



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 1, 2023 – On this International Children’s Day, Anna Astvatsaturian Foundation announces that its “Ser Artsakh” Initiative delivered **1627** baby gift boxes (**683** since the blockade began) to every child born in Artsakh since the Foundation launched its initiative exactly one year ago. The Foundation also announces that it intends to continue the deliveries of these gift boxes in Artsakh as long as it is possible.

The “Ser Artsakh” Initiative was launched on International Children’s Day, June 1, 2022 as a sign of support to the families who give new life to their Homeland. It became more imperative to continue the initiative during the Artsakh blockade when baby supplies became and continue to be scarce.

“The Ser Artsakh program should not be perceived as a regular donation or charitable initiative. Instead, we created these quality gift boxes to honor brave families that live and continue to grow in difficult conditions in Artsakh,” said Anna Astvatsaturian Turcotte, founder and president of the Anna Astvatsaturian Foundation, herself an Armenian refugee from Baku. Since the launch of the initiative, the Foundation reports that the Diaspora’s reception to the Initiative was so positive, that instead of its initial goal of 6 months, it extended to 12 months and beyond.

Each gift box costs approximately \$105 U.S and includes 22- 25 high quality clothing and hygiene items for the baby and the mother; items that are either made or purchased in Armenia. It was important for the Foundation to support the local economy. The Initiative is donations based. All proceeds that are donated toward Ser Artsakh are used for the Ser Artsakh boxes. The mother is gifted with the box at her check out of the maternity ward in one of three maternity hospitals in Artsakh.

The Foundation hopes to launch “Ser Syunik” Initiative in Syunik in the near future if the resources, support from our donors, and logistics align with its mission.

www.astvatsaturian.org

Anna Astvatsaturian Turcotte is an author, lecturer, human rights advocate and humanitarian. She is a refugee from Baku, Azerbaijan. Anna launched the “Anna Astvatsaturian Foundation,” a Nonprofit Corporation based in United States that focuses its efforts on community initiatives in Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh/Artsakh and the Armenian Diaspora. The “Anna Astvatsaturian Foundation” is organized as a public benefit corporation under the Maine Nonprofit Corporation Act, Title 13-B M.R.S., as amended, and is intended exclusively for charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.