

Save a Generation Awards Dinner a Resounding Success



For those of you who attended, it was great to see you on Friday, October 20th, at the Children of Armenia Fund's Third Annual Save a Generation Awards Dinner at Cipriani 42nd Street in New York City.

More than 350 of us shared a wonderful evening full of great entertainment and good news regarding COAF's accomplishments. Best of all, we raised a record **\$2.35 million** for COAF's ongoing and new projects. We look forward to keeping you informed about the continued growth and development of COAF's projects in Armenia and the profound difference that we are making in the lives of Armenia's children.

We express our sincere gratitude to all of you for your support of our programs, particularly: The Manoogian Simone Foundation; The Feinberg Family; The Sahakian Family; The Pagoumian Family; The Armen Family; The Armenian American Medical Philanthropic Fund, Inc.; Mary Ann and Carl Berg; Susan and Brad Kelly; The Lincy Foundation; Varsenne and Antranig Sarkissian; Cleo and Gerard Cafesjian; Alysia and Gregory Ekizian; Anahid and Poozant Piranian; and Gay Gazurian Snyder.

Event Highlights

- The evening's keynote speaker was **Jane Fonda**, *Oscar-winning actress, humanitarian and activist on behalf of women and children's charities throughout the world*. Ms. Fonda's keynote message was a ringing endorsement of COAF's work in Armenia.
- The 2006 Save a Generation Award recipient was **George Pagoumian**, *Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Napco LLC*, and member of COAF's board of directors. His award was presented by COAF's Founder & Chairman, **Garro H. Armen**.
- Special Recognition for their philanthropic work in Armenia went to **Eduardo Eurnekian**, head of *Zvartnots International Airport & Tierras de Armenia – Fruitful Armenia*, and to **Pierre Michel Fattouch**, head of *VivaCell – Gateway to the World*. Special Recognition awards were presented by **Alex Witt**, *MSNBC Anchor & Correspondent*.

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A Message From the Founder & Chairman



I welcome you to this, our first edition of a new quarterly publication designed to keep you up to date on COAF's progress and plans for the future.

Because of your unselfish monetary and other help, the lives of thousands of children have improved dramatically. This year's gala celebration at Cipriani 42nd Street in New York City was a testament to the commitment of so

many faithful donors. We were able to raise \$2.35 million for the implementation of desperately needed projects in our expanded *Model Cluster* development program to benefit thousands more children.

At this year's gala we were able to bring not only the realities of our children's tragic lives to our guests, but also the reality of the remarkable change that can be achieved in such a short time with relatively modest sums of money. To change their daily struggles is what we aspire to do, as we seek to replicate the success of these projects in many more villages.

I am grateful to Jane Fonda for her sincere and passionate interest and her endorsement of our programs. After she read the *New York Daily News* article (see page 9) she was impressed and touched. This prompted her to consider our invitation to be our keynote speaker. In her keynote speech she said,

"... the global community should embrace this model for success. The future of our culture and the prospect that we all have for sustainable growth and development can be found in the lives of our children. This is the **best**, most lasting, investment we can make."

This inaugural edition of our newsletter is meant as a heartfelt thank you to all who worked so hard to help found, nurture and sustain COAF. I hope you find within these pages the inspiration to come to Armenia to see first-hand what it means to "save a generation."

Meanwhile, we will communicate in words and photos the living reality of what we are seeking to do in Armenia and how critical your support is for the wellbeing and the future of our children.

Garo H. Armen

COAF Board of Directors

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Special Advisor to the Board

Arpie Balian
Armenia Country Director

Meet Donna J. Evans: COAF's Newest Board Member



As former President of the World Affairs Council of Washington, DC, Mrs. Evans managed a

