



NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 2

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Important Dates

- Sep. 28 – Oct 10
Uplift Mission & Assessment Trip
- Nov 10 – Annual Recognition Dinner

Advisory Committee

Allan Lines
Mike Ridge
Nick Elmasian
Nune Sarukhanyan
Ross Porter
Shirley Funt,
Joe Clase
Vicki Schwartz
Caroline Funt
Richard Funt
Robert Moore
Gretchen Hopley



New Lchkazor Library
2009

Sharing, Being Committed, Getting Connected

Richard C. Funt, PhD

Our second newsletter for 'Uplift Armenia' speaks to Armenian children, education, and severe poverty that exist in many rural areas of Armenia. We hear from Nune Sarukhanyan in her thank you letter to Bethel International Methodist Church for many families who need shoes, stationary, and clothes. Also Caroline tells us about her experience and about the Armenian educational system.

Share Our Resources



There is a need for an honest acknowledgement and a humble recognition that we do not own the earth's resources and that the people of the world should enjoy the equal and just sharing of the earth's gifts.

In our deliberations with our advisory team for 'Uplift Armenia we see a need in the short term to provide clothes, blankets, seeds, shoes socks etc. and have them distributed through UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief and to Green Lane Agriculture Assistance Program where both are Non-Government Organizations (NGO's) Non government organizations are more able to get more value to the poor than some organizations which take 'pocket tax' before the product gets to the needy. Secondly, we need to travel to Armenia and visit the US Embassy and the above mentioned NGO's. Here we will outline our short and long term goals. Thus, the immediate need is to gather start up monies to build a strong foundation for future projects to help Armenian children.

Get committed

Many people who have to travelled Armenia and have worked side by side the Armenians understand their needs and that working step by step in the short term creates a lasting long term effect. Uplift Armenia is dedicated and committed to supporting programs to create strong, healthy, well educated children particularly those who live in poverty, who are orphans and refugees. I am reminded by the work of a Peace Corps volunteer in Armenia who worked very hard to assist 18 and 19 year old orphan girls to help them in making good decisions in this difficult world. We acknowledge even here in the United States that those who have no family support need guidance at this critical time in their lives.

Get a connection

By supporting 'Uplift Armenia you can get a connection to real world needs as providing education, greater access to clean water, food, and medical facilities in the long term. Our teams have given considerable thought in their strategic plan first to build a strong plan and then a strong foundation and third challenging goals. By connecting with 'Uplift Armenia' you will receive a newsletter indicating events and updates on change in Armenia.

So let's get started, let's share our resources get committed and get a connection to those in need.

Richard C. Funt PhD has absorbed the Armenian philosophy to work side by side, step by step to create a better living condition, great access to an abundant nutritious food supply and clean water so that children can attend school without a concern about hunger and disease.

Photo: Children and teacher at the Gavar Special School

Children's Educational Materials for an Armenian Village

Caroline C. Funt



Prior to leaving for Armenia, I purchased educational materials in hopes of starting an early childhood program and to have materials for the library, such as puzzles and quiet games. Some of the materials purchased were play dough, blocks, stacking and sorting cups, a sorting train, Mancala, and Blink. We also had children's books and bars of soap donated by our church's Vacation Bible School children. Their library concept was one

After arriving in Lchkadzor and talking to the village people, I realized that the village wasn't ready for more than just books in their library. Their library concept was one that involved having a librarian that runs the library and when a child wants a book, the librarian gets the book for him/her. The children weren't permitted to use the library as an after school place or a place to go to see friends. Thus, my goals for the trip were changed.

I wanted to teach the children to play Mancala and Blink before leaving them in the library. On the first Wednesday there, I had the opportunity to take four girls to a classroom with an interpreter to teach them to play Mancala. After a few minutes, minutes of the boys showed up to learn how to play the game. By the end of my stay, I had 10 to 12 children from the village arguing over who got to play next. All of the children were excited to play and enjoyed playing the game very much.

The next day, I taught the same children the game, Blink. This was more challenging since there was no interpreter available, but Kristina (another member of the Mission Team) and I tried to teach them. Finally an interpreter became available to explain to the children. They continued to play Blink while we were at lunch.

As for the needs of the village, I believe their education is exceptional. As much as I would love to see an early childhood program, I can't tell them to start one when they must be doing

something right with education. I strongly believe that the most valuable need is the new English program in the school and their access to Armenian literature and educational methods/curriculum developments books for the teachers. The teachers need educational materials to help the children learn.

