MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends,

With each passing year, our mission as an organization is strengthened. Through our dedicated team we continue to carry out FAR’s programs. We help promote young Armenians to attend school. We give more doctors the opportunity to return to their practice. We provide refuge and support to vulnerable children. Yet, what continues to bring us pride is the way in which we do this, indeed, special.

Things are different from the darker, hard-shoulder times after the Soviet Union’s collapse, from which we pulled through and continued to rise with powerful purpose. We called for solidarity from our diaspora, for support to build our beloved Armenia. Together and you have answered us. You have done so by supporting our programs, not only financially but also through your unique involvement.

In 2017, we had more vision than ever before to observe what we do. Not many organizations can say that the support they receive comes from those who have seen their work firsthand—from those who have actually shared a meal with the people who visit our soup kitchens every week, or those who have played catch or drawn pictures alongside the little ones at our Children’s Center, or who have spoken one-on-one with the doctors who say their chance for professional growth has made a difference in how they practice medicine. You have actually seen the plight of those in need and how, together, we can create positive change. As a result, you not only support our vision, you become a part of our story.

As an organization, we are privileged. We are thrilled that many of you who support FAR also want to know how we work and how things happen. For our supporters to want to stand alongside our beneficiaries is powerful and makes our work more purposeful. We are astounded that more of you did so in 2017 than ever before. You inspire us with your generosity, and makes our work more purposeful. Because of you, more than ever, we can truly see a brighter future for Armenia.

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Archbishop Kajig Barsamian, President

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The FAR Children’s Center’s competent team of professionals continued to transform the lives of children and youth during 2017 by performing crisis intervention and critical short-term rehabilitation to those who are victims of some of the most horrendous problems, including abandonment and neglect, and behavioral, emotional and psychological problems. The Center has helped more than 5,000 children since it opened, funding 1,000 children’s cases and assisting left adults during 2017 alone.

A full-service facility, the Center offers access to shelter, medical care, counseling and legal assistance to the most vulnerable. In addition, it provides family therapy, psycho-educational and psychosocial support, reintegration when needed, and provides guidance and mentoring to family members to promote safe reunification with continued monitoring of a child’s family situation for months after they leave the Center. The Center also works with children who cannot be reunited with family by teaching them to live independently and provides guidance and mentoring to family members to promote safe reunification with continued monitoring of a child’s family situation for months after they leave the Center. The Center also works with children who cannot be reunited with family by teaching them to live independently and providing family counseling, mentoring and parental skills training, aimed to move them out of extreme poverty and onto the path toward self-sufficiency.

Children of Armenia Sponsorship Program (CASP) provides supplemental financial support to orphans and the children of single mothers in low-income households. With the help of CASP, children can receive the necessary support to attend school, while still ensuring that their family’s basic needs are met. CASP facilitates dedication of financial aid to those who are victims of some of the most horrendous problems, including abandonment and neglect, and behavioral, emotional and psychological problems. At the age of 18, CASP families are trained to continue providing support to their children, thus enabling them to prepare for guardianship. Since the Center opened in 2000, 500 families in the Ararat Region through the provision of support packages, which included family counseling, mentoring and parental skills training, aimed to move them out of extreme poverty and onto the path toward self-sufficiency.

The Children’s Center has helped children in need overcome fear and self-doubt to improve their prospects for success and live productive adult lives. The Center provides psycho-educational and psychosocial support, including family therapy, mentoring and parental skills training. At first, children werent as open to guidance and mentoring, but as the years passed, they became more receptive to the Center’s initiatives, and the development of the national quest to strengthen its child protection services through preventative intervention, capacity building and reorganization.

The Children’s Center is a full-service facility that offers a variety of programs to prepare children for guardianship. The programs include educational, learning opportunities, and forge new friendships. The Center offers an opportunity for children to immerse themselves in a new environment, to connect with others through music, dancing and other activities, helping to improve their quality of life. Children received 500 dietary supplements through the Center’s nutrion program, providing essential nutrients for growth and development. The Center’s child protection programs include family counseling, mentoring and parental skills training, aimed to move them out of extreme poverty and onto the path toward self-sufficiency.

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**Social Services**

FAR’s soup kitchens meet the critical needs of the most destitute by providing nutritious daily meals and an outlet for social services. For them, FAR’s soup kitchens are often a lifeline. 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 or their pensions following the fall of the Soviet Union, from which they have never recovered. Others have had to cope with the onset of health problems or disabilities that have prevented them from working or caring for their families, as many beneficiaries are also children in need. These setbacks often plunge them into the debilitating hardships of poverty. For them, FAR’s soup kitchens are often a lifeline.

