a program of the American Austrian Foundation, to Armenia. Doctors who take part in this program serve as mentors to CME doctors from Armenia’s regional hospitals and clinics.

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MEDICAL SUPPLIES
Throughout 2010, FAR distributed supplies to hospitals and medical centers across the country based on recommendations from the Ministry of Health and wish lists from individual clinics and hospitals.

Thanks to FAR’s cooperation with the United Armenian Fund many donors, including AmeriCares, Catholic Medical Mission Board (CMMB), Direct Relief International (DRI) and Michael Candan, provided medical equipment and supplies to 21 hospitals throughout Armenia.

GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS
FAR supports the National Medical Library (NML) in Yerevan, through which medical students can gain access to the latest publications and technology. This institution also helps Yerevan’s medical students and professionals to keep up to date with advances in the field. FAR also subsidizes the production of the Armenian Medical Review Journal, an annual publication of NML.

In 2008, FAR started the Anoosh Mathevosian Scholarship in partnership with Yerevan State Medical University (YSMU). The program assists YSMU graduates as they specialize during their clinical residency program. After graduation, scholars can put those new skills into practice at one of Armenia’s provincial hospitals for anywhere between three and five years. Three YSMU students were selected during 2010 and will provide medical care in Armavir, Vanadzor and Goris, respectively.
EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

Carving out educational opportunity for Armenia’s youth is an integral part of FAR’s mission. With the escalating cost of both public and private universities, many students are unable to move on to higher education. Through its numerous scholarship programs, FAR provides a vital opportunity to help hundreds of young Armenians who wish to attend university and vocational training programs each year. These programs continue to grow; the Margaret Ajemian Ahnert Scholarship and the Garabed and Armine Zambak Scholarship programs were both established during 2010.

MARGARET AJEMIAN AHNERT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Established in July 2010, the Margaret Ajemian Ahnert Scholarship aims to support and empower aspiring female journalists by providing them with opportunities to receive education and training. The scholarship gives full tuition and monthly stipends to female graduate students in Armenia. Margaret Ajemian Ahnert established this scholarship fund in memory of her mother Ester Minerajian Ajemian, a genocide survivor. Currently, five students are supported by this scholarship.

GARABED AND ARMINE ZAMBAK SCHOLARSHIP

The Garabed and Armine Zambak Scholarship, which was established in May 2010, provides full tuition coverage to graduate students at Armenian universities who have demonstrated a commitment to studies in political science, international relations or public administration. Armine Zambak created this fund in honor of her late husband Garabed Zambak (1915-1977), a successful entrepreneur and business leader in Istanbul who lost his father during the genocide. Currently, two students are supported by this scholarship.

GULAMERIAN VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Gulamerian Vocational Training and Education Program is a flagship program that FAR implemented in 1998. Each year, many young adults who have grown up in orphanages transition to the outside world, often with little opportunity to continue on to higher education. The Gulamerian Program provides older orphans access to education through tuition coverage and monthly living stipends so they can gain the skills necessary to compete in the job market. FAR builds relationships with these recipients throughout their education and assists them with job searches once they graduate. Thirty-three students joined the group of 80 students who were supported by the Gulamerian program during 2010.

With education programs, we empower individuals.
The Mathevosian Scholarship gives Gyumri native Janna Harutunyan the opportunity to study international relations at Yerevan State University (YSU). A straight-A student who is eagerly involved in extracurricular activities, Janna was recently selected from a pool of 100 applicants as the recipient of YSU’s Best Student Award. “When I first learned that I was selected as a FAR program beneficiary, I cried tears of joy,” Janna exclaimed. “If not for this, my unemployed parents in Gyumri would hardly be able to pay for my education.”

MATHEVOSIAN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
FAR’s Mathevosian Scholarship Program provides much-needed assistance to students from extremely poor families. More than half of these recipients grew up in households with only one parent or with disabled parents. Through tuition coverage and a stipend, Mathevosian scholars have the opportunity to study at leading institutions. Currently, 65 students are supported by this scholarship, 11 of which joined the program in 2010, and more than 135 students have been helped since this scholarship began. Eleven Mathevosian scholars received their master’s degrees during 2010.