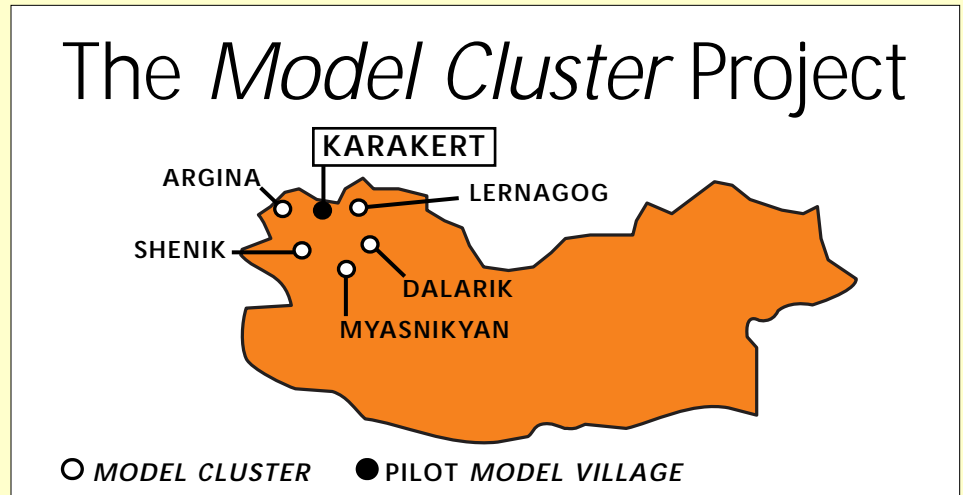
membership organization of more than 2,000 local business leaders, foreign diplomats, young professionals, teachers, students and seasoned policy professionals. Mrs. Evans developed and implemented programs on international affairs for the general membership and educational programs for teachers and students.

She also worked as Development Consultant at the State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia (1995-97); Regional Country Director, Northwest Russia, International Executive Service Corps (1994-95); Founding

Executive Director, American Chamber of Commerce, Prague, Czech Republic (1992-94); Associate Director for External Relations, Eastern Europe, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, DC (1987-92); and in the Canadian Foreign Service (1976-88). She is a member of the American News Women's Club and the Women's Foreign Policy Group and a charter member of the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington. Mrs. Evans accompanied her husband, former US Ambassador John Evans, to the Republic of Armenia (2004-06), where she engaged in various charitable, educational and development projects.

KARAKERT – A COAF SUCCESS STORY

by Arpie Balian, Armenia Country Director



Today, Karakert is a thriving village in the Arnavir Marz of the Republic of Armenia. With three new stores on the main street and 12 other construction/renovations of private homes, kiosks or businesses, one can noticeably observe economic activity and private enterprise rising in the community. A stop at the kindergarten is heart-warming, with little boys and girls happily greeting unexpected visitors. They are cheerful and eager to demonstrate the new steps of a dance they recently learned. A block away, the school children are learning in heated and refurbished classrooms. They are vibrant and attentive as the teacher explains a law of physics. Adjoining the school playground is the community center under reconstruction. The villagers are busy painting the walls and putting the finishing touches of what will soon serve as their library and center for community activity and sports. There is reason for hope in this village, reason to look forward to a better and brighter future!

No more than three years ago, not many had heard of Karakert. As its name implies, "built of stone," this village stood over rocks, arid and still. A dog's occasional snarl at a car passing through or the moan of a villager standing at a street corner served as cues that there is life in the village.

A rural community of over 5,000, with an award-winning karate team,

an emerging dance ensemble, a balanced economy, and single-digit unemployment, Karakert took a rapid downturn in the years that followed the fall of the Soviet Union and the ensuing economic collapse in the newly created independent Republic. Hundreds of villagers who were



employed by the local food processing plant and the nearby flour mill lost their jobs. Husbands and fathers were compelled to travel abroad to find employment. Those left behind suffered from social paralysis, deprived of family and community activity, and facing total unemployment.

In the absence of tax revenues and a sufficient state budget, the village infrastructure crumbled rapidly. Karakert's 1,200 children were born into unsafe conditions and grew in poverty and unheated homes with leaking roofs and no running water or indoor plumbing; decrepit schools and kindergartens, with diesel-heated, dismal classrooms, and unsanitary outhouses; no playground; and heaps of garbage piled on every street. Karakert was a dysfunctional village where

elders wandered without intent and many children stayed home, ashamed to come out in their tattered clothes.

The Children of Armenia Fund (COAF) adopted Karakert to pilot its *Model Village* development project in late 2004 because it offered all of the complexities and difficult challenges to test the model. Through a participative process, COAF sought to engage the community in the revitalization of their village, in planning the priority projects most critical for their revival. Following the town hall meetings, COAF also held consultations with potential partner organizations and other stakeholders to review planned activities and intended impact, set target outcomes, enlist cooperation, and establish partnerships to ensure optimum use of available resources.

