



CHILDREN
OF ARMENIA
FUND

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



LETTER FROM THE FOUNDER

Dear Supporters,

Over the past year, your support turned determination into momentum. Our SMART programs delivered world-class education, healthcare, and opportunity to thousands across rural Armenia. Children learned to code and create, families received reliable care close to home, and villages felt new confidence and jobs taking root.

Strength begins with one child who believes tomorrow belongs to them. Because of you, that belief is spreading. Alumni from our earliest programs are attending and graduating from leading universities, launching businesses, and returning home to serve. What started as seeds twenty years ago is now a self-sustaining influx of talent and hope.

Thank you for standing with us and for giving Armenia's children the chance not just to remember history, but to shape it.

With gratitude and resolve,

Garo Armen
*Founder & Chairman,
Children of Armenia Fund*





ABOUT COAF

Our Roots:

Founded in 2003, the Children of Armenia Fund (COAF) was born from a collective vision to uplift the lives of children and families in rural Armenia. What began as a humble endeavor has evolved into a dynamic organization dedicated to sustainable development and holistic empowerment.

Mission:

Our mission at COAF is to empower children and youth across Armenia through comprehensive resources and innovative SMART initiatives. We aim to enhance education, healthcare, and economic development, fostering sustainable and vibrant communities.

Vision:

Our vision is for all children of Armenia to achieve their full potential and become catalysts for global progress.

thriving environments for children and communities, COAF is committed to:

- Enhancing access to quality education by expanding our network of SMART Centers.
- Broadening early childhood and family support services to nurture community well-being.
- Empowering 10,000 students with 21st century skills through enriched educational offerings.
- Advancing rural healthcare systems to provide comprehensive medical services.
- Promoting sustainable economic growth through social ventures that reinvest in community development.
- Providing holistic humanitarian support to forcibly displaced populations.

In 2023, we pursued six strategic directions to revolutionize rural Armenian communities: the expansion of **SMART Centers, Child & Family Services, Health, Education, Rural Economic Development**, and **Project H.O.P.E.**

SMART Centers:

1,350 beneficiaries

28 communities

COAF SMART Centers are non-formal education hubs designed to transform into vibrant SMART Campuses that bring a wave of progress throughout the region. Each campus not only offers advanced learning but is also a catalyst for community development.

Education:

3,077 beneficiaries

62 communities

COAF's Education programs cultivate lifelong learning from ages 3 to 18, empowering both children and adults through the innovative 3H pedagogy that nourishes the fields related to the head, heart, and hands, and enhanced learning environments.

Economic Development:

236 beneficiaries

200+ infrastructure units

COAF's Economic Development programs drive rural prosperity by fostering business growth, job creation, and infrastructure enhancement, with successes in COAF's social enterprises, tourism, and dairy, agriculture, and honey production — empowering small family farms for sustainable progress.

Child & Family Services:

946 beneficiaries

54 communities

COAF's comprehensive approach ensures children ages 3-6 receive early childhood education, speech therapy, psychological care, and social work support, while also offering parenting seminars to create nurturing environments.

Health:

4,278 beneficiaries

70 communities

As a pioneer in rural healthcare in Armenia, COAF prioritizes community well-being by providing high-quality intervention, treatment, and health education, focusing on cardiovascular disease, cancer, and diabetes.

Project H.O.P.E.:

1,683 beneficiaries

54 communities

Project H.O.P.E. is COAF's response to the humanitarian crisis exposed after the forced displacement of over 100,000 ethnic Armenians from Artsakh in September 2023. It addresses the needs of displaced people with Housing, Opportunities in education, Psychosocial and health support, and Empowerment through employment.

2023 IN HIGHLIGHTS AND IMPACT

THE SMART MODEL

Celebrating the Past and the Future

May 2023 marked the 5th anniversary of the COAF SMART Center in Lori. Since its inception in Debet, Lori, the SMART Center has focused on the cognitive (Head), affective (Heart), and psychomotor development (Hand) of rural children in Lori. It has empowered over 2,800 students to date.

SMART Citizens—graduates of the SMART curriculum—have pursued higher education, secured scholarships, started their own ventures, and are actively giving back to their communities through civic engagement and entrepreneurship.

LETTER FROM A PARENT

Dear COAF SMART Lori team,

My son, Leon Khachatryan, has been attending COAF Smart programs for the last four years. He successfully participated in the UWC Dilijan College selection process and was nominated to study at UWC Adriatic for the '23-'24 academic year. His success is largely due to the skills and knowledge he gained at the COAF SMART Center. I would like to thank the COAF Smart Center staff, trainers, and donors for their support.

