

ORRAN OPENS SECOND CENTER TO ASSIST CHILDREN OF VANADZOR

On October 12th Orran, the Open Society Institute (OSI) and VivaCell-MTS celebrated the official opening of the Orran center in Vanadzor. Among the 200 well wishers were representatives of the government, the diplomatic corps, NGOs and media, Orran staff, parents and children.

Archbishop Sebouh Chuljyan, Primate of the Armenian Apostolic Church of the Gougark Diocese, delivered the opening remarks and blessings. Mrs. Armine K. Hovannisian gave a brief history of the Vanadzor project underlining the major contribution of the Open Society Institute (OSI) and the continued support of VivaCell-MTS. Mrs. Larisa Minasyan, Director of OSI, spoke of their commitment to projects which address the immediate needs of vulnerable families. The concluding remarks came from the General Manager of VIVAcell-MTS, Mr. Ralph Yirikian, who spoke of his institution's role in the sphere of corporate social responsibility.

The Vanadzor Orran program is modeled after the Yerevan Orran Center. The children will receive a daily hot and nutritious meal and assistance with their homework. They will learn vocational skills such as woodshop, macramé, needlework and ceramics and they will be exposed to cultural events. Moreover the children will have medical, psychological and social services available to them. Clothing, shoes, school supplies, and any other necessary assistance related to school attendance will be provided, as well as a

stipend for transportation costs.

Children are selected as beneficiaries of Orran according to the socio-economic selection criteria of the Organization. They range in age from five to sixteen years. The children are from two-at-risk groups: those currently begging or working on the streets and those from severely economically deprived families, who might resort to street life if not assisted. The children are often being raised by a single, unemployed parent in destitute conditions, and in their environments, are exposed to a variety of social problems.

Heghine Avedyan who has been coming to Yerevan from Vanadzor for the last four years to beg for her 3 children and older parents expressed her gratitude, "Orran has been helping me for the last 4 years. Last year, Orran promised that they would open a Vanadzor center. Today my two girls, one of whom suffers from epilepsy, are in the Orran program".

The main objective for 2009 was to build and open a 2nd Orran center in Vanadzor. However the financial crisis in the last 12 months has had a major impact on the ability to secure funds from our donors and in particular we have not been able to find a donor to match the generosity of Krikor and Anna Krikorian's \$250,000 gift. Following the success of our fund raising gala this year, the Orran board decided to start by renting a small property in Vanadzor until sufficient funds were in place to construct our new center. We are hoping that in the year 2010 a matching donor will come forward to allow us to start our dream project in Vanadzor.



Armine K. Hovannisian and Larisa Minasyan at the opening



Vanadzor Orran children dancing

We would like to thank our following friends for their generosity in the year 2009

Platinum Donors (more than \$50000)

Krikorian Charitable Trust

Krikor and Anna Krikorian

VivaCell-MTS

Ralph Yirikian

Gold Donors (\$25000 - \$49999)

Hovig Kurkjian

Arev Petrosyan (in kind donation for Auction Sculpture)

Silver Donors (\$10000 - \$24999)

Gerard and Cleo Cafesjian

Aurelian and Anahit Mardiros

Children of Armenia Fund (COAF)

Garo Armen

Zaven and Sonia Akian

Bronze Donors (\$5000 - \$9999)

Carolyn Mugar

Harout and Haigan Ohanesian

Jay and Pat Baker

**ORRAN**

BENEVOLENT NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

"HELPING FAMILIES IN NEED"

DECEMBER 2009

FUNDRAISING IN STYLE



Krikor Krikorian addressing the audience with his opening remarks

Orran's fourth annual benefit Gala Banquet was held on August 14th at the Marriott Armenia Hotel, as part of Orran month at the Marriott.

Many loyal friends of Orran gathered in the Tigran Mets ballroom to pay tribute to Orran with their generosity and resolve to help those in need. In attendance were representatives of Armenia's most established organizations including VivaCell-MTS, HSBC, Cascade Bank, Coca Cola, Armenia Tree Project, Avedis TV, Children of Armenia Fund, Byblos Bank and many others.



