

**GULAMERIAN ARMENIAN ORPHAN FUND (GAOF)**

c/o George S. Yacoubian, Jr., Ph.D., LL.M.

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**Gulamerian Armenian Orphan Fund (GAOF) –  
2015-6 Annual Report**

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## **GULAMERIAN ARMENIAN ORPHAN FUND (GAOF)**

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## **History**

Originally from Van (Armenia), Harold Gulamerian was born to immigrant parents in 1924. Harold joined the army in 1943, and, after the war, went to City College to earn a degree in science and business administration and then a law degree. When Norman, Harold's brother, returned from the service, he apprenticed himself to artist Frederick Taubes (1900-1981). He primed his canvasses and grounded his paint. Norman, an artist himself, was having trouble finding unprimed linen. Harold suggested they import it from Belgium. That was the start of Utrecht Art Supply.

Harold and Norman sold linen out of their basement in Brooklyn. The two brothers dedicated themselves to supplying artists with the "highest quality art materials and supplies for the best value." In 1951, they rented an office at 119 West 57<sup>th</sup> street. The Gulamerian brothers' art supply business grew quickly. In 1957, they developed their revolutionary acrylic gesso for priming canvas. In 1958, they rented factory space at Bush Terminal in Brooklyn. By the end of the early 1960s, they had expanded the Utrecht line to include professional-grade oil paints, acrylics, and watercolor supplies. In 1968, they opened their first retail store at 32 Third Avenue in New York City. They then opened locations in Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Washington DC, Berkeley, and San Francisco. By the time they sold their business in 1997, they had grown from a small space in Bush terminal to 50,000 square feet and an additional 50,000 square feet of retail space.



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Mr. and Mrs. Harold and Josephine Gulamerian visited Armenia in 1998 at the invitation of Catholicos Karekin I. The Gulamerians were very moved by this visit, especially by the orphaned children they met. Established in 2013, The Harold and Josephine Gulamerian Armenian Orphan Fund (GAOF) is dedicated to improving the lives of orphaned Armenians throughout the world. Through a cooperative agreement with the Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR), the Foundation provides support to orphaned Armenians in Armenia, Artsakh, Istanbul, Javakh, Lebanon, and Syria.



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### **Projects in 2015-6**

Between October 2015 and September 2016, the GAOF funded the following Projects and Programs:

<b>Earmark</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b>Art Fund</b>	<b>\$2,400</b>
<b>Birds' Nest – Bedroom Renovations</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>Child Reunification &amp; Family Training (CRAFT) Program</b>	<b>\$7,500</b>
<b>Child Sponsorship Fund</b>	<b>\$14,000</b>
<b>Dental Fund</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>
<b>Diaper Fund</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>
<b>Disability Early Warning System (DEWS)</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>Disability Early Warning System (DEWS) – Lilit Zakaryan</b>	<b>\$166,887</b>
<b>Emergency Fund</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>Eye Care Project</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>
<b>Javakh Summer Day Camp – Art Studio</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>Mer Hoos – Renovation of Computer Lab</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>
<b>Orphan Transitional Program</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>Orphanage of Fridtjof Nansen – New Mattresses</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>Our Lady of Armenia (OLA) Center (Gyumri) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Renovations</b>	<b>\$9,000</b>
<b>OLA Summer Camp (Tsaghgadzor) – Dental Suite</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>OLA Center (Tashir) – Summer Camp</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>SOS Children's Village (Idjevan) – Speech therapist</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>
<b>SOS Children's Village (Idjevan) – Psychologist</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>
<b>Summer Retreat (Aghveran)</b>	<b>\$14,000</b>
<b>Saint Theresa's Orphanage (Azizie and Meydan, Syria)</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>Syrian Refugee Center (Yerevan)</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>Vardashen – Renovation of Dance Hall</b>	<b>\$2,800</b>
<b>Voice of the Armenian Church Summer Camp (Tsaghgadzor)</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>
<b>Warm Hearth Handcraft Business Production</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$336,507.00</b>

A photographic montage follows below.



