



ANNA ASTVATSATURIAN FOUNDATION

December 2023

Heartbreak

Ethnic cleansing of Artsakh drove our team, our friends, and the entire 120,000 people population of Artsakh out of their homes. After 10 months of a complete blockade with no food, medicine or ability to travel and see loved ones, in September of this year, people of Artsakh were bombed, killed and forced out of their Homeland. As soon as the military hostilities and atrocities began, Anna Astvatsaturian Foundation (AAF) sprang into action, preparing for another wave of refugees. We knew it will be painful.



However, we never imagined that Artsakh, would be lost so quickly, a “ghost town” now, emptied of all life. Our churches are silent, our people are murdered or homeless, and our lands are lost. But Artsakhtsis still stand. We stand with them. We do not give up on our people or our collective future. Thank you for supporting the people of Artsakh through our work.

We are "Ser Artsakh"



Since June 1, 2022 "Ser Artsakh" Initiative provided every child born in Artsakh with a box of 22 quality items of clothing, baby-care and mother essentials are made or purchased in Armenia or Artsakh. To date we gifted these to **2288 babies**. The initiative was instantly successful, bridging the diasporan and Artsakh families, supporting our future and the economy. Artsakh mothers were thankful for the careful and loving way we picked and designed each item in the box. During the blockade we worked with the International Committee for Red Cross (ICRC) to deliver not only baby boxes, but also medicine for the maternity and children's hospitals, baby food and diapers for older children. We delivered items through ICRC four times until August.

In August all ICRC deliveries stopped too. Up to that point we delivered aid to 1870 babies. Because we couldn't deliver aid, the August and September babies didn't receive the much-needed supplies. Once in Armenia, the AAF Team regrouped to help the families, who were now displaced and jobless. Amazingly, the AAF volunteers who put together these boxes in Artsakh are displaced themselves but they wanted to help Artsakh newborns in Armenia too. The situation is dire and after seeing it for ourselves, we made a decision to continue to aid Artsakh babies born in Armenia through the end of 2024 or as long as the donations continue. Learn more at www.astvatsaturian.org under Initiatives.



In Armenia our volunteers delivered Ser Artsakh boxes to newborn displaced Artsakhtsis twice since the violent September events that ethnically cleansed Artsakh.

Humanitarian Aid

Immediately after the ethnic cleansing of Artsakh began, Anna traveled to Armenia in early October and visited the forcibly displaced families from Artsakh who have temporarily settled in Yerevan, Sisian, Masis, Khachpar and Berdik, and more rural areas. We listened to their stories and assessed their loss and needs.



We provided families forcibly displaced from Artsakh with household and hygiene items, such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, dish and laundry soap, sponges, toilet paper, napkins, female sanitary supplies, diapers, food and baby food. In addition, we also distributed kitchen appliances, dishes, small radios, socks, underwear and clothing for children and adults. In total, more than 2,500 families received support from us thanks to your generous donations.



We only photograph the people we support when they ask to be photographed or agree to taking a photo with us. They were all very happy to see us.



Close to 40,000 Artsakhtsis families were forcibly displaced to Armenia in September. Some of these families already left the country due to enormous housing shortages. Majority of these families have no means to live or leave, and struggle especially now that the winter is upon us. Some live with family members, most are paying skyrocketing rent prices, or sheltered in abandoned kindergartens or in spacious and clean municipal conference halls. We visited them with several network of volunteers across Armenia in order to understand what the needs were and they were enormous, from jobs to housing, from beds and mattresses to heating units. During the first few months there was an enormous shortage of pillows and bedding, for example, or men's clothing, because only women's and children's clothing was being donated.



These stories don't make national news; they don't even reach the Diaspora. It is so important to stay connected to each other and to the displaced. They don't want to be forgotten. And we will not forget them.

Christmas Gifts for Artsakh Kids



This year we are relaunching the holiday initiative we implemented in December 2020 post Artsakh war - Christmas gifts for the displaced Artsakh children. We are aiming to sponsor Christmas gifts for 1000 Artsakh children, ages 0 to 18, randomly selected and identified in the area schools in Yerevan and rural communities. Clothing, toys, books and art supplies will be purchased in Armenia. **You can continue donating throughout the holiday season so that we could deliver kindness to more displaced children.**



Resilience



"Ser Artsakh" lives on to support babies of displaced Artsakhtsis in Armenia. We are continuing to help the displaced. Our 2024 initiatives are taking shape and are as vital for the Homeland as ever. It is really easy to give up, but not for us. Please continue to donate and stay in touch via social media, or through our website. **Your contributions to our initiatives are making a difference.** ☺

Anna Astvatsaturian Foundation is a tax-exempt Charity. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

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