



# Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 2

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## Greetings to All from Richard Funt, Director

This is our second letter for 2020. In our first newsletter, we discussed our trip in November 2019, but more importantly we had a message from Gohar at UMCOR Armenia Foundation. She thanked us for our kindness and kind hearts. With our \$3,000 donation they bought 97 pairs of shoes and 97 warm jackets for children aged one to 15. Some went to kindergarten children and some to children of multimember families, socially vulnerable, and malnourished living in very poor housing conditions. Many of children could not attend kindergarten due to the lack of shoes and warm clothing. The mothers could hardly contain their tears of joy.



Joe Clase & Richard Funt at UMCOR Office



Richard Funt discussing Youth Program with potential participants.

Joe Clase and I met with youth and their parents in Lukashin and discussed our youth program. The children and parents were very pleased to learn about our programs. Some of the children had participated in a Jr. Achievement program for one year. After collecting some donations of \$100 per person for 100 youth we were planning to return in March 2020 to start the program and then return in September 2020 for the Youth roundup. Due to Covid-19, we were unable to get the youth program started. However, these events and delays have given us time to develop stronger programs for youth and make plans that are sustainable in the future.

As a point of interest, there has been some recent military action on the Armenian/Azerbaijan border where Armenian soldiers have been killed. In November 2019, Joe and I talked with a reporter from Switzerland about her newspaper article on the strife on the border and hopeful outcomes, and the new governments initiatives on sitting down and discussing peace. Ironically, we also had discussions with seven Azerbaijanis representative to the talks the following morning. They asked us "How does the United States or an American citizen think about their country?". They assured us that they respect the US and all peoples of the world since they have about 1/3 of their population are Jewish people who settled there since WWII. Of course, I replied that most of the US do not know or understand about Azerbaijan, but we gathered information from our experience in Armenia. I had hopes that these negotiations would bring a settlement, but with the current strife that is still in the future.

Joe and I were delighted to have Tatev as our interpreter and guide in November 2019. Tatev served as one of our UMCOR mission trip's interpreters 10+ years ago. Tatev displays the Armenian positive spirit and wants to continue to assist us with our support of her country.

### Current Activities

1. Continue developing Youth Programs: I will be speaking with the Franklin County Extension office about 4-H projects books and leaders guides. In the 2020 Ohio 4-H Family Guide, they talk about a Global Programs Guide. They have a new project where they look at 4-H through an international lens with close-ups of Ghana, Kosovo, Nicaragua and South Korea. We will make selections of Project books in Agriculture, Health, Bee Keeping, Dairy, Poultry, Welding, STEM Pathways, exploring programs in science, technology engineering and math to enhance curiosity, critical thinking problem solving, communication and teamwork. We are seeking individuals who wish to advise and sponsor these programs. If you have any suggestions for projects or sponsors for projects let us know.
2. Bring the shipment of books, 4-H materials, textbooks, encyclopedias, national geographic magazines and agricultural journals to fruition. We will create a budget, contact a container shipper, ship to Armenia, and locate a place where the books can be best utilized, most likely in Lukashin.
3. Continue to expand and improve our Strategic Plan. The major part of this phase is to be certain our work and programs are sustainable in the short term and in the long term.
4. Be creative in fund raising for our projects. Please use our AmazonSmile account when you order items from Amazon by logging into AmazonSmile: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/81-4090695>.



Nune, Joe and Dick at Green Lane Office



Fruit Market in Yerevan

**Note:** If you wish to receive this newsletter by email, please send your email address to [richardfunt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:richardfunt@sbcglobal.net) with Uplift Armenia in the Subject line This will greatly help reduce printing and postage costs.

**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.

