

JINISHIAN MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

Annual Report 2009

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Developing Skills, Instilling Values and Opening Opportunities for a Dignified Life

Armenia is a country of amazing contrasts and unsolvable puzzles. Here you can see how the most profound theories and axioms break apart, and how the nation survives in a state of desperateness and deadlock. Yet, despite Armenia's tragic history and ongoing political and economic threats, the country continues its fight for independence, democracy, and a bright future, reporting medium level social and economic ratings. This phenomenon has several explanations, one of which is that there is still an unlimited source of talent, endurance, and courage. The spirit of the Armenian people and nation's eagerness for democracy and independence, create the potential to pull the country out of an endless cycle of mediocrity and on to a course of economic and political growth.

This year, our priorities were focused on directing the development of skills, instilling values and opening opportunities for a dignified life. As an independent and comparatively small local foundation, JMF has the necessary flexibility to immediately react to situational changes, adjust to ongoing programs, and develop best ways to support the Armenian people. Thanks to the growing number of our supporters, donors and partners we have been able to geographically extend our services to reach out to the most remote and neglected areas in the country. Along with our beneficiaries, dedicated local team and board members, we convey our sincere acknowledgment to all those who trusted us by supporting and encouraging us in the work we do.

Respectfully,

Eliza Minasyan
Country Director,
Jinashian Memorial Program Armenia

Jinashian Memorial Foundation Celebrates its 15th Anniversary

On October 8, Jinashian Memorial Foundation's 15th Anniversary ceremony took place in Aram Khachatryan concert hall. Government representatives, US Jinashian Memorial Program Governing bodies, members of Advisory Committees, Directors and staff members of Syrian and Lebanon Jinashian Memorial programs, Jinashian Memorial Foundation Armenia partners and beneficiaries, staff members, their families and friends were present at the event.

Thanking the guests for sharing with JMF the delight of the day, Mrs. Minasyan mentioned: "We couldn't have achieved all these without your cooperation and devotion. And we still have much to do together in future. We'd like to express our profound gratitude to all those who have demonstrated their devotion and commitment to ensure a better life for our compatriots."

The Government of Armenia awarded the JMF with letter of gratitude for the outstanding contribution to the prosperity of homeland. The official ceremony of the Jinishian Foundation 15th Anniversary was followed by the performance of Barekamutyun Armenian State Dance Troupe.

Over the course of the last 15 years Jinishian Memorial Foundation has always been where the help was needed most. It has embarked on variety of relief and development projects in spheres of economy, health, education, as well as community development, civil society and spiritual uplift.

Welcoming Speech by Michael Haratunian, Chair for JMP United States Advisory Committee

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to this wonderful gathering on behalf of the Jinishian Memorial Foundation.

The JMF has had a long history of support for the Armenian people with the express purpose of helping needy Armenians throughout the world to move from poverty and despair to hope and self-sufficiency.

I am here, together with my colleagues from the United States, who oversee the work of Jinishian in Armenia and throughout the Middle East.

It was the wish of the late Vartan Jinishian, the founder of this foundation, to establish a fund to do this work without any form of discrimination among Armenians. We work cooperatively and in an ecumenical manner with the three main religious institutions, Apostolic, Protestant and Catholic.

After working for many years primarily in the Middle East, JMF was established 15 years ago in the independent Republic of Armenia. Our work in this country has now become a shining example of giving our people in Armenia the means to better their lives through programs which emphasize self-help and community development.

We do this because we believe that this is the only way to make any meaningful improvement in the life of the people. We support projects which are sustaining and permanent long after organizations such as ours have moved on to other areas.

Confident in the determination and capabilities of the Armenian people, we believe Armenia can become a home we can all be proud of. It is the mission of JMF, along with many other NGO's and churches working in this country, to achieve such a prospect.

So I thank you all for coming this evening to join us in this 15th anniversary. We promise you that our work has not ended and that it will continue for the benefit of the people of this country.

Welcoming Speech by Victor Makari, JMP Executive Director

Dear Friends,

This is a very special day and we are honored that you could come and celebrate with us this grand occasion. Fifteen years of service among the people of this ancient country, yet very young nation, is not a very long time. Yet the lives of persons that have been and are being transformed are innumerable. Tonight the Jinishian Memorial Program wishes to acknowledge that it could not have achieved any of its accomplishments without your help and support. Your partnership in the work of the Jinishian Memorial Foundation has proven again and again that “Together we can do what we could not do alone”.

Yesterday, we visited a newly refurnished school for the young children of a small village in Lori Marz. I looked at the bright eyes of that group of small children and could see the promise of a whole new generation of future leaders. Their parents and grandparents surrounded them with love and with pride. We could literally witness that “it takes a village” to grow a child. But it also takes all of us together to support that village for the sake of each child.

So tonight, we congratulate you as well as all the communities in which we have been privileged to work. I wish to acknowledge especially a hard working and highly gifted professional staff of the JMF, and a deeply committed and highly dedicated Advisory Committee representing not only expert occupations, but also the ecumenical faith community. There is one person who has faithfully accompanied the Jinishian Program in the Advisory Committee from the very beginning and who continues to inspire us all. And by recognizing this one person, Sister Arousiak, I pay tribute to each member of the Committee, past and present, for being the family that nurtures this important work.

I have had the privilege of serving this program for many years, but as its Executive Director for only three years. Throughout the life of this ministry we give thanks to God for the vision of Mr. Vartan Jinishian himself, and also for so many who gave themselves to the Program’s success. I recall with the reverence and with gratitude past members of the United States Advisory Committee who gave themselves literally till their last breath: Mrs. Perghouhi Sevedgian, Mr. Edward Janjigian and the Rev. Dr. Gregor Chopourian (whose daughter Mrs. Victoria Gehrt continues his legacy of service and is among us here tonight).