Jonathan Stark, the guest auctioneer from Cascade Bank, speaking with the Orran children

We were extremely pleased that our major benefactor, Krikor Krikorian of the UK, attended the Gala. In his opening remarks,

which were beamed to many TV stations, he drew attention to Orran's dwindling donations, which are a result of the global financial crisis. In particular our donations have dropped in California, where most of our donations outside the UK originate. He expressed his heartfelt hope that everyone would dig deep in their pockets to try and raise the \$40,000 target for Orran Yerevan, in line with previous years.



Arevik Petrossyan and Hovig Kurkjian with the leaf sculpture

The theme of this year's auction was planting trees and flowers at Orran's centers. The first major donation of the evening came from Mr. and Mrs. Aurelian and Anahid Mardiros of Boston for \$10,500 for the planting of an apricot tree. This was their first year in attendance at the Orran Gala and Orran warmly welcomes them to the Orran family. The grand auction piece, an elegant sculpture of a leaf by artist Arevik Petrossyan, was purchased for \$27,000 by Mr. Hovig Kurkjian, a generous yearly supporter of Orran from Saudi Arabia. Other spontaneous donations received included



Ralph Yirikian, General Manager of VivaCell-MTS addressing the guests

\$10,000 from Dr. Garo Armen of the Children of Armenia Fund and \$3,000 from Byblos Bank.



Aurelian Mardiros at the Orran banquet

Mr. Krikor Krikorian also donated \$8,250 at the auction for a pine tree and a pear tree, in memory of his mother's favorite fruit.

The more than \$60,000 donations were matched by VivaCell-MTS' General Manager Mr. Ralph Yirikian, bringing the total for the evening to \$130,000.



Garo Armen of Children of Armenia Fund and Steve Anlian

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A WARM WELCOME TO CLEO CAFESJIAN ON HER THIRD VISIT TO ORRAN



Cleo Cafesjian wearing her Medal with the Orran children

It was Mrs. Cleo Cafesjian's third visit to Orran, a home which

she and her husband Gerard Cafesjian have significantly contributed to building. Mrs. Cafesjian took an extended tour of the center, learned about new programs, chatted with the children and received a medal of the Most Caring Person from them. Accompanying Mrs. Cafesjian were old and new friends of Orran including Mrs. Megan Doyle, Mrs. Chacke

Scallen, Mrs. Pat Baker and Mr. Masis Yeterian.

The following day the group, joined by Mr. Jay Baker, paid a visit to some of the Orran families. At the conclusion of the heartbreaking meetings with the families, Mr. and Mrs. Baker made a contribution of \$5000, thus becoming new Friends of Orran.

SUCCESS STORIES

Orran Beneficiary is now a student at a Yerevan university

Seven years ago, Sousanna Sarkisyan sought help from Orran. She was unemployed, desperately seeking work with no success. With one child to provide for, it was impossible to make ends meet. Orran provided refuge for her daughter, Gayane, and simultaneously helped Sousanna find work at the Cascade in the center of Yerevan as a cleaning person and later as an escalator attendant. Once she had steady employment and her situation stabilized, Sousanna took her daughter out of Orran. Four years later, Gayane, now 21, is a thriving student at the Moscow University Service and Tourism Institute in Yerevan. Sousanna says, "It was a very hard time for my daughter and me. I had no job and couldn't pay rent. Because of Orran I can today take care of my family. I am very indebted to Orran and its wonderful donors. I



One of Mariam's paintings

am proud of myself and what my daughter and I have achieved and I thank Orran again."

A Talented Artist

Mariam Marukian, Orran Beneficiary and winner at the age of 14 of the United Nations "We Can Eradicate Poverty" compe-



Aida Mnatsakanyan dancing at Orran

tition with her winning picture was depicted on UN postal stamps in 2008. She continues her amazing progress at an art college, "My new school term is going well. Thank you once again Orran for supporting me to achieve my full potential" remarks Mariam. Enjoy one of her recent pictures, completed at the age of 15!

