

## ORRAN GALA A BIG SUCCESS

On Friday, August 20th, 2010 Orran held its 6th Annual Fundraising Dinner at the Armenia Marriott Hotel's Tigran Metz Grand Ballroom. Through the generosity of its donors, Orran raised over \$117,000 net. The elegant evening featured entertainment, honored speakers, the opportunity to sponsor a child, a raffle and dancing.

The pre-dinner cocktail hour was abuzz with people from all walks of life showing support for Orran's mission of "Helping Families in Need". The evening was hosted by the beautiful and popular vocal artist Christine Pepelian and the eloquent young author Garin K. Hovannisian. Following the cocktail hour, the guests congregated for dinner which was convened with a prayer by the children of Orran. After giving a brief history of the organization, Garin K. Hovannisian introduced the keynote speaker of the evening Mr. Ralph Yirikian, General Manager of VivaCell-MTS, a platinum donor whose name has become synonymous with community service. Mr. Yirikian expressed his pleasure with the work being carried out and said "Today we notice fewer and fewer children begging on the streets. This is because of the work of Orran. Four years ago, we helped this charity because we believed in the work it was doing. We will continue to stand by it".

Perhaps the most touching and poignant part of the program was the personal testimony of Tatev Sharanyan. Tatev, one of six children of the Sharanyan family and one of four attending Orran, told of her successful journey studying and applying to be admitted to the university. "I have always dreamt of going to the university but thought I never could because my mother could not afford it. But the Orran volunteers and teachers encouraged me and helped me for months and months tutoring me. I was so happy when I learned that I had received the second highest score and that I had qualified for one spot out of three with a full scholarship to major in sociology. I thank Orran and the volunteers who helped me".

The guests were treated to a special surprise by Christine Pepelian whose selection of the song "I Can Fly" was no coincidence. Her performance was followed by an Armenian dance performed by Yerevan State University's

dance group and a song and dance performed by the children of Orran.

Founder Armine K. Hovannisian introduced the guests. Diplomats, representatives of NGO's and corporations, journalists and politicians, friends from Armenia and abroad congregated to once again affirm their support of this organization. Her eyewitness account of the situation within the families she visits brought to life the suffering and pain that the families go through as they struggle for economic survival.

The guests were especially generous during the fundraising hour which was presided over by Mr. Jonathan Stark and Mr. Narek Durian. They were given the opportunity to sponsor a child for a total of \$850 which included \$500 for a year's worth of food, \$250 for vocational training and \$100 for clothing and shoes. Mr. Yirikian had a pleasant surprise waiting for everyone as he announced the support of 71 children by VivaCell-MTS and 10 children by his own family. HSBC Bank followed suit by supporting 8 children and announcing the personal donations of some of its staff members,



Orran's children posing for the camera

including CEO Ms. Astrid Cliffford. Long time supporters Mr. Hovig Kurkjian of Saudi Arabia and Mr. and Mrs. Krikor and Anna Krikorian of the UK were sadly unable to attend this year but sent in their generous donations of \$15,000 each. Mrs. Hovannisian also expressed her delight that more and more companies such as Coca-Cola, Brest Wine Company, Tigran Metz Publishing Company and Sipan have continued to stand by Orran. She gave special thanks to Marriott Armenia's General Manager Mr. Ami Meron for opening the doors of the Marriott Armenia hotel to Orran for a whole month as the organization publicizes its work to the hotel's guests.

The evening was concluded with music and dancing.



