GYUMRI HOUSING PROJECT:
THE KHACHATRYANS: A HOME FOR A HOMELESS FAMILY.
A NEW HOME FOR THE KHANAGYAN FAMILY

TELETHON 2015: NEW HOUSING FOR FAMILIES
WITH MULTIPLE CHILDREN
A HOME FOR A HOMELESS FAMILY

This hut, in Gyumri’s Wagon Depot neighborhood, is where the Khachatryan family of four, used to live. Although the tiny house, known as a domik, was supposed to be a temporary shelter, they spent 23 years of their lives here.

Apart from the terrible living conditions, the family has always grappled with health issues. Karen, their youngest son was born with a physical disability that makes him unable to walk. He uses a wheelchair with extreme difficulty given the domik’s limited space. Leyla Khachatryan, his mother, stated: “My son Karen was born and raised in this domik. He was born in 1999. This is where we’ve lived. We got by, until everything broke down. The rats have nibbled on things. You can see their droppings everywhere on the floor in the doorways.” The family’s father, Arstun, has already had three surgeries for pancreatitis and stomach ulcers. Both his sons have suffered from various illnesses. The hazardous environment in the domik made their health condition even worse.

The Khachatryan family were in for a surprise. Thanks to a generous contribution by Armenian-American Zako Chaghazbanian and through the persistent efforts of Armenia Fund US Western Region, the Khachatryans were gifted a new apartment unit, featuring all modern amenities and comforts; sharing the excitement and joy of receiving a new apartment were Mr. Chaghazbanian’s family members, who were present at the time of giving the new apartment keys.

“Given our situation, I couldn’t even picture us having a home one day,” stated Leyla in tears “I don’t know, I couldn’t even imagine it. We haven’t had a home in the past 20 years. It just seemed impossible.”

This gift represents the extraordinary possibility of leaving the past behind and starting a new life.

OLD ADDRESS:
Railroad Wagon Depot
Domik 159/269

NEW ADDRESS:
Halabyan Street 5/2,
Apartment 57, a fully renovated and furnished home featuring all amenities for a comfortable life.
The Shamshyan family in their new furnished apartment, pictured with members of the Chaghtakabian family.

Հայրենիքի համայնքի Սուրբ Պատրիկայի առաջին տունը Սուրբ Պատրիկայի համայնքի մեջ գտնվող Զավէրանի փողոցում։ Հայրենիքի համայնքի առաջին տունի շահագրությունը է ծնվել Սուրբ Պատրիկայի համայնքի մեջ և զարգացնել է իր մեջ զբաղվածությունների համար։ Զավէրանի փողոցում տեղակայված է Սուրբ Պատրիկայի համայնքի տարածքում, որտեղ ապրողիների մեջ զբաղված է տեղակայված Աննա Կարինան։ Այստեղ զավէրանի փողոցի տարածքում է ծառայություն տալիս Սուրբ Պատրիկայի համայնքի տեղակայված ապրողիներին։ Հետևածների շահագրությունը էլայանության տեսակների պատրաստվածությունների համար ներկա է կատարվում։ Սուրբ Պատրիկայի համայնքի համար էլայանության տեսակների պատրաստվածությունների համար կազմված է երկու զանգակաց անձանցուց։ Սուրբ Պատրիկայի համայնքի տարածքում էլայանության տեսակների պատրաստվածությունների համար կազմված է երկու զանգակաց անձանցուց։
“W e moved here right after the earthquake. We built this hut ourselves. My husband built it. Then, in 1994, he got very sick, and died in 1995,” stated Jasmina Khanagyan. “The temporary hut, also known as a ‘dorm’, became the permanent quarters of the Khanagyan family of Gyumri. They have lived here for the past 27 years.

David, Jasmina’s son, has somehow patched the ceiling so that it does not leak when it rains. The iron-made walls have already deteriorated and rusted because of the water damage.

Jasmina has knocked on many doors, submitted numerous applications and written letters, but all of her requests for receiving a home to replace the house she lost in the 1988 earthquake have been denied. “One of my children works, but he has his own family to take care of. Would there be a way for us to get a home loan with monthly payments of 120,000 drams ($250)? What are our choices to survive day to day, or try to obtain a home?” stated Jasmina.

