

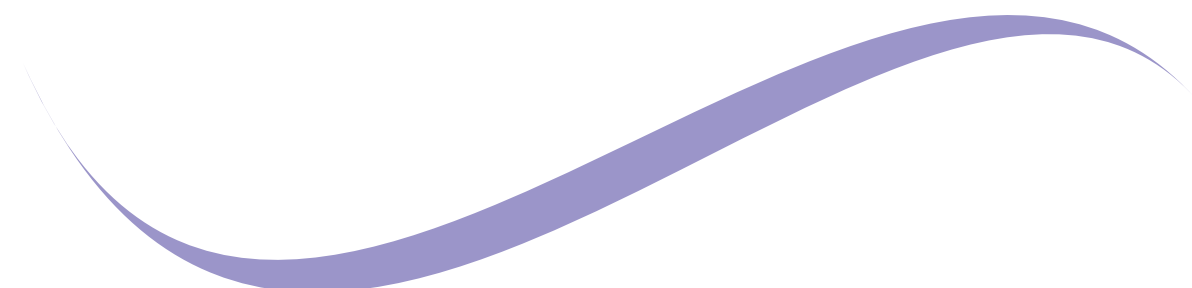


JINISHIAN MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

Annual Report 2008

Table of Contents

Our Message and Gratitude	2
Our History	3
Our dreams and plans	3
Mission	3
Vision	3
Strategies	3
Priority Areas	3
Program Mechanisms	3
Our people	4
Advisory Board	4
Our Staff	4
Our Supporters	4
Private Donations	4
Our Work in Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh Republic	5
Economic Development	5
Community Development	9
Health	11
Civil Society and Education	13
Social Protection and Spiritual Uplift	16
Our Study Tours	19
Discover an old country	19
Jinishian Memorial Foundation gears up to host two special Study Tours across Armenia	19
Our Finances	22





Developing Skills, Instilling Values and Opening Opportunities for a Dignified Life

Armenia is a country of amazing contrasts and unsolvable puzzles. Here you can see how the most profound theories and axioms break apart, and how the nation survives in a state of desperateness and deadlock. Yet, despite Armenia's tragic history and ongoing political and economic threats, the country continues its fight for independence, democracy, and a bright future, reporting medium level social and economic ratings. This phenomenon has several explanations, one of which is that there is still an unlimited source of talent, endurance, and courage. The spirit of the Armenian people and nation's eagerness for democracy and independence, create the potential to pull the country out of an endless cycle of mediocrity and on to a course of economic and political growth.

This year, our priorities were focused on directing the development of skills, instilling values and opening opportunities for a dignified life. As an independent and comparatively small local foundation, JMF has the necessary flexibility to immediately react to situational changes, adjust to ongoing programs, and develop best ways to support the Armenian people. Thanks to the growing number of our supporters, donors and partners we have been able to geographically extend our services to reach out to the most remote and neglected areas in the country. Along with our beneficiaries, dedicated local team and board members, we convey our sincere acknowledgment to all those who trusted us by supporting and encouraging us in the work we do

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Eliza Minasyan'.

Eliza Minasyan
Country Director,
Jinashian Memorial Foundation

Our History

The Jinishian Memorial Foundation (JMF) began work in Armenia in 1993 and became legally registered as a local foundation in 1999. Since then it has provided economic, social and spiritual assistance to more than 2.2 million needy Armenians, and supported more than 150 grassroots and local NGOs through partnering and collaboration.

Today, JMF has established a reputable structure that supports different layers of the Armenian population through its activities and receives support from various international organizations and individual donors.

The JMF is primarily sponsored by the Jinishian Memorial Program (JMP) of the Presbyterian Church USA. Established on May 17, 1966 by a bequest of Vartan H. Jinishian in memory of his parents, JMP has provided basic services and direct relief to millions of poor Armenians, who have lived in the midst of conflict and instability, in Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Iran, Iraq, South America, Jordan and Armenia.



Our dreams and plans

Mission

JMF enables Armenians in need to move from poverty and despair to self-sufficiency and hope through relief, development and spiritual uplift.

Vision

Armenian communities are integrated and empowered to sustain a dignified life.

Strategies

Taking a comprehensive approach, JMF aims to:

- Reduce poverty by supporting the development of sustainable economic activities,
- Empower Armenians at all levels of the society to work together to overcome social and economic problems,
- Support the spiritual, intellectual and social development of young Armenians,
- Strengthen civil society through support to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other formal and informal social benefit activities,
- Relieve the immediate suffering of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups through material and spiritual assistance.

Priority Areas

JMF focuses its activities in the following main areas:

- Civil Society
- Community Development
- Economic Development
- Education
- Health
- Social Protection and Spiritual Uplift

Program Mechanisms

Within the Priority Areas indicated above, JMF employs four program mechanisms to achieve its Mission and Goals in Armenia:

- Self-Developed Projects - JMF develops and implements its own projects,
- Partnerships - JMF collaborates with local and international organizations to develop, fund and implement projects,
- Small Grants - On a competitive basis, JMF provides small grants to support projects developed and implemented by local NGOs and community groups,
- Credit Services - JMF provides affordable credits to Micro-Finance Institutions and Farmers Cooperatives.

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Our people

Advisory Board

Our Advisory Board is comprised of representatives of the Armenian Apostolic, Evangelical and Catholic Churches, and professionals related to JMF activities.

