



ACSF Newsletter

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STUDENT PARTICIPANT
U.S. DESK IN LEARNING CENTER

Learning Center Classes Began in Fall 2021

By: Mariam Jamalyan, Program Coordinator

This Fall was full of physical work and cleaning in the library in preparation of our first class. We have finished the organization of literature that was shipped from the U.S. in 2021. The literature will be indexed into the new barcode system this Winter.

As we opened the doors to the new Learning Center in Lukashin, we were happy to see 15 to 20 students participate in each class. The class sizes continue to grow as we have been hosting English classes for youth three days a week. that are growing in popularity.



1ST CLASS
LIBRARY & LEARNING CENTER

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Current Board Members

- Richard C. Funt, Ph.D.
Executive Director (Founding Board Member, term expires 2022)
- Adam Bdoyan
Membership Director (Appointed 2020, term expires 2025)
- Shirley Funt
Secretary/Treasurer
Director (Founding Board Member, term expires 2026)
- Robert Moore, Esq.
Education Director (Appointed 2018, term expires 2023)
- Mike Ridge, P.E.
Vice Director (Appointed in 2019, term expires 2024)

Why Should We Export Education?

By: Richard C. Funt Ph.D., Executive Director

In 2021, a container full of educational materials, such as scientific journals, agricultural books, physics books, astrology magazines, National Geographic was shipped to Armenia. They cover most of the 20th Century discoveries and explain climate change and its prevention, agricultural science and the use of compost, drip irrigation, food production, food preparation and food preservation. Some of the classics from Tolstoy, Hemmingway were also included in the shipment. It is important for children to select books that are of interest to them. The children in the 4-H program were thrilled to start a Book Club, which will help the children learn to read and write in English. Also, when the children select books on their own, they become more creative and curious about their surroundings and about other countries in the world. I cannot wait to see them plant vegetable and flower gardens next spring. Teachers have often said “ the children of the world in the 21st Century will have greater challenges than I”. Thus, with education, children will be able to make the world a better place. The children have had time off from school this Fall, and thus, have been involved in the Book Club.



RICHARD C. FUNT, PH.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



MARIAM JAMALYAN
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Land Donated by Lukashin Community Leader

By: Joe Clase, AICP, Administrator

Our project to develop an educational research center will continue to take shape with development of a 1.25 acre site on the south side of the Village of Lukashin. The Village's community leader, Mr. Karen Mkrtchyan pictured to the left below, offered a long-term lease on half a hecter of land within the Village's park that is currently not being utilized. During our recent mission trip to Armenia in July 2021, soil samples were collected and it was confirmed that the site could be cultivated to provide for agricultural production. The plan is to locate demonstration plots on the site and provide opportunities for youth to garden along side the demonstrations and build practical agricultural skills.



KAREN MKRTCHYAN
COMMUNITY LEADER
VILLAGE OF LUKASHIN



JOE CLASE, AICP
ADMINISTRATOR



RICHARD C. FUNT, PH.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"The children like her very much, and she is indeed very friendly and is open to learning new teaching techniques. She knows the school curriculum and the capabilities of the children very well. She is a great addition to our team." — Mariam Jamalyan regarding English Teacher Janna Hovhannisyan

Welcoming a new English Teacher

Zhanna (Janna) Hovhannisyan, was born and raised in the Village of Lukashin where she lives now. She studied English at Yerevan State Pedagogical University and currently works in Lukshin School as an IT expert. She also taught English and ecology with Heifer International and is our newest team member.

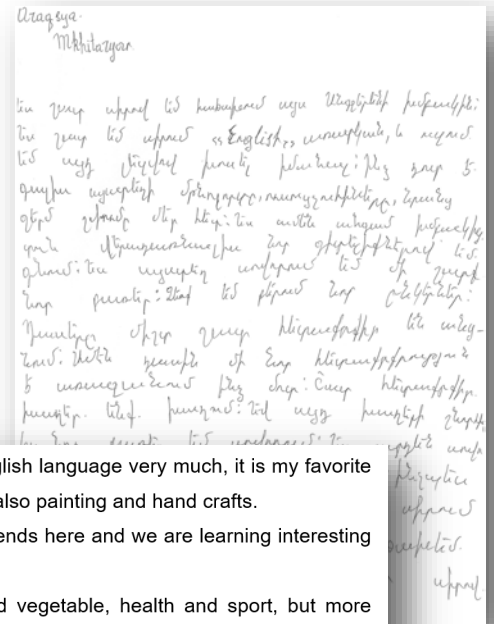


JANNA HOVHANNISYAN
ENGLISH TEACHER

2021 Youth Projects

By: Mariam Jamalyan, Program Coordinator

The youth who participated in the 2021 youth program have provided us with short written reports in both Armenian and English to demonstrate what they have learned so far while participating. We are using their feedback to improve classes. There are a couple examples of their reports included here, one of which is in English for you to read and enjoy. If you are interested in helping serve as an adult advisor, let us know. Thank You!