The COAF comprehensive development model includes reconstruction, infrastructure rehabilitation, health and social programs, educational reform, government and civic education, municipal services, and economic initiatives.

Through a series of town hall meetings and ensuing discussions with the mayor and village council, COAF developed the tactical plan and schedule for project implementation.

(Karakert continued)

In the first 12 months of implementation of the *Model Village* project, COAF focused on the most critical health and social components of its development model. The health programs included a wide range of interventions, from placement of a trained pediatrician to work in the village full-time, to complete physical screening of children, retraining and continuing education of medical staff, and community health education. The intensity and breadth of these health programs produced impressive results, including a 75 percent increase in the utilization of the local health clinic; 415 percent increase in children's access to secondary or tertiary health care; and a 3 percent birth rate versus a steady decline in prior years, and versus the national average of 1.5 percent. Similarly, the social programs were far reaching and covered all aspects of humanitarian assistance to 46 percent of the village population, including distribution of food products, clothing and water to the most disadvantaged families, as well as wheelchairs to the disabled.



The *Model Village* infrastructure and reconstruction projects completed in the first year of implementation included one school and two kindergartens, resulting in 100 percent access to safe and secure school environment and a 42 percent increase in the number of days of kindergarten attendance; 4.5 km of irrigation water pipeline providing access to water for 135 hectares of cultivated orchards, and increasing income by 45 percent; and removal of 5,000 cubic meters of garbage and establishment of a waste management

system, resulting in the population living in a safe and waste-free environment.

Today, at the important juncture of 30 months from the initiation of the *Model Village* concept and 24 months from the start of implementation, Karakert boasts a completely refurbished school with Internet communication, two fully renovated kindergartens with new furniture, kitchen and playground equipment, a renovated health clinic complete with new furniture, equipment, an emergency vehicle, a renovated internal water network system, and a community center with a library, performance hall, veterans' club, womens' association, resource center and Internet club, and a marshal arts club. While the health indicators have continued to show consistent accomplishments, growing private enterprise has resulted in three new grocery stores, two kiosks, a gas station, a bakery, a furniture-manufacturing shop, an animal farm and a tree nursery. Having created nearly 200 full-time and seasonal jobs, COAF has been successful in halting the outflow of men for jobs abroad by more than 20 percent. Additionally, 66 families from Karakert who had participated in the COAF high-yield gardening program boast of having multiplied income from this source by more than five times.

These results from the *Model Village* project have prompted COAF to expand its comprehensive development program to a cluster of five additional villages. Launched in early 2006, the *Model Cluster* expanded program aims to provide the necessary infrastructure and essential resources critical for community-based sustainable development, including health, social, educational and economic structures. The development approach used in the *Model Cluster* assumes that clustering optimizes the use of available resources and plays a key role in generating economic growth and realizing

equitable and sustainable development. In addition, the clustering approach is expected to provide the framework for building intercommunity relationships, for leveraging resources that can be shared amongst the villages in the cluster, such as specialized social and medical services, public and entrepreneurial ventures, and other shared services.



Within months, the *Model Cluster* project has established an intervillage transportation system serving all six villages on four daily rounds; a psycho-social center; a waste management system serving all six villages; and a monthly paper covering news and job openings from all six villages. In education, COAF offers classes in English as a Second Language for children six to eight and nine to eleven years of age. English and computer classes are also offered to the office staff of Armavir's Governor and to the staff of the Mayors and municipalities of the six villages. All of these cluster projects, along with school reconstruction in Dalarik, Shenik and Lernagog, are moving forward. Argina and Myasnikyan reconstruction projects are planned to begin in 2007. By June 2008, the *Model Village* template is to be replicated throughout the rest of the cluster.

Partnership: the Key to Sustainability

Children of Armenia Fund (COAF) has accomplished much in the last five years by implementing programs to address the critical needs of children living in rural Armenia. Because the development challenges facing rural communities far outweigh the resources of any single donor organization, COAF has built partnerships with local and international organizations, including the **US Agency for International Development (USAID)**, **United Nations Development Program (UNDP)**, **World Bank** and many others. These partnerships have allowed us to successfully implement our programs with optimal efficiency in one of the most economically disadvantaged regions of the world.

