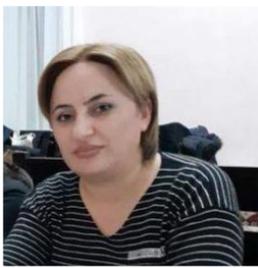


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July Newsletter #2

Educational projects have an interesting feature: they cannot be measured by tangible outcomes, but providing evidence of their long-run impact and effects is feasible. Here is another such success story.



Rena Avanesyan is the woman in the picture. She is one of the first graduates of the computer class at the Christian Education Center (CEC). Consequently, her first work experience was as a computer operator at the local school of Karegah, followed by a secondary teacher of chemistry and biology subjects, and a committee director of the Methodological Association at the same school.

Next, she worked as a leading specialist at the Social Security department of Kashatagh, thanks to the computer knowledge she had gained at the CEC. In 2018 she took the responsibility of the director of the AGAPE CEC. Furthermore, last year she became the Head of the Kashatagh regional branch of the State Hygiene and Anti-Epidemic Inspectorate of the Republic of Artsakh.

Rena with her daughter Rouzanna and her son Gor.



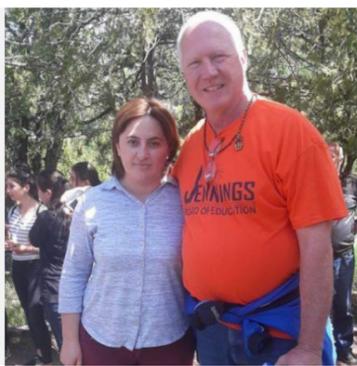
Her achievements are the evidence of her increased confidence and self-esteem thanks to the computer knowledge she had gained at the CEC, supporting her successful adaptation to the rapid technological advancements that are taking place daily. As part of her current occupation, she is contributing to the COVID-19 preventative measures in Kashatagh, and spreading the word about the pandemic and how can the people stay safe and follow the social distancing practices on an everyday basis.



Rena on duty, and contributing to the COVID-19 preventative measures in Kashatagh (first person from left).

Another factor greatly impacting Rena's achievements was also her enrollment in the House Renovation Project as a beneficiary. The project for Rena's house was conducted by the combined building-medical team of nine members from the North Carolina Conference under the leadership of William Haddock. Rena's family of four – mother, father, and their two kids, now live in a renovated nice house and do not worry about scorpions, snakes, and mice crawling into their space. Both Rena's and her husband's families are refugees of the war of 1988-1994, and they were fortunate to escape and survive one of the most gruesome pogroms, later called Maragha massacres, committed by the Azerbaijani military against the Armenians living in the village of Maragha (Artsakh) on April 10th, 1992. Later they moved to Berdzor to start a new life here.

Rena with Bobby Fletcher, who was in the team, renovating her family's house.



Rena and her family had not had the easiest life due to their escape from the Maragha massacres, as well as the financial instabilities they had when they moved to Berdzor and had to start a new life from zero. Here Rena got married and had two children. She did not believe that her house got renovated. She and her husband express their gratitude by the same words until today and do not miss the opportunity to thank the Project AGAPE teams and staff members for the work they do in the region.

"What would we do without your help? We would not be able to do this until the end of our lives..."
- Rena

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