Varoujan Avedikian
Father Barouyr Avetisyan
Lilit Duryan
Karine Ghukasyan
Armine Hovannisian
Andranik Hovhannisyan
Sister Alice Mkrtchian
Reverend Albert Paytyan

Our Staff



Eliza Minasyan, Executive Director
Armen Hakobyan, Programs Manager
/Deputy Director
Ruben Krrikyan, Civil Society and Education
Program Coordinator
Zaruhi Janibekyan, Health Program
Coordinator
Gevorg Aboyan, Community Development
Program Coordinator
Heghine Papikyan, Finance Manager
Ashot Aslikyan, Office Manager
Karine Miletbashyan, Executive Assistant
Hasmik Sevumyan, Secretary/Translator
Laura Avanesova, Housekeeper
Samson Asatryan, Driver/Expeditior

Our supporters

Armenia Village Operation
The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Counterpart International
Delegation of the European
Commission to Armenia
Jinishian Memorial Program, Presbyterian
Church USA

Private donations by

Ms. Marline Tarakjian
Mr. Vahak Savouljian
Ms. Ani Minasian
Mr. and Mrs. Kaiser and
Marguerite Krekorian
Mr. Gabriel Injejikian
Mr. Hagop Arshagouni
Mr. Hrair Arshagouni
The Hovannisian Family
Mr. Harut Muradyan
Mr. and Mrs. Rafi & Diana Tufenkjian
Mr. David Ajemian
Ms. Annik A. Minasaganian
Mr. Michael Minasian
Mr. Murad Minasian
Mrs. Lucy S. Missirian

1. Project name: Micro-lending Support to Farmers

Brief description: Armenian farmers have no access to low-interest loans since the vast majority of Armenian banks refrain from financing agriculture, due to the high risk of the sector and lack of collateral. Through the Federation of Agricultural Associations Union of Legal Entities (FAA), the project provides 16 farmer's organizations with an opportunity to perform timely agricultural activities and receive low-cost, quality agricultural inputs. The FAA's Finance and Loan Department provides its members with loans at lower interest rates than other credit services, delivering the loans in the form of both agricultural inputs and cash. As a result, the members have efficient and high quality production/yield ensuring further agricultural development and sustainability. The project has been ongoing since 2006.

Time frame: December 1, 2008 - December 1, 2009

Implementer: Federation of Agricultural Associations Union of Legal Entities (FAA)

Beneficiaries: 16 farmer's organizations with over 700 members from Yerevan, Armavir, Ararat, Vayots Dzor, Aragatsotn and Lori marzes.

Project Cost: \$262,295

2. Project name: Farmer's Organizations' Document Circulation Improvement

Brief description: A document circulation and reporting system for 15 farmer's organizations was developed to strengthen the reporting mechanisms and accountability of the FAA and farmer's organizations. The Business and Community Development Center provided the on-site consultancy and recommendations on improvement of the farmer's organizations' reporting process. Documents on different fields of activities, management, finance, and loans were elaborated on to improve the working process of FAA and the farmer's organizations.

Time frame: May 5, 2008 - September 17, 2008

Implementer: Business and Community Development Center LLC (BSC)

Beneficiaries: More than 1,000 member farmers of 15 FAA Farmer's Organizations from Yerevan, Armavir, Ararat and Vayots Dzor marzes

Project Cost: \$9,706

Our work in Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh Republic

Economic Development

In 2008, JMF's Economic Development Program continued to focus on projects that support the sustainable development of farmers' cooperatives and farmer households as a vital part of long-term economic improvements in Armenia.

“Hovhannes started his farm from nothing”

During Armenia's worst period of political and economic instability, Hovhannes started a farm from nothing in the abandoned and devastated village of Tghkut.



Today, Hovhannes is a prosperous farmer. In 1989, Hovhannes began his career as a farmer by caring for the livestock of neighboring farms. Seven years ago, he borrowed 10 cows to start his own farming business. He managed to buy the cows in two years, marking the start of a rewarding business. In 2005, Hovhannes was given the opportunity to receive a favorable micro-credit from the Jinishian Memorial Foundation (JMF). JMF had decided to extend its micro-credit services to the Meghri region after a study revealed the Meghri region, which includes Tghkut, had no access to micro-credits due to its remoteness from the capital city, Yerevan. During a period of three years, Hovhannes had the highest repayment rate of any borrower and enlarged his livestock more than four times. Now he is an “A” class borrower, which means he receives the best interest rates and biggest available micro-credits. Moreover, he is famous in the region for his high quality and great tasting cheese.

There are year-round green pastures in Tghkut, meaning low-cost husbandry for hardworking and committed farmers. “My cows eat purely flowers, that's why their milk has a special taste and flavor,” jokes Hovhannes. Currently, he produces more than 12 tons of cheese annually. The JMF staff was invited to taste Hovhannes' cheese on a routine monitoring visit. They were impressed with the quality and said it tasted similar to feta cheese.



Meghri and surrounding cities and villages call it “Hovik's cheese,” and shop managers buy all that he produces directly from his farm.

Despite the dilapidated appearance of the home, it is clear Hovhannes and his family is happy, committed, and successful.

3. Project name: Establishment of Refrigerated Storage Unit

Brief description: The Arevik Agricultural Association based in Arevik village of Armavir marz established a small refrigerated storage unit for post-harvest preservation of grapes. The refrigerated storage unit gives the farmers an opportunity to prolong the harvest sale period, decreasing their loss thus providing extra income.

Time frame: November 1, 2008 - December 31, 2008

Partner Organization: FAA

Implementer: Arevik Agricultural Cooperative

Beneficiaries: 35 members of Arevik Agricultural Cooperative

Project Cost:

JMF: \$4,256

Implementer: \$2,483

4. Project name: Cattle Allotment to the Members of Nairi Agricultural Cooperation

Brief description: The Nairi Agricultural Cooperative, located in the Nor Armavir community of Armavir marz, acquired high breed milking cows to increase the incomes of farmers and the cooperative.

Time frame: November 1, 2008 - December 31, 2008

Partner Organization: FAA

Implementer: Nairi Agricultural Cooperative

Beneficiaries: 45 members of Nairi Agricultural Cooperative, 19 of which are women

Project Cost:

JMF: \$4,262

Implementer: \$477

5. Project name: Fruit and Vegetable Production

Brief description: The project increases the number of farmers engaged in organic agriculture and expands the arable lands of Lukashin Agricultural Cooperative for organic agriculture. The project contributes to the improvement of the socioeconomic condition of the cooperative, as well as the health and life-style of the local population.