The *Model Village* project is the first such program ever to be undertaken and has been recognized by international aid agencies as an exemplary template of sustainable development. COAF aspires to form alliances with organizations operating in other regions to share our methodology in efforts to reverse poverty in less privileged areas of the world, paving the way for world peace and prosperity.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
With **Human Dignity and Peace**, COAF implemented the **Agricultural Development Project**, which educated villagers about innovative and profitable gardening techniques. COAF and **Heifer International** were successful at teaching animal husbandry to more than 300 families, empowering them with the ability to create self-sustainable income.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
The **United Nations Development Program** and the **US Agency for International Development** aided

COAF in rehabilitating Karakert's schools and community center, where villagers learn English, business skills and entrepreneurship. The schools are now heated and have running water.

HEALTH CARE

COAF worked with the **World Bank's Health Project Implementation Unit** to renovate Karakert's ambulatory care facility by modernizing the facility and providing critical medical supplies. **The Arabkir Joint Medical Center-Institute of Child and Adolescent Health** allowed COAF to complete its **Continuing Medical Education in Pediatrics Project**, which trained 24 pediatricians and family physicians in the **Armavir Province**.

The Armenian Eye Care Project (ACEP) and the **Armenian Dental Society of California (ADSC)** have greatly improved the caliber of medical care in rural villages by providing eye and dental screenings to more than 3,000 children and adults. Thanks to these organizations, all those in need of medical assistance received care of the highest possible standards.

COAF partnered with **Children's Health Care Association (CHCA)** in an unprecedented **Integrated Child Health Initiative**, which screened 689 women, children and expectant mothers. The initiative also instituted a course in prenatal care and early childhood education. The partnership of COAF with CHCA and the **United Methodist Committee** has provided health care in the schools and HIV/AIDS prevention education for local migrant workers.

Together with **Mission East**, COAF has been able to spread awareness of disabilities and create a healthy environment for disabled children. **GlaxoSmithKline** ran training programs for health care professionals, **Junishian Memorial Foundation** educated young women about prenatal and child care issues. **International Relief and Development** provided 30 types of essential drugs and four wheelchairs to the citizens of Karakert and Lernagog.



INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

To repair the irrigation network, COAF has teamed up with the **World Bank's Water Sector Development and Institutional Improvements Projects Implementation Unit**. With more efficient irrigation systems, 2,130 families will achieve increased agricultural capacity and productivity.

COAF is working with local organizations and **non-governmental organizations (NGOs)** to build a beautiful new park and clean paved roads that will allow for an expanded intervillage transportation business to develop. The local NGOs are also working with **Mission East** to build five **Children's Club and Community centers** in five different communities.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Counterpart International and COAF provided clothes and shoes to more than 600 families, and 30,000 doses of the anticancer drug methotrexate to the **Institute of Hematology**.

The Diplomats' Spouses Organization provided beds, linens, tables, chairs, bookcases and much more to 35 Karakert kindergarteners. **UNICEF** also donated school kits and educational materials to the kindergartens.

Other start-up programs include **UNICEF's** initiative to protect children's rights, and COAF's **Cluster Press Club** that trains 13 local youths in mass media principles and legislation to help them create a small business that will publish the *Cluster Monthly*.

2006 Save a Generation Awards Dinner

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Event Highlights

- Master of ceremonies for the evening was **Andrea Martin**, *Emmy- and Tony-award winner*.
- Entertainment was provided by Armenian singers **Zulal** and pop instrumentalists **Nuttin But Stringz**.
- COAF's work to date was presented through a video presentation. *A Formula to Eliminate Global Poverty* describes the history, projects and impact that COAF's work has had in some of Armenia's most impoverished villages. A copy of this video is available upon request.
- The emotional high point of the evening occurred when **Sam Armen**, adopted many years ago by his father, Garo, introduced his father in a moving and inspiring tribute. The audience gave them both a standing ovation.
- COAF received significant press attention before, during and after the event. An article appearing just prior to the gala in the *New York Daily News* (see p.9) documented COAF's history and progress since its founding five years ago.
- Guests at the event participated in a silent auction, bidding on an array of art, including a reproduction of a Hovsep Pushman painting, sports memorabilia, jewelry, and goods and services, including a cruise on the Forbes yacht, a tennis racket signed by Andre Agassi, a Tufenkian rug and an exotic car rental.

