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Helping People during a Pandemic

September Newsletter #1

Dear <<First Name>>,

Besides concentrating a plethora of efforts on long-term development campaigns in a variety of fields, such as, "Housing," "Agricultural Development Projects," and "Educational-Vocational Projects at the AGAPE Christian Education Center," Project AGAPE in Armenia allocates a lot of resources and time on short-term, immediate assistance campaigns, in the form of humanitarian aid distribution. The former is essential, especially in hard times posed by the COVID – 19 pandemic, which has hit Armenia the hardest than anywhere else in the South Caucasus. Malnutrition and homelessness, as well as other forms of vulnerable conditions, are on the rise. These led to an increasing level of poverty, not witnessed in Armenia and Artsakh since the 1990s when the country got curved under the burden of both natural and human-made disasters, one can only imagine existing.



Furthermore, the unhelpful situation risen from the pandemic led to the closing of the checkpoint at the border of Armenia and Artsakh for any vehicles, except the trucks that transport food and miscellaneous items to the stores in Artsakh. Thus, it has become more difficult for people in the Kashatagh region to obtain things that are not available there. The only chance they get is to drive to Stepanakert – the capital of Artsakh – and buy the things they need for the upcoming days. However, many of these people do not have personal cars or other means of transportation to drive to the capital. Even a couple of citizens have contacted Project AGAPE Armenia with a HOPE to ask for wedding tools because they could not seize the chance to buy these, themselves, as no means of transportation are available to go to the capital.



That is, regardless of the inhumane situation brought about by the pandemic, the humanitarian aid distribution by Project AGAPE Armenia continues, though, in a slow manner due to all the precaution measures taken into account. That said, each family member learns the special day and the assigned time to get aid. In comparison to the previous distributions, when 10 – 12 people could enter to the distribution room, currently, no more than four people, standing on both sides of two "6" feet tables are allowed to be in the room. Moreover, all people wear masks and disposable gloves provided by Project AGAPE inside the room. That is to say, the distribution process got three times slower, taking more days to serve the families in need, and let them choose what they need at this time. The most significant need for all continues to be children's clothing of all ages.



"I CANNOT REMEMBER THE LAST TIME I SPENT MONEY ON BUYING CLOTHING." These are the words that Project AGAPE staff in Armenia hears from many people who come to get humanitarian aid. Even those who are employed and receive a salary are unfortunately in no capability to buy clothing, as such amount of money is still not enough to even feed the family members.



"This has been an invaluable help for my family since the very first day we moved to Kashatagh from Syria," says Anush, a refugee of the Syrian war. "May God abundantly bless all those people, whose hearts and love are bigger than the distance between them and us..."

YOUR contributions give hope to the people in the region at these challenging times during the pandemic. Once again, the Project AGAPE team in Armenia expresses the appreciation on behalf of all the families receiving humanitarian aid currently. We all hope that the pandemic will pass through in hopefully a short time and that health and prosperity will feel the homes of all people, sooner or later.

Every Contribution Makes an Impact!



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