I thank the current USAC and Jinishian Commission for their labor of love and on their behalf thank you for your encouragement and support.

In the end, we all recommit ourselves to the service of our Lord Jesus Christ who came not to be served, but to serve; who even laid down his life for others; who came that all may have life, in all its fullness.

Our History

The Jinishian Memorial Foundation (JMF) began work in Armenia in 1993 and became legally registered as a local foundation in 1999. Since then it has provided economic, social and spiritual assistance to more than 2 million needy Armenians, and supported more than 160 grassroots and local NGOs through partnering and collaboration.

Today, JMF has established a reputable structure that supports different layers of the Armenian population through its activities and receives support from various international organizations and individual donors.

The JMF is primarily sponsored by the Jinishian Memorial Program (JMP) of the Presbyterian Church USA. Established on May 17, 1966 by a bequest of Vartan H. Jinishian in memory of his parents, JMP has provided basic services and direct relief to millions of poor Armenians, who have lived in the midst of conflict and instability, in Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Iran, Iraq, South America, Jordan and Armenia.

Our dreams and plans

Mission

JMF enables Armenians in need to move from poverty and despair to self-sufficiency and hope – through relief, development and spiritual uplift.

Vision

Armenian communities are integrated and empowered to sustain a dignified life.

Strategies

Taking a comprehensive approach, JMF aims to:

- Reduce poverty by supporting the development of sustainable economic activities,
- Empower Armenians at all levels of the society to work together to overcome social and economic problems,
- Support the spiritual, intellectual and social development of young Armenians,
- Strengthen civil society through support to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other formal and informal social benefit activities,
- Relieve the immediate suffering of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups through material and spiritual assistance.

Priority Areas

JMF focuses its activities in the following main areas:

- Civil Society
- Economic Development
- Community Development
- Health
- Education and Spiritual Uplift

Program Mechanisms

Within the Priority Areas indicated above, JMF employs four program mechanisms to achieve its Mission and Goals in Armenia:

- Self-Developed Projects – JMF develops and implements its own projects,
- Partnerships – JMF collaborates with local and international organizations to develop, fund and implement projects,
- Small Grants – On a competitive basis, JMF provides small grants to support projects developed and implemented by local NGOs and community groups,
- Credit Services – JMF provides affordable credits to Micro-Finance Institutions and Farmers Cooperatives.

Our people

Advisory Board

Our Advisory Board is comprised of representatives of the Armenian Apostolic, Evangelical and Catholic Churches, and professionals related to JMF priority areas.

Armine Hovannisian
Andranik Hovhannisyan
Father Barouyr Avetisyan
Karine Ghukasyan
Lilit Duryan
Reverend Albert Paytyan
Sister Alice Mkrtchian
Varoujan Avedikian

Staff

Eliza Minasyan, Executive Director
Armen Hakobyan, Programs Manager/Deputy Director
Ruben Krrikyan, Civil Society and Education Program Coordinator
Zaruhi Janibekyan, Health Program Coordinator
Gevorg Aboyan, Community Development Program Coordinator
Zaruhi Sahakyan, Finance Manager
Ashot Aslikyan, Office Manager
Karine Miletbashyan, Executive Assistant
Anahit Galikyan, Program Officer
Hasmik Sevumyan, Translator
Laura Avanesova, Housekeeper
Samson Asatryan, Driver/Expeditor

Supporters

Counterpart International
Delegation of the European Commission to Armenia
Jinishian Memorial Program Presbyterian Church USA
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Vacation Bible School Group in Iowa

Private donations by:

Ms. Ani Minasian
Ms. Charlotte Tanner
Mr. Gabriel Injejikian
Mr. Hrair Arshagouni
The Hovannisian Family
Mr. Harut Muradyan
Mr. Hagop Arshagouni

Mr. and Mrs Kaiser and Marguerite Krekorian
Ms. Lucy S. Missirian
Ms. Lois Aroian
Ms. Mary Pendleton
Ms. Marline Tarakjian
Mr. Phil Asgian
Mr. and Mrs. Rafi & Diana Tufenkjian
Mr. Vahak Savoulian

Mr. David Ajemian
Ms. Annik A. Minasaganian
Mr. Michael Minasian
Mr. Murad Minasian

Our work in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh Republic

Civil Society

In 2009, JMF's Civil Society Department prioritized projects that encourage and facilitate youth participation in the development of a strong and healthy civil society and broaden the youth perspective and understanding of the role of civil society as a vital part of long-term socio-economic improvements in Armenia. Additionally, JMF prioritizes the fully utilized role of NGOs and informal groups (youth councils, Civic Active Groups, Youth Clubs, etc.) in the development of civil society, where youth could mobilize and focus their joint efforts on current issues facing the country.

To serve JMF's Civil Society Department prioritized areas JMF follows the objectives:

1. Increased knowledge of the youth in human rights, gender, environment, legal and governance issues.
2. Increased sense of citizenship and voluntarism among youth.
3. Increased ownership of the projects implemented by the youth.
4. Participation of the youth in all stages of the initiative/project, involving the whole spectrum: from the project initiation to its evaluation.

The objectives will be reached through the following strategic actions:

- Education and skills development.
- Application of innovative approaches.
- Diversification of mechanisms.
- Practical application of knowledge (grant projects, advocacy actions, internships, etc).
- Capacity building of NGOs (particularly youth NGOs), Youth Clubs, other youth oriented structures.
- Networking among the youth informal and formal groups and NGOs.
- Geographical and institutional expansion of activities.

