



# NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 2

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## Important Date

- Nov – Annual Recognition Dinner

## Board of Directors

- Richard Funt, President
- Joe Clase, Vice President
- Shirley Funt, Secretary/Treasurer
- Ross Porter, Membership
- Robert Moore, Education

## Update on Armenia

Richard C. Funt, PhD

Director, Armenian Children's Support Fund

The Velvet Revolution in Armenia occurred in April, 2018 and began as protests against the current government officials. The protesters were mainly young people who were unhappy with the corruption in government due to officials manipulating funds into their own 'pockets' before or after government funds were provided for education, roads and medical services. Protesters went into the street and blocked the streets in the capital of Yerevan. The prime minister and the leader of the protests met in front of TV cameras. The prime minister was simply asked to step down. Parliament went into session and held an election and placed a republican candidate and the opposition leader (leader of the protest) on a ballot. The first vote went with the republican candidate.

The protesters again went into the streets of 5 major Armenian cities and shut down the Yerevan airport. Government offices and the US Embassy were closed for several days with the protesting continuing over the weekend. Finally, another vote in parliament elected the opposition leader.

The police and soldiers did not participate nor react to the protesters and no one was injured or killed. Many Armenians were pleased with the results and relieved that the protests were over so that schools and businesses could move forward.



Richard C. Funt, Director of the Armenian Children's Support Fund.

Joe Clase and I visited Armenia in late April to early May of 2018. This was Joe's first visit to Armenia. He will share his experience and how we can move forward with our Strategic Plan.

## Robert Moore Joins the Armenian Children's Support Fund

Robert Moore has accepted the position of Education director on the Board of Directors. He replaces Vicki Schwartz who was a valuable asset to our work. Robert, the owner of Wright and Moore LLC in Delaware Ohio, assists farmers and farm related businesses on many legal issues His wife, Kelly, is also part of the business and assists with estate planning.

Robert is connected to the family farm and has worked at Ohio State in the Department of Agricultural Economics.



## **Uplift Armenia Committee Holds Planning/Budget Meeting**

Richard C. Funt, PhD

**(Pictures)**

Uplift Armenia held a daylong meeting on August 14 in Ostrander to outline goals for Fall 2018 and for 2019. With our successful trip to Armenia in April 2018 and the development of a strong relationship with Lakashin village and Green Lane, the committee outlined future needs. Joe Clase showed pictures of the proposed land development, electrical service and the buildings that are available for purchase. We want to develop agricultural land for growers and test plots. We want to show a comparison of today's standards to that of those used in the past. This requires the replacement of three pumps (\$6,000 each) which will discharge 12 liters per second of irrigation water.

Secondly, we want to renovate a building for the STEM+M school. This larger building is located near the main highway into Lukashin. It is surrounded by 'homes' of refugees from Baku, Azerbaijan. These refugees have 'lived' there since the mid-1990's. It is my vision that refugees and other families of Lukashin will come to the school to learn craftsmanship for self-sustainability by making clothing and household items and producing a majority of their own food as well sells food at local markets or the marketing cooperative. As mentioned above, for the refugees to produce food in an arid climate, irrigation from wells is essential

There are now over 68 million displaced people in the world and now more recent data indicates that refugees remain in a camp for an average of 17 years.

### **Learning from Armenians**

Education creates an opportunity for children and adults to be more productive and live a useful life. I learned on the last trip to Armenia that villages have been upgraded by orphans and the orphans marry and have children and continue to improve their village schools, etc. It is my vision that our STEM+M school and hands on experience will lead the Armenian villages into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Our school can develop teams that go into the village and get the 'ball rolling' with the assistance of the nearby villages. Our teams can install indoor plumbing, electrical and communication systems which will reduce the burden of daily chores and allow more time for work and recreation. Thus, rural development 'uplifts' the people who have had traumatic experiences in other countries, such as Syria.

### **Membership Dinner Fundraiser**

Our annual membership Dinner will be at the AimHi Shooting Range ,10299 Johnstown Rd. (Rt.62), New Albany 43054 from 6 to 9 PM. Food will be provided by the Main Street Market caterer, with delicious barbeque pulled pork and ribs, pork tenderloin, salad, and berry cobbler. Well have a guest speaker who will address the needs of Armenia. plus, an update on our plans for Uplift Armenia. Please plan to attend and Make it Happen. **Cost**