Mr. and Mrs. Ralph and Armik Yirikian



Orran's children performing

**If you'd like to receive our news electronically and help Orran save costs while contributing to a greener environment, please email us.**

**We would like to thank our Principal Benefactors for the period of November 2009 to November 2010**

**Platinum Donors more than \$50000**

**VivaCell-MTS (K-Telecom CJSC)**

*Ralph Yirikian*

**Krikorian Charitable Trust**

*Krikor & Anna Krikorian*

**Gold Donors \$25000-\$49999**

**Silver Donors \$10000-\$24999**

**Salem Agencies and Service**

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*Astrid Cliffford*

*Sarin & Nareg Yirikian*

*Carolyn Mugar*

*Armen & Alina Vardany*

*Jay H. and Pat C. Baker*



**Dear Friends,**

Every time I make one of my quarterly personal visits to Armenia and spend three full working days at the Orran centers in Yerevan and Vanadzor, I am elated at the progress we have made and the hundreds of lives we have been able to change. And yet, witnessing the dire situation of the children and elderly, I am ever more determined to expand our assistance to more and more needy people. This year, working hard with a dedicated staff and members of the Board of Directors, we were able to secure our operational expenses for the centers of Yerevan and Vanadzor. Nevertheless, we still have a big challenge ahead of us – a challenge we are going to meet with your help. Together, we are going to build a beautiful Orran home for the children of Vanadzor. We cannot do it without your help. As you know, we purchased 1,000 square meters of land in 2008 for \$66,338, a few blocks behind the Charles Aznavour Center in the hopes of building the center. The cost of the planned 1080m<sup>2</sup> earthquake proof building of similar size in Yerevan currently stands at \$975,000.

My wife Anna and I pledged \$250,000 at the August 2008 Orran Gala, of which 66% has already been transferred to Orran's bank account with the balance being transferred by the end of the year. Orran was able to collect a further \$125,000 at the same Gala. This year at Orran's August Gala in Yerevan, my wife and I pledged a further \$14,000 for a room, despite the global financial crisis that has affected everyone. More recently, Orran signed an agreement with CISP of Rome in February of this year, which secured €230,000 (\$300,000) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy. They have already transferred the first tranche.

Our construction funds currently stand at just over \$600,000 including the balance of the Krikorian and CISP donations. To complete the project we need a further \$495,000 of which \$85,000 is for fixtures and fittings, furniture, etc. We are still actively seeking a matching donor for \$250,000 and although we have not as yet secured this, we are hopeful that we will be able to do so in the next 6 months or so with more active and vigorous fund raising efforts. The center will be called "Orran Krikorian Matching Donor Center".

Even if we can secure a matching donor, we will still be short of at least \$245,000 and this is why we are requesting you to consider sponsoring one of the rooms and having a plaque placed in the name of the person you wish. Your name will also be engraved on a plaque in the entrance lobby. **Even if you are not in the position to support a room, any donation no matter how small will be most gratefully received.**

We kept the promise given at the Orran Gala in August 2008 to start a center in Vanadzor in 2009. Despite the global financial crisis which followed shortly after this Gala, affecting not only Orran but the majority of charities worldwide, we managed to open a center in September of last year with the assistance of the Open Society Institute, part of the George Soros foundation, and VivaCell-MTS. We were able to inaugurate a branch of Orran with 50 children beneficiaries in a leased, run-down, non-earthquake-proof premises until the new center is built. The program has been a huge success and has proved to us, as expected, that the situation in Vanadzor is very dreadful indeed.

We would appreciate your serious consideration of the above plea. We sincerely hope you will yet again put your hand in your pocket and donate to this very worthwhile project by sponsoring a room in our new center.

Sincerely,

Krikor Krikorian  
Benefactor, Financial Director and Advisor to Orran's Board of Directors



Mr. Krikor Krikorian

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**Board of Directors:** Dean Cooper, Armine K. Hovannisian, Susan Yacubian Klein, Molly Wynn Owen, Annette Obolensky, Lori Nicholson  
**Financial Director and Advisor:** Krikor Krikorian **Founders:** Armine & Raffi K. Hovannisian



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 "HELPING FAMILIES IN NEED"

December 2010

## SUCCESS STORIES

**These bright young people are models for our other children. We are thankful for that which they have contributed to Orran during their time with us; they have really been and continue to be an inspiration to us all. Their hard work and perseverance in the face of adversity has really paid off. At Orran we are very excited to watch these impressive young people move on to the next phase of their lives.**



**Mariam Tomassian** has been with Orran since January 2008. Her parents are separated and she lives

with her ill mother. She is a very happy young lady with an excellent sense of style. We are excited to announce that she has been accepted to the Mkhitar Sebastatsi Institute in the hairstyling department with a full scholarship. She will also continue to attend Orran.



