

Jinishian JOTTINGS

...from poverty and despair to self-sufficiency and hope



pcusa.org/jinishian • 2016 Annual Gratitude Report • Jinishian Memorial Program

2016 ANNUAL GRATITUDE REPORT



From the womb to the elderly, from the war zone to rural small businesses, God is lifting up the afflicted. Growing numbers of you are investing in the Jinishian Memorial Program (JMP), showing those who struggle in Armenia and the Middle East that they are not alone—giving them a chance to thrive. Because your support is so vital, we gratefully share these stories and reports from 2016 with you.

*Eliza Minasyan, executive director
Jinishian Memorial Program*

More Armenians served in 2016

Outreach in Syria served thousands more people than ever before (see page 6). We launched young entrepreneurs in Armenia and sent mobile health clinics to hundreds of unreached rural women (page 2). Medical services expanded in Beirut, and homeless teens got a new start (page 4). Total direct beneficiaries in 2016 numbered over 65,000 souls.

Donors make our work possible

Gifts received in our office go directly to fund these programs with only 5 percent toward cost recovery. This ministry began thanks to the vision of Vartan Jinishian 50 years ago, but original endowment dividends have not been a sufficient revenue source for 15 years, providing only two-thirds of

country program operations in 2016. Without your generosity, program budgets in Syria, Lebanon and Armenia could suffer significant cuts in times when they need us most.

Gifts are growing

Thanks to all who responded to this need, total annual U.S. donations more than tripled in number and in dollar value over the past two years. The average gift in 2016 was \$250 from diverse individuals, churches and organizations across 14 states. Presbyterians, along with Apostolic, Catholic and Evangelical Christians, are equally involved. International partners include World Vision, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, the American Embassy and many average citizens from Aleppo to Istanbul.

Funding global mission

The chart shows how U.S. contributions were distributed internationally. The map shows all the places JMP is at work. Administrative costs averaged 16 percent. Audited financial statements are available on our website and from our office. JMP is overseen by ecumenical, independent advisory committees and a U.S. governance commission.



U.S. Contributions by Country \$1,071,000

Country	Amount	Percentage
Armenia	\$520,000	49%
Lebanon	\$311,000	29%
Syria	\$165,000	15%
Jerusalem	\$45,000	4%
Istanbul	\$30,000	3%

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JMP ARMENIA UPDATE



In an emerging democracy surrounded by Muslim nations, Armenians have tremendous potential to grow. That's why 90 percent of our projects in 2016 were designed to promote long-term, sustainable change.

Jinishian's impact has gained attention, especially around human rights and economic independence—key goals for people recovering from genocide and communism. Grants from international partners equaled 27 percent of the 2016 program budget. Many local donations come from those who see the excellence and integrity firsthand.

Syrian refugees strained this country with unemployment upwards of 20 percent. We responded with emergency housing assistance to 285 families and aided new business development.

Renewal is God's work—from the rural pastor to the middle school debate club or the budding local industry. JMP reached over 55,000 beneficiaries by identifying needs across the country and uniting diverse grassroots leaders to meet them.

Women's health project is expanding

Without early cancer screenings, death rates from breast and cervical cancer in Armenia are among the highest in the world. Basic medical care in the remote, deeply impoverished Vardenis region has been virtually nonexistent, especially for vulnerable women and children. Expectant mothers lack proper prenatal care. Birth rates are low. The lack of pure water is another major problem for almost all villages of the region.

This is beginning to change. Thanks to donor support, the Jinishian Memorial Program sent free mobile medical clinics to one village at a time, reaching nearly 600 women in 2016. Most had gynecological disorders. Many obtained vital surgeries and began cancer treatment. Women desperate for medical intervention finally had an advocate with the expertise to shepherd them through the region's poor healthcare system.

New plans for a telemedicine center in Vardenis will make an even greater impact. Supported by a local family physician, patients will have access to specialists through teleconferencing. Jinishian is also making ultrasound clinics widely available and training specialists to focus on infant disability prevention.

