

Հայերեն տարբերակը հասանելի է այս հղումով
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Monthly Newsletter
MARCH | 2024

Continuing Ruben's legacy

Dear friends,

Welcome to the March edition of our newsletter. As we embrace the onset of spring, we celebrate the resilience and wisdom embodied by women, recognizing their invaluable contributions, unwavering determination, and their role as beacons of hope and inspiration.

Within these pages, we delve into the realms of charity and solidarity, sharing remarkable stories of women who, despite adversities, continue to guide their families and communities towards prosperity.

We are delighted to update you on our projects, achievements, and the challenges we collectively surmount.

Thank you for your steadfast support and commitment to our cause.

With gratitude,
'We Are Our Mountains'

'Women epitomize the essence of life. They not only give life but also inspire in the face of adversity. Their boundless strength and determination often go unnoticed.'

Ruben Vardanyan

Two Lianas from Artsakh

Thirty years ago, amidst the turmoil of the first Artsakh war, she acquired the skill of baking 'pakhlava' in a traditional oven from a woman of Artsakh. This not only enabled her to provide for her family during challenging times but also played a role in promoting a new facet of Artsakh cuisine.



Liana Israelyan: Master of Aromatic Flavor

The flavor of Liana's pakhlava is renowned not only among connoisseurs but also among those mindful of their confectionery intake and physique. Through her expertise, the renown of Artsakh's aromatic pastries, rich with honey and walnuts, transcends borders, reaching from Russia to China, from Bulgaria to Mongolia.

Following her relocation from Artsakh in September 2023, Liana resettled in Echmiadzin, where she rekindled her business, opening a modest confectionery shop. Upholding the authentic Artsakh taste of pakhlava remains paramount for Liana, driven by her conviction that she will one day return to her homeland.

As part of the 'Help to Artsakh Craftsmen' program, along with Liana, 'We are our mountains' provided support to more than 80 internally displaced residents of Artsakh, including 17 women who took pastry courses at the Yeremyan Academy.



Building Hope and Resilience: The Story of Liana Safaryan

We are honored to share the inspiring journey of Liana Safaryan, a mother of nine children, who amidst immense challenges, continues to embody resilience and hope for the future.

Teacher Liana Safaryan and her husband were compelled to depart from Artsakh in September 2023. Alongside thousands of forcibly displaced Artsakh residents, they navigated to Armenia, leaving behind their cherished home, agricultural tools, and all possessions accumulated through years of diligent toil in their native land.

Despite the hardships, Liana and her family refused to surrender. They secured a rental residence in the village of Akhtsk, Aragatsotn region, and embarked on the daunting task of rebuilding their lives from scratch.

Upon learning of the initiatives undertaken by the organization 'We Are Our Mountains', Liana reached out to us seeking assistance to procure beehives and agricultural equipment, aspiring to resume farming and beekeeping activities. The saga of this resilient family epitomizes determination, fortitude, and unyielding strength.

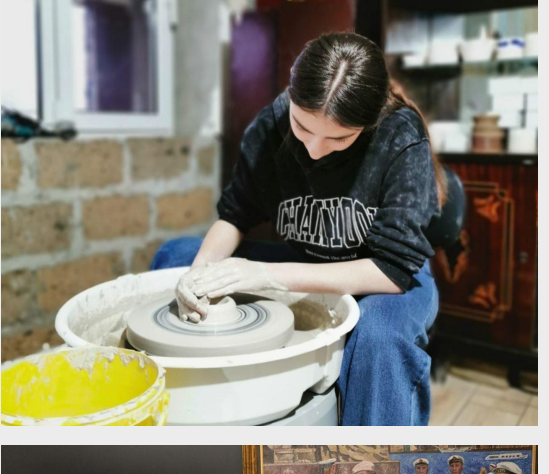
With your steadfast support, we can aid them and numerous families like theirs in reconstructing their lives and forging ahead towards a brighter future.

Thank you for standing with us.

The organization 'We Are Our Mountains' spearheads initiatives aimed at offering assistance to individuals forcibly displaced from Artsakh, aiding in the resumption of their livelihoods, fostering new opportunities, and aiding in their recovery while instilling confidence in the future.

In just a few months, over 120 women from Artsakh, seeking refuge in Armenia, became our direct beneficiaries. Among the 91 participants in our 'Support For Artsakh Craftsmen' project, 48 are women who, through their involvement in the program, have already secured paid employment. This month, Narine, a chocolatier, Anyuta, a creator of toys, and five seamstresses have joined the ranks of artisan craftswomen.

An additional 42 women have applied to partake in these programs, underscoring the escalating interest and significance of the 'We Are Our Mountains' initiatives in supporting and empowering our artisans.



Artsakh Women are ready to lead

The majority of the 30 beneficiaries of the 'Leaders to Leaders' program, launched in January, are women.

This encouraging statistic illustrates that Artsakh women possess not only exceptional craftsmanship but also a readiness to shoulder greater responsibilities and play significant roles in societal life. In March, they have completed three additional modules: Self-awareness and Individual goal setting, Employability, and Individual coaching.

The program is conducted in collaboration with the International Coaching Federation in Armenia, the 'Matena' International School of Leadership and Professional Development, and Armenia alumni of Harvard and Oxford Universities in Armenia.

About Ruben

On March 27, it marks six months since the imprisonment of philanthropist Ruben Vardanyan, the founder of our organization, 'We Are Our Mountains'. Regrettably, official Baku persists in holding him and former leaders of Artsakh in unlawful captivity.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who stand in solidarity with Ruben during this challenging time.

Below, you will find various publications highlighting Ruben's endeavors:

Media Coverage of Ruben Vardanyan's Activities



'The international structures did not do a very satisfactory job regarding what happened to Ruben Vardanyan.'

Politik.am's interview with Mirza Dinnayi, a well-known human rights defender and the winner of the prestigious Aurora Humanitarian Award.



'He said that until we repair the broken house of God, we too will not get back on our feet.'

Interview with Artsakh photographer Davit Ghahramanyan (available in Russian).

ABOUT US

The organization 'We Are Our Mountains' is dedicated to implementing humanitarian assistance and development programs for citizens from Artsakh. Established by Ruben Vardanyan and his colleagues, the agency is committed to delivering tangible outcomes while upholding the values of humanity and mutual respect.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who continue to uphold and support the endeavors of 'We Are Our Mountains' during these challenging times.

For further inquiries, please feel free to reach out to us at info@ourmountains.am.

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