Time frame: November 1, 2008 - October 1, 2009

Partner Organization: FAA

Implementer: Lukashin Agricultural Cooperative

Beneficiaries: 42 members of Lukashin Agricultural Cooperative

Project Cost:
JMF: \$4,237
Implementer: \$1,033

6. Project name: Himnakar Cooperative grant project

Brief description: To relieve the heavy and expensive work of farmers and their family members, JMF awarded the Himnakar Cooperative of Aratashen community in Armavir marz a grant to acquire a mini-tractor and upgrade the S - 150 tractor with a harrow. Acquisition of the mini-tractor to plough the lands of greenhouses, crofts and small plots, and upgrade of the S-150 model tractor to till larger plots of land increases the farmer's profits while reducing their workload.

Time frame: November 24,2008- April 10, 2009

Partner Organization: FAA

Implementer: Himnakar Agricultural Cooperative

Beneficiaries: 36 members of Himnakar Agricultural Cooperative

Project Cost:
JMF: \$4,262
Implementer: \$689

7. Project name: Establishment & Management of Seedling Production

Brief description: The project provides important preconditions for growing various fruits. With a JMF grant, the Janfida community of Armavir marz is able to establish a seed-plot and purchase 8,000 wildings. The project stimulates fruit growing in Armenia and increases the volume of exported production. It also helps to increase and improve the varieties of fruit-bearing trees.

Time frame: November 1, 2008 - September 30, 2009

Partner Organization: FAA

Implementer: Janfida Agricultural Cooperative

Beneficiaries: 70 members of Janfida Agricultural Cooperative

Project Cost:
JMF: \$4,259
Implementer: \$813



8. Project name: Developing Sustainable Family Owned Agribusiness in Syunik Region

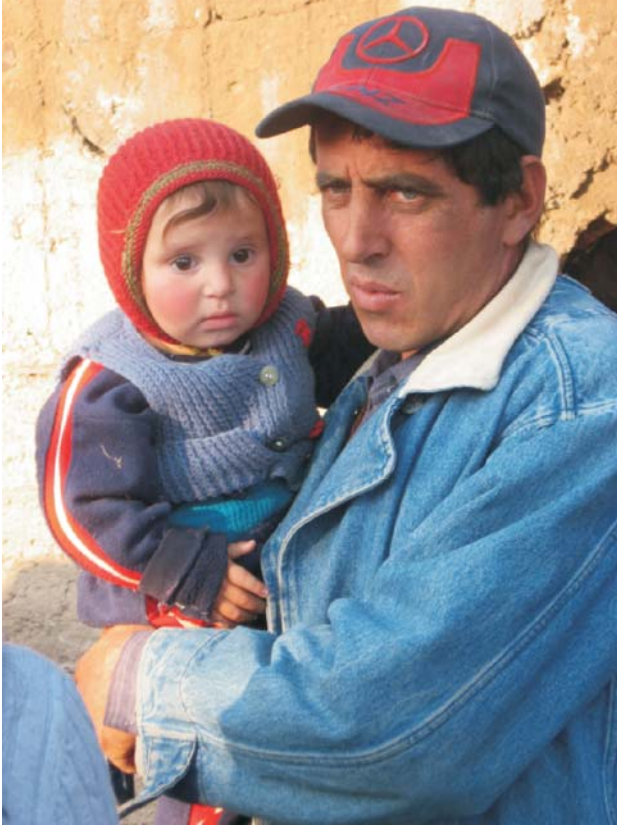
Brief description: Over 157 families engaged in horticulture and dried fruits production received micro-loans to expand their productions. JMF provided capital to SEF International Universal Credit Organization Ltd. to improve access of small-plot agricultural producers to sustainable financial services in underserved areas of Armenia - Meghri, Kapan, and Sisian regions of Syunik marz. SEF International was qualified to receive a low interest loan from JMF, after winning a closed competition sponsored by JMF in 2005.

Time frame: January 1, 2006 - December 31, 2008

Implementer: SEF International Universal Credit Organization Ltd.

Beneficiaries: 157 small-plot agricultural producers of Syunik marz

Project Cost: \$140,000



1. Project name: Community Mobilization Initiative in Lori

Brief description: The project assisted in the empowerment of communities in Lori region to find durable solutions to socio-economic problems through the mobilization of internal and external human and financial resources. The project covered 14 communities of Lori marz. Inter-community discussions and workshops were organized to outline existing problems and give possible solutions to them. Community Core Groups (CCG) were formed to facilitate the mobilization of community resources to address community based problems. Special trainings for CCG members were organized. Learning about community rights and protection and gaining opportunities to receive matching grants gave the communities the chance to solve their urgent problems. All matching grants were implemented with active participation of community members and co-funded by the communities. The project began in 2004.

Time frame: April 1, 2008 - December 31, 2008

Implementer: New Ways NGO and JMF

Beneficiaries: More than 14,000 people from 14 rural communities of Lori region

Project Cost: \$105,252

2. Project name: Reconstruction of Drinking Water Pipeline for Jrashen Community

Brief description:

In cooperation with Jrashen community members, this project improved the water supply of the Jrashen community, eliminated the losses of “Pambi” drinking water, and provided the village with a regular water supply. The main activities included reconstruction of the spring water collectors, replacement of destroyed pipes, and extension of the main pipeline.

Time frame: October 20, 2008 - December 15, 2008

Partner Organization: Armenia Village Operation

Co-funder: Private donors

Implementer: JMF, Jrashen village community

Beneficiaries: More than 777 people, over 239 families

Project Cost:

JMF: \$5,261

Co-funders: \$12,600

Implementer: \$5,403

Community Development

In 2008, JMF's Community Based Development Program continued to focus on projects that assist in the empowerment of communities, encourage community members' active participation in the community development processes, and broaden youth perspective in community development.





3. Project name: Playground Construction with Verishen & Akner Communities

Brief description: A playground with seven playground accessories and 10 benches was constructed in the yard of the Verishen kindergarten with active participation of the Verishen and Akner communities of the Goris Region in Sunik Marz. The project helped to create normal conditions for rest, games and events, contributing to the mental and physical development of children. Each year, the Verishen kindergarten administration will allocate financial resources from its annual budget to maintain the playground.