September 11, 2015 will forever be etched in the memory of the Khanagnys. On that day, they bid farewell to their temporary hut of the past 27 years and moved into a new apartment, thanks to the generosity of Armenian-American benefactors Drs. Vreag and Svetlana Minassian. This apartment, in Gyumri’s Mush District, was the gift of the Minassians. The apartment included more than the apartment itself. It has a stove, a washing machine, a vacuum cleaner, as well as complete furnishings – a dresser and beds. All this was unexpected.

I’ve always wished, always dreamed, that I would be able to save at least one Gyumri family from that terrible situation, that wretched life, by helping them move into a nice building where they could raise their children in dignity and comfort, enjoying all modern amenities,” stated Dr. Svetlana Minassian.
Rodents and bugs were.infested in the bedroom, due to the mold and holes around the decaying structure. - Armenia Feed's partner, Partnership Housing, (right) the Khasayan family was relocated into a new home. - Armenia Feed's partner, Partnership Housing, (right) the Khasayan family was relocated into a new home. - Armenia Feed's partner, Partnership Housing, (right) the Khasayan family was relocated into a new home.
Telethon 2015:
NEW HOUSING FOR FAMILIES LIVING IN BORDER VILLAGES

Proceeds from Armenia Fund’s Telethon 2015 will help construct new homes across border communities in Nagorno Karabakh Republic.

Ever since its inception, Armenia Fund has been committed to strengthening border villages through a wide array of development programs, including drinking and irrigation water systems, new schools, hospitals, health clinics, and community centers, and agricultural projects, among many others.

Armenia Fund’s new housing program is a critically important initiative designed to help families stay and develop in their home communities. Here we present the story of Karine Petrosyan and her growing family, who are in need of new, adequate housing in Shushi. You can help strengthen our borders today by participating in Armenia Fund’s campaign of building new homes. Help make a direct impact on the lives of those who are less fortunate.
SHUSHI, NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC: THE PETROSYANS, A FAMILY WITH MULTIPLE CHILDREN

For Karine Petrosyan, a devoted mother of six, life would be worthless without her children. She adores every one of them, showering love on each and every stride they make.

“I wake up early in the morning, make breakfast for the kids, get them ready, and see them off to school,” Karine says. “Then I do housework and wait for the children to come back from school.”

She adds, “You know, as an only child, I’ve wished to have sisters and brothers all my life. I guess that’s why I’ve wanted to make sure that my sons and daughters have brothers and sisters, so they wouldn’t grow up alone like me. I’m totally alone, as an only child. That’s why I want my kids to be there for each other.”

Unfortunately, Karine and her family have never had a home. They have moved from one place to another, paying expensive rent – a serious financial obstacle for many living on fixed incomes.

Karine’s husband earns $170 per month and they receive $115 in child assistance. They also get $45 in medical aid for her daughter, since she was born with osteophytes, a degeneration of cartilage at the joints. She has already undergone three surgeries. Currently, the Petrosyans rent an unsafe, dilapidated apartment for $55 a month.

Karine says they somehow make ends meet, but there is no chance for them to buy or build a new home, given their extremely limited resources. So that as it may, the Petrosyans live with the hope that one day there will be a miracle and they will get to have their own home.

“I wait for that day because I have faith,” Karine says. “I guess you can say I have an intuition. I don’t know why. I have a feeling I might soon shed tears of joy... feel I’ll have my own home soon.”

Karine Petrosyan and Samvel Shahramanyan with their children in the ramshackle, crumbling apartment unit in Shushi. / Armenia Fund/lauren m. toth / copyright © lauren m. toth / all rights reserved. (used with permission, all trademarks and copyrights retained.)
With no reliable running water, the children take turns boiling water for drinking and other purposes. The damp kitchen is a breeding ground for mold and other contaminants. Today is Arutyun’s turn as he pours hot water to wash for his dinner. / Slight burns on hands from pouring hot water. / Cigarettes are everywhere, and the wall is wet due to the steam from the boiling water. / Comments on the wall and floor. / Children’s faces reflect their daily struggles and the hardships they face.
From Shirak to Artsakh to Tavush to Syunik, we are everywhere thanks to your generous support! Thank you for being part of our nation-building mission!