Angela Saghatelyan

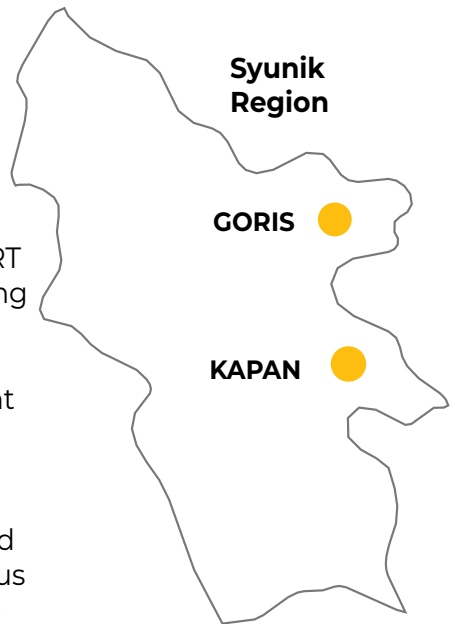
2023: A Very SMART YEAR

- 28** communities served
- 194** 3-6-year-olds went through CDC program
- 117** new students enrolled
- 777** student projects completed
- 7** SMART Masterclasses
- 1,323** books checked out of SMART library

COAF and the EU: An Epic Partnership Making History in Syunik

In 2023, we secured a €10 million grant and a €10 million loan from the European Investment Bank (EIB) to transform education in Armenia's Syunik region. We began the development of new SMART Campuses in Goris and Kapan following the model of COAF's flagship SMART Center in Lori. This partnership with the EU and the Armenian Government heralds a new era of educational excellence for children in Syunik.

Our infrastructure team also advanced the construction of the SMART Campus in Armavir, set to empower over 3,000 children weekly. With continued support from our partners and COAF supporters, we aim to have four SMART Campuses across Armenia by 2026.



Cultivating SMART Talent in the Arts



Masterclasses and workshops were led by prominent artists such as French-Armenian actor and director Serge Avédikian, musician Miqayel Voskanyan, contemporary dance master, Arina Araratian, visual storyteller Kevork Mourad, singer Gor Sujyan, musician, Eduard Peshtmaljyan, and Netflix Animation Production executive, Henri Hovanesyan

With support from the Vahé & Lucie Foundation, over 100 SMART Center students in Lori engaged in enriching learning experiences in the creative arts. These included seven masterclasses from international talents, a regional student art

competition, and an exposition of student works. The successful “Modernization of Armenian Culture” art competition had over 300 submissions and 52 winners across seven categories, showcasing exceptional creative talent.



Garik Varosyan, who won 2nd place in the Drawing category of the “Modernization of Armenian Culture” competition, was once discouraged from drawing. Thanks to mentorship from Henri Hovanesyan and his COAF instructors, he now freelances his graphic designs internationally. Garik’s transformation exemplifies the impact of mentorship and opportunity that is created through our SMART programs in rural Armenia.



CHILD & FAMILY CENTERS

In 2019, UNICEF reported that nearly 70% of children in Armenia were not enrolled in pre-primary education. This severe gap in access to early education, a serious indicator of future academic and personal success, has both initially fueled and continued to push our Child & Family Center (CFC) initiatives.

WHAT IS A CFC?

COAF's Child & Family Centers illuminate the path towards safety, stability, and development for children and their families. Each center serves an average of five neighboring communities with multidisciplinary teams providing psychological, speech

therapy, social, and early childhood educational support. Our goal is to ensure all children have the best start in life to create a better future. Three CFCs have been operational in Armavir and Lori since 2018, with three more set to open by 2026 in Armavir and Syunik.

EXPANDING THE SCOPE AND REACH OF CHILD & FAMILY CARE

Significant developments marked the year for COAF's CFCs. We launched a Music Therapy program at the CFC in Karakert, Armavir, providing emotional, tactile, and intellectual development through rhythm and sound. In 2023, fundraising began for a new CFC in Myasnikyan,

Armavir, which will be part of the upcoming SMART Campus. This CFC will serve 30 communities with crucial services like speech therapy, social work, and psychological support. It will also serve as a resource hub for educators, equipping them with the skills necessary for child-centered education.