Singing and Dancing

Mrs. Aida Mnatskanyan, 75 year old widow, lives with her mentally handicapped son. Her life was miserably sad and hopelessly gloomily before coming to Orran five years ago. At Orran, Mrs Mnatskanyan was asked to exhibit her talent for singing and dancing. At first shy and claiming she didn't have the heart to perform, she finally accepted. She is now a star performer at Orran and was invited to perform at the Orran opening of Vanadzor.



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Donated in Love

Erin Parnagian and Matthew Melkonian, now Mr. and Mrs. Melkonian, donated \$3000 to Orran. The couple, decided that instead of wedding favors the guests would receive a card drawn by an Orran child with the following statement:

Today you bore witness to our sacred vow:

To love and to cherish, in sickness and in health

Until death do us part.

But together, we also took a silent vow,

*To help the poor and the needy,
To have compassion for those less fortunate,*

*To love our country and homeland,
To keep the legacy of our forbears alive.*

Please join us in giving hope to the children of Armenia.

Erin and Matthew

We wish Erin and Matthew a very happy and loving union for many years to come.



Card drawn by Arevik Sharanyan, age 10

HIGHLIGHTS

- 6 children are currently attending higher education
- 20 children attended a summer camp in Dzaghkatzor run by Sister Arousiak.
- 6 children participated in a sailing club on Lake Sevan.
- All the volunteers took an excursion, as a team building exercise, to Lake Sevan.
- 33 children went to Tchrachkhar, a local swimming pool for a day of fun.
- 32 children participated in the Adam Theatre Group, with a series of small dramatic sketches.
- 7 children participated in the Sun Film Festival, an event organized to raise environmental and ecological awareness.
- All the children participated in the International Children's Day.



Susan Klein with the Orran children

TAKING RESPONSIBILITY

Our Program Director, Mr Hovsep Arzoumanian, is encouraging the older children to assume increasing responsibility for some of Orran's day to day operations. This not only encourages the children to be active participants in Orran but it gives them a sense of purpose and a taste of adult responsibility. Two young women, Anahit and Tatev, have been nominated to staff the Orran library, generously donated by Krikor and Anna Krikorian. They are responsible for managing the library and overseeing all loans and returns. They have also just completed an outstanding reorganization of the section of Armenian language books and will begin on the Russian and English languages soon. We applaud their efforts!



Tatev and Anahit

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LEAVING A LEGACY TO ORRAN

Remember Orran in your will and make a gift for the future of Armenia.

*Immortality is to live
your life doing good
things, and leaving
your mark behind*



Dear Friends,

Each one of us would like to be remembered for all the good we leave in this world. What could be a better memorial than to give a child the promise of a better future and to offer dignity and hope to the homeless and destitute elderly at the end of their days?

We are immensely grateful to all of our donors, who continue to make the invaluable work of Orran a daily reality. With your support, Orran is transforming the lives of hundreds of families in Armenia, saving them from the misery of poverty and loneliness. Our mission is to:

- Divert children from the streets and engage them in academic, cultural, and extra-curricular activities.
- Identify and develop children's interests and talents toward a working career.
- Fight the concept of beggar children as the principal breadwinners of their families.
- Help families "in crisis".
- Assist the lonely and needy elderly.
- Prevent the spread of destitution and begging among Armenia's children and elderly.

Unfortunately, the global financial crisis has had a severe impact on our work. We have fewer resources and more and more people knocking on our door for help. We hate refusing anyone, especially those in desperate need. And so many people depend on us in so many ways. We provide the following services to our elderly beneficiaries and children:

- In addition to educational and vocational training, our poverty stricken child beneficiaries receive a daily hot meal, medical, dental and psychological assistance and participate in art skills workshops.
- The parents of our children are also the beneficiaries of vital medical, dental and psychological treatment.
- Senior citizens come to Orran everyday for lunch, companionship, interaction with the children and various social functions.
- Hundreds of children and adults receive clothing, shoes, and other necessities.
- Countless people visit Orran from the streets, requesting food money, medical and dental care.

