



# ACSF Newsletter

[www.upliftarmenia.com](http://www.upliftarmenia.com)

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- Our Sponsors

## 2023 Annual Membership Meeting

—Richard Funt, PhD, Executive Director

The 2023 Annual Membership Meeting was held at the Der Dutchman Restaurant in Plain City, Ohio the same as t years before. After a family style breakfast, Mariam and Marine joined the members via internet. The large screen made the presentation seem as if they were physically present. The members discussed the ongoing projects and expressed their approval and thanks for all that our staff are doing. Robert Moore was nominated and accepted a new 5-year term on the Board of Directors. Congratulations, Robert!

Joe Clase outlined the 2024 Budget and fundraising events. Several fundraisers were outlined to include farmers in central Ohio. Also, we want to seek collaboration with manufacturers of compost so they can help us establish a composting facility in Armenia.

## 2024 Uplift Armenia Fundraising Drive

—Joe Clase, AICP, Administrator

In line with our effort to provide quality programming for Armenian youth, we welcome donations of funding, educational materials / equipment, volunteer time and other resources. We welcome your contribution.

### \$15,000 will sustain funding for our Learning Center and Gardening Project in 2024

This represents about \$30 per child within the Village of Lukashin, where our programming is currently offered, a town with a population of 2,200 resident including about 500 children. Additional funding will help establish a reserve for future years and allow us to expand programming to serve children in surrounding villages.

In 2023, we had an average of about a dozen children per class. The more funds we raise, the more children we can serve with our facility. We are breaking down our goal into a request for 500 donations of \$30, representing the individual weekly income of adults in these Armenian rural communities. We are recognizing donors of at least \$120 (4 units) with membership and donors of \$300 (10 units) or more as program sponsors. Donors of \$5,000 or more are considered lifetime members of our organization.

Our annual fundraising drive runs October 2023 through September 2024, but we need your help hitting this target early, so we can ensure continued programming. Thank you for your support!

**Please Help Us Accomplish our Goal!!!**

## Current Board Members

- Richard C. Funt, Ph.D.  
Executive Director (Founding Board Member, term expires 2027)
- Adam Bdoyan, M.B.A.  
Membership Director (Appointed 2020, term expires 2025)
- Shirley Funt, M.Ed.  
Secretary/Treasurer/Director (Founding Board Member, term expires 2026)
- Robert Moore, Esq.  
Education Director (Appointed 2018, term expires 2028)
- Mike Ridge, P.E.  
Vice Director (Appointed 2018, term expires 2024)

## Administrator

- Joe Clase, AICP

## Advisors

- Patricia White
- Allan Lines

## Ararat Valley Education Center Staff

- Mariam Jamalyan, Program Coordinator
- Marine Galstyan, Program Coordinator

### Educators

- Ms. Milena Hoysepyan  
English Teacher and Book Club Leader
- Albert Karapetyan  
4-H Vegetable Project Leader
- Nver Abgaryan, IT  
Artificial Intelligence Instructor
- Ms. Narine Yeghiazaryan  
Sewing Teacher and Sewing Club Leader

## Fundraising Drive continued

Our annual fundraising drive runs October 2023 through September 2024, but we need your help hitting this target early, so we can ensure continued programming. Thank you for your support!

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## 2024 Program Budget

Learning Center Expenses = \$10,000

This covers the cost of educator salaries, missionary travel, coordination of programming, utilities, cleaning and general program expenses.

Garden Project Expenses = \$2,000

This includes greenhouse rent & educator salaries, as well as expenses for the purchase of seeds, fertilizers, containers and other supplies for the horticulture project.

Administrative Expenses = \$3,000

The cost to serve a constituency 6,000 miles away isn't cheap, but we strive to minimize these expenses. We use general administrative funds to pay for correspondence, exchange rates, website, marketing, bookkeeping and government filing fees.

Total Budget = \$15,000



## Fundraising Methodology

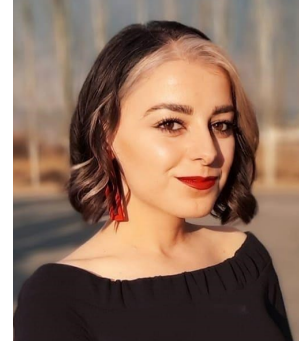
1. What isn't spent annually rolls over to assist with satisfying the next year's goal on December 31 of each year.
2. If the organization doesn't raise funds in the drive to satisfy the budget needs, we work with the Board to determine how to limit programming and expenses accordingly.
3. We would love to raise additional funds to help grow our programming in 2024 to proportionately decrease our administrative costs and help more of every dollar reach the children of Armenia.



# Lukashin Project Update

—Mariam Jamalyan, Program Coordinator

**Sewing Club:** The Sewing Club is currently in the active process of receiving applications, with a notable interest from adult women. Our promotional efforts include postings on our Facebook page and the library notice board. We are pleased to introduce Ms. Narine Yeghiazaryan as the selected teacher for the Sewing Club. Ms. Yeghiazaryan, 25 years old and born in Lukashin, is a fourth-year student at the State Academy of Fine Arts of Armenia, specializing in Clothing Modeling. She brings valuable experience as a pastry designer, a teacher of a drawing group, and an organizer of events and exhibitions. Ms. Yeghiazaryan has proposed a comprehensive concept for a 9-month sewing workshop for children, allowing participants to design and sew simple garments. The official commencement of this workshop is scheduled for February 1st.



[Editor's Note: This is a wonderful, wonderful opportunity for the youth! A class for the adult women could perhaps lead to a means of generating income. Many years ago, in our nation's capitol there was an income generating program, where women were taught to make specific, quality items to be sold at the local department stores.]



**English Book Club:** The English Book Club continues to operate regularly with a dedicated group of eight students. Having completed the book "The Diary of Anne Frank," the students presented end of December insightful presentations on how Christmas and New Year are celebrated in various countries. In consideration of the Armenian school holidays, we have decided to commence the new semester from February, maintaining the current schedule.



**Agriculture Club:** The Agriculture Club, boasting a membership of 10 students, concluded its 2023 session on November 1st. Summarizing the results of the last academic year, the children gained valuable experience in plant cultivation, proper irrigation techniques, disease detection, and crop harvesting methods that minimise damage. Notable achievements include the successful growth and sale of various crops such as cabbage (9.4 kg), red cabbage (5.5 kg), tomatoes (28 kg), cucumber (51.5 kg), broccoli (10.6 kg), and cauliflower (8.5 kg). We are excited to announce that the new academic year for the Agriculture Club will commence on March 1st.







**Armenian Children's Support Fund**

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Thank you Donors



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