1. Project name: "Youth Engaged in Society" School Debate Club Creation Project

Brief description: To foster democracy and develop civically conscious and socially responsible citizens in Armenia JMF in collaboration with “Youth for Achievement” Educational NGO (YFA) implements Youth Engaged in Society (YES) project by creation and development of Debate Clubs for secondary school students. Debate clubs involve students aged 14-17 who use debate as a tool for engaging in the civil society development process. The project provides knowledge to high schools students about key issues related to the development of civil society, democracy and human rights. It also builds communication and analytical thinking skills that will permit them to more actively participate in the development of Armenian society.

The debate clubs, organized in schools as extracurricular activities, also add value to the education system. The initiative builds links between youth, the NGO sector and governmental agencies through civic initiative seminars series and round-table discussions. A website has been created to provide resources and forum for discussions. A national debate championship is organized at the end of each academic year which brings together representatives of all debate clubs.

In 2009-2010 academic year 103 schools participated in the project. The project has been ongoing since 2004.

Time frame: March 1, 2009 – April 30, 2011

Implementers: JMF and YFA

Partner Organizations: Counterpart International, Armenia; EU Delegation of the Commission of European Communities (EU DCEC)

Beneficiaries: Direct beneficiaries are around 2,000 school students from 103 secondary schools. Indirect beneficiaries include secondary school students, teachers, and school administrations of 103 schools.

Project Cost:

JMF: \$ 67,772

Counterpart International, Armenia: \$16,328

EU DCEC: €207,168

2. Project name: Civic Dialogue and Action 2009-2010

Brief description: To foster civil society development in Armenia JMF initiated the Civic Dialogue and Action project which supports and encourages university students in out-lying regions to play more active, capable, and informed role in immediate and long term economic, social and political development of the country. The project helps to develop students’ knowledge and skills in civil society sector and to enhance their civic participation.

University students from different regions of Armenia are given tools to examine local and national issues relevant to Armenia’s immediate and long-term social, economic and political development. The project activities include: student capacity development trainings and seminars on hot social topics, small-grant projects developed and implemented by the students, inter-university student summits and project newsletters prepared by the students.

The Civic Dialogue and Action 2009-2010 included 7 universities. The project has been ongoing since 2005.

Time frame: September 1, 2009 – August 31, 2010

Partner Organization: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway

Implementer: JMF

Beneficiaries: Direct beneficiaries are nearly 2,000 university students of 7 universities and 1,000 young adults of surrounding communities, keeping gender balance. Indirect beneficiaries are the seven university students, student councils' members, administrations of the universities.

Project Cost:

JMF: \$25,000

Partner: \$100,000

3. Project name: Intensive Training in Leadership Skills for the beneficiaries of Eurasia Partnership Foundation's (EPF) Youth Bank Program and JMF's Civic Dialogue and Action Project

Brief description: The JMF and EPF joint project strengthened the impact of the both Foundations' current Youth programming (EPF's Youth Bank program and JMF's Civic Dialogue and Action project). The intensive training allowed 35 beneficiaries of those programs to gain valuable leadership skills. The project helped to expand the palette of skills of youth in the regions of Armenia with leadership capacities and learn decision-making skills via intensive and high quality training. It set a stage for young people to become independent thinkers and decision-makers in their communities thus contributing to community development in the long run.

Time frame: January 16, 2009 – February 15, 2009

Implementers: EPF and JMF

Beneficiaries: Direct beneficiaries are about 35 students, some members of JMF and EPF staff and other invited guests/players from the capital. Indirect beneficiaries are the people of the communities where these students will work.

Project Cost:

JMF: \$10,065

EPF: \$10,065

4. Project name: Effective Public Defense

Brief description: The Public Defender's office of the RA Chamber of Advocates, established in 2005, provides free legal assistance on criminal cases to the marginalized groups of the population in the republic. However, the number of those who refuse from their services is still large especially in the marzes of Kotayk, Aragatsotn and Gegharkunik. The project aims at finding out the real causes for waiver of public defenders in order to ensure the protection of the insolvent class's rights. The project included round-table discussions and monitoring in the preliminary investigation bodies and Public Defender's Office, among public defenders and those who refused from the services of the public defenders. A newsletter that comprised the results of the study was published. Also, articles reflecting the consequences of not receiving legal assistance were published in electronic newspaper Hetq that has 3000 readers daily. The project, in the whole, contributed to the provision of effective legal services to insolvent classes and protection of their rights, as well as increased the efficiency of public defenders' activity.

Time frame: June 1, 2009 – January 30, 2010

Partner Organizations: WB- Armenia; Counterpart International

Implementer: "Investigating Journalists" NGO

Beneficiaries: The residents of three marzes: Kotayk, Aragatsotn and Gegharkunik, that have found themselves in the position of the suspect or the accused and need to make use of the services of public defenders.

Project Cost: \$11,475

Economic Development

In 2009, JMF's Economic Development Department prioritized projects that support the sustainable development of farmers' cooperatives and farmer households as a vital part of long-term economic improvements in Armenia. JMF continues developing and supporting intermediary lending mechanisms delivering small and medium credits with minimized interest rates through banks or micro-credit organizations.

To serve JMF's Economic Development Department prioritized areas JMF follows the objectives:

1. Increased beneficiaries' (farmers, small and medium businesses) access to micro credit services.
2. Enhanced institutional lending services.
3. Increased educational level of borrowers (education on lending services, rights and responsibilities of borrowers, etc.).

The objectives will be reached through the following strategic actions:

- Provision of small and medium credits with minimized interest rates through intermediaries.
- MFI sector strengthening activities.
- Advocacy at the state level.
- Promotion of small and medium businesses.
- Collaboration and partnership.
- Education/training for MFIs and clientele.

