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Gulamerian Armenian Orphan Fund (GAOF)

10/2016 – 12/2017 Report

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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 57th 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 10/2016 - 12/2017

Between October 2017 and December 2017, the GAOF funded the following Projects and Programs:

Earmark

Art Fund	Private art lessons and supplies	\$2,400.00
Bed and Breakfast	Operating expenses	\$6,000.00
CDSSC	Annual rent	\$3,000.00
Child Reunification and Family Training (CRAFT)	Facilitates reunification & family	\$6,000.00
Program Dental Fund Dian an Fund	empowerment Dental Clinic (Gyumri) Dianaara far Navk	\$18,000.00
Diaper Fund	Diapers for Nork	\$6,000.00
Disability Early Warning System (DEWS)	Emergency medical intervention	\$2,560.00
Dzorak	Reunification cottage	\$25,000.00
Discretionary/Emergency Fund	Disaster/catastrophe relief	\$21,800.00
Eye Care Project	Eye care emergencies	\$2,000.00
Javakh Summer Camp (Georgia)	Summer camp assistance	\$5,000.00
Meeting Support	Geneva	\$6,600.00
Mer Doon	Bedroom renovations	\$14,000.00
OLA (Gyumri)	Smart Board	\$4,600.00
OLA-Tsaghgadzor	Driveway repairs	\$18,000.00
SOS Children's Village-Idjevan (Armenia)	Storage cottage	\$11,000.00
Summer Retreat	GAOF Summer Retreat (Aghveran)	\$12,000.00
Vardashen	Culinary Arts Room	\$12,000.00
Voice of the Armenian Church Summer Camp	Cash assistance with operating funds	\$4,000.00

TOTAL

\$179,960.00

A photographic montage follows below.

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August 2017: Gulamerian Armenian Orphan Fund Summer Retreat



Renovations at Mer Doon



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July 2017: Construction of a food storage cottage in ljevan



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April 2017: Renovation of gymnasium at Vardashen



January 2017 Grand opening of reunification cottage at Dzorak



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October 2016 New Community Development and Social Support Center Rental Payments Covered



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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 nearly \$180,000 to support a variety of Projects and Programs between October 2016 and December 2016, including the renovation of a reunification cottage at Dzorak, supplies and staffing SOAR's Dental Clinic in Gyumri, bedroom renovations at MD, re-paving the driver at the Our Lady of Armenia Summer Camp (Tsaghgadzor), and the construction of a culinary arts room at Vardashen.

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