Time frame: September 1, 2008 - November 30, 2008

Implementer: JMF, Magnon CJSC, and the community

Beneficiaries: About 250 pre-school and school age children of Verishen and Akner Communities, 70 of them attend the kindergarten

Project Cost:

JMF: \$9,836

Implementer: \$1,126



1. Project name: Village Health Post Nurse Capacity Development and Certification

Brief description: The project improves the accessibility and delivery of quality primary health care at the village level in Armenia. Through trainings by qualified specialists and educational books, village health post nurses receive appropriate knowledge and skills to use in their village communities. At the end of the project, participants are certified as competent nurses. This is the fourth year that the project is being implemented in cooperation with the USAID/PHCR project. By the end of 2010, the project will have covered all village health post nurses in Armenia.

Time frame: April 14, 2008 - November 15, 2008

Partner Organization: USAID/PHCR project, Emerging Markets Group organization

Implementer: JMF and PHCR

Beneficiaries: Direct beneficiaries were 107 regional nurses; indirect beneficiaries were the populations of 107 villages

Project Cost:

JMF: \$27,148

Partner: \$249,000

2. Project name: Support to Disabled in Nagorno-Karabakh Republic

Brief description: The project improved the quality of life of disabled veterans throughout Karabakh. The project was implemented in cooperation with the Lady Cox Rehabilitation Centre, which offers special treatment and health care to disabled individuals. In total, outreach visits were made to 100 most vulnerable disabled veterans to provide appropriate professional health care and medicines. The project began in 2007.

Time frame: July 1, 2008 - December 31, 2008

Implementer: The Lady Cox Rehabilitation Centre, Stepanakert, Nagorno-Karabakh Republic

Beneficiaries: 100 disabled veterans of the Karabakh war

Project Cost: \$19,569

Health

In 2008, JMF prioritized projects that focus on Community Health Development, Health of Mother and Child, Women's Health, and Adolescents Health.

“I could never imagine that I would ever walk”



The project *Ensure Sustainability of Rehabilitation in Armenia* builds the capacity of regional doctors and nurses and creates rehabilitation teams for early diagnosis and treatment of childhood disabilities. Initiated in 2007 by the Jinishian Memorial Foundation, the project has transformed the lives of hundreds of children with cerebral palsy, spina bifida, congenital hip disorders, and scoliosis.

Nine year-old Arsen Tigranyan from Ashtarak town is one of the children positively affected by the project. Unlike other children, Arsen did not attend school or play in playgrounds, because his disability affected his ability to walk. He felt isolated and never imagined he could be an equal member of his community.

A local therapist and project participant, Ruzanna Hakobyan, examined Arsen and diagnosed him with cerebral palsy. In 2008, Arsen underwent a successful surgery, led by the project's partner, Doctor Koloyan and his medical team. JMF provided him with a posterior walker. All of this enabled Arsen to take his first steps. “I could never imagine that I would ever walk,” he said. Now Arsen attends school and has made many friends. Arsen's mother, while crying, said to JMF,

"This was the second birth of my son. This time he is born a full member of the community. God bless the people who have given him a second birth."

This is but one of many projects operated by the Jinishian Memorial Program in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh.



3. Project name: Ensure Sustainability of Rehabilitation in the Marzes of Armenia

Brief description: The project improves knowledge and develops skills of regional doctors and nurses, as well as creates regional rehab teams for early diagnosis and intervention of childhood disabilities, thus contributing to the decrease of musculoskeletal and neurological disorders among children in six target provinces of Armenia. The project also raises awareness and develops knowledge in parents and children on how to control and deal with different types of disabilities among children. An effective rehabilitation team composed of a rehab physician, pediatric orthopedist, and rehabilitation therapist conduct the trainings for the regional doctors and nurses, as well as outreach clinics to the target regions. It is the second year JMF is successfully implementing the project.

Time frame: September 1, 2008 - August 31, 2009

Implementer: JMF

Beneficiaries: More than 1,500 disabled children and 24 regional doctors and nurses of Vayots Dzor, Syunik, Ararat, Aragatsotn, Tavush and Kotayk marzes

Project Cost: \$23,334



1. Project name: Civic Dialogue and Action

Brief description: The JMF initiated the Civic Dialogue and Action project to vivify and enhance civil participation in the regions of Armenia through supporting and encouraging university students in out-lying regions to play more active, capable and informed roles in immediate and long term economic, social and political development of the country. University students from different regions of Armenia are given tools to examine the local and national issues relevant to Armenia's immediate and long-term social, economic and political development and build a network to communicate and collaborate on social and civil issues.

The project activities include: student capacity development trainings and seminars on hot social topics, small-grant projects developed and implemented by the students, inter-university student summits, and project newsletters prepared by the students.

The project has been ongoing since 2005.

Time frame: October 2, 2008 - May 31, 2009

Partner Organization: Gavar State University, Gyumri State Pedagogical Institute and Vanadzor State Pedagogical Institute

Implementer: JMF

Beneficiaries: Direct beneficiaries are nearly 400 university students. Indirect beneficiaries constitute the three universities' students, student councils members and administrations of the universities.

Project Cost: \$16,278

2. Project name: Youth Engaged in Society (YES) Academic Year 2008-2009

Brief description: The public education system is an excellent vehicle for fostering democracy and developing civically conscious and socially responsible citizens. The JMF in collaboration with "Youth for Achievements" Educational NGO initiated YES debate clubs to involve youth in the process of civil society development. Debate Clubs, organized in schools as extracurricular activities, create an open atmosphere to discuss and argue topics of local and international importance. They increase the knowledge and interest of young Armenians in key issues related to the development of civil society, democracy and human rights. In addition, they help to build communication and analytical thinking skills.

A national debate championship is organized at the end of each academic year which brings together representatives of all debate clubs. Students aged 14-17 from Yerevan and regional schools are the primary target of the project.