23 communities served

411 Child Development Education

293 Speech Therapy Services

407 Social Services

393 Psychological Services



We also intensified pre-primary education development efforts, addressing the critical need for accessible education across all of our CFCs. The centers continued to host a series of engaging training sessions for children and parents alike, fostering holistic growth. Just one of last year's over 50 sessions focused on the critical stages of child development, positive discipline, factors influencing speech development, and the role of play in speech formation.

5-year-old Miqayel's inspiring success story — going from zero speech and close to no engagement with others at age 3, to fully age-appropriate communication and socialization skills after sessions with our speech

therapists and psychologists—stands as a testament to the transformative power of our Child & Family Centers.

Our CFC in Stepanakert opened in October 2022. Despite its relatively short 11-month operation before the onset of the 2023 September war and the subsequent displacement of our Artsakh compatriots, we provided crucial support to 217 individuals. Our services, including psychological support, speech therapy, social work, and early childhood development, proved invaluable during this challenging time. The COAF CFC in Stepanakert stood out as one of the few organizations in the city that remained fully operational, offering continuous services throughout the 9-month blockade in Artsakh.



EDUCATION INITIATIVES

COAF ALUMNI

We value our work with COAF alumni just as much as their time as COAF students in their youth. The COAF Scholarship and Career Development Program is a multi-component project that covers tuition fees for COAF alumni entering higher or vocational educational institutions in Armenia, and provides mentorship, internship, volunteering, employability skills training, and community project implementation opportunities as well.

After reviewing 285 applications for the '23-'24 academic year, 145 new COAF alumni joined our

scholarship program (143 through the Youredjian Family Fund Scholarship and two with the Yeghoyan Scholarship) bringing the current total to 321. As part of their career development journey, COAF alumni engaged in mentorship pairs and received invaluable career insights from their peers. 292 alumni presented their community development projects on topics from teaching English to tourism and environmental education. Alumni across the gamut enrolled in the COAF Debate Club, the COAF Talks club, and top-tier employability training, which are scheduled on an ongoing basis.



ENGLISH PROGRAMS

COAF's English education initiatives, realized in partnership with the US Embassy in Armenia for over 10 years now, witnessed substantial growth and impact, demonstrating our steadfast commitment to fostering linguistic proficiency and global connectivity. The English Access Microscholarship Program significantly enhanced the English proficiency of approximately 150 students across seven beneficiary

communities in Armavir. These students not only improved their language skills but also received broader insight into US culture, democratic values, and engaged in community projects covering a diverse range of topics.

A two-day camp in July brought together 141 English Access students, providing them with immersive and holistic learning experiences.



Our efforts in formal English education through our English Speaking Rural Schools program yielded promising outcomes as well. Fifteen teachers from Lori successfully graduated from the American University of Armenia's CTEFL program, enhancing their capacity to deliver quality English instruction in rural settings for years to come. Additionally, we developed textbook content tailored for grades 3-12 which we piloted it in 23 rural schools in Lori. Currently, two out of four piloted units for each grade are undergoing rigorous testing, have been qualified for state competition,

and are laying a solid foundation for sustainable English education in beneficiary schools. Additionally, 600 students from nearly 30 communities in Lori are set to join the Access program in 2024.

2023 also marked the launch of the Language Horizons program. With the acquisition of a new grant from the US Embassy in Armenia, scheduled to run from October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2025, COAF is set to further expand its English Programs' reach to 1,300 new students and 12 public schools in the Lori, Armavir, Aragatsotn, and Shirak regions.

VILLAGE EDUCATION

COAF's Civic Education Programs, such as Student Council Empowerment, involved 165 students across 11 communities in 2023. The program they recorded notable achievements such as the renovation of libraries and fundraising activities to support educational enhancements.

The scope of our after-school clubs was drastically upgraded in 2023. For the first time, we provided 29 grants of up to 1,000,000 AMD each across 26 villages in Armavir

and Aragatsotn for setting up after-school clubs that are designed to enrich rural students' holistic skill development, connection building, and community involvement. These clubs in the arts, sports, and STEM subjects engaged 521 students – a significant milestone as COAF was stepping into 13 of their communities for the first time. These new communities will also be beneficiaries of the upcoming SMART Campus in Armavir.




HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS

In 2023, COAF's healthcare initiatives remained steadfast in promoting community wellness and strengthening primary care across rural Armenia. Our healthy lifestyle awareness efforts expanded to 21 schools, reaching over 2,300 new students and 250 parents. Through seminars on personal hygiene and nutrition,

we saw measurable improvement in healthy habits, with reduced consumption of carbonated drinks among elementary students. Our dental program extended care to 465 children and provided dental prostheses to 41 adults, improving oral health in 24 villages of Lori and Armavir. Meanwhile, our cancer screenings and healthcare management initiatives also continued to make strides, with improved healthcare mapping, training for healthcare providers, and expanded screenings for breast cancer (with a 30% increase in the number of women screened in 2023).





The Dsegh Health Center

As we look ahead, COAF remains committed to fostering healthier communities by implementing sustainable and reproducible healthcare programs that are aligned with the goals of the Ministry of Health of Armenia. In 2023, construction of the Dsegh Health Center (DHC) was successfully completed, a significant milestone in our commitment to providing equitable healthcare in rural Armenia. Through collaborative

efforts with the Ministry of Health and the Lori Province Regional Administration, we have built and donated this vital facility to the community. Scheduled to open its doors in 2024, the DHC and its medical staff, who have undergone extensive training and preparation, are ready to provide high-quality care focusing on the health conditions that most affect rural Armenians to 7 beneficiary communities

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Social Enterprises by COAF

At COAF Fest 2023, one of our mosts historic events meant to boost tourism in Lori, we celebrated the grand opening of Concept by COAF, a boutique hotel, conference center, restaurant, and the largest social enterprise in Armenia. In 2023, we added 20 guest rooms to the hotel, which also increased the number of local employees (now nearly 40) by more than

double. Since the launch of the conference center in 2023, Concept by COAF has hosted several successful corporate and social events, creating a name for itself as a coveted destination for events as well as hospitality. Thanks to it's social enterprise business model, all proceeds from Concept by COAF keep operations at the SMART Center in Lori going and growing.





Visitor Center by COAF

The Visitor Center by COAF opened its doors last year as well and it too funnels its proceeds to the SMART Center. The Visitor Center serves as a one-stop shop along the M6 highway for all travel needs in Lori, offering a café, tour package and itinerary development services, electric vehicle charging stations, a coworking space, and outdoor recreation equipment rental.



SMB Empowerment in Rural Armenia

In 2023, COAF significantly advanced SMB empowerment in rural Armenia through strategic collaborations such as that with Canadian Embassy in Armenia, which resulted in the empowerment of 29 women with job-oriented skills in hospitality in partnership with the. These initiatives collectively amplify the impact of rural economic development efforts in Armenia.



CheeseUp

Meanwhile, our cooperative cheese production, CheeseUp, supported by the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), expanded agricultural opportunities and introduced the Lemontani brand in major supermarket chains. CheeseUp is our ambitious 4-year project through which we are empowering small family farms to rise to new heights, crafting high-quality cheese. Last year our cooperative recorded remarkable results with:



- 390 hectares cultivated for cattle foraging in 6 targeted communities, *a 254% increase from 2022.*
- Local cattle lactation *increased by 25% due to forage feeding.*
- Over 224 hectares of beneficiaries' land harvested with the coop's agricultural equipment.
- The coop generated a total of \$12.1K from renting out beneficiaries' agricultural equipment.
- Over 500 Holstein and Brown Swiss breed cows from 208 beneficiaries were inseminated, *up 66% from 2022.*
- CheeseUp's production volume reached 67 tons of High-Value Cheese, *up 86% from the previous year.*
- 9 cows were donated to 7 families forcibly displaced from Artsakh, assisting in their path to self-sufficiency.



Bees

Within the scope of our honey-production project, Bees, we trained 14 beneficiaries in beekeeping, provided equipment, established a local beekeeping center, and successfully launched the inaugural harvest of Bees honey under the COAF brand, resulting in the production of over 500 kilograms of honey.

PROJECT H.O.P.E.

In 2023, COAF's Project H.O.P.E. became a beacon of hope for displaced Armenians from Artsakh, offering holistic support with housing, education, psychosocial assistance, and employment opportunities. Our efforts extended to 26 beneficiary villages in Armavir and 29 in Lori, where, in collaboration with local authorities, comprehensive assessments and health examinations were initiated for 445 displaced families (1,683 individuals). The integration of COAF's Artsakh team into Armenia facilitated crucial services and promoted trust within the affected communities. The services provided through Project H.O.P.E. are also poised to be delivered with our mobile teams to more efficiently reach those who need them most.

Our teams continue to provide psychological and speech therapy support, including interventions to help overcome dialect challenges, and group sessions and events to help displaced childrens' social cohesion. COAF's social workers assist with job placement referrals for Artsakh family members, helping them achieve a smoother integration in their new communities.