1. Project name: Micro-lending Support to Farmers – Phase III

Brief description: Armenian farmers have no access to low-interest loans since the vast majority of Armenian banks refrain from financing agriculture due to the high risk of the sector and lack of collateral. The recent worldwide financial crisis in its turn hindered commercial banks to work with farmers. Through the Federation of Agricultural Associations Union of Legal Entities (FAA ULE), the project provides 20 farmers organizations with an opportunity to perform timely agricultural activities and receive low-cost, quality agricultural inputs. The FAA's Finance and Loan Department provides its members with loans at lower interest rates than other credit services, delivering the loans in the form of both agricultural inputs and cash. As a result, the members have efficient and high quality production/yield ensuring further agricultural development and sustainability. The project has been ongoing since 2006.

Time frame: November 1, 2009 – November 30, 2010

Implementer: Federation of Agricultural Associations Union of Legal Entities

Beneficiaries: 20 FAA member farmer organizations with 683 member farmers from Yerevan and Armavir, Ararat, Vayots Dzor, Aragatsotn and Lori marzes.

Project Cost: \$459,016

Micro-Lending Program for Farmers

Brief description: The goal of the project is to improve access to financial services for farmers' organizations and stimulate sustainable rural socio-economic development by offering low-interest, long-term credits with flexible repayment schedules. Loans are extended to cooperatives for agricultural development, mainly animal husbandry and farming. The loans increase agricultural output and allow to create permanent and temporary jobs.

2. Project name: Getashen Agricultural Cooperative

Brief description: Getashen Agricultural Cooperative based in Getashen village of Armavir marz received a loan to deliver its 35 members for livestock acquisition.

Time frame: May 1, 2009 – November 30, 2012

Implementers: Cascade Credit Universal Credit Organization CJCS and Getashen Agricultural Cooperative

Beneficiaries: 35 member farmers of Getashen Agricultural Cooperative

Project Cost: \$98,360

3. Project name: Janfida Agricultural Cooperative

Brief description: Janfida Agricultural Cooperative based in Janfida village of Armavir marz received a loan to deliver its 33 members for vineyard creation.

Time frame: May 1, 2009 – November 30, 2012

Implementers: Cascade Credit Universal Credit Organization CJCS and Janfida Agricultural Cooperative

Beneficiaries: 33 member farmers of Janfida Agricultural Cooperative,

Project Cost: \$81,967

4. Project name: Lukashin Agricultural Cooperative

Brief description: Lukashin Agricultural Cooperative based in Lukashin village of Armavir marz received a loan to deliver its member farmers for cattle breeding.

Time frame: May 1, 2009 – November 30, 2012

Implementers: Cascade Credit Universal Credit Organization CJCS and Lukashin Agricultural Cooperative

Beneficiaries: Member farmers of Lukashin Agricultural Cooperative,

Project Cost: \$32,787

5. Project name: Arevik Agricultural Cooperative

Brief description: Arevik Agricultural Cooperative based in Arevik village of Armavir marz received a loan to deliver its 12 member farmers for vineyard creation.

Time frame: July 1, 2009 – December 30, 2012

Implementers: Cascade Credit Universal Credit Organization CJCS and Arevik Agricultural Cooperative

Beneficiaries: 12 member farmers of Arevik Agricultural Cooperative

Project Cost: \$32,787

Community Development

In 2009, JMF's Community Based Development Department prioritized projects that empower Armenian communities to find solutions to socio-economic problems within communities through mobilization of local resources. JMF continues focusing on projects that assist in the empowerment of communities, encourage community members' active participation in the community development processes, and broaden youth perspective in community development.

To serve JMF's Community Based Development Department prioritized areas JMF follows the objectives:

- Communities are mobilized and empowered to find solutions to local community based problems using internal and external resources.
- Community Active Groups are empowered to operate sustainable.
- Links and collaboration between Community Active Groups and government bodies at all levels are strengthened.
- A network of collaboration and synergy between communities at regional and national level is facilitated.

The objectives will be reached through the following strategic actions:

- Providing a support to communities such as learning opportunities, community development and civic participation grants, matching and new opportunity grants, etc.
- Support to Community Active Groups on external resources acquisition.
- Partnership and handover to local partners.
- Network strengthening.
- Continuous update of the community development model.

1. Project name: Community Mobilization Initiative in Lori

Brief description:

The project assisted in the empowerment of communities in Lori region to find durable solutions to socio-economic problems through the mobilization of internal and external human and financial resources. The project covered 14 communities of Lori marz. Inter-community discussions and workshops were organized to outline existing problems and give possible solutions to them. Community Core Groups (CCG) were formed to facilitate the mobilization of community resources to address community based problems. Special trainings for CCG members were organized.

Learning about community rights and protection and gaining opportunities to receive matching grants gave the communities the chance to solve their urging problems. All matching grants were implemented with active participation of community members and co-funded by the communities.

The project began in 2004.

Time frame: 01 Apr 2008-31 Dec 2009

Implementer: New Ways NGO and JMF

Beneficiaries: More than 14,000 people from 14 rural communities of Lori region

Project Cost: \$105,252

2. Project name: Youth Bank Program in Armenia

Brief description: Youth Bank established by the Eurasia Partnership Foundation is designed to encourage young people from rural areas of Armenia to participate in decision making and mobilize resources around important issues in their communities. The project empowers Armenian youth to bring about positive change in their communities and to become leaders. Within the project JMF provides grants to 9 Youth Bank committees to support community 46 grant projects selected from submitted 285 project proposals by the young people in surrounding communities. Community development projects are implemented in Shirak, Gegharkunik, Tavush, Lori, Armavir, Ararat, Vayots Dzor, Syunik marzes and Yerevan.