Stay tuned for news of our upcoming projects, including expansion of our *Model Village* work into the *Model Cluster* project, involving five new village sites.

Mark your calendars now for the 2007 Save a Generation Awards Dinner on Friday, October 19, 2007, again at Cipriani 42nd Street.





The Armenia – Diaspora Conference III



On September 18, 2006, Garo Armen, Founder & Chairman of the Children of Armenia Fund, was invited to address the participants of the Diaspora Conference III in Armenia. Immediately prior to his address, Diaspora members were invited to visit COAF projects in the *Model Cluster*. The following are excerpts from Dr. Armen's address to the conference participants.

“... It is now time to focus our attention on those living in our villages who are much less privileged than we are and who have been hidden from our sight, perhaps because traveling to see their lives has been difficult for us or their reality is too painful for many of us to face.”

“... What we do is not charity but philanthropy. We do not hand fish to the hungry. Rather, we provide them with fishing rods and teach them how to fish. I mentioned that time is running out for our villagers and that they need our immediate attention and intervention. One young man who accompanied us on yesterday's trip shed tears when he saw the condition of a classroom currently being used by our children.”

“... Let me also take a few moments to review our achievements in Karakert, where our work began two years ago. In addition to having implemented renovation of the school, two kindergartens, the clinic, and repaired the irrigation system and the internal water network, put into place a sanitation service, Internet access, transportation network with the neighboring five villages, implemented health education, women's health programs, pregnancy counseling, initiated economic development programs, and many others – all with approximately \$1.5 million. The tangible beneficial outcomes include:

- **Creation of 161 new jobs in this village of approximately 1,200 families**
- **An increase of 42 percent in the number of days of kindergarten attendance**
- **An increase of 75 percent in the utilization of the health clinic**
- **An increase of 3 percent in the birth rate versus a steady decline in prior years, and versus the national average of 1.5 percent**
- **Halting of the outflow of the men of the village for jobs overseas**

“... I would like to share some of my thoughts on what are the critical factors necessary in order to expand our village programs to a scale that has been proposed by our foreign ministry, starting with an initial target of approximately 50 villages and quickly expanding this program essentially to every village in Armenia. **Among the most important considerations are a plan, the knowledge, a dream team, and money.** In addition, we need to understand the importance of working with villagers every step of the way, side by side, respecting them for what they know and sharing with them our knowledge on issues with which they can use our help. These are all achievable, as we have demonstrated – first in Karakert and now with our cluster project. Our hope is that this model, this approach can be replicated elsewhere in the world for the eradication of rural poverty. And for this we would commit to share our template with others who are willing to undertake such programs with a serious intent, in Armenia and in other parts of the world.”

“... This is our collective responsibility, and to succeed we need to work as a team and work quickly in our efforts to reverse the sad reality of rural life, particularly as it affects our wonderful children and the children of the world.”

For the full transcript of Dr. Garo Armen's speech please visit our website, www.coafkids.org.

“Big Town, Big Heart”

An article in the *New York Daily News*, by Heather Robinson (Reprinted with permission)

Monday, September 18, 2006 -

The dwelling had no electricity, no windows, no heat and little furniture. Inside were a mother, six children and a crippled father. Garo Armen remembers using the light of a camera's flash to catch glimpses of the family.

“It was like a cave,” recalls Armen, 53, in the Rockefeller Center office from which he runs Antigenics, a biotechnology company. “I saw the father embracing a shivering 3-year-old child, trying to help her keep warm.”

His brown eyes, beneath their shrewd and incisive gaze, radiate quiet determination and compassion.

He witnessed this scene of abject poverty in his homeland of Armenia, where the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 produced nearly inconceivable desolation. Rural towns were hardest hit: no basic sanitation, no health care, no jobs.

He had first returned there on a fact-finding mission in September 2001. What he saw haunted him and, despite having assumed the role of interim CEO of a pharmaceutical company in Ireland to rescue it from bankruptcy while simultaneously running his own firm, he founded Children of Armenia Fund. A nonprofit organization, its mission is to revitalize impoverished Armenian towns, starting with those where conditions are most desperate.