New youth center honors a beloved father

When Dr. Vicken Gulvartian passed away in 2016, his family and friends planned a special legacy gift in his memory. Dr. Gulvartian's son worked as a Jinishian intern in Yerevan, which inspired the idea to establish the Gulvartian Youth Development Center. Forty-five people seeded a fund to prepare a new generation of Armenians for engaged democratic citizenship. Donations are welcome—gifts to the Gulvartian Center sustain three exciting programs:

- **English-language Debate Club** equips students with skills to compete internationally;
- **Sponsorship for Gifted Youth** gives kids living in poverty, including refugees, a chance to flourish, attend college and give back to the community;
- **Civic Dialogue and Action** mobilizes young adults to observe social, economic and political problems to create solutions and to put their ideas into practice.



Overview of Work Funded in 2016

Armenia Program Distributions \$549,100

Civil society and education	\$274,000	50%
Health	\$101,400	19%
Community development	\$57,100	10%
Economic development	\$27,400	5%
Other (i.e., refugee support, cultural enrichment)	\$89,200	16%

Civil Society and Education

- Youth Engaged in Society (debate clubs in 108 schools)
- Civic Dialogue and Action for Change (seven universities nationally)
- Youth in Action for Change (three regions; projects impact protection of environment, human rights and economic stability)
- University Fifth National Debate Championship

Community Development Grants

- Christmas for Children, Yerevan (orphanage and special-needs schools)
- Social Responsibility grant competition winners:
 - SMILE playground in Pokr Vedi village, Ararat region
 - Preschool health clinic for Aratashen community, Armavir region
- Vardenis Development Initiative:
 - Drinking water pipelines in Geghaqar, Arpunq, Akhpradzor
 - Street lighting, Pokr Masrik
 - New cultural center, Tsapatagh (Azeri border)
 - Dried fruit production, Avazan
 - Community room, Lchavan

Health Outreach

- Reproductive health for women in Vardenis region
- Disability prevention for children (ultrasound clinics nationwide)
- Rehabilitation services, Artsakh
- New day care for children with autism and cerebral palsy, Artsakh
- New Gait Laboratory, Yerevan (first orthopedic motion facility in South Caucasus)

Education and Children

- Summer church camps (2,500 kids nationwide)
- Summer camp for children with disabilities
- Christian preschool, Akhalkalaki, Georgia
- Play it Fair (human rights curriculum in urban elementary schools)
- Restored Tumanyan Vernatun cultural center, Tbilisi, Georgia
- Spiritual Education and Experiences for Children (pastoral outreach in remote villages)

Economic Development

- Microlending support to farmers
- Microlending support to small businesses
- Handicrafts business development for Syrian refugees
- Emergency Syrian refugee housing assistance
- Youth business development
- New engineering lab and IT education center, Stepanavan

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- Ashot Aslikyan
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- Hasmik Sevumyan
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- Harutyun Gharibjanyan
- Laura Avanesova
- Gurgen Petrosyan

International Partners

- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
- Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation
- World Vision Armenia
- Czech Republic Embassy in Yerevan
- United States Embassy in Yerevan



Villagers construct a clean water pipeline thanks to a community development grant.

JMP LEBANON UPDATE

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Lebanon has reeled with up to 1.5 million refugees (over a quarter of the Lebanese population) since the Syrian crisis began. Hundreds of thousands of citizens fell into poverty or unemployment in 2016, especially unskilled youth. Unable to make ends meet, they suffered a range of health and social problems, which our mission staff addressed through 13,000 client visits last year.



Director Pauline Sagherian (right) celebrates with new homeowners. The housing program is fiscally self-sustaining and deeply rewarding.

The Jinishian Memorial Program began in Beirut in 1966 to meet the needs of the post-genocide Armenian population. In this 50th year, the flagship medical services sector expanded. The dispensary now has an

in-house physician, pharmacist and nurse. Their unique service provides more than medication; it includes medical counseling, preventative education and spiritual encouragement. Because refugees have no medical coverage, Jinishian also helped share medical expenses for 183 Syrian clients who had exhausted other resources.

The endowment funds about half the budget in Lebanon, with significant support from local donations, grants and partnerships for medications.

“Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth” (1 John 3:18).