Time frame: May 1, 2009 – May 31, 2010

Partner Organization: Eurasia Partnership Foundation

Implementer: Eurasia Partnership Foundation

Beneficiaries: Primary beneficiaries are about 320 youths-70 Youth Bank members and around 250 young people involved in implementing small community initiatives. Secondary beneficiaries-around 2500 people affected by all 50 projects

Project Cost:

JMF: \$30,754

Partner: \$103,486

Health

In 2009, JMF's Health program prioritized projects that focus on Women, Children and Adolescents Health, Disabled Children Health, Community Health Development. These

areas/beneficiary groups have been selected based on the ongoing needs in Armenia identified through available researches and JMF's experience in recent years.

To serve JMF's Health Department prioritized areas JMF follows the objectives:

1. Improved accessibility and affordability of quality health care services through awareness raising, health education promotion, and capacity building of health specialists for children, adolescence, disabled children and women in Armenia.
2. Improved access of rural communities to health services by providing training, education, and resources to health specialists and community members.

The objectives will be reached through the following strategic actions:

- Health education and promotion.
- Preventive care.
- Awareness raising campaign.
- Development and strengthening of health resource and information centers.
- Community based health development.
- Advocacy (policy making, curriculum development, etc.).
- Networking.

1. Project name: Village Health Post Nurse Capacity Development and Certification or Village Nurse Training (VNT) Project - Phase V

Brief description: The project improves the accessibility and delivery of quality primary health care at the village level in Armenia. Through trainings by qualified specialists and educational books village health post nurses get appropriate knowledge and skills to use in their communities. At the end of the project participants are certified as competent nurses. The project has been implemented in cooperation with USAID/PHCR project since 2005. VNT project phase V targeted 135 village health post nurses from Aragatsotn, Ararat, Armavir and Vayots Dzor marzes. By the end of 2010 it will cover all rural health post nurses living in 581 villages of Armenia.

Time frame: March 1, 2009 –September 30, 2009

Partner Organization: USAID/PHCR project, Emerging Markets Group organization

Implementers: JMF and PHCR

Beneficiaries: Direct beneficiaries were 135 regional nurses; indirect beneficiaries were people living in 135 villages

Project Cost:

JMF: \$26,833

Partner: \$104,328

2. Project name: Village Health Post Nurse Capacity Development Project in Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (NKR)- Phase I

Brief description: The project improves the accessibility and delivery of quality primary health care at the village level in NKR. The new rural health development project was carried out according to the Village Nurse Educational Curriculum developed by JMF efforts in 2005. In the frame of the project capacities of 7 doctors/nurses of NKR were developed at the National Institute of Health in Yerevan to

become trainers and conduct trainings for village nurses. During the training educational materials were published and provided to the trainees. In total, 58 nurses from Askeran and Shushi regions obtained proper knowledge and skills to provide primary health care services in their communities. At the end of the project, participants were certified as competent nurses.

Time frame: May 18, 2009 –November 30, 2009

Partner Organization: Ministry of Health of NKR

Implementer: JMF

Beneficiaries: 58 village health post nurses and 7 medical trainers

Project Cost:

JMF: \$28,920

Partner: \$17,734

3. Project name: Support to Disabled in Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (NKR), Phase III

Brief description: The project improves the life quality of disabled veterans throughout the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. The project was implemented in cooperation with the Lady Cox Rehabilitation Centre, which offers special treatment and health care to disabled individuals. In the frame of the project 300 outreach visits were paid to 100 most vulnerable disabled veterans to provide appropriate professional health care. Based on the needs of the patients the project team purchased and delivered necessary medicine and medical equipment. As a result of the project, veterans received medical care and psychological support. The project has been ongoing since 2007.

Time frame: June 1, 2009 –November 30, 2009

Implementer: The Lady Cox Rehabilitation Centre, Stepanakert, NKR

Beneficiaries: 100 disabled veterans from the Karabakh war

Project Cost: \$8,197

Education and Spiritual Uplift

In 2009, JMF's Education and Spiritual Uplift Department prioritized educational and cultural programs supporting the professional, cultural and spiritual development of children and youth. JMF focused its assistance mainly on socially and economically vulnerable children.

To serve JMF's Education and Spiritual Uplift Department prioritized areas JMF follows the objectives:

- Improved knowledge and skills of children in technical, handicraft and other fields.
- Equal opportunities are provided to street children to acquire secondary education and to meet their special learning needs.
- NGOs working with children at risk are empowered and supported.
- Interest and respect for work among children at risk is facilitated.
- Activities supporting creative thinking and appreciation of culture among children are promoted.

- Activities that help to maintain and develop spiritual-cultural identity of Armenia among children are initiated and supported.

The objectives will be reached through the following strategic actions:

- Ongoing identification of the most vulnerable groups
- Education
- Partnership
- Capacity building
- Awareness Raising

1. Project name: Spiritual Education and Experiences for Children 2009

Brief description: The project provides the children from remote villages with a non-formal spiritual education and experiences which help them develop, foster and strengthen a personal faith. Through number of inspiring activities such as interactive spiritual discussions with the priest and bible studies, excursion trips to the historical places, production and presentation of spiritual performance, administering baptism children are provided with both theoretical and practical spiritual education and experiences. The project has been ongoing since 2006.

Time frame: September 1, 2009 – June 1, 2010

Partner Organizations: Gugarats and Syunyats Dioceses of the Armenian Apostolic Church

Implementer: JMF

Beneficiaries: Approximately 260 children aged 10-15 from six remote villages of Lori and Syunik Marzes

Project Cost: \$9,197

2. Project name: Creative Expression Workshop (CEW) -2009

Brief description: The project improves the overall social and psychological well being of the underprivileged children residing in the Armenian Relief Fund's Children's Care Center and Yerevan #1 Child Care and Protection Night School. It encourages institutionalized children to express themselves creatively through a series of creative expression workshops, plays, puppet shows, speech development classes, musical productions, visits to cultural institutions and meetings with honored artists. The involvement of children in the performing arts furthers the development of essential life skills such as communication, cooperation, and critical thinking. It also increases self-esteem, confidence, respect for self and others. The workshops help to enhance children's intellectual and social development, inspire their creativity and imagination and make their daily life more enjoyable. The CEW project has been ongoing since 2005.