Civil Society and Education

In 2008, JMF's Civil Society and Education Programs continued to focus on projects that encourage and facilitate youth participation in the development of a strong and healthy civil society; and broaden the youth perspective and understanding of the role of civil society as a vital part of long-term socioeconomic improvements in Armenia.

“National Debate Championship: A Celebration for All”



The National Debate Championship (NDC) is the closing event of the Youth Engaged in Society (YES) Debate Clubs project, which organizes teams from 80 schools throughout Armenia for a final debate. Implemented and funded by the Jinishian Memorial Foundation and Youth for Achievements Educational NGO and co-funded by the European Union, this unique championship is a competition and celebration that brings together debate club members, their mentors, parents, teachers, judges and project implementers.

Fourteen teams and over 100 participants debated in the National Debate Championship which took place May 7-8, 2008 in Yerevan at the Marriott Hotel conference hall. This was the largest of all championships organized within the YES project so far. “For me, personally, the most challenging, yet the most exciting in the Championship was the fact that our team united representatives of six different schools of our town, most of whom were our 'rivals' during previous debates. However, today, I can state that now I have five new friends and hope for this friendship to carry on,” said a member of

one of the Gyumri teams. The debate teams debated four topics related to civil society, after dedicating their free time for preliminary research and preparation to gain knowledge on the topics. “It is remarkable to see the diversity of opinions that these young people have formed, to witness the work of their inquisitive minds and analytical skills. I am not ashamed of saying that I myself learnt a lot from these debates,” said one of the judges of the competition.

The debates give students the opportunity to teach and learn from each other. This teaching-learning experience is not limited to the art of debate, but goes beyond the scope of the competition and encompasses such elements as making new friends, learning about other schools and towns of Armenia, as well as learning to be patient and tolerant towards each other.



One of the mentors of a team from Yerevan at the end of the competition said, “I think this championship is a wonderful opportunity for our students to meet their peers from other schools, for students from the regions to explore more of Yerevan, and to spend a few days as members of one big family called YES project”.

In the 2008-2009 academic year 80 schools participated in the project. A website has been created to provide resources and a forum for discussions to further engage students in the debate clubs: www.debates.am. The project has been ongoing since 2004.

Time frame: October 1, 2008 - May 4, 2009

Partner Organization: Counterpart International, Armenia

Implementer: JMF/YFA

Beneficiaries: Direct beneficiaries are 1,200 - 1,600 high school students. Indirect beneficiaries constitute secondary school students, teachers and school administrations of 80 schools.

Project Cost:

JMF: \$71,482

Partner: \$32,656

3. Project name: Domestic Violence Prevention

Brief description: The project enhanced public consciousness on domestic violence and reduced possible risk associated with human rights violations within families. People aged 15 to 40 from different layers of the population were directly involved in the project's activities. The project included workshops, popular theatre performances, and debates that focused on human rights education, and introduced the issues of domestic violence and its negative effect on family relationships, and the value of mutual respect in families.

At the same time, to enlarge the scope of the project and increase the number of the population informed on the issue in the target regions, a public awareness and outreach campaign was developed and spread via the local mass media.

Time frame: April 1, 2008 - November 1, 2008

Co-funder: Cordaid (Caritas the Netherlands), Caritas France

Implementer: Armenian Caritas NGO

Beneficiaries: 2,100 training participants /women, youth, university students, police representatives, community leaders

Project Cost:

JMF: \$16,277

Co-funder: \$27,131

4. Project name: Education for Technical Progress

Brief description: The project established a communication's technology and electronics training center at the premises of the Mkhitar Sebastatsi Education Center for at-risk children, aged 12-16, from the Malatia-Sebastia and neighborhood districts. The project develops theoretical knowledge and practical skills for 40-45 teenagers in electronics, communication technology, and design and repair of primitive electronic devices to improve their skills and social status. The project has been ongoing since 2006.

Time frame: October 1, 2006 - June 30, 2009

Partner: Mkhitar Sebastatsi Educational Center

Implementers: JMF and Mkhitar Sebastatsi Educational Center

Beneficiaries: Direct beneficiaries are 40-45 high school students. Indirect beneficiaries include MSEC secondary school students, parents, teachers and administration.

Project cost:

JMF: \$16,840

Partner: \$7,500



Social Protection and Spiritual Uplift

In 2008, JMF focused its assistance mainly on socially and economically vulnerable children and focused more on cultural and spiritual uplift activities.



“Now I treat people better”

One of the world's oldest civilizations, Armenia was the first in the world to officially accept Christianity as its state religion. Unfortunately many decades of communist agnostic propaganda diminished the strong spiritual roots and traditions in the country. As a result of this spiritual gap, there is a lack of functioning churches and priests in many communities of Armenia. People's knowledge about Christianity is very limited and is mainly based on the talks and ideology of parents that were strongly influenced by communistic atheism.



Recognizing the spiritual need to reach people with the gospel and to bring communities back to church, in 2006 the Jinishian Memorial Foundation-Armenia (JMF-Armenia) and the dioceses of the Armenian Apostolic Church together started a project called Spiritual Education and Experiences for Children.

1. Project name: Creative Expression Workshop -2008

Brief description: The project improved the overall social and psychological well being of underprivileged children from boarding schools and the Children's Care Centre in Armenia. The project encouraged institutionalized children to express themselves creatively through a series of creative expression workshops: plays, puppet shows, speech development classes, musical productions, visits to cultural institutions, and meetings with honored artists. The involvement of children in the performing arts enabled the children to develop essential life skills such as communication, cooperation, and critical thinking. The workshops also increased their self-esteem, confidence, respect for self and others, as well as enhanced their intellectual and social development and made their daily life more enjoyable. The CEW project has been ongoing since 2005.

Time frame: August 1, 2008 - December 31, 2008

Implementer: The Future is Yours Charitable Social NGO

Beneficiaries: About 150 school age children from socially vulnerable families that are temporarily residing in the Children's Care Centre.