My name is Tsaghik Shorachyan, I am 13 years old. I like English language very much, it is my favorite subject in the school and I will be a linguist in the future. I like also painting and hand crafts.

I visit the English club with pleasure, because I have many friends here and we are learning interesting things. And the classes are very active and fun.

We had classes about many interesting topics like food and vegetable, health and sport, but more interesting was the English class on the day of Halloween, because everyone was telling about their favorite horror characters and we read and translated a book with small sooky stories. I hope I will speak English better and can read more books from the library.

Today we had a brainstorming for the Holy Christmas day, and I'm very happy that we will have a play from a book and Christmas decorations too. It is very good that miss Janna helps us to understand the texts and do the classes on our favorite topics.

I will visit my English club forever.

Ararat Valley Education & Research Fund — NGO

By: Adam Bdoyan, Membership Director

Non-governmental organizations, or NGOs are generally defined as nonprofit entities independent of governmental influence (although they may receive government funding). Similar to the U.S. nonprofit organizations (NPOs), the NGO label is given to organizations operating on an international level. NGOs play a critical part in developing society, improving communities, and promoting citizen participation.

We can continue to operate as an NPO in the U.S. though, we are finding it beneficial to partner with an international NGO to provide for the organizational transfer and expenditure of contributions abroad. Such organization will also qualify for grant funds and other revenues that we currently cannot seek under the NPO.

As a result of this need, we are working with our team and partners in Armenia to setup and develop a sister organization, called Ararat Valley Education & Research Fund, to administer granted funds and operate locally to advance our interests. If you hear us refer to this organization in the future, we want our members and sponsors to understand why this was important.

5 Year Strategic Plan (2022-2026)

By: Joe Clase, AICP, Administrator

As presented to the Board, we aspire to raise and invest \$5 million in Armenia in the next five (5) years. We have sent out the following objectives to accomplish this goal:

- ◆ Focus on building and expanding the Learning Center and Research Center into a unified campus with a youth exchange program and regular publication of research literature.
- ◆ Limit administrative and operational expenditures to 10% of funding each, focusing 80% of all funding on building capital.
- ◆ Ensure permanent revenue sources cover all annual administrative and operational expenses, including building revenue sources in Armenia to support at least 10% of all revenue goals.
- ◆ Build on existing membership and sponsorships to double such contributions annually.
- ◆ Seek out additional partners to provide grant funds and matching funds to make every dollar raised to go further.

2022 Revenues

- ◆ Grant Funding = \$100,000
- ◆ Monthly Events targeting \$5,000 each = \$60,000
- ◆ 100 memberships @ \$120 each = \$12,000
- ◆ 36 corporate sponsorships @ \$250 each = \$8,000
- ◆ In country support = \$20,000

2022 Expenses

- ◆ \$130 / month salary for team members (x 4 team members) = \$1,560.00 per member
- ◆ Minimal operations expense for Learning Center
- ◆ Establish Hoop House and Security at new Research Lab & Garden site
- ◆ Security Fencing = \$8,000
- ◆ Hoop House for starting plants = \$18,000
- ◆ Supplies = \$10,000—Seeking grants to help make funds go further.



PARTICIPANTS IN HALLOWEEN PROGRAM
OCTOBER 2021

Announcements

On November 12th, Uplift Armenia held its 5th Annual Membership Meeting via Zoom. An election was held for Secretary/Treasurer for the next five years. Shirley Funt, the previous secretary/treasurer was nominated, and by vote, was elected to another 5-year term. Congratulations to Shirley!!

Following the membership meeting the Board met to approve the 2022 budget and to publish a membership pledge form. 2021 has been an excellent year with the prospect of an even better 2022.

Many thanks to all who made our successful year!

— Richard C. Funt, Ph.D.

New Administrator

By: Joe Clase, AICP, Administrator

I am honored to serve as the organizations initial Chief Executive Officer (CEO), serving our members through the Board's leadership. I have offered my office at Plan 4 Land and staff as support as we fine-tune our plans, continue fundraising and build our team.

The CEO in a non-profit organization maintains an open communication to the organization's board of directors, reports any significant information and oversees the organization's day-to-day operations.

We will be taking an active role in the fundraising activities for the organization, including organizing and hosting more events in 2022. We look forward to working with you in this new role.



MARIAM JAMALYAN COORDINATOR

RICHARD C. FUNT, PH.D. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MARINE GALSTYAN COORDINATOR

KRISTINE MARTIROSYAN COORDINATOR

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Armenian Children's Support Fund

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