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### **August 2016: Gulamerian Armenian Orphan Fund Summer Retreat**



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### **July 2016: Renovations for a new computer lab at Vardashen**



### **July 2016: New dance room at Vardashen**





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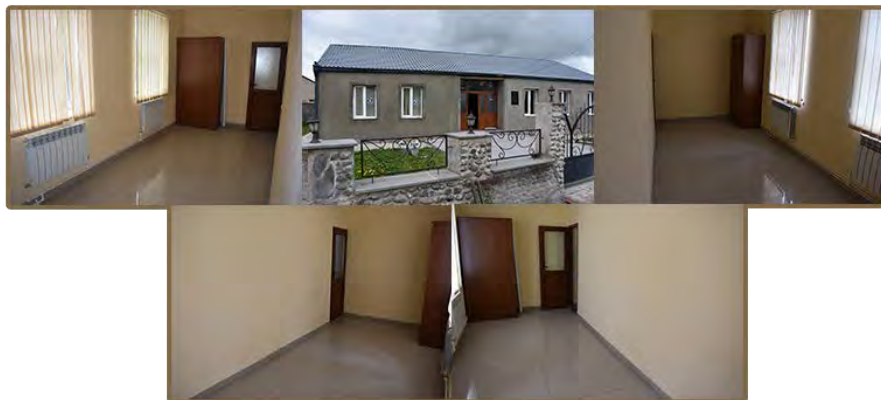
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### **June 2016: Renovations for new bedrooms at Birds' Nest Orphanage**



### **May 2016: New computer lab at Javakh**





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**May 2016:**

**The children at Nubarashen received treats and gifts**



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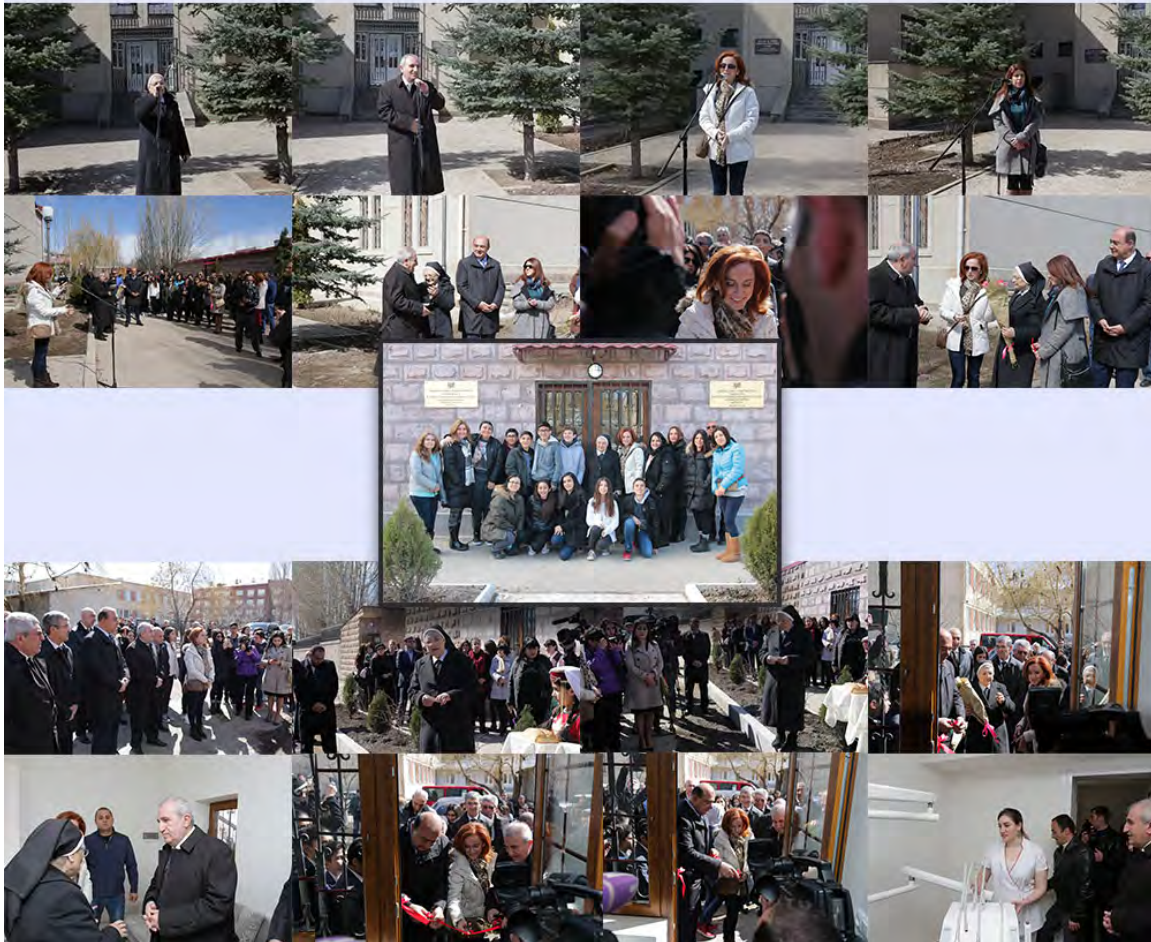
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### **March 2016: Grand Opening of the Dental Clinic in Gyumri**