Project Cost: \$13,139

2. Project name: Spiritual Education and Experiences for Children 2008

Brief description: The project provides the children from remote villages with a non-formal spiritual education which helps them develop, foster and strengthen a personal faith. Through a number of inspiring activities such as interactive spiritual discussions with the priest, bible studies, excursions to historical places, production and presentation of spiritual performances, and baptisms, children are provided with both theoretical and practical spiritual education and experiences. The project has been ongoing since 2006.

Time frame: October 1, 2008 June 10, 2009

Partner Organization: Gugarats and Syunyats Dioceses of the Armenian Apostolic Church

Implementer: JMF

Beneficiaries: Approximately 200 children aged 10-15 from five remote villages of Lori and Syunik Marzes.

Project Cost: \$7,813

3. Project name: Child Protection Hotline and Helpline Project

Brief description: A new hotline helpline service provides children and their families with access to counseling and intervention services that protect children from psychological, physical and emotional abuses. The project builds capacity of childcare specialists and raises public awareness on the new hotline helpline service all over Armenia. Now a toll-free number, 0800 61111, is accessible throughout Armenia. The early identification of children in need prevents potential risks. The project is being implemented in cooperation with "ArmenTell" CJSC Telephone Company.

Time frame: August 1, 2008 - September 30, 2009

Partner Organization: "ArmenTell" CJSC Telephone Company and FAR

Implementer: Children's Support Centre Foundation (CSC)

Beneficiaries: Annually more than 5,500 children at risk and their families.

Project Cost:

JMF: \$24,482

Implementer: \$10,492

Partner: \$8,465

4. Project name: Summer Camps

Brief description: The JMF supported Our Lady of Armenia Convent (Armenian Catholic), Armenian Missionary Association of America (Armenian Evangelical) and Armenian Apostolic Church dioceses to organize summer camps for schoolchildren from vulnerable families. Beneficiaries were children from Yerevan and different marzes of Armenia. The camps were located in rich and beautiful nature sites. The camps provided an environment conducive to spiritual and physical growth of children along with developing moral and aesthetic values of children through extracurricular activities. The daily program at the camp provided a blend of Armenian religion, language, culture, history, dance, music, and sports. Children were provided with four nutritious meals during the day, learned to live in a group environment, and developed new social skills. JMF has been contributing to the organization of summer camps since 1994.

Summer Camp 2008 - Apostolic Community

Time frame: August 9, 2008 August 16, 2008

Implementer: Armenian Apostolic Church - Hayordats Houses

Beneficiaries: 131 children from needy families from

Arevatsag, Akori, Gegharkounik and Artanish are four remote villages in Armenia, which, like many Armenian remote villages, have neither a church nor a priest. Due to the settlement of the villages the majority of the children have no chance to communicate with priests and visit churches in other places.

It has been four months already that three young priests regularly visit these villages, bringing the Word of God into the heart of about 500 Armenian children and teaching Christian values which develop moral convictions. Through spiritual discussions, bible studies, prayers, celebration of Christian rituals and holidays, acceptance of baptism, visits to historical churches, and other spiritual activities, children identified with their spiritual and religious heritage. Each meeting with the priest is both a challenge and opportunity for children as they try to find the spiritual path that is right for each of them.

The school director of Gegharkunik said that when inspectors on youth issues from the local police made their usual monitoring trip to regional schools they were surprised by the good behavioral indices and low crime rates of the Gegharkunik school. The school director thinks it is linked to the spiritual lessons that made children more disciplined and responsible for their deeds. In some sense it is confirmed by the kids themselves. Answering the question "What has been changed in your life since you began attending the spiritual lessons?" a number of children wrote: "Now I treat people better."



Yerevan and different marzes of Armenia

Project Cost:

JMF: \$10,000

Implementer: \$1,551

Summer Camp 2008 -Evangelical Community

Time frame: June 19, 2008 - August 25, 2008

Implementer: Armenian Missionary Association of America

Beneficiaries: 2,340 children, youth and young adults from needy families from different marzes of Armenia.

Project Cost:JMF: \$10,000

Implementer: \$73,436

Summer Camp 2008 - Catholic Community

Time frame: June 23, 2008 August 25, 2008

Partner Organization: Foundation Alliance Armenienne of Geneva and other benefactors

Implementer: Our Lady of Armenia Convent

Beneficiaries: 850 children from needy families and orphanages from different marzes of Armenia

Project Cost:

JMF: \$10,000

Implementer: \$20,676 Partner: \$66,471

5. Project name: William Saroyan's Monument

Brief description:To keep generations informed of the legacy of the world renowned Armenian writer, William Saroyan, JMF supported the Pan Armenian Geographic Association NGO to erect a monument in the center of Yerevan to honor the outstanding writer. The project also included other commemorative events.

Time frame: October 1, 2008 - June 1, 2009

Partner Organization: Yerevan City Hall and the Government of RA, Ministry of Culture and the Head Office of the President of RA, Viva Cell, Areximbank, AGBU, Counterpart International, World Bank, Sharm Holding, AMAA, individual donors with Mr. Hovig Kurkjian being the major donor

Implementer: PanArmenian Geographic Association NGO

Beneficiaries: The Armenian people worldwide

Project Cost:

JMF: \$10,000

Our Study Tours

Discover an old country

- Learn about Armenian history, culture and politics
- Participate in excursions to historical sites and cultural attractions
- Experience rural life and visit Armenian families
- See JMF in action and meet JMF beneficiaries and partner organizations
- Learn about the global economy and existing socio-economic problems in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh
- Discover ways to become involved in making positive social change



We are delighted to announce very special study tours for those of you who would like to discover the real Armenia in 2009 and 2010.

These marvelous opportunities, organized jointly by the Jinishian Memorial Foundation and the Presbyterian Church USA, offer a combination of sightseeing and select visits to JMF projects. During your study tour, you will see many of Armenia's most significant historical and cultural sites accompanied by a professional guide. As importantly, you will visit a diversity of quaint villages, schools, universities, and other destinations. Throughout these visits, you will have the chance to interact with regular Armenians who are making a difference in the life of the homeland.