**Beneficiary Story**

Varduhi Khachatryan, 36, remembers the day she first came to FAR’s soup kitchen in the end of the tunnel. “It was a winter day, bone-chilling cold, and she had shut herself away from the world. She sought help at the Atinizian Senior Center and bought me two, but I had no shoes to wear and wasn’t able to ask for more. My son needs them, and my two-year-old daughter,” she says.

Varduhi is a passionate artist, she used to work in different academies. She had various talents such as Armenian handicrafts, including sewing, drawing, embroidery, and weaving. But her health setbacks in the last months made it impossible for her to do what she loved. She could no longer go to fishing lakes for her family, and her village. She felt just like a stranger. She had no medicine, no money to buy glasses, and had to cope with the dissolution of work opportunities.

In response to the protracted crisis in Syria, FAR continued to provide humanitarian support to 250 Syrian-Armenian families with rice, oil, flour, and hygiene items, in order to provide daily meals for those living in temporary dorms. The aid was often a gift of hope for the many Syrian-Armenians, who left everything behind and are now living in temporary dorms.

* I first came to FAR’s soup kitchen, “I was happy to see such a well-cared for institution, with a professional staff and a happy community. FAR is doing a great job in taking care of our vulnerable citizens. I am pleased to see that our contributions are being used effectively."

—SILVA MIGIRDEYAN, FAR supporter and visitor

**Social Services By the Numbers**

- 800 people per day served
- 170 senior citizens provided with meals
- 250 Syrian-Armenian refugee families provided with clothing and hygiene items

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*We owe our success, year after year, to the funds raised from our loyal donors.*

**Social Services By the Numbers**

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The Continuing Medical Education Program (CME) provides Armenian doctors with professional development to hone their skills, update their practices, and tap into a network of healthcare providers.

CME was developed to fill gaps in healthcare left by the Soviet Union, which still exists today particularly in Armenia's rural areas where many doctors have poor access to resources and use outdated methods. Since its launch in 2005, CME has enabled 878 medical professionals to receive training in Europe, the US, and in Armenia. In 2017, 113 professionals participated in CME, including 30 from Artsakh—a great accomplishment for a region whose healthcare resources are in dire need of improvement.

CME received accreditation from the National Institute of Health in 2015, meaning participation now provides doctors with licenses. CME was also highlighted during the 12th Armenian Medical World Congress held in Buenos Aires in May. CME was developed to fill gaps in healthcare leftover from the Soviet era, to bring the latest publications and technologies to Armenia, to improve the quality of life of patients, and to tap into a network of healthcare providers.

FAR’s healthcare programs department also provided access to the latest publications and technologies through its health care education system, 64 trainings were held at designated facilities in 2017, benefitting from free and nutritious meals at 15 kindergartens in 2017.

CME is vital to Armenia’s healthcare system. In 2017, FAR saw the impact of its emergency nutrition program after documenting a decrease in average levels for the 152 children who have benefited from free and nutritious meals at 15-kindergartens in Yerevan. In 2017, 878 medical professionals were provided with the training they needed to update their skills and improve the quality of care they are able to provide to their patients.

The trainings. In addition, young children were screened for cognitive impairment as part of a new stage of BCPP that will focus on children’s development in Tavush. BCPP continues to push to improve healthcare in the region.

FAR has long been building the future, together. Your impact is far-reaching. Seeing the love and connection that FAR staff shared with their clients was heartwarming; it is why we do this work. Your generosity provides Armenia’s future. FAR is efficient, well organized and well equipped to do the work it does.

BENEFICIARY STORY

Hayk completed CME in March at the Surb Grigor Lusavorich Center and enhances his professional glossary. He also immersed himself in hands-on experience and workshops at the Medical Center in Yerevan. He was able to immerse himself in up-to-date practices, and tap into a network of healthcare providers.