Time frame: March 15, 2009 – August 15, 2009

Implementer: The Future is Yours Charitable Social NGO

Beneficiaries: Totally about 155 school age children from socially vulnerable families who are staying at Yerevan #1 Child Care and Protection Night School and temporarily residing in the Children's Care Centre

Project Cost: \$14,718

3. Project name: Summer Camps

Brief description: JMF supported Our lady of Armenia Convent (Armenian Catholic), Armenian Missionary Association of America (Armenian Evangelical) and Armenian Apostolic Church dioceses to organize summer camps for schoolchildren from vulnerable families. Beneficiaries were children from Yerevan and different marzes of Armenia. The camps are located in rich and beautiful nature sites. The camps provide an environment conducive to spiritual and physical growth of children along with developing moral and aesthetic values of children through extracurricular activities such as arts and crafts, outdoor and indoor games and music classes. The daily program at the camp provides a blend of Armenian religion, language, culture, history, dance, music and sports program. Children are provided with four nutritious meals during the day and learn to live in a group environment and develop new social skills.

JMF has been contributing to the organization of summer camp project since 1994.

Summer Camp 2009 - Apostolic Community

Time frame: August 9, 2009 –August 16, 2009

Implementer: Armenian Apostolic Church - Hayordats Houses

Beneficiaries: 133 children of needy families from Yerevan, Echmiadzin, Ashtarak

Project Cost:

JMF: \$10,030

Implementer: \$2,721

Summer Camp 2009 -Evangelical Community

Time frame: June 12, 2009 –July 12, 2009

Implementer: Armenian Missionary Association of America

Beneficiaries: 1,800 children, youth and young adults from needy families from different marzes of Armenia.

Project Cost:

JMF: \$10,000

Implementer: \$48,900

Summer Camp 2009 - Catholic Community

Time frame: June 23, 2009 - August 25, 2009

Implementer: Our Lady of Armenia Convent

Beneficiaries: 850 children from needy families and orphanages from different marzes of Armenia

Project Cost:

JMF: \$10,000

Implementer: \$116,882

4. Project name: “The Monster” Open-air Puppet Show

Brief description: The project supported the UNIMA Armenia NGO (Union Internationale de la Marionnette) to prepare and play “The Monster” performance in the International Festival of Puppet Theaters “Toumanyan Fairy Tale Day” which hosted 22 Puppet Theaters from Armenia and abroad. The performance was introduced to children invited from different communities of Armenia during the six-day festival held in Dsegh village, the birthplace of the prominent Armenian writer Hovhannes Toumanyan. The performance is of an educative nature. It helps to attract the attention of youth to protection of environment through open-air performance and saving marvelous nature of Armenia from peril and pollution. “The Monster” performance will be continuously demonstrated throughout Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh Republic during the years 2009-2010.

Time frame: July 1, 2009 – October 30, 2009

Implementer: UNIMA Armenia

Beneficiaries: 5,000 children and teenagers

Project Cost:

JMF: \$6,557

Implementer: \$5083

5. Project name: “Heroic Ballad” Choreographic Performance

Brief description: A new type of dance performance accompanied by the music of contemporary Armenian composer Arno Babajanyan was created. It presented a modern-day theme and featured remarkable costumes. The performance helped to raise interest of the public towards classical dance and high art. As a great piece of dance art the show will be performed several times a year in Armenia, as well as in foreign countries representing the Armenian contemporary choreography worldwide.

Time frame: July 1, 2009 – October 30, 2009

Implementer: Barekamutyun Armenian State Dance Ensemble

Co-funder: Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia

Beneficiaries: Over 2000 admirers of dance annually and dance ensemble staff of 50 persons

Project Cost:

JMF: \$11,803

Co-funder: \$8,197

Implementer: \$53,045

6. Project name: Open Music Fest 2009

Brief description: The project places significant emphasis on nurturing young talent. To develop young musical talent throughout Armenia the Open Music Fest institutes master classes and establishes various educational and training programs. It promotes collaboration with Diaspora entities, including artists, organizations, and benefactors. The project aims at developing Open Music Fest into a globally relevant musical and cultural event which will continue to feature many of the world’s emerging and renowned musicians.

Time frame: July 1, 2009 – September 21, 2009

Implementer: “Open Music Fest” LLC

Beneficiaries: Fest participants and musicians- at least 19 000 people

Project Cost:

JMF: \$17,941

Implementer: \$9,738

Our Study Tours

Discover an old country

- Learn about Armenian history, culture and politics
- Participate in excursions to historical sites and cultural attractions
 - Experience rural life and visit Armenian families
- See JMF in action and meet JMF beneficiaries and partner organizations
- Learn about the global economy and existing socio-economic problems in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh
 - Discover ways to become involved in making positive social change

We are delighted to announce very special study tours for those of you who would like to discover the real Armenia in 2010.

These marvelous opportunities, organized jointly by the Jinishian Memorial Foundation and the Presbyterian Church USA, offer a combination of sightseeing and select visits to JMF projects. During your study tour, you will see many of Armenia’s most significant historical and cultural sites accompanied by a professional guide. As importantly, you will visit a diversity of quaint villages, schools, universities, and other destinations. Throughout these visits, you will have the chance to interact with regular Armenians who are making a difference in the life of the homeland.