Because we believe each of God’s children has potential and dignity, our social services team gives families tools to find jobs, improve their relationships and stay together. JMP programs prevent school dropouts and child labor by supporting vocational education, particularly for women. Social workers address threats of domestic violence, human trafficking, drug addiction, legal and health issues. As a Christian outreach, local mission staff also offer hope and give comfort. They encourage trust in God and perseverance when adversity strikes.

Rose’s song

Rose saw her whole world and her music stop when her family experienced homelessness. She and her mother were living in cramped quarters with relatives. They urged her mother to divorce her father, who had kept the money problems secret. Without his job, they lost their home and could not afford rent. Rose’s treasured dream—playing her piano—seemed impossible.

A Jinishian social worker encouraged Rose to join the teens program. There, she found a safe place to overcome her many struggles and fears. Hope stirred. Rose persevered in vocational school, received her diploma and is now preparing for university. Jinishian counselors helped her mother seek ways to restore her marriage, start work and find an apartment. Through our relationship with The Nawayya Network, she even resumed her piano lessons. Rose looks to the future, and her song is full of gratitude and possibility.



Girls in the teen self-development program prepare Easter gifts.

Lebanon Program Distributions \$446,000

Health programs	\$267,000	60%
Families and seniors	\$76,000	17%
Community development	\$44,000	10%
Housing/special projects	\$22,000	5%
“Happy Childhood” project	\$21,000	5%
Syrian refugees	\$16,000	4%

Overview of Work Funded in 2016

Community Health Development

Dispensary services
Chronic illness medication
Improving healthcare for women through education
Blood pressure education workshop

Health Services

Hospitalization and medical expense aid
Syrian Armenian refugees aid
Psychiatric residential care
Cancer care workshop

Housing

Affordable housing
Path to ownership
Habitat for Humanity interest-free home repair loans

Community Development

Women's committee
Children's holiday party
Public housing building committee
Microloans for economic development

Social Development

Social services for families
"Happy Childhood" basic needs, school and camp
Teenage girls' self-development
Employment office
Senior assistance and home visits
Community activities for seniors
Christmas celebration for people with special needs

Local Donors and Partners

ARCL "Araxi Boulghourjian"
Socio-Medical Center
Habitat for Humanity Lebanon
Happy Childhood Foundation
Hermes Tourism & Travel, Credit Libanais Bank
Howard Karagheusian Foundation
Marash Compatriotic Association
Ministry of Health through YMCA
Municipality of Anjar
Municipality of Bourj Hammoud
St. Marc Medical and Diagnostic Center
Anonymous brothers in Christ
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Hagop Loshkhajian
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In memory of Minas Tekirian
In memory of Seta Pamboukian, from Velma Ekmekji Hermez
Lucy Janjigian
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Rev. Gordon Edwards
Varoujean Barsoumian and others

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JERUSALEM AND ISTANBUL

The Jinishian Memorial Program is a vital thread in the fabric of support to Christian minorities living in Jerusalem's Armenian Quarter and the slums of Istanbul. Run almost entirely by devoted volunteers, these programs kept administrative costs to only 2 percent while reaching 1,200 of the most vulnerable among the Armenian population in these cities.

In Jerusalem, the Jinishian health clinic is serving clergy and others in need, averaging 112 patients a week. Small allowances closed the gap for families in poverty.

Volunteers in Istanbul distributed aid to more than 150 households in acute distress with no other recourse. Always with an eye on building stronger communities, JMP provided loans that helped keep 20 small businesses on their feet, including a home day care center and a jeweler. Vocational grants for computer and language skill-building spurred employment.



Volunteer visits families in squalid conditions in Istanbul.

JMP SYRIA UPDATE

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While refugees worldwide gained attention, Syrians who remain in their country have endured danger, loss and uncertainty. After six years of civil war and wild inflation, every citizen needs aid to survive. Despite hardship and communication failures, our mission staff bravely continued uninterrupted service and spiritual encouragement to 7,500 beneficiaries in 2016. Emergency grants to families tripled this year, and new clients applied continually.