“The trainings were very helpful, and I learned a lot,” says Hayk. “I have improved my knowledge and become familiarized with Armenian medical conditions to access proper diagnosis and treatment. Kupin,”

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Education

In November, FAR celebrated 20 years of supporting Armenia through its diverse and inclusive education and science programs, which have helped more than 3,000 students to receive scholarships,

*By the Numbers*

- 3,853 students from disadvantaged families (scholarships)
- 85% employment rate for those who completed their education
- 16 of the principle investigators were dedicated people from the Friends of Gavar School, Special School, which is sponsored by a group of artists, and the artistically rich city of Gyumri. In addition, the Gavar Special School, which is sponsored by a group of dedicated people from the Friends of Gavar School, New York, and serves children with mental and physical disabilities in the Gogharpokh region, also had its second floor renovated during 2017. This was the final in a long list of renovations made to the school over the past nine years, which have dramatically improved life for its students. Also, the Darbeli Vocational School in Yerevan, which has been supported by FAR for more than a decade, officially opened its renovated armian-

FAR’s scholarship programs and the Gulamerian Science and Education Fund (ASEF) enable scientists and researchers to pursue their innovative research at home in Armenia, ultimately helping them to promote social and economic growth by further contributing to the knowledge-based economy. In 2017, FAR awarded ASEF grants to 30 scientific research groups made up of a total of 100 scientists. The program continued its effort to diversify the scientists it supports; 25% of the 60 scientists who received grants to the 13 ASEF scholarship programs were women. This significantly increased the potential to contribute greatly to the growth and development of their country through opportunities made possible by education. For many from poorer families, the dream of a degree or a certain career path are simply out of reach when given the chance, these young people can excel, and also improve their own quality of life. In 2017, 1,077 deserving students were accepted to universities. The program also enabled FAR to operate tutoring groups in math, science and physics for 70 Syrian-Armenian students.

FAR’s support for school rehabilitation focuses greatly on providing essential resources to diverse learning environments. FAR has been a major partner in the rehabilitation of the Otkat Music School, which supports musical education in the culturally and archeologically rich city of Gyumri. In addition, the Garage Special School, which is sponsored by a group of dedicated people from the Friends of Gavar School, New York, and serves children with mental and physical disabilities in the Gogharpokh region, also had its second floor renovated during 2017. This was the final in a long list of renovations made to the school over the past nine years, which have dramatically improved life for its students. Also, the Darbeli Vocational School in Yerevan, which has been supported by FAR for more than a decade, officially opened its renovated armian-

**BENEFICIARY STORY**

Nelly Zakarian has always loved working with numbers. Financial analysis and evaluation have been her greatest passions since she was a little girl growing up in the village of Tavush in Nagorno-Karabakh. But in 2012, when she was accepted into the Armenian State University of Economics, she thought her family couldn’t afford it. After all, she had to make it possible for her younger brother to attend high school. The idea of giving back fascinated me, and I loved the pursuit of numbers and quotations. The scholarship, and support, she has excelled. “I don’t know if I’d even be a communications specialist today if I hadn’t applied for the scholarship,” she says. And she has big plans for the future.

Nelly’s family couldn’t afford the tuition. At the time, she was accepted into the Armenian State University of Economics, Tavush Kindergarten, which will be expanded by 300 square meters. The kindergarten received renovations and updates, including the addition of a wing on the second floor renovated during 2017. This was the final in a long list of renovations made to the kindergarten over the past nine years, which have dramatically improved life for its students. Also, the Darbeli Vocational School in Yerevan, which has been supported by FAR for more than a decade, officially opened its renovated armian-

**Patron Voice:**

Krikor

Krikor Gulamerian

“...with love and passion, I have always been able to work with numbers...”

**TO OUR GENEROUS AND LOYAL DONORS, WE THANK YOU:**

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9
Economic Development

Gyumri Information Technology Center (GTech) celebrated its tenth graduating class in 2017. The fifteen programmers who completed the program joined the more than 845 who have finished GTech’s various IT certification and two-year training programs in the 12 years since it opened.

GTech continues to be a force for change in the Shirak Region, and for Armenia’s IT industry as a whole by GTech continues to be a force for change in the Shirak Region, and for Armenia’s IT industry as a whole by

The project aims to reduce the effects of poverty in Tavush Province by addressing its roots and breaking the cycle that has become endemic in parts of Armenia. Through individually tailored plans, families in Berd City and its surrounding communities are able to mitigate poverty’s crippling effects and become more self-sufficient in the long-run through improved access to education, housing, better nutrition and healthcare, job and income opportunities, and other significant resources. Sixty new families were selected to receive social assistance packages in 2017 in addition to the 59 who still receive assistance.

Humanitarian assistance was also given to 452 families.

More than 160 children received rehabilitation services giving potable water access to 2,000 residents. of drinking water systems in five other communities, allowing 750 residents to access potable water in their vicinity. Construction commenced on a 4,100-meter long drinking water system in Vargavan, which will eventually allow 750 residents to access potable water in their vicinity. Construction commenced on a 4,100-meter long drinking water system in Vargavan, which will eventually

Patron Voice: Sam

Business F4R’s program framework was breathtaking and heart warming due to generous fund. I personally was overwhelmed by the compassion, competency and the commitment of all projects stated with values serve. They are truly a model of dedicated professionals who were passionate and dedicated to扶 rejecting the barriers that had prevented them from pursuing the future they envisioned. Sam Mikaelian, F4R supporter and visitor.