We are also very pleased to inform you that the proceeds from these tours will benefit JMF projects in Armenia, particularly assisting needy families.

The study tours we offer take place during Armenia’s best seasons: June 13-24, 2010 and September 12-23, 2010. You can access detailed information about the JMF Study Tours at www.jinishian.org.

We look forward to enlisting you for the trip of a lifetime!

Testimonials of JMF Study Tour Participants

“Thanks ever so much for the opportunity to experience the many facets of Armenia and Karabakh. There is much to process and so much to discuss about the trip and from the learning to which we were exposed. The essence of Jinishian, as has been distilled in my mind so far (my 30 second elevator speech), is as follows: ecumenical, sustainable, multi party focus, engagement and support toward goal achievement and beyond, re-engagement and giving back from those who have benefited from assistance. “

Mary Pendleton, Arlington, Virginia

"...you really gave us an insightful study tour. I was especially struck by the incongruence of all the beautiful crosses and churches, which testified to the endurance of Christianity in Armenia, on the one hand, and the challenge of restoring Christianity after so many years of Communism, on the other. I also found impressive the commitment of the people of Artsakh to holding fast to their Armenian identity."
Lois Aroian, Fairfax, Virginia

"...thanks again to you and the whole team that put together an incredible journey – what a rewarding experience! Thanks for the incredible gifts of the journey and most of all for all the work you and the team do with JMF."
Phil Asgian, St. Paul, Minnesota

"... I was privileged to see the stunning beauty of Armenia, experience the authentic life of the country, and receive the hospitality of the Armenian people. First hand I witnessed the difference the Foundation makes in community, education, and economic development, in direct aid to disadvantaged families and in health services, spiritual uplift, and civil-society growth. I hope to return and participate in another Study Tour again in the future. The work done by the Jinishian Memorial Foundation is truly honorable. "
Charlotte Tanner, Ward Cove, Alaska

Jinishian Memorial Foundation gears up to host special Study Tours across Armenia

By Sona Hamalian

Among the key aspects that make the Jinishian Memorial Foundation unique is its profoundly compassionate approach to the design of its programs, and, ultimately, its beneficiaries. Rather than provide quick fixes or handouts, the organization invests in the lives of individuals and entire communities, guided by both an abiding sense of empathy and a vision of long-term development – in terms of fostering economic self-sufficiency, social equality and vibrancy, educational excellence, and spiritual growth.

Sponsored mainly by the Jinishian Memorial Program of the Presbyterian Church USA, the Jinishian Memorial Foundation operates a comprehensive program in Armenia, focusing not only on direct aid to disadvantaged families, but also community development, education, economic development, civil-society growth, health services, and spiritual uplift.

Since 1993, the foundation has assisted some 2.2 million individuals in Armenia, and supported the work of over 150 grassroots NGOs through collaborative projects. Given the enormously positive impact of its work in the Armenian homeland, today the foundation enjoys the partnership of major aid organizations such as the United States Agency for International Development and Delegation of the European Commission, as well as the support of a number of Diaspora and Armenia donors.

Recently the foundation announced two extraordinary Study Tours in Armenia (May and September 2009), intended to give tourists the opportunity to experience the very best of Armenia, through guided sightseeing, and also gain first-hand insight into the work of the foundation.

The following is a conversation with **Eliza Minasyan**, Country Director of the Jinishian Memorial Foundation in Armenia. I caught up with her in Yerevan, at the headquarters of the

Jinishian Memorial Foundation, where she was busy responding to a flurry of overseas inquiries about the upcoming Study Tours.

Sona Hamalian: How did the idea of organizing the Study Tours come about?

Eliza Minasyan: The idea came about in response to a variety of needs but also considering our foundation's key capacities for organizing such tours.

First, the needs:

- there is a need in the Diaspora to learn about the motherland, to discover not only the wonderful cultural heritage of our ancestors but also the everyday life and aspirations of the Armenian people ;
- there is a need in the Armenian tourism industry to introduce unique, extraordinary tours that offer visitors the sights, sounds, and aromas of modern Armenia and also explorations of the country's timeless historic destinations;
- there is a need among current and potential donors and supporters to gain first-hand insight into Armenia's economic, social, cultural, and educational aspects as well as the ways to address core issues in a proven and effective manner;
- and there is a need for external expertise and funds to help Armenians overcome ongoing social and economic adversities.

As for the capacities:

- our foundation has extensive development experience throughout Armenia, with projects dedicated to economic and community development, education, health, and spiritual uplift. This means that those taking the Study Tours will get to see most of the country's regions, interact with people from all walks of life, and visit all the institutions around which Armenian life thrives – such as universities and schools, children's art centers and theaters, churches, community organizations, and hospitals. It's important to note that these visits will not be "passive." Rather, they will give Diaspora visitors the chance to communicate and spend time with students, priests, and professionals from various fields including NGO representatives, farmers, and community activists;
- many of our staff members, including myself, have considerable experience in guiding tours. In addition, for the past ten years, I've witnessed a growing need for what I like to call "living" tours, which would enable visitors to gain a real sense of the country;
- finally, the Study Tours are being jointly organized by our mother organization in the U.S., the Jinishian Memorial Program, whose great reputation gives tour takers the confidence that they will enjoy a professionally planned, well thought-out, and profoundly fulfilling travel experience.

Are the Study Tours open to all tourists or just Jinishian Foundation supporters?

They are open to everyone, though our current donors are being offered special rates. Depending on the applications, the Study Tours can also be customized for specific groups, based on traveler preferences and even the age of participants.

What will the sightseeing components of the tours entail?

They will comprise all the major attractions and much more. Cities will include Yerevan, Echmiadzin, Vanadzor, Dilijan, Goris, Jermuk, Sevan, Gyumri, as well as Stepanakert and Shushi in Karabakh.