We cannot continue helping families in need without your support. That is why we ask you to consider leaving a gift to Orran in your legacy. This would ensure that your kindness and generosity would continue to make a lasting difference for so many needy children and elderly. In most countries, including the US and UK, any such gift is estate or inheritance tax efficient since it is deducted before any tax is paid. We ask you to seriously consider this request. By leaving a legacy to Orran, you are leaving a better future for Armenia.

Please feel free to contact us with any further questions/assistance. We also invite you to visit our website at www.orrn.am

Yours sincerely,



Armine K. Hovannisian
Chairman, Board of Directors



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IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE ASSISTING ORRAN:



TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

Please send your
US tax-deductible
donation to Orran
2217 Observatory Avenue, Los
Angeles, California 90027, USA

USD DONATIONS WORLDWIDE

Beneficiary Bank
HSBC BANK OF ARMENIA
Yerevan, Armenia
Swift Address: MIDLAM22

Operating USD A/C
No: 001-119189-101

Construction USD A/C
No: 001-119189-102



UK STERLING DONATIONS WORLDWIDE

Beneficiary Bank
HSBC BANK OF ARMENIA
Yerevan, Armenia
Swift Address: MIDLAM22

Operating AMD A/C
No: 001-119189-001

Construction AMD A/C
No: 001-119189-003



EURO DONATIONS WORLDWIDE

Beneficiary Bank
HSBC BANK ARMENIA
Yerevan, Armenia
Swift Address: MIDLAM22

Operating AMD A/C
No: 001-119189-001

Construction AMD A/C
No: 001-119189-003

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THE ORRAN BOARD

We sadly had to bid farewell to two of our very dedicated Board members Emma Dewhirst and Peter Herbert. Emma contributed enormously to Orran, through her weekly visits to the Center. Peter was instrumental in reviewing construction plans and did a wonderful job as master of ceremonies at the gala event.

We are happy to welcome two new Board members, Molly Wynn Owen and Dean Cooper.



Molly Wynn Owen

was born in the United States, graduated from Georgetown University in Washington DC and received a Master's degree from the London School of Economics. She has worked for various NGOs and international organisations around the world, focusing on income generation for women and grassroots healthcare reform. Most recently she worked in London on environmental sustainability, with a speciality in the commercial property sector. Molly has just moved to Armenia with her husband, a British diplomat. She joined the Orran Board in September 2009.



Dean Cooper

was born in the United States and graduated from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, with a BS degree in Professional Management. He has nearly 20 years in the Financial Services Industry, working for some of the largest companies in the world. Dean recently moved to Armenia with HSBC as the Chief Technology and Services Officer for HSBC Bank Armenia cjsc, residing in Yerevan.

Additionally, he is a Paul Harris Fellow with Rotary International and has volunteered with numerous charitable organizations. Dean is married and has four children, ages 9 to 17.

ORRAN STAFF CORNER



Hovik Avetisyan recently celebrated his marriage to Karina. Hovik has worked at Orran since 2007. He currently works as a financial assistant, cashier and office manager. Hovik loves to teach the children computer skills. We wish Hovik and Karina every happiness in their new life together.

OUR LAST SIX MONTHS, at a glance

- 60 children and 57 senior citizens received a daily hot meal, participated in educational and art activities and received medical, dental and psychological treatment.
- 69 children received clothing, shoes and school supplies.
- 24 families received ad hoc assistance.
- 2 children received help with their university tuition fees.
- 14 children graduated out of the program, most of whom are now self-sufficient.
- 8 new children joined the program.
- 13 families are participating in a new program of psychological assistance.

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