**Gevorg Hovannisian** has been with us since July 2002. He lives with his older brother and parents. Gevorg is a very peaceful

young man who inspires confidence in others. We have given him many responsibilities at Orran and he has carried them out very well. He has been accepted at the Mkhitar Sebastatsi Institute in the Arts department of ceramics on a full scholarship.



**Arpenik Haghopian** has been with us since December 2008. She comes from a family of six children with no

father. She is a conscientious girl, is service-minded and sensible. She has been accepted to the National University of Music to study cello.

### Orran at Armenia Marriott Hotel

On December 1, Armenia Marriott Hotel commenced celebrating the Christmas season by inviting 40 of Orran's children to make ginger bread cookies and hang them on the Christmas trees in the entrance lobby of the hotel. The children had a fantastic time singing Christmas carols, making their individual cookies, decorating them with colorful candies and being hosted to a nice luncheon. Thank you to the staff of Armenia Marriott Hotel and to Mr. Ami Miron, General Manager and Mr. Zoltan Konsanszky, Director of Sales and Marketing for an unforgettable day.



**Mary Nigoghosian** has been with Orran since October 2005. Mary lives with her mom, grandma and younger sister at her aunt's house. She is a gifted girl with an inquiring mind; she is studious and always shows initiative. Mary has a great love for music. Orran received a donation of a piano, and in turn gave it to Mary. Mary has now been accepted at the Kochnarian Institute on a full scholarship to study piano.



**Gevorg Shahumian** has been with us since July 2006. He and his younger brother lost their father

when young. He lives with his mother who is mentally ill and has to be often temporarily confined to an institution. He has a curious nature and a critical mind. He is always helping out, and like his friend Gevorg, has been given many responsibilities at Orran and has been very successful. He was also accepted on a full scholarship at the Mkhitar Sebastatsi Institute in the Arts department of jewelry.



Children singing Christmas carols

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**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE ASSISTING ORRAN:**



**TAX-DEDUCTIBLE**

Please send your US tax-deductible donation to Orran either by post to  
 2217 Observatory Avenue,  
 Los Angeles, CA 90027, USA

Or by bank transfer to  
**Wells Fargo Bank**  
 420 Montgomery Street  
 San Francisco, CA 94104  
 ABN: 121000248  
 SWIFT/BIC: WFBUS6S  
 Account Name: Orran  
 Account Number: 8836295801

**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: MIDLGB22  
 IBAN: GB52MIDL40051539024668  
**Operating AMD A/C**  
 No: 001-119189-001  
**Construction AMD A/C**  
 No: 001-119189-003

*Special thanks to Haig Arakelian Vahe Baloulian Armenuhi Petrosyan for their regular monthly donations.*



The printing of this newsletter is compliments of Tigran Mets Publishing House

**The Orran Board - Some New Additions**

We are pleased to welcome two of our newest members to our Board of Directors, Annette Obolensky and Lori Nicholson.



Annette Obolensky

**Annette Obolensky** was born in Switzerland and received her Master's degree from the Law School of the University of Fribourg (Switzerland). For more than 10 years she was a practicing lawyer and litigator in Swiss-based international law firms with a focus on business law and intellectual property law. Following her husband, a Swiss diplomat, to his new posting in Islamabad (Pakistan) the family lived there with their three children from 2006 to 2008. Mrs Obolensky joined S. U. Khan Associates in Islamabad to advise on sustainability reporting for companies and climate change projects for the domestic market. In September 2009 the family moved to Armenia. Annette Obolensky joined the Orran Board in December 2009.