Some of the generous supporters that further bolstered our efforts in restoring hope and stability to displaced families.

- **HSBC Armenia**
- **Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation**
- **Saint Sarkis Trust**
- **Afeyan Family Foundation**
- **Jack Youredjian**
- **National Philanthropic Foundation**
- **Pamela Avedisian**
- **Tianaderrah Foundation**
- **McCall MacBain Foundation**
- **Berge Sarkissian**
- **Victor Zarougian**

For more information on Project H.O.P.E. and to support its continued efforts to restore stability and resilience to displaced families, please visit <https://www.coaf.org/project-hope-for-artsakh-people/>



**2023 COAF
ANNUAL GALA**



**TWO DECADES OF
UNWAVERING
COMMITMENT**



COAF's Annual Gala emerged as a resounding success, uniting supporters in a shared commitment to rural development in Armenia. The event not only shattered fundraising records with over \$10M raised, but also showcased the impact of our programs through compelling highlights, testimonials, and performances. Awardees recognized during the evening exemplified the spirit of philanthropy and dedication to positive change. This year, we were honored to present the prestigious COAF Humanitarian Award to actor and philanthropist Joe Manganiello for his support of the Children's Hospital of

Pittsburgh and for using his platform to share the story of his family's history, roots, and Armenian culture. Additionally, we paid tribute to the invaluable contributions of philanthropists and dedicated COAF supporters Mr. and Mrs. John and Tamar Akhoian with our esteemed Save a Generation Award for their critical impact on advancing the organization's work in rural communities. The gala served as a testament to the unwavering support of our donors and partners, propelling COAF's mission forward with renewed vigor and enthusiasm with a record-breaking \$10 million raised!

Along with several anonymous donors, major Gala sponsors and donors include:

Youredjian Family Charitable Foundation

COAF Founder and Chairman Garo Armen

Afeyan Family Foundation

JHM Charitable Foundation

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Zarougian and Judith Saryan

Ajemian Foundation

Hacets*

COLLABORATIONS OF THE YEAR

Our efforts wouldn't be possible without the meaningful collaborations forged with our dedicated partners who share in COAF's vision for the children of Armenia. One of the year's notable and fruitful joint initiatives was "The Power of One Dram" which donated one

dram from every payment made in Armenia using ID Bank's and Idram's payment platforms. As a result, **3,480,466 AMD** were donated to COAF.



July 2023

We wrapped up our collaboration (\$600K in value) with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) which was a driving force behind the success of COAF Fest 2023.



We were also proud to continue working with the US Embassy in Armenia within the scope of COAF's English Programs. With over a decade in our partnership, together we have successfully implemented and significantly expanded English language education in rural Armenia. These programs not only give students the best education models for language acquisition and broaden their opportunities in the future, but also provide skills like research, public speaking, teamwork, and teacher training.



LOOKING AHEAD

Opportunities for continued partnership and support to sustain and expand COAF's impact in rural communities are countless. Here are some of the major developments to look forward to and support in the next three years.

COAF HEADING TO SYUNIK

On October 25, during the Global Gateway Forum in Brussels, COAF secured a generous €10 million grant and a €10 million loan from the European Union and the European Investment Bank. This substantial funding will enable us to build two cutting-edge SMART Campuses in the Syunik region. These hubs will provide high-quality after-school education and comprehensive services to approximately 6,000 children and young adults aged 3 to 18.

The upcoming SMART Centers in Syunik will feature two educational hubs in Kapan and Goris. Each Center will include programmatic rooms, art and music studios, STEM laboratories, a cultural corner, library, an auditorium, cafeteria, and more.



ARMAVIR SMART CENTER

The SMART Center in Armavir is part of the 90-hectare SMART ARMAVIR Campus which will feature a Child & Family Services Center, agricultural lands, lodging, and other infrastructural components. The SMART Center will serve 2,500 students from over 30 communities in Armavir on a yearly basis. We are scheduled to break ground in September 2024 and complete this colossal project in September 2026.



COAF'S FOURTH CHILD & FAMILY CENTER

The new Youredjian Child & Family Center (CFC) in Myasnikyan, Armavir will provide services with a multidisciplinary approach, combining education, psychology, social services, and assistance for children with learning differences. This center will serve 14 communities in the region, enriching the development of its youth, who will also enjoy and thrive in the center's contemporary outdoor playground and recreation area.



