



# ORRAN

February 2005

6 First Yekmalyan Street, Yerevan 375002, Republic of Armenia, Tel: (374 1) 53-51-67, E-mail: orran@netsys.am, <http://www.orrان.am>

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## Dear Friends of Orran

Many of you have expressed the desire to hear more about what is going on at Orran. We are happy to give you an update and promise to continue doing so in the months to come.

It will be a year in May since we moved to our newly constructed center. The opening was attended by many dignitaries and friends of Orran. The festivities were enhanced by the presence of Krik and Anna Krikorian who had made the trip from the UK especially for the occasion. The new center is big, clean, and comfortable. It is the collective home of the elderly and the children. The children have their separate classrooms based on their age, with a teacher and volunteer making studying more productive and fun. It has also a beautiful courtyard sponsored by Carolyn Mugar and the Yacubian families of the USA. The open stage of the courtyard allows the children to boast their talents and creativity.



Mr. and Mrs. Krik and Anna Krikorian addressing the guests at the opening of the Center, May 2004

Very soon, our dental clinic will open its doors to our beneficiaries. A state-of-the-art dental clinic was donated by the Children of Armenia Fund through the relentless efforts of its founder, Dr. Garo Armen, and Dr. Alice Saraydarian. And of course the computer room, a gift of Alec and Alenoush Baghdasaryan of Glendale, California, has already become the children's favorite place to be.



Celebrating Children's Day with Nune Yesayan, June 2004

In the year past we also had a number of memorable festivities. Perhaps the most notable event was Children's Day on June 1. Orran, along with Junior Achievement of Armenia, the Cafesjian Family Foundation and Armenia TV, organized a grand children's festival with the theme of "Children for Children." Junior Achievement students sold their hand-made products to donate the proceeds to needy children including those of Orran. More than 10,000 people enjoyed good music and dancing. On that night the stars were not only shining in the sky, but they were among the people, as Armenia's top pop stars showed up to lend their support and entertain.

The children always look forward to summer. In July the older ones participate in an educational camp. The younger ones are lovingly embraced by Sister Arousiak. And indeed summer would not be complete without Waterworld amusement park. Thanks to Cleo Cafesjian the children end their summer vacation with a wet day filled with fun and games.



Children enjoying picnic at Tsaghkadzor camp, July 2004

Our frequent guests bring with them love and attention to the personal needs of the children. This year the children hosted a group of compatriots who were on the Armenian Assembly Mission to Armenia. They also loved hosting young volunteers from the Armenian Christian Youth Organization (ACYO) who were here to tutor and organize summer games for the children. Of course, having Pakrad and Katrin Markarian and their family and friends is always a special occasion. And we are blessed to have so many of our Diaspora community visit us from all over the world.





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On October 1, the children honored their grandparents on Elderly Day. A one-hour show wishing grandparents a healthy, long life and thanking them for all of their contributions was followed by gift presentations and a reception.



Mrs. Cleo Cafesjian being greeted by the children, October 2004

Unfortunately, the below-zero December weather caused our water tank to burst and the building was flooded. Although heartbroken we mustered all of our strength and faced the difficulties, understanding that misfortune is just part of life. Tragedies and our children are not strangers to one another.

In spite of this adversity, the most favorite time of the year continues to be Christmas and New Year, as the children are showered with love. This year the Aftandilian families of Boston made sure that the children had a great celebration—with entertainment, food, gifts, and Santa Claus himself.



Ho ho ho!!! Santa Claus at Orran, December 2004

Arto Tuncboyacian, world-renowned folk jazz artist, made sure the children kicked off the year with high spirits as he hosted the children at his



Arto and Arthur enjoying a jazzy evening, January 2005

concert. Throughout the year the children also attend a variety of performances.

We are also very grateful to Seta Ghazarian. After visiting Orran in the summer, Mrs. Ghazarian initiated the sponsor-a-family program. Today seven



The Manukyan Family has a better life today thanks to the efforts of Seta Ghazaryan and Shake Ohanian, December 2004

families of Orran receive monthly stipends from donor families in California, namely Raffi and Tahlene Gourdikian, Sally Tabib, Virginia Rhodes, Hratch and Araz Ghazarian, and Shake Ohanian.

The new center gives Orran the opportunity to embrace more children and elderly. The extensive facilities include the dining hall, a gift by Mr. Gavin Boyle of the UK allowing us to provide meals to more and more people. We currently care for 60 children and 48 elderly. We also have families whom we assist but whose children do not come to Orran. For example, the Manoukyans, who count ten children, are one of similar families to receive a monthly allowance.

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We are also happy to report that as the older children graduate from high school, they leave for special trade schools. Through your donations, for instance, Rouzan and Levon Gasparyan today are studying culinary arts, Rozik Davtyan will soon work as a cosmetologist, and her sister Datev will graduate as a hairdresser. We hope that in a few years you will be lucky enough to bear jewelry designed by Grigor Kankanyan and to get a hairdo by Arthur Soukiasyan.

It is owing to your assistance that we are able to change the lives of so many children, elderly, and their families. We take the opportunity of a new year to thank you and ask for your continued support.

*Sincerely,*

Susan Yacubian Klein  
Chair  
Orran Board of Directors