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A Project for Success and New Beginnings

August Newsletter #2

Dear <<First Name>>>,

The projects that are continually being carried out in the Kashatagh region have an impact, even if it is, to the smallest extent, on the lives of the people. These projects fulfill the people with HOPE for the future, and in time confirm once again that they are not alone in the world. The KIND people in the face of the United Methodists of North Carolina from both conferences that put in much effort to take care of them and lift them from unbearable living conditions are the light at the end of the tunnel for these people. One of the projects organized to ease the hurdles of the people in the region is the "Agricultural Development Project" with three subprojects, which are the "Cattle Project," the "Chicken Project," and the "Garden Project," respectively.



The "Cattle Project" that is based on the established unique practice of *Heifer Project International* of "Passing on the Gift," continues to this day, to contribute to the agricultural development of the region, practically changing the lives of the people in the families involved. Coupled with the "Chicken Project," and the continual aid from your contributions, the project has helped over 276 families in need to become financially secure and self-sustainable. A plethora of families who have received a cow can make dairy products for themselves and share these across the neighborhood. Accordingly, many families have even turned a cow into a farm of 6 to 30 cows, which in a way enables them to sell their products or barter them for diverse first necessity food or other items for their families.



At the same time, your contributions have also enabled the development of the "Chicken Project," which, compared to the "Cattle Project," has a shorter lifespan of three years; however, it has benefited hundreds of families with an overwhelming amount of success stories. The products like eggs and chicken meat produced by hens, as well as the organic fertilizer that the chickens produce moving around and fertilizing the soil adjacent to people's houses, are few of the successful ventures risen from the project. Despite the fact that the organic fertilization helped some families to start gardening activities, many of them had complaints about the shortage of the necessary tools needed for the processing of the soil and the seeds.



The tools that are not available or are very expensive to purchase in the area where Project AGAPE serves, prompted for the start of another agricultural development project called the "Garden Project." The grant received from the *MP UMC World Outreach Committee* provided 30 families with high-quality agricultural tools and seeds. In 2020, 30 more families became beneficiaries of the "Garden Project," thus, doubling the total number of the families involved. This great project is just what the families in Berdzor needed, as the assessment shows that many families wanted to start gardening but had a lack of tools and financial difficulties to purchase the expensive seeds. Thanks to the generous grant and your help, these people can now provide for themselves and their families.



During the monitoring event of the families involved in the "Garden Project," we learned the success story of Tsovinar Paskevichyan (the woman in the last picture). Tsovinar's son is the only person working in their family, but the salary is unfortunately miserable. Last year they decided to grow their vegetables and fruits. One day, while she was in their garden with her son discussing the possibilities of starting a farm, an unexpected occurrence took place. A vehicle came over, stopped, and two people came out to hand them a plethora of agricultural tools and seeds. At first sight, Tsovinar and her son got confused, but in an instant, they recognized the two Project AGAPE staff members, and everything fell into place... "It was a Godly moment, even now talking about that I get goosebumps..." says Tsovinar.

On behalf of all the families involved in the "Agricultural Development Project," the Project AGAPE team in Armenia wants to express their gratitude for the contributions that you make for their well-being and security. The kindness that you show to all of them is unforgettable and will forever be cherished by them!

Every Contribution Makes an Impact!



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