

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

AUGUST 2006

Dear friends,

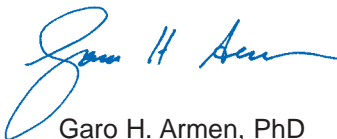
As 2006 marks the fifteenth anniversary of the independence of Armenia's people, this is a time to celebrate the accomplishments of all the wonderful individuals and organizations involved in efforts to revitalize Armenia. It is also a time to reflect on what challenges and tasks still lie ahead. COAF is proud to have catalyzed change in a small pocket of the country, where we have brought measurable and sustainable benefits to a village of 5,000 – of whom 1,200 are children – dramatically improving their lives. We stand before this important milestone with continuing commitment and determination to secure a better life for the children of Armenia. We are grateful to have generous support from a growing number of friends and partners. Our hope is to expand our formula of success throughout Armenia and share this template with organizations in countries facing similar challenges. What we hope to achieve is a reduction in poverty in Armenia and the global community for a more harmonious world for many generations to come.

In January of this year, we expanded our program by launching the Model Cluster project, based on our unique approach to integrated rural development. COAF is currently working to replicate the successes of our pilot village Karakert in five more of Armenia's 900 villages. Just as we brought new life to the 1,200 children of Karakert – through renovated school, kindergartens and community center, sanitary and safe living conditions, fully refurbished ambulatory and first-rate primary health care services, increased family income, and more – so we aim to improve the lives of 16,600, including 6,985 children, in our cluster villages.

As we have expanded our scope, so, too, have our organizational needs grown. More than ever before, we need the firm commitment of our friends, so that together we can deliver on our promises to the children of Armenia and set the stage for the use of this successful formula throughout the world. The stakes are higher than ever before. Without our immediate intervention, this generation of children may forever lose the opportunity to pursue the best in themselves.

We have seen an unprecedented source of inspiration on the faces of Karakert's children. Their newfound hope and confidence in the future proves how much we can achieve together in a very short time. The children in the five villages of the Model Cluster deserve the same opportunities that the children of Karakert now enjoy. As we celebrate an independent way of life, what better investment can we make than in the future of our children? COAF thanks you for your support of our efforts to improve the lives of children in rural Armenia.

Sincerely,



Garó H. Armen, PhD
Founder and Chairman

For recent news and press releases on COAF's initiatives and photographs of the children, please visit our website at www.coafkids.org.