I believe the library concept is great for the village. In the future, I hope to see the children able to use the library more fully than they do now. I believe this would eventually help the village as a whole, both the adults and children. Adding computers to the library will also be a valuable resource for the community.

Caroline C. Funt, BA; Teacher, Westerville City Schools; Member, Bethel International United Methodist Church, Uplift Armenia Advisory Committee Member; Participated in an UMCOR VIM Trip to Armenia, 2009 (UMCOR – United Methodist Committee on Relief; VIM – Volunteer in Mission)

Photo: Caroline with Armenian children in Lchkadzor, 2009.

A Visit to Armenia-2012

Nune Sarukhanyan PhD

Richard C. Funt PhD

October 10 – 19, 2012 Dr. Richard C. Funt re-visited Armenia, where many farmers and specialists were impatiently waiting to speak with him. During his 2011 trip Dr. Funt had brought seeds of vegetables for the members of Lukashin Agricultural Cooperative for testing purposes. During this trip he evaluated the results of the production season, provided aid to the number of unilateral orphaned and extremely poor families from Archis and Teghut communities of Lori marz (state). He also visited the Norq special school and provided them aid as well.



During his visit to farms Dr. Funt mentioned that the seeds were donated by Bethel Church (Bethel International Methodist Church, Columbus, Ohio) and the farmers expressed their deepest gratitude to all the members of Bethel church. For advising purposes, Dr. Funt visited Quarinj, Sanahin, and Shnogh communities of Lori marz and provided consultancy regarding production technologies of berry crops and fruit trees.

At the end of the visit, Green Lane specialists along with the active farmers gathered together to summarize, and reflect on the trips results. It

was decided that the activities will continue, that Dr. Funt would be informed of their results by the farmers and specialists, and that the concept of establishing ‘The Green Lane Training Center should be addressed. The creation of the ‘Green Training center will provide the opportunity for hundreds of farmers to obtain theoretical and practical knowledge.

Rural Women’s Councils of Archis and Teghut communities had applied to many organizations to assist families of many children and/or single parents. Their requests were addressed as Dr. Funt had supplied financial support to buy winter boots. Eleven children were provided new shoes and stationary with the intention of reducing families’ burdens and worries. Further,

Arayik Andreasyan, who cares for three children which live in very poor housing, was provided funds for renovating a roof

Nune Sarukhanyan, Ph.D. is Director of Green Lane NGO in Armenia has been recognized worldwide for assisting women to become businessmen and increasing family income. Uplift Armenia is proud to work with her to reduce severe poverty and increase education in agriculture.

Richard C. Funt Ph.D. is Director of the Armenian Children's Support Fund and has work with Dr. Sarukhanyan since 2003 where both were part of USDA/MAP project.

THE POWER OF A \$50 PER MONTH CONTRIBUTION

Joe Clase, AICP – Associate Director, Armenian Children's Support Fund
Ross Porter, BSBA – Membership Director, Armenian Children's Support Fund



No contribution of time or money is too large or too small, but our pledge to contributors is that no more than 10% of your pledge contributing to the operation costs of our organization. We strive for less overhead and more of meaningful impact as a charitable organization where you choose to contribute your time or money.

Membership levels start at \$300 per year or an annual pledge of just \$25 per month. For the purpose of this article we would like to focus on the immediate need for 100 annual pledges of \$50 per month by the end of the year.

Your total pledge of \$600 would do the following to further our efforts to uplift the Armenian community:

- At least half of this pledge will directly support and sponsor the expenses of a woman-owned agricultural business owner to attend an annual business conference where she will get necessary training on how to run her own business in order increase household income.
- Substantial support will go to our planning effort to develop an academic institution in Armenia with exchange with the United States.
- You will be sponsoring a portion of a mission trip where we send United States citizens with specialized training to Armenia to offer boots-on-the-ground assistance to Armenian children and families.

We welcome you to join us as a contributing member and help us make a meaningful impact in the great nation of Armenia. Financial contributions can be made payable to:

“Armenian Children's Support Fund”
c/o Richard Funt, Executive Director
1877 Stockwell Drive
Columbus, OH 43235



For information about ways you can contribute, visit www.upliftarmenia.org.