SAYAN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
The Sayan Scholarship Program supports the 20 best students at Yerevan State Conservatory through partial scholarships.

ASHOT HAYRAPETYAN EDUCATION GRANTS PROGRAM
The Ashot Hayrapetyan Education Grants Program was first launched in 2007 and was revived in 2009. Grants are given to 150 young students at universities throughout Yerevan.

Other scholarship programs also provide support, including the Avedis & Arsha Baghsarian Scholarship, Antranig & Betty Berberian Scholarship, Thomas & Dora Verne Garabedian Scholarship, Antreas & Jane Ghazarossian Scholarship, Sandra Shanianian Leitner Scholarship, Rose Najarian Scholarship and the Philadelphia Armenian Education Fund.

SCHOOL RENOVATIONS
Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, many of Armenia’s schools have deteriorated. Over the past few years, FAR has rebuilt, refurbished and renovated over 10 secondary schools throughout the nation, providing students with modern educational tools and a safe environment in which to learn.

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During 2010, FAR also supported Gyumri’s Vazgen A School, Vanadzor’s Anoosh Mathevosian School, the Hovhannes Hintlian School in Tavush, and the Gavar Special School, which caters to disabled children.

OCET MUSIC SCHOOL
FAR supports the Azad Shishian Octet Music School in Gyumri, which was completely destroyed in the 1988 earthquake. Today, the school’s students must attend their lessons and rehearse in temporary aluminum trailers that were never replaced following the quake. FAR continues to provide the children with musical instruments and also covers the cost of their tuition fees. Fundraising efforts to rebuild the school are in progress. Musicians like Ian Gillian and Tony Iommi of Deep Purple, and Serj Tankian of System of a Down have also committed to raise money for the school.

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ARMENIAN NATIONAL SCIENCE AND EDUCATION FUND

Scientific research is typically under-funded and as a result many researchers must move outside their nation’s borders for support. ANSEF combats this drain by providing $5,000 yearlong research grants to a select number of Armenia’s top scientists whose findings contribute to innovation.

More than $1.5 million in grants has fueled more than 235 independent projects thus far, enabling many to pursue cutting edge work in the natural and social sciences, engineering, the humanities, and further contribute to the growth of a knowledge-based economy. ANSEF is also the springboard from which grantees can launch larger projects and ultimately bridge the path to greater scientific achievement.

Twenty-seven grants were awarded in 2010 for research in physics, chemistry, biology, astronomy, mechanics, ecology, history and archeology. The researchers’ work was featured in more than 65 international scientific journals and they have also presented their work at more than 40 conferences and symposiums throughout the year.

This program was generously funded by loyal supporter Armen Avanessian and The Avanessian Family Foundation, Doctor Sarkis Kechejian, Jerry Turpanjian and The Turpanjian Family Foundation, Louise Simone Manoogian and the Manoogian Simone Foundation, and United Armenian Charities.

GYUMRI INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CENTER

In partnership with several technology companies, FAR created the Gyumri Information Technology Center (G-Tech) in 2005 with the goal of broadening the skills of young Armenians and expanding opportunities in a region struggling with high unemployment, poverty and

ANSEF helped Doctor Argam Ayvazyan fulfill a lifelong mission. Dr. Ayvazyan has honed his expertise and nurtured his passion for Armenology for 45 years. Using some of the material from his 2007 symposium and photography exhibition at Harvard University, along with the rest of his life’s work, Dr. Ayvazyan completed “The Lithographic Inheritance of Nakhjivan.” Without the support of ANSEF, his book would have been postponed indefinitely.

Through economic and social development, we change communities.
emigration, primarily caused by the 1988 earthquake.

GTech helps to bolster development by providing an incubator space for new start up IT businesses, which have already started to open in the area, bringing with them opportunity and growth. GTech is giving Armenians the skills they need to take part.