We are also very pleased to inform you that the proceeds from these tours will benefit JMF projects in Armenia, particularly assisting needy families. The study tours we offer take place during Armenia's best seasons: September 13-24, 2009, May 16-27, 2010, and September 12-23, 2010. You can access detailed information about the JMF Study Tours at www.jinishian.org.

We look forward to enlisting you for the trip of a lifetime!

Jinishian Memorial Foundation gears up to host two special Study Tours across Armenia By Sona Hamalian

Among the key aspects that make the Jinishian Memorial Foundation unique is its profoundly compassionate approach to the design of its programs, and, ultimately, its beneficiaries. Rather than provide quick fixes or handouts, the organization invests in the lives of individuals and entire communities, guided by both an abiding sense of empathy and a vision of long-term development in terms of fostering economic self sufficiency, social equality and vibrancy, educational excellence, and spiritual growth.

Sponsored mainly by the Jinishian Memorial Program of the Presbyterian Church USA, the Jinishian Memorial Foundation operates a comprehensive program in Armenia, focusing not only on direct aid to disadvantaged families, but also community development, education, economic development, civil-society growth, health services, and spiritual uplift. Since 1993, the foundation has assisted some 2.2 million individuals in Armenia, and supported the work of over 150 grassroots NGOs through collaborative projects. Given the enormously positive impact of its work in the Armenian homeland, today the foundation enjoys the partnership of major aid organizations such as the United States Agency for International Development and Delegation of the European Commission, as well as the support of a number of diaspora and Armenia donors.



Recently the foundation announced two extraordinary Study Tours in Armenia (May and September 2009), intended to give tourists the opportunity to experience the very best of Armenia, through guided sightseeing, and also gain first-hand insight into the work of the foundation.

The following is a conversation with **Eliza Minasyan**, Country Director of the Jinishian Memorial Foundation in Armenia. I caught up with her in Yerevan, at the headquarters of the Jinishian Memorial Foundation, where she was busy responding to a flurry of overseas inquiries about the upcoming Study Tours.

Sona Hamalian: How did the idea of organizing the Study Tours come about?

Eliza Minasyan: The idea came about in response to a variety of needs but also considering our foundation's key capacities for organizing such tours.

First, the needs:

- there is a need in the diaspora to learn about the motherland, to discover not only the wonderful cultural heritage of our ancestors but also the everyday life and aspirations of the Armenian people ;
- there is a need in the Armenian tourism industry to introduce unique, extraordinary tours that offer visitors the sights, sounds, and aromas of modern Armenia and also explorations of the country's timeless historic destinations;
- there is a need among current and potential donors and supporters to gain first-hand insight into Armenia's economic, social, cultural, and educational aspects as well as the ways to address core issues in a proven and effective manner
- and there is a need for external expertise and funds to help Armenians overcome ongoing social and economic adversities.

As for the capacities: our foundation has extensive development experience throughout Armenia, with projects dedicated to economic and community development, education, health, and spiritual uplift. This means that those taking the Study Tours will get to see most of the country's regions, interact with people from all walks of life, and visit all the institutions around which Armenian life thrives such as universities and schools, children's art centers and theaters, churches, community organizations, and hospitals. It's important to note that these visits will not be “passive.” Rather, they will give diaspora visitors the chance to communicate and spend time with students, priests, and professionals from various fields including NGO representatives, farmers, and community activists;

- many of our staff members, including myself, have considerable experience in guiding tours. In addition, for the past ten years, I've witnessed a growing need for what I like to call “living” tours, which would enable visitors to gain a real sense of the country;

- finally, the Study Tours are being jointly organized by our mother organization in the U.S., the Jinishian Memorial Program, whose great reputation gives tour takers the confidence that they will enjoy a professionally planned, well thought-out, and profoundly fulfilling travel experience.

Are the Study Tours open to all tourists or just Jinishian Foundation supporters?

They are open to everyone, though our current donors are being offered special rates. Depending on the applications, the Study Tours can also be customized for specific groups, based on traveler preferences and even the age of participants.

What will the sightseeing components of the tours entail?

They will comprise all the major attractions and much more. Cities will include Yerevan, Echmiadzin, Vanadzor, Dilijan, Goris, Jermuk, Sevan, Gyumri, as well as Stepanakert and Shushi in Karabagh.

Specific sites will include Khor Virap, a place of pilgrimage for Armenians all over the world; Noravank Monastery (13-14th centuries), situated on a ledge over the Arpa River gorge and surrounded by fantastic red rocks; Tatev monastery (14th-15th centuries), on the edge of a gigantic canyon; Holy Echmiadzin, the Vatican City of Armenia and the center of the Armenian Apostolic Church; Zvartnots Cathedral, famous for its unique architecture; the magnificent Odzum Church (7th century); the Sanahin monastery complex; and also Ghazanchetsots Cathedral and Gandzasar Monastery in Karabagh. Of course, the tours will also include visits to a number of major museums and theaters.

So it seems to me that tour participants will get to visit not only popular destinations but also unusual, off-the-beaten-track sites.

Exactly. That is the main purpose. Some of the places I mentioned are usually left out of commercial tours because they're considered inconvenient or too time-consuming for big groups. But that's not an issue with us, since we're flexible and our groups will not exceed 12 people each. In short, the Study Tours will definitely go further than conventional, business-driven tours.

In terms of becoming familiar with the work of the Jinishian Foundation, what are some of the sites that tour participants will be taken to?

They will visit regional universities where we implement projects that provide students with the necessary skills and experience for contributing to the country's civic life. Tour participants will join school debates to discuss topics of vital importance to the youth. They will witness the dedicated work of medical personnel at a rehabilitation center in Stepanakert. Participants will also view artworks produced by socially disadvantaged



children and interact with farmers and villagers in some of Armenia's most pristine rural communities.

All the site visits included in the Study Tours are designed to encourage meaningful communication and socialization. Thus local-community members and leaders will be meeting us, telling us their stories, expressing their feelings, and even joining visitors for dinner or lunch.