Most importantly, the organization seeks to build a healthier future for Armenia's children.

“At the time I was up to my eyeballs with work, but I couldn't escape the reality of what I'd seen,” he recalls. “Some families were drinking irrigation water so dirty you wouldn't feed it to an animal.”

Armen, who left Armenia at 17, studied to be a chemist at City University of New York, made his way to Wall Street, and now lives with his wife and two sons in Manhasset, L.I., took on the challenge of saving an entire village.

He chose Karakert, a town of 5,000 near the Turkish border, because it was among the most desperate. The impoverished village had a high mortality rate, and those who could manage to leave were doing so. But the townspeople's spirit signaled to Armen that if he helped them, they could help themselves.

“One of the first things we did was hold a town meeting and ask the residents about their priorities,” he says. “As desperate as they were in every way, their No. 1 priority was upgrading their school so that the kids would be able to learn. This was a great signal to us that their agenda converged with ours.”

Accustomed to leveraging resources and expertise, Armen contacted the United Nations, the World Bank and USAid, the U.S. State Department's international aid and development arm. While all three agencies were doing social welfare work in Armenia, each has certain areas

of expertise. As a result, there were large gaps in the networks of services they provided, preventing them from being able to pull the poorest towns into a sustainable future.

He approached them with a plan.

“I told them, ‘I'll put in half a million of my own money if you will be my partners and contribute as well,’” says Armen. “They were taken with the fact that I was willing to commit personal funds.”

He secured a commitment of \$200,000 from the World Bank, \$150,000 from the United Nations, and a grant of half a million from USAID.

Still, Armen says, various agency officials cautioned him about his choice of Karakert. “They warned me, ‘Look, this is your first project. This is the most godforsaken village, and nothing can be done.’”

Armen leans back and squares his shoulders.



“Each of these agencies has its mandate. I told them, ‘Do what you do best; we'll connect the dots and make the picture whole.’”

He hired a staff, most of them Armenian. Their first task was to hold the town meeting to hear the residents' concerns, which in addition to refurbishing the school included acquiring clean drinking water, medical care and garbage removal.

The garbage had not been collected in 16 years.

“There were vast piles of garbage everywhere; people were living surrounded by it,” says Armen. “I appointed two people to get trucks and organize volunteers from the town. It took three months, but we cleaned out the garbage.”

Other top priorities his staff addressed immediately were hiring a pediatrician who was willing to move to the town, conducting a census and delivering emergency aid to the poorest

families. They also provided those families with logistical help in qualifying for aid from the Armenian government, put in place systems of plumbing, sewage and, with the help of the World Bank, irrigation to benefit 400 farms.

The school building, where children had previously breathed soot from burning manure, was refurbished and provided with proper heating. Children of Armenia and USAID used this and other facilities to provide instruction in civics, Internet research and starting small businesses.

Today, the results are monumental.

Between 2003 and 2005, life in Karakert, known as Children of Armenia's first “*Model Village*,” improved dramatically, according to a report by Strategem Consulting International, an independent firm hired by the UN.

Among many achievements were development of a municipal waste removal service, creation of 60 permanent jobs, inception of an irrigation system that supplies 400 farms, and a dramatic increase in average income.

The village, which beforehand had no investment, is now home to several businesses including three convenience stores, an apricot nursery and a furniture company. There is also a system of public transportation and a town newspaper, and residents are maintaining these institutions.

A tenfold increase in access to medical care, including prenatal care, has dramatically reduced illness and mortality.

Argam Bareyan, 40, an electrician, contacted by telephone, raves about Children of Armenia's projects. After having left Karakert, where no jobs existed, he found work on a Children of Armenia construction crew, which enabled him to return to his family. Taking advantage of Children of Armenia's farming techniques, the family has been able to increase their garden's yield and sell the extra produce.

The revitalization of Karakert will have far-reaching impact on his children's lives, Bareyan says through a translator. “Now they have the Internet, and can be connected with the rest of the world.

“They have many new opportunities,” he adds, noting that his elder daughter has found work as a computer operator in the center of town.