In 2009, the Armenian government proposed an ambitious plan to transform Gyumri into a center for the information technology industry. As the only educational institution in the area that provides training in IT technology, GTech is playing a major role in this endeavor. GTech helps to bolster development by providing an incubator space for new start up IT businesses, which have already started to open in the area, bringing with them opportunity and growth. GTech is giving Armenians the skills they need to take part.

Twenty-nine students enrolled in GTech’s web technology and computer engineering programs and 44 students graduated during the spring semester in 2010. GTech also continued to expand with the construction of the new “Sun” Laboratory, thanks to benefactors Dikran and Nadya Gyulmezgil.

In addition, GTech formed partnerships with businesses like Gyumri’s Financial Banking College and the global import company Sanders Group. Graduates also continue to train local educators in computer literacy and IT technology.

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The facility was completely renovated in 2009 and now has all the proper amenities. Dedicated and professional staff members provide medical, psychological and financial assistance to VOAH's 55 residents. Dozens of other residents in the area receive homebound services as well. In addition, a wide variety of cultural events, visits from local students and musicians, and recreational activities throughout the year offer residents an outlet and source of additional support.

VOAH is made possible by Shahan Arzruni and the Kevork and Sirvart Karamanuk Foundation.

SOUP KITCHENS

Meeting the critical needs of the most destitute through housing, medical care and nutrition has been a core mission of FAR ever since the organization was founded in the midst of a humanitarian disaster. FAR operates four soup kitchens, two of which are in Yerevan, along with one in Ashtarak and one in Nor-Hajn, in addition to the Nishan & Margrit Senior Center in Gyumri. All provide hot and nutritious meals, toiletries and other necessities everyday to roughly 1000 people in need each year. These soup kitchens also offer a social outlet where Armenians can come to meet and even celebrate holidays throughout the year.

This important initiative is made possible through a strong relationship with the Bay Area Friends of Armenia (BAFA), one of the most trustworthy and valued partners of FAR, and through Nishan and Margrit Atinizian. In addition, the “Meals of Love” campaign, organized through donors Richard Aghoian, Hratch & Negdar Arukian, Hagop Arslanoglu, Alice Kasparian, Dottie Miler, Richard Najarian, Walter Ohanian, Frances Poloshian, Mary Zoryan and Araxie Kasparian, provided visitors to FAR’s two Yerevan soup kitchens with a meal. And once again, St. Mary Armenian Church in Costa Mesa, California, pulled together their annual donation for FAR’s soup kitchens. Their gift provided two days of meals, which fed about 800 people.

For 70-year-old Nora Gzoghyan, the Nor Hajn Soup Kitchen is a salvation. She has come to the kitchen day every since it opened in 1995 and because she is the sole caretaker of her sister, she always saves a portion of her meal to take home. The two exist on Nora’s meager pension and often remain hungry on the weekends when the kitchen is closed. “I thank God for this place, this soup kitchen, where I can find warmth and a daily meal. It is here where I have friends and where I am surrounded by dear people,” she said.
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THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR DONORS

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2010 Asset Base

Cash and cash equivalents 1,026,394
Investments 2,120,056
Contributions and pledges receivable 897,590
Prepaid expenses 69,658
Property and equipment, net 1,552,551
Pooled investments held by ACEF 2,905,180

Total $8,571,429

The financial statements of the Fund for Armenian Relief, Inc., for the year ending December 31, 2010, 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 statements...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.

2010 Financial Highlights

2010 Program Services

- Social Educational $1,975,580 56%
- Humanitarian Aid $1,165,516 33%
- Medical $271,642 8%
- U.S. Aid Contracts $146,726 4%

Total Programs $3,559,464 100%

2010 Support & Revenue

- Contributions $2,500,260 77%
- In-kind Donations $1,196,624 16%
- Grants & Contracts $143,423 6%
- Other Income $92,104 2%

Total Programs $3,932,411 100%
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