What were some of the major achievements of the Jinishian Foundation in 2008?

Well, we worked hard and enjoyed it. One of the most significant achievements was that we increased private donations from the diaspora for our current projects, without even any serious PR or fundraising activities on our part. We really treasure those who trusted our work and supported it. I am not in the least diminishing the crucial importance of donor outreach or saying we won't engage in serious fundraising in the future. I just confess my sincere acknowledgment of those who trusted us with their heart.

What are some of the foundation's priority-assistance areas for 2009?

While we consider all of our program areas as priorities, in 2009 we will place additional emphasis on projects that assist communities (including farmers, students, families, and children with special needs) in many of Armenia's remote rural areas.

Is there a major challenge or hurdle that the foundation still faces in implementing its projects?

The main challenge that we face is not logistical in nature but rather psychological. It has to do with certain social stereotypes and taboos that have been inherited from the Soviet era. But in this sense Armenian society has come a long way since independence, and I am confident that greater social awareness and equity are constantly being fostered.

Do you agree that beneficiary participation is a core element of the success of your programs? In this sense, how would you generally characterize the foundation's relationship with its beneficiaries, at both the individual and community levels?

Our beneficiaries play an enormous role in all of our projects. We work with them very closely in terms of both project design and implementation. In certain instances, beneficiaries are now actually running the projects and doing a much better job than would be expected from any professional NGO staff.

What would you say is the role of the diaspora in the ongoing success of Jinishian projects? And what can the diaspora do to help ensure the long-term viability of these initiatives?

The diaspora's role is essential, and also greatly facilitated by the fact that we're a diaspora-based foundation. The Jinishian Memorial Program, our main supporter and mother organization, was founded through an endowment fund established by Vartan Jinishian. He bequeathed all his property to Armenian communities in need. His generous gift has helped change millions of lives since the 1960s, bringing hope and support to Armenians not only in Armenia, but also Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Iraq, and elsewhere.

In addition, the foundation is assisted by private donations from numerous diasporans, whose support helps nurture a sense of both unity and responsibility in the Armenian world.

I would say that at this point I consider the biggest help from the diaspora would be understanding and awareness of realities in Armenia. I know that love rests at the heart of altruism. Yet constructive, practical help comes out of understanding.

For more information or to book a Jinishian Memorial Foundation Study Tour for 2009, please visit www.jinishian.org or contact Sara Todd, Program Manager, Jinishian Memorial Program, at 502-569-5291 or Sara.todd@pcusa.org.

Sona Hamalian is a philanthropic advisor based in Yerevan. She also heads Creative Networks, an international public-relations firm promoting nonprofit organizations, cultural and educational institutions, and artists.



Our finances

The Financial statements of JMF for the year ending December 31, 2008 have been audited by the auditing and accounting firm Grant Thornton Amyot LLC. The independent auditors' report indicated that “the financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Foundation as of December 31 2008, and the result of it's operations, and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with US GAAP”

Balance sheet at December 2008

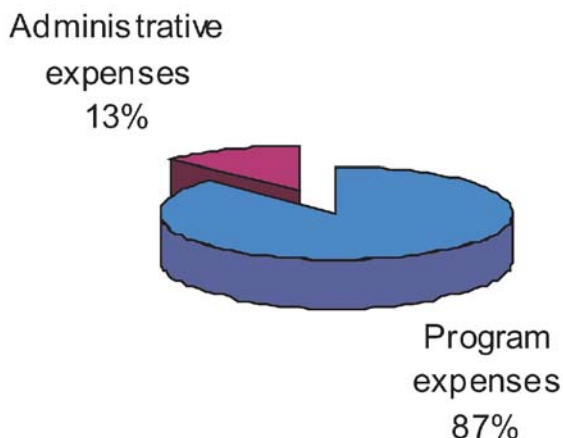
ASSETS

Non-current assets	257 173
Properly, plant and equipment	256 680
In tangible assets	493
Current assets	789 726
Cash and cash equivalents	435 878
Partially repayable grants and loans	347 166
Inventory and other assets	3 384
Account receivable	3 355
TOTAL ASSETS	1 046 903

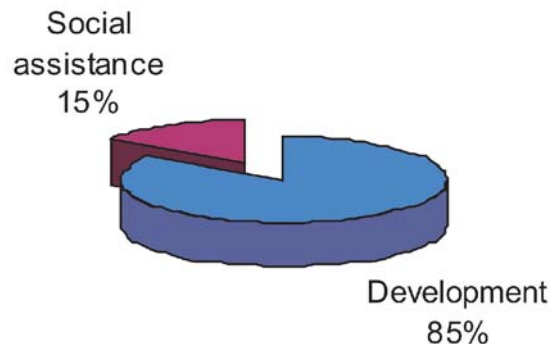
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES

Liabilities / Accounts	112 900
Project commitments	106 739
Other / Admin.	6 161
Equity	934 003
Revolving Found	714 697
Differed revenue	219 305
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	1 046 903


2008 Budget Split




2008 Projects Split




“The project makes a marked change in the mentality of young people. It helps to reveal one's intellectual capacities and improve communication skills. Discussions provide the participants with an opportunity to disclose their abilities, to learn and teach one another.” - Diana Miribyan, participant of JMF "Civic Dialogue and Action" project




“It is remarkable to see the diversity of opinions that these young people have formed, to witness the work of their inquisitive minds and analytical skills. I am not ashamed of saying that I myself learnt a lot from these debates.” - One of the judges of the National debate Championship "Youth Engaged in Society" project



“This project was the will of God and we are simply the hands that perform the will of God.” - Father Vrtanes, "Spiritual Education and Experiences for Children" project



“Finally, I got answers to my questions about God. Before nobody could give me full answers.” - a participant of "Spiritual Education and Experiences for Children" project



“The lessons helped me to understand that each Christian ought to know history of his nation and religion.” -a participant of "Spiritual Education and Experiences for Children " project

Contacts

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