Grand Opening!!





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### **February 2016: Life changing surgery for Lilit**

#### Getting ready...Before surgery



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Good-bye Rusk. Love you so much! Lilit



Home Coming!!





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### **December 2015: New wood flooring for Warm Hearth**



### **November 2015: Renovations for a new art studio at Javakh**



Beginning...



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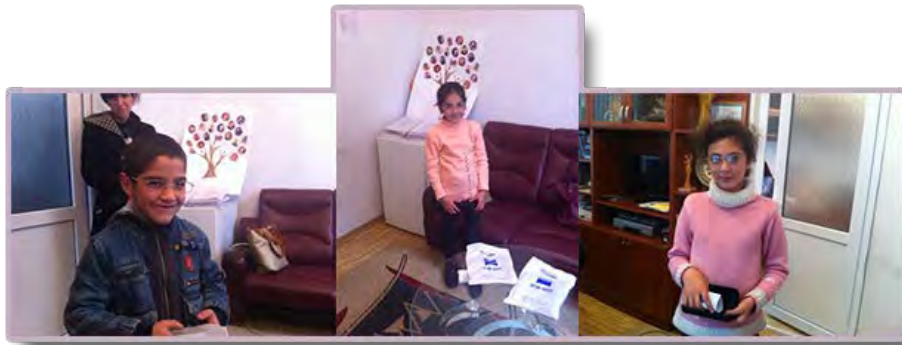
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**October 2015:**  
**Children from Gyumri Social Childcare Center received eye examinations and eyeglasses**



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### **October 2015: Security and fire systems installed at Shengavit Kindergarten**



### **October 2015: 40 mattresses and bed repairs at Fridtjof Nansen Childcare Center**



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### **October 2015: Sewer repairs at Warm Hearth**





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## **Conclusion**

The Harold and Josephine Gulamerian Armenian Orphan Fund (GAOF) was established in November 2013 as a non-denominational, charitable foundation to assist orphaned Armenians. Partnering with the Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR), the GAOF aims to educate, empower, and improve the lives of orphaned Armenian children and adults throughout the world.

The GAOF distributed \$336,507 to support a variety of Projects and Programs between October 2015 and September 2016, including life-saving surgery for Lilit Zakaryan; new mattresses for Fridjtof Nansen; a renovated art studio for the Javakh Summer Camp; a new computer lab for Mer Hooys; funds for the Orphan Transitional Program; bedroom renovations at the Our Lady of Armenia (OLA) Center; cash assistance to the OLA Summer Camps in Tsaghgadzor and Tashir; cash assistance to the Saint Theresa's Little Flower Orphanages (Syria); a summer retreat for the girls of Mer Doon and Mer Hooys; the funding of a speech therapist and psychologist at SOS Children's Villages in Idjevan and Kotayk; and cash assistance to the Voice of the Armenian Church (VOTAC) Summer Camp.

If you have any questions about the Fund, please contact George S. Yacoubian, Jr., GAOF Treasurer, at (610) 213-3452 or by email at [gyacoubian@gulamerianfund.org](mailto:gyacoubian@gulamerianfund.org).