Specific sites will include Khor Virap, a place of pilgrimage for Armenians all over the world; Noravank Monastery (13-14th centuries), situated on a ledge over the Arpa River gorge and surrounded by fantastic red rocks; Tatev monastery (14th-15th centuries), on the edge of a gigantic canyon; Holy Echmiadzin, the Vatican City of Armenia and the center of the Armenian

Apostolic Church; Zvartnots Cathedral, famous for its unique architecture; the magnificent Odzum Church (7th century); the Sanahin monastery complex; and also Ghazanchetsots Cathedral and Gandzasar Monastery in Karabakh. Of course, the tours will also include visits to a number of major museums and theaters.

So it seems to me that tour participants will get to visit not only popular destinations but also unusual, off-the-beaten-track sites.

Exactly. That is the main purpose. Some of the places I mentioned are usually left out of commercial tours because they're considered inconvenient or too time-consuming for big groups. But that's not an issue with us, since we're flexible and our groups will not exceed 12 people each. In short, the Study Tours will definitely go further than conventional, business-driven tours.

In terms of becoming familiar with the work of the Jinishian Foundation, what are some of the sites that tour participants will be taken to?

They will visit regional universities where we implement projects that provide students with the necessary skills and experience for contributing to the country's civic life. Tour participants will join school debates to discuss topics of vital importance to the youth. They will witness the dedicated work of medical personnel at a rehabilitation center in Stepanakert. Participants will also view artworks produced by socially disadvantaged children and interact with farmers and villagers in some of Armenia's most pristine rural communities.

All the site visits included in the Study Tours are designed to encourage meaningful communication and socialization. Thus local-community members and leaders will be meeting us, telling us their stories, expressing their feelings, and even joining visitors for dinner or lunch.

Is there a major challenge or hurdle that the foundation still faces in implementing its projects?

The main challenge that we face is not logistical in nature but rather psychological. It has to do with certain social stereotypes and taboos that have been inherited from the Soviet era. But in this sense Armenian society has come a long way since independence, and I am confident that greater social awareness and equity are constantly being fostered.

Do you agree that beneficiary participation is a core element of the success of your programs? In this sense, how would you generally characterize the foundation's relationship with its beneficiaries, at both the individual and community levels?

Our beneficiaries play an enormous role in all of our projects. We work with them very closely in terms of both project design and implementation. In certain instances, beneficiaries are now actually running the projects and doing a much better job than would be expected from any professional NGO staff.

What would you say is the role of the Diaspora in the ongoing success of Jinishian projects? And what can the Diaspora do to help ensure the long-term viability of these initiatives?

The Diaspora's role is essential, and also greatly facilitated by the fact that we're a Diaspora-based foundation. The Jinishian Memorial Program, our main supporter and mother organization, was founded through an endowment fund established by Vartan Jinishian. He bequeathed all his property to Armenian communities in need. His generous gift has helped change millions of lives since the 1960s, bringing hope and support to Armenians not only in Armenia, but also Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Iraq, and elsewhere.

In addition, the foundation is assisted by private donations from numerous Diasporans, whose support helps nurture a sense of both unity and responsibility in the Armenian world. I would say that at this point I consider the biggest help from the Diaspora would be understanding and awareness of realities in Armenia. I know that love rests at the heart of altruism. Yet constructive, practical help comes out of understanding.

For more information or to book a Jinishian Memorial Foundation Study Tour, please visit www.jinishian.org or contact Sara Todd, Program Manager, Jinishian Memorial Program, at 502-569-5291 or Sara.todd@pcusa.org.

Sona Hamalian is a philanthropic advisor based in Yerevan. She also heads Creative Networks, an international public-relations firm promoting nonprofit organizations, cultural and educational institutions, and artists.

Our Finances

The Financial statements of JMF for the year ending December 31, 2009 have been audited by the auditing and accounting firm Grant Thornton Amyot LLC. The independent auditors' report indicated that "the financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Foundation as of December 31, 2009, and the result of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with US GAAP"

Balance sheet at December 2009

ASSETS

Non-current assets

- Property, plant and equipment
- Intangible assets

Current assets

- Cash and cash equivalents
- Partially repayable grants and loans
- Inventory and other assets
- Account receivable

TOTAL ASSETS

EQUITY AND LIABILITIES

Liabilities/Accounts

- Project commitments
- Other/Admin.

Equity

- Revolving Fund
- Deferred Revenue

TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES

“The project makes a marked change in the mentality of young people. It helps to reveal one’s intellectual capacities and improve communication skills. Discussions provide the participants with an opportunity to disclose their abilities, to learn and teach one another.” – Diana Miribyan, participant of JMF “Civic Dialogue and Action” project

“It is remarkable to see the diversity of opinions that these young people have formed, to witness the work of their inquisitive minds and analytical skills. I am not ashamed of saying that I myself learnt a lot from these debates.” – One of the judges of the National Debate Championship “Youth Engaged in Society” project.

“This project was the will of God and we are simply the hands that perform the will of God.” – Father Vrtanes, “Spiritual Education and Experiences for Children” project

“Finally, I got answers to my questions about God. Before nobody could give me full answers.” – a participant of “Spiritual Education and Experiences for Children” project.

“The lessons helped me to understand that each Christian ought to know history of his nation and religion.” – participant of “Spiritual Education and Experiences for Children” project.

Contacts

Those wishing to know more about JMF

Activities should contact JMF – Armenia office:

Tel: (374 10) 52 58 09, 54 44 17, 54 44 18

Fax: (374 10) 54 28 52

Address: 34 Abovyan Str., Apt 5, Yerevan, 0009, Armenia

E-mail: jmf@jinishian.am

Web page: www.jinishian.org