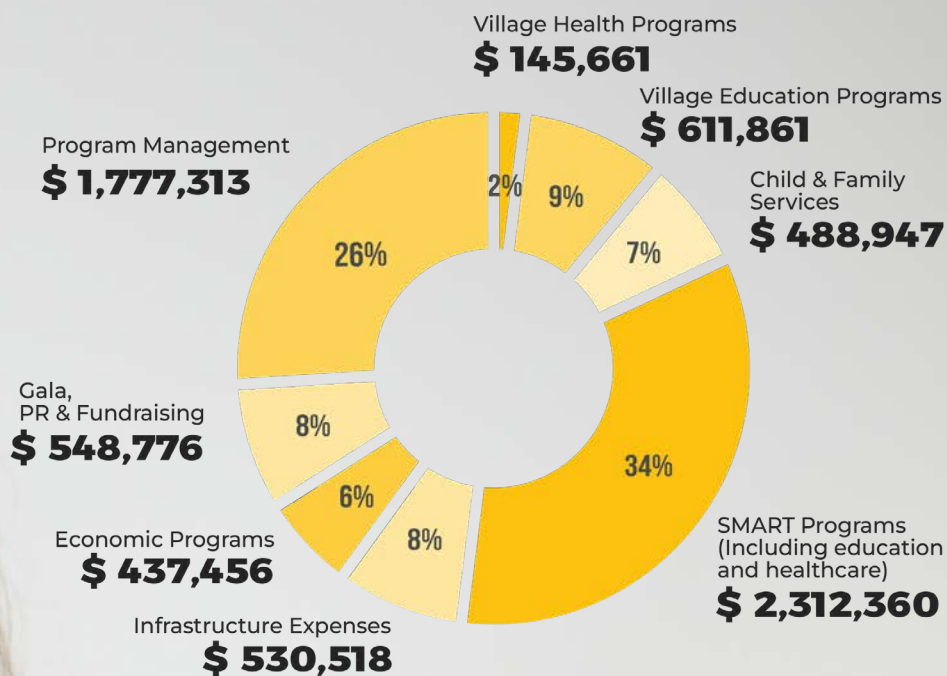


DEBED SCHOOL PROJECT

COAF's reconstruction of the primary school in Debed was an investment motivated by the dilapidated state of the existing school. In partnership with the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sports, this initiative will provide high-quality formal education for 150+ students in Lori. The newly constructed Debed School, set to welcome its students in the fall of 2025, will be a brilliant combination of innovative education and inspiring learning environments across its bright classrooms, specialized laboratories, and interactive rooms. A vast and vibrant playground and recreation area will also encourage students to think creatively and develop holistically.

2023 FINANCIALS





TOTAL 2023 EXPENSES
\$ 6,852,892

GET INVOLVED

Thank you for your interest in supporting our mission to empower Armenia's children. Here are a few ways you can make a difference:

Donate: Your financial support directly impacts the lives of children in Armenia. Every donation, no matter the size, helps provide education, healthcare, and opportunities for a brighter future. Donate today.

Volunteer: Join our volunteer network and contribute your time and skills to our programs. Whether you're interested in teaching, mentoring, or fundraising, there's a place for you to make a meaningful impact.

Spread the Word: Help us raise awareness about our initiatives by sharing our stories and successes with your friends, family, and community. Follow us on social media and amplify our message.

Partner with Us: Are you part of a corporation, foundation, or organization that shares our values? Let's collaborate! Explore partnership opportunities to maximize our collective impact.

Stay Informed: Subscribe to our newsletter to receive updates on ongoing campaigns, impactful programs, and ways to get involved. Stay connected with our mission and be the first to know about opportunities to make a difference.

Fundraising Ideas:

- **Create Your Own Sub-Campaign:** Host a fundraising event or campaign in your community or workplace. Whether it's a bake sale, charity auction, or talent show, your creativity can turn into much-needed support for our programs.
- **Run a Marathon or Walk for a Cause:** Turn your passion for fitness into a fundraising opportunity by participating in a marathon, walkathon, or other athletic event. Rally friends and family to sponsor your efforts, with proceeds benefiting our organization.
- **Birthday Fundraiser:** Instead of gifts, consider fundraising for our organization on your birthday. Create a fundraiser on social media platforms or host a birthday party with a donation request to support Armenia's children.

Every action, big or small, contributes to creating a brighter future for Armenia's children. Together, we can make a lasting difference.

