



Newsletter

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Shirley Funt- Secretary/Treasurer
Adam Bdoyan-Membership Director
Robert Moore-Education Director

Advisory Committee

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Nick Elmasian
Joe Clase
Carolyn Haas
Pat White
Shirley Brooks Jones

2020 Membership Meeting

The 2020 Membership Meeting was held virtually on Friday November 13, 2020. Dick Funt, Executive Director of the Armenian Children's Support Fund, which sponsors our Uplift Armenia Project, opened the meeting, and asked everyone to introduce themselves. He reviewed the 2020 activities. Three thousand dollars was given to UMCOR/ Armenia Foundation to buy and deliver children's boots and coats. In a thank you note from UMCOR's director, the children would not have attended kindergarten without the boots.

Joe Clase discussed the committee assignments for the 2020-2021 and defined committee objectives. The committees will be meeting in the coming weeks. He reviewed the proposed budget.

Dick Funt indicated that Ross Porter's position on the board had expired asked for nominations for his replacement. Adam Bdoyan was nominated and selected by unanimous vote to become the new Membership Director. Further, Tigran (Tiko) Bdoyan, Adam's son, accepted the Apprentice position and will provide 100 hours of service on the Humanitarian and Logistics committees.

Committee Reports

Each of the three committees has been meeting monthly. They have created a list of 4-H Youth projects and have acquired 4-H project books from the Franklin County Ohio Cooperative Extension Office. The Extension Office provided most books for no charge and are pleased to contribute to our project. Secondly, Pat White has gathered a group of members from the Broad Street United Methodist Church (Columbus) to provide many children's books, which is part of our project to encourage early childhood reading. Further, Pat has formed a committee to organize the shipment of books and to design a children's library where there are shelves for children to select books and table and chairs for them to read. Pat's committee consists of individuals who are teachers and professors of Elementary Education and K-12 Language Arts and an English Reading specialist. They want to make the shipment happen and begin our pilot 4-H program in Armenia. They are enthusiastic and want to involve Armenia student teachers and librarians to make this project sustainable.

The **Marketing Committee** has listed ten 4-H Projects they believe would be viable. They have provided a list of the needed tools, lumber, vegetable seeds, and supplies for successful projects. We have budgeted for 100 youth between 9 and 19 years of age, who will take up no more than two projects per year. Some of these are standard food and sewing projects and some are new STEM projects. Our library will have books for most of these projects and will plan for advanced projects and the different ways of completing more advanced activities.

The **Logistics Committee** has located a shipping company that will ship a 40 ft. container from Columbus to Yerevan. The container will have over \$44,000 worth of educational materials, woodworking tools and lumber, books, refereed journals, textbooks, children's books, student desks, bookshelves, tables, and chairs, DVDs, etc.

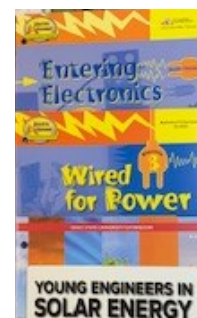
Welcome Adam Bdoyan and Tiko Bdoyan

Adam Bdoyan has joined our board of directors and is a member of two committees. He was born in 1978 in Yerevan, Armenia, which was part of the Soviet Union at that time. He graduated from high school, specializing in math and physics, and holds a BS degree in Electrical Engineering with a major in Radio Physics from Yerevan State University. He also holds an MBA from New York Institute of technology. He founded the Educational Technology Company *ShowMe*. Twenty-five million teachers and students across the world use *ShowMe* regularly. Adam is a loving husband and father of two beautiful children.

Tigran (Tiko) Bdoyan, son of Adam Bdoyan, has joined Uplift Armenia to assist in our youth program. Tiko was born in Yerevan, Armenia in 2004 and moved to the United States when he was three. He attends the Columbus Academy as a sophomore and has a 12-year old sister. His passions are computer science and wrestling.



The objective of the **4-H Pilot Project** is to improve skills and increase knowledge of youth ages 9 to 19. As the youth develop and apply these new skills, adult (parents and neighbors) will be observing and joining the youth in applying/adopting these newly learned or developed skills. This will help create stronger communities,, especially in the rural area, which are isolated from the urban and metropolitan centers. Building strong communities is the foundation of a strong economy.



Uplift Armenia has received a **Fundraising Challenge** to raise \$14,000.00 for a 40-foot container and shipping costs. The container will be packed with educational materials. An anonymous donor will match your donations up to \$7,000. Once unpacked, the container will remain in Armenia for possible use as a housing or a classroom. Donations , made payable to Armenia Children's Support Fund, should be sent to Richard Funt, Armenian Children's Support Fund, 1877 Stockwell Drive, Columbus, OH 43235.

Corporate Sponsors

The **Marketing Committee** is responsible for fundraising and has the objective of meeting our \$35,000 proposed budget for 2021. The newest category is Corporate sponsorship. For a contribution of \$250.00, the company name, product, email, and/or general address will be listed in the newsletter. As an example, we have listed individuals or businesses to support our 4-H program in Armenia. Please seek out businesses in your area and ask for their support of Uplift Armenia. Please see the first corporate sponsor below.

Corporate Sponsor

Richard C. Funt, PhD
Horticulture Consultant/ Advisor
Fruit/Vegetable Production/Marketing
richardfunt@sbcglobal.net

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Uplift Armenia is a project under the Armenian Children's Support Fund a 501(c)(3) Charitable Nonprofit Corporation which has a long term goal of providing an opportunity to all people through education. Make checks payable to the Armenian Children's Support Fund; send to Richard Funt, 1877 Stockwell Drive Columbus OH 43235.