It's both inspiring and painful to see people adapt to suffering. In Aleppo, they've reoriented once-prosperous lives around fetching water from wells in churches, mosques and public squares. All roads to the city have been cut off entirely at times. They live without power most of the time; fuel and generators have been scarce and expensive whether rationed or black market. The cost of survival has been paid not just in wasted hours and worthless currency but in exhaustion and anxiety.

"I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me" (Micah 7:7).

Violence hit even the "safe" areas of Damascus. In Aleppo, 11 Armenians were martyred over two days in October. Mercifully, when rocket missiles came to our own Aleppo office courtyard last April, staff were unharmed and received clients with a smile in the morning.

JMP adapted in creative ways, big and small. Bottled water for families with children reduced the spread of disease. We met widespread housing needs with increased aid to displaced families. Special-needs patients were overwhelmed by diaper expenses, so we began supplying them. We responded to a huge increase in community health cases



JMP ministered to traumatized Syrian children through special programs, meals and field trips.

with counseling, medication and shared hospital expenses.

"And hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts" (Romans 5:5).

The Armenian community in Syria needs and deserves our attention, compassion and assistance more than ever. With our local partners, we

labored to overcome all of the obstacles surrounding us, knowing that we are the only hope of our community.

Despite many sorrows, churches and streets were filled at Easter. The Christmas tree returned to Azizieh Square. The mission team feels honored to serve in this devastating time and responsible to give as much moral and financial support as we can.

Two sisters in need find time to give

DAMASCUS – "There is always a beautiful smile on their faces," the mission staff says of the two young women who worked all week to prepare Christmas food packages. The sisters are excelling in school with JMP's support for rent and necessities, but they have left behind a struggling family in rural Kamishly. Their brother had been kidnapped for three months. Their father, paralyzed and unemployed, also receives support from the Jinishian Memorial Program. Despite their deep financial strain and heartache, the girls are committed to serving others as volunteers with JMP.



The sisters (front row) and the mission team put extra effort into preparing special Christmas parcels this year. All were deeply touched by the happiness they brought to weary neighbors in need.

Overview of Work Funded in 2016

Community Health Development

Medical prescriptions
Hospitalization assistance
Diagnostic, dental, eye care services
Specialist referrals/treatments
School health checkups

Social Development

Emergency grants
Family allowances
Senior allowances
Food distribution (Kamishly)
Summer school for children

Children

Meals in schools
Dental hygiene workshop
Sednaya field trip/picnic
School supply distribution
Winter coats
Christmas parties

Celebrations

Easter meals
Christmas meals
Kozanian luncheon
St. Vartan's luncheon
Kamishly Family Day

Syria Program Distributions \$193,000

Health	\$137,000	71%
Family grants (emergency aid)	\$27,000	14%
Families (allowances)	\$24,000	12%
Food parcels	\$2,500	1%
Seniors (allowances)	\$2,300	1%
School health	\$200	0%



With relative peace since early December, Armenians are again able to visit the old city of Aleppo and ruins of churches, schools and homes. The path to restoration lies ahead. With your help, JMP will again have an important role cultivating safe and prosperous lives in Syria.

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Providing classroom supplies helped children stay in school in wartime.

Register now for Armenia mission tour

Don't miss this inspiring opportunity to see what God is doing in Armenia, Oct. 6–16, 2017. Connect with local hosts, village families, farmers, pastors and student leaders. Explore beautiful Yerevan, view Mount Ararat and make a pilgrimage to the Genocide Memorial. For details, call 800-728-7228, ext. 5291.



JMP celebrates 50 years of mission in Lebanon.



Discover Armenia's ancient Christian heritage and growing faith

The Jinishian Memorial Program

God is at work among Armenian communities, seeking out those in greatest need and bringing people dignity and hope out of poverty and despair. JMP addresses the needs of the whole person—social, economic and spiritual. We adapt and innovate, adjusting priorities to changing conditions in seven countries across the Middle East and South Caucasus. JMP is an ecumenical leader in the region. Established in 1966 as an endowment fund of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) advised by Apostolic, Catholic and Evangelical board members, JMP has served millions through 100 percent local missions.

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