Children of Armenia is expanding its development model into several other Armenian villages. “My 17-year-old son says, ‘Why do you help only Armenians?’” he says. “I explain it's because Armenia is a small nation and not being helped by others, so it's my obligation.

“But the formula we've developed really works. And we would like to get cooperation in expanding it into other countries, including into Africa.”

Alice Saraydarian: From Shock to Action



As a second-generation Armenian-American, Alice Saraydarian had never seen poverty or deprivation in her life. A dentist by profession, Alice was not prepared for the devastation she witnessed when she sought to help her Armenian countrymen following the earthquake of 1988. Children were streaming to the United States on medical visas for badly needed surgeries. As a result, Alice and some of her friends were

drawn to Armenia to try to help “in some small ways.” They started by supporting two clinics and an orphanage.

“When we got there,” she said, “we couldn’t believe our eyes.” They were shocked to see starving children living in caves and shacks with little protection from the elements and with hunger and disease a constant threat to life itself. “If any accident happened to one of these children,” Alice observed, “They would often die of the injury.” No health facilities, no basic sanitation and a chronic shortage of food and medicine all combined to overwhelm these visitors from America.

Soon thereafter, Alice’s parents hosted a young boy from Armenia, named Sam, on a medical visa to get eye surgery. Sam had been orphaned and sent to a mental facility because his crossed eyes caused him to become disoriented and this condition was misdiagnosed as a mental problem.

Sam Armen, today a high school senior, gave a moving introduction of his father at COAF’s Save a Generation Awards Dinner (see Sam’s speech reprinted on this page). Alice, beaming with pride at the success of this young boy, is constantly amazed at the success stories that are possible when Armenian children are given a chance. Her own children are learning these lessons as well on their trips to Armenia to see COAF in action and to help in any way they can. “My son,” Alice said, “wanted to leave his clothes before returning to New York. ... Anything to help our people.”

In his book *Development As Freedom*, Dr. Amartya Sen, the Nobel Prize-winning economist suggests that the three elements essential to bringing developing countries out of a cycle of poverty are: **education, health care and economic opportunities**. “What better description of COAF’s formula for its Armenian village projects,” Alice said. “By assuring a decent education for both boys and girls, by taking care of basic health and sanitation needs, we’re preparing these kids for economic opportunities that their parents never knew.”

The realization of COAF’s mission will be a generation saved ... and able, in turn, to save their children from the shocking reality of unimaginable poverty and hunger and disease.

As a member of COAF’s board of directors, Alice continues to work to help teach these basics, to do whatever needs to be done to speed the day that Armenia will have a sustainable and growing economy with cultural, educational and health prospects for all its people.



Sam Armen’s Speech

On Friday, October 20th, Sam Armen gave a moving introduction to his father, Garo Armen, at the Children of Armenia Fund’s Save a Generation Awards Dinner. By popular demand, we are reprinting the text of his speech.

Hello, my name is Sam. I was born in Armenia. I came to the United States shortly after the earthquake when I was four years of age... after a group of doctors found me in an orphanage in Gyumri, a city not far from Karakert, to have corrective surgery on my eyes in the US.

Because I was severely cross-eyed, they put me in the same unit as mentally handicapped orphans.

Recently, I had the opportunity to return to Armenia for the first time since I left as an orphan. I visited the villages sponsored by COAF and witnessed with my own eyes how the children in rural villages live...and my heart went out to them. I also realized that I could have been just like them had it not been for those wonderful doctors who brought me here. I witnessed what great works are being done to help these children, thanks to the Manoogian-Simone Foundation, the Feinberg Family, the Pagoumians, and so many of you. I aspire to be just like them. Just like you, impacting so many lives so profoundly.

Allow me now to introduce our next speaker, my dad, Garo Armen.

Many Ways to Support COAF and Its Critical Work



A Lifetime Legacy

All of us hope that the result of our lifelong journey is a world made better by our gifts of hope and of inspiration. There is no more significant way to assure that COAF continues to benefit from your interest and support than to leave a bequest or set up a charitable remainder trust naming COAF as the beneficiary. Although this type of gift requires professional guidance, it can result in tax benefits to you or to your estate.