**Lori Nicholson** was born and raised in the United States. She moved to Armenia in 2006 with her husband, who is originally from Yerevan. She has been a teacher since 2007. She has worked as a teacher and university lecturer in Yerevan. For the last two years Ms. Nicholson has been working as an English language specialist in Global Bridge Educational Centre. She also works as an editor for various international organizations. Ms. Nicholson is our newest member, having joined the Orran Board in October 2010.



Lori Nicholson

**A Wonderful Contribution from Switzerland**



On November 23, Orran received many toys, games, balls, jump ropes and hula hoops from Susanne Mathieu from Switzerland. She is a friend of Orran's Board member Annette Obolensky and she generously collected amongst her friends in Zurich many useful things for the Orran children. The items came together with a shipment for the Office of the Embassy of Switzerland in Yerevan. Opening the boxes and discovering all the new games for the children was great fun for the teachers and volunteers present. A big thank you to Susanne Mathieu for this wonderful contribution!



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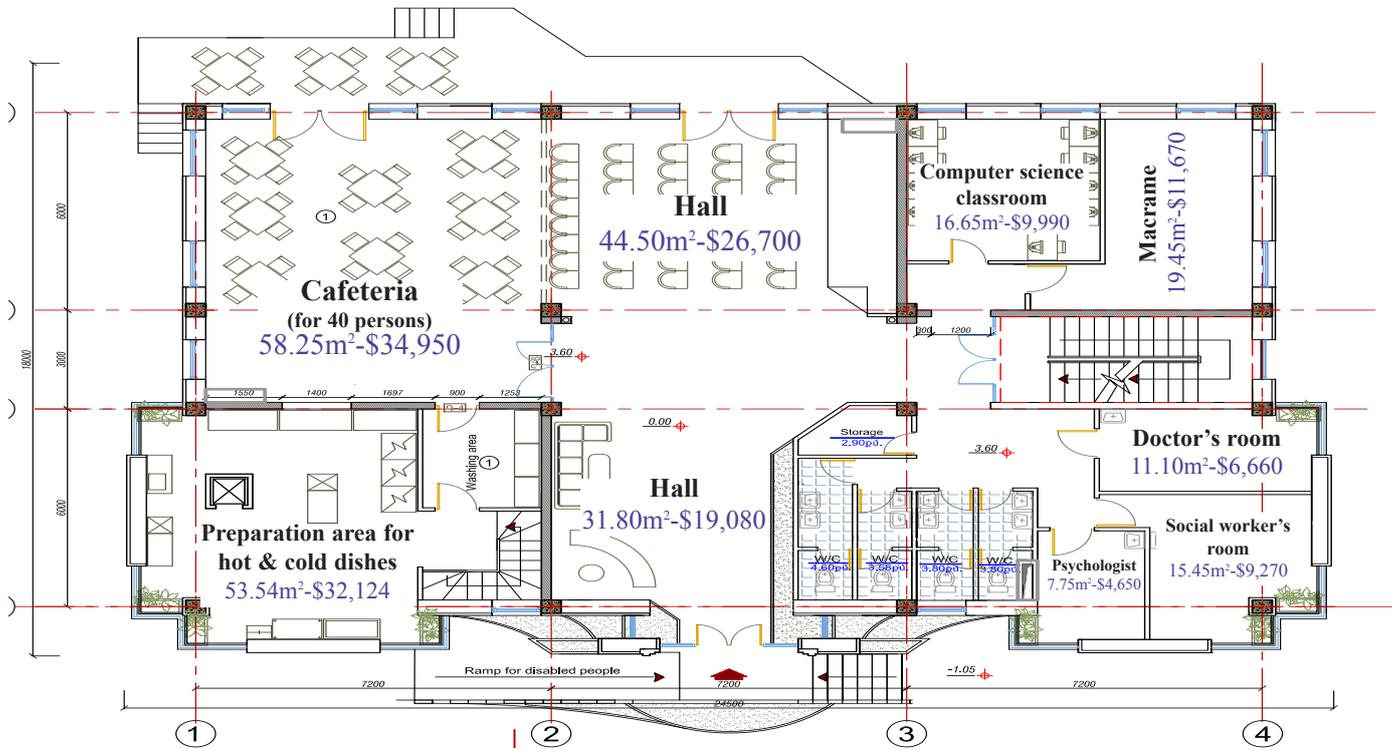
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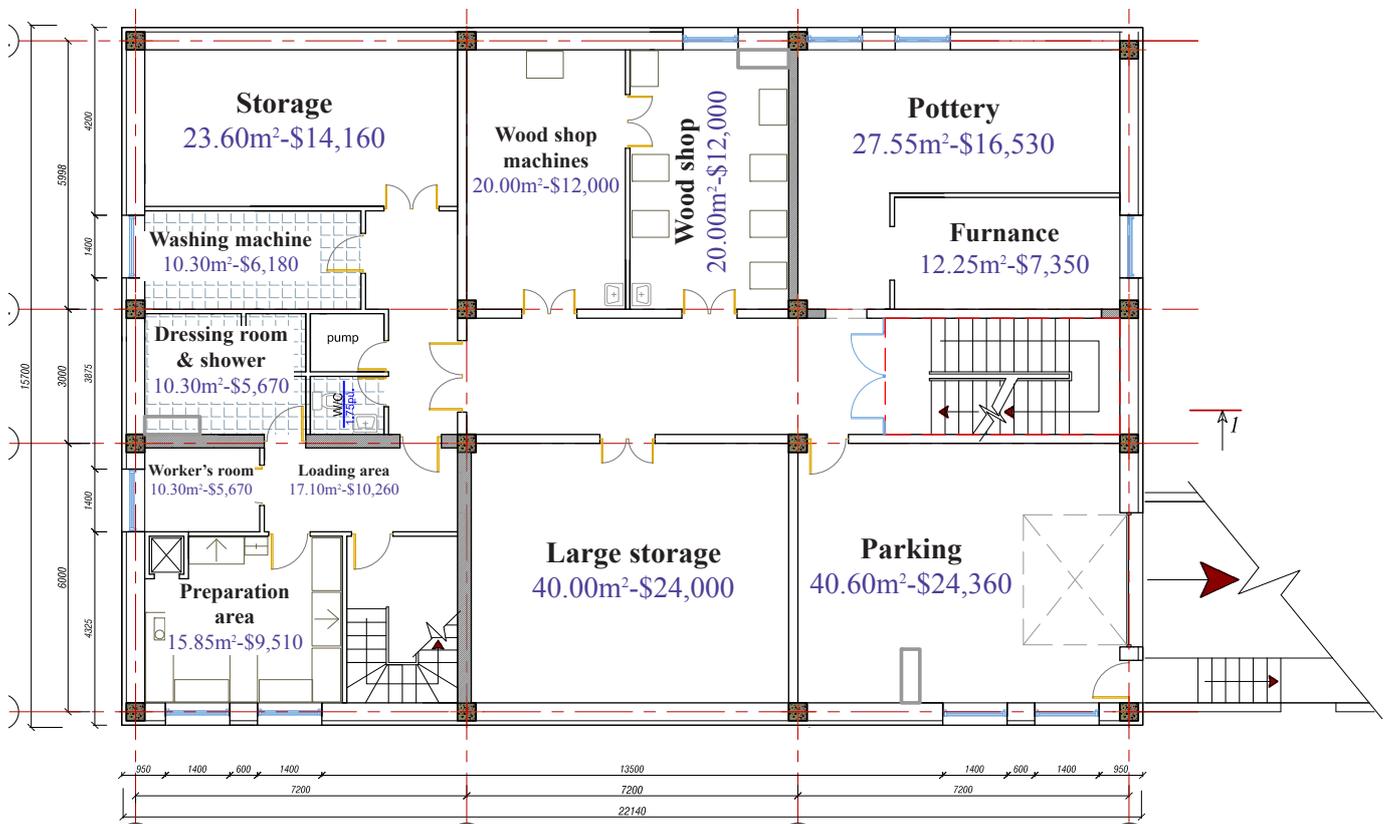


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## First Floor



## Basement



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