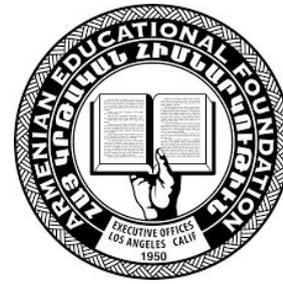




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Press release  
10. 07. 2020

## **COAF and AEF Partnership Offers Scholarships for Youth in Rural Armenia**

YEREVAN-- **Children of Armenia Fund (COAF)** and **Armenian Educational Foundation (AEF)** have announced a new **partnership** aimed at offering eligible youth living throughout COAF's 64 beneficiary villages in Armenia with access to **scholarships for higher education**. A memorandum recently signed between the two organizations outlines the scope of the joint program.

COAF has been identifying students throughout its rural communities who qualify for scholarships based on academic performance and financial need. These candidates have received guidance on applying for the AEF-funded scholarships, and will also be provided with mentoring and career development opportunities.

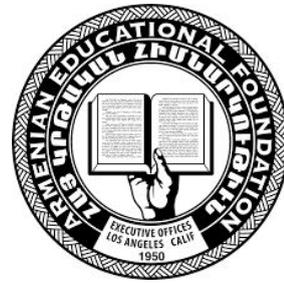
Competitively selected scholarship recipients will receive tuition assistance from AEF, along with mentorship and internship opportunities offered by COAF. An emphasis will be placed on training aimed at increasing employability, as well as advancement of English language skills and IT literacy.

*"Ensuring continuous education and creating career development opportunities for rural youth is an integral part of COAF programs. We are happy that our partnering organisations also underscore the importance of rural development and encourage students to pursue higher education without having to worry about challenges in paying tuition,"* mentioned COAF Managing Director **Korioun Khatchadourian**.

Selected candidates are required to demonstrate high academic performance throughout their studies at higher educational institutions. Recipients will receive renewed scholarships each year up until graduation, as long as they maintain their obligations. Students will also be actively engaged in 120 hours of volunteer work in their villages, contributing to the development and the advancement of their communities.



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*“We believe the students of Armenia are the future change-makers. We have been investing in Armenian youth education for many years. And we are happy to join our efforts with COAF who has been educating and nurturing the same kids to dream big and to dare,”* mentioned **Armine Haroyan**, the Executive Director of Armenian Educational Foundation.

#### **About COAF**

The “Children of Armenia” Charitable Fund (COAF) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that employs community-led approaches aimed at improving the quality of life in rural Armenia, with a particular focus on children and youth. COAF’s target development areas are education, healthcare, social and economic development. COAF launched its programs in 2004, starting in one village and expanding to 64 villages in Armavir, Aragatsotn, Lori, Gegharkunik, Shirak, and Tavush regions. Since 2015, COAF has developed and started implementing a new vision – SMART Initiative. COAF SMART is designed to advance a generation across the rural world through education that will benefit individuals, societies, and the environment. COAF SMART will become an exemplary model of development and will be replicated in other regions and communities throughout Armenia. The first COAF SMART Center was inaugurated on May 27, 2018, near the village of Debet, Lori Region.

#### **About AEF**

Armenian Educational Foundation (AEF) was founded in 1950 in Los Angeles to support Armenian students and educational institutions. AEF established schools in the Middle East, including Lebanon, Greece, and Syria. During 1960-1970s AEF was financing Armenian schools in the United States. In 1986 Armenian Educational Foundation donated \$ 500,000 to the newly established Chair of Modern History named after Richard Hovannisian at UCLA to support its mission.

After the devastating earthquake in 1988, Armenian Educational Foundation started to fully support Armenia. As soon as Armenia declared its Independence in 1991, AEF opened its office in Yerevan. During all these years AEF has renovated more than 200 schools in Armenia, Artsakh and Javakhk. Also hundreds of students have been granted full scholarships to cover their tuition fee.