WE THANK YOU:
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Mr. & Mrs. Howard & Catherine Arzian
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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BY THE NUMBERS

Since GTech opened in 2005
Since the start of BCPP in 2012

2017 Annual Report |ivating Our Future, Together
Ayo! 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 projects have spanned a number of sectors, and campaigns have been initiated based on making a difference in issues as varied and integrated as public health, education, art, and local business development through awareness-raising, mobilization, partnership and provision of resources.

Each project has been initiated and introduced by young Armenians and has been carried out with their local partners to execute projects transparently and to the highest standards.

Byureghavan and Berd. More than 250 took the opportunity of FAR’s five soup kitchens in Yerevan, Gyumri, Nor Hajn, and downtown Yerevan to distribute educational pamphlets in World No Tobacco Day on May 31 by sending volunteers to locations around Yerevan. The Ayo! team also participated about the dangers of second-hand smoke in conspicuous places.

During 2017, a selection of local artists painted murals around 300 children with different mental and physical disabilities, including autism, cerebral palsy, and Down syndrome. The therapists had only been able to assist one child at a time based on the available equipment. Now, with the special carriage attached to the horse, the hippotherapy team conducts therapy sessions with several children at once and is able to provide more effective and integrated services.

A Gift of Warmth was an emergency project launched in February, which filled a funding gap for the Hrazdan Day Care Center for Children with Disabilities, and allowed it to remain open for the rest of 2017, serving 150 families in need.

Finally, Ayo!’s Chocolate Bank project brought gifts of sweets, winter coats and boots, to needy children and families in the Lori Region over the 2017 holiday season.

Ayo! continues to forge new and innovative partnerships to ultimately spread the message and mobilize action for concrete change in Armenia. During 2017, Ayo! launched the FAR-Families initiative to encourage parishioners to support FAR through this project. Ayo! has become a great vehicle for young activists, specifically members of the ACYOA chapters, to get involved and support change in Armenia.

Ayo! is a vehicle to raise money for local development projects. Ayo! with an idea for a new campaign. Ayo! is a vehicle to raise money for local development projects. Ayo! with an idea for a new campaign. Ayo! is a vehicle to raise money for local development projects.
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Mr. & Mrs. Jeff & Melinda Demirjian
Mr. & Mrs. Arman & Karen Demirjian
Mr. & Mrs. Arpine & Alana Demet
Mr. & Mrs. Aram & Laura Demirjian
Mr. & Mrs. Arpad & Bozna Demirjian
Mr. & Mrs. Aram & Adrienne Demirjian
Mr. & Mrs. Aris & Edine Demirjian
Mr. & Mrs. Arslan & Seda Demirjian
Mr. & Mrs. Arina & Arin Demirjian
Mr. & Mrs. Aram & Arina Demirjian
Mr. & Mrs. Armine & Arina Demirjian
Mr. & Mrs. Aris & Arina Demirjian
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Mr. & Mrs. Aris & Arina Demirjan2017 Annual Report - Page 10
The financial statements of the Fund for Armenian Relief, Inc. for the year ending December 31, 2017, 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.

### 2017 Asset Base

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$3,287,656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>$2,897,336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and pledges receivable</td>
<td>$6,262,137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>$1,511</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventory of supplies and donated goods</td>
<td>$359,348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and equipment, net</td>
<td>$1,330,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beneficial interest in funds held by others</td>
<td>$1,787,457</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pooled investments held by ACEF</td>
<td>$3,392,518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>$19,318,313</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2017 Program Services

- Development & Next Generation: $1,732,249 (44%)
- Seniors: $331,827 (14%)
- Children: $1,511 (25%)
- Total Assets: $3,910,973

### 2017 Support & Revenue

- Contributions: $7,838,936 (82%)
- Grants & Contracts: $204,873 (2%)
- In-Kind Donations: $828,442 (9%)
- Total: $9,548,591

### 2017 Financial Highlights

- **Program Services**
  - Development & Next Generation: $1,732,249 (44%)
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  - Total Assets: $3,910,973

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  - Total: $9,548,591

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  - Medical & Emergency Need: $150,484 (4%)
  - Other Income: $14,438 (<1%)
  - Investment Income: $641,032 (7%)

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