If you are interested in exploring the many opportunities to leave a legacy to COAF, simply consult your attorney or your wealth management professional. Or call us and we will guide you in selecting an appropriate professional.

In all its donor programs, COAF welcomes gifts of stock (especially highly appreciated stock), for which the benefits of tax deductibility are especially attractive. We also work with donors to assure the greatest leverage for matching programs with corporations and other philanthropic institutions.

One thing is certain: A gift to COAF will be used more effectively and with greater leverage than most charitable institutions. COAF's volunteer leadership, its deep sense of volunteerism and commitment to comprehensive involvement of the community all assure that your support will have a lasting effect on Armenia and its children.

COAF's Sponsor a Child Program

For approximately \$1 per day, you will be able to enrich the life of a child in one of the rural villages of Armenia. When you sponsor a child, you will receive a photo and a biography of 'your' child. Your contributions will be used to provide health care, nutritious foods and education for your child, while the entire community will benefit from access to clean water, agricultural assistance and medical care.

Armenian children, like children everywhere, thrive on the knowledge that they have parental support and security. It helps to know that there are those who care enough to make an ongoing, sustaining commitment to their health and well-being. And the positive effects work both ways.

Many donors feel detached from the assistance they provide to a charity's mission. Sponsorship of a child goes a long way toward establishing the feeling that "I have made a difference in the life of a child; I have made a difference for Armenia."

As Garo Armen has said, "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."

For more information on how you can help a child in one of Armenia's villages, please visit our website at www.coafkids.org or call us at 212.994.8234.

Sustaining Donor Program

For those donors who find it difficult to give a large donation to COAF all at once, a Sustaining Donor Program has been established. It's simple: just authorize COAF to bill a major credit card once each month for a set amount. A sustaining gift of \$100 per month results in a major gift of \$1,200 by the end of year one. More importantly, COAF can count on your commitment in sustaining the village projects and the life-saving health programs that are so important to Armenia's future.

To set up a sustaining gift, simply call 212.994.8234. As always, all gifts to COAF are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Naming Opportunities

For those donors who seek a permanent legacy of support for the children of Armenia, there is no more significant way to express this commitment than by naming a building, classroom, clinic or some other critical facility.

Some examples of naming opportunities are:

A village	\$1,000,000	Kindergarten playground	\$10,000
School for 350 students	\$260,000	Cultural community center	\$250,000
School classroom	\$14,000	Library and technology center	\$50,000
Hall of performing arts	\$38,000	Village Internet connectivity	\$10,000
Gym/sports facility	\$40,000	Primary health care unit	\$70,000
Music room in school	\$20,000	Residential building for 16 families	\$140,000
Kindergarten for 50 children	\$125,000	Public bath for the community	\$45,000
Kindergarten group room	\$20,000		

SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars now for the 2007 Save a Generation Awards Dinner on Friday, October 19, 2007, once again at Cipriani 42nd Street.



“I consider myself doing very little when compared to Garo. Garo devotes his time and energy - time from his life to do the things that he is doing because he believes in order to change a life and to give hope to a child, a village, to a people who have suffered so much over the years - to give hope that there is a better life for them in the days and years ahead, to strengthen their minds through education and their souls through their faith...”

George Pagoumian

“Today’s children are tomorrow’s parents, teachers and community leaders. By providing children with a strong educational foundation today, we brighten tomorrow’s opportunities. By caring for them, guiding their development, and offering them safe and secure surroundings, we give them momentum to become productive members of their communities as adults. The Armenian people are blessed that organizations such as COAF are working to assure the continued progress, growth and improvement of the independent Republic of Armenia. When we in the Diaspora step forward to help our brothers and sisters in our motherland, it sends a powerful message of hope and opportunity for the future.”

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian

“Much credit goes to COAF for its work and its success because through success, new impetus is generated to enlarge COAF’s activities. One does not say that it is our duty to do it because it has to speak to the hearts of all Armenians. Patriotism is the duty of every Armenian, but it should not be emotional. It should be driven by sacrifice. Garo Armen and his co-workers are sacrificing with consciousness because we are for Armenia. Armenia is ours and we are for Armenia!”

Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan

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COAF is moving: the new mailing address is 162 Fifth Avenue, 9th floor, New York, New York 10010. Effective January 1, 2007