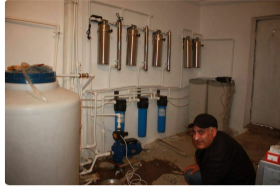


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June Newsletter



In 1995 - a year after a ceasefire was signed at the end of the war against the people of Artsakh, Project AGAPE in partnership with the local government launched the Children's Home project which, for a long period of time, was the only shelter in Artsakh for all the children who lost their parent or parents during the war. Since 1995 there have been some minor renovations done by different volunteer teams visiting from both UMC Conferences of North Carolina in different years, like the renovation of the kitchen, the playroom, the separate laundry house, the roof and the outside walls of the building, but the Children's Home building needed a major renovation and the building team from North Carolina started it in July of 2019.

The supply of potable water has always been an issue in the town, but in 2018 when the town of Berdzor began using a new water supply system, the quality of the supplied water got even worse due to the lack of a proper filtration system: the new water system has made several children and adults in the area sick (nausea, diarrhea, gastrointestinal infections, and disease). The Project AGAPE Board of Directors approved the installation of a water filtration system for the Project AGAPE Center and that has been installed and is working well. Three teams who went to Armenia (a building team lead by Wanda Watts to renovate a family house, a 25th Anniversary Team lead by Allan Van Meter and Bishop Charlene Kammerer to celebrate the lifesaving activities of Project AGAPE in the region and the building team of July 2019 to renovate the Children's Home) used the water and did not become sick. The laboratory testing of the water proved that its quality is great - not much different from distilled water. But along with this change came the sense of guilt knowing that the rest of the town and especially the kids at the orphanage continued to use unfiltered water. It's important to mention at this point, that the AGAPE Children's Home, the Hospital and the AGAPE Center are the only facilities in the area that have a 24-hour water supply. Other habitants of the area get only a 2-hour water supply every day or even every two days.

Project AGAPE applied to Wesley Foundation of Myers Park UMC asking for a grant of \$8600 to install a similar system, protect the children's health through a filtered water supply system and continue its long term commitment of helping the children at the AGAPE Children's home to live a healthy life this time through safe drinking water year-round. As soon as the grant was approved, Project AGAPE contacted the filtration company and began the project. The project was completed in two months after the grant had been approved and the funds received. Now the Children's Home is also maintained by a filtered water supply system and the children drink healthy filtered water and live in the healthy environment of the renovated Children's Home.

Since the system was installed, Project AGAPE makes sure that the system is monitored on a regular basis and that the cartridges and elements are changed at the recommended times and the mineral tablets are added on a schedule. The grant received from the Wesley Foundation will also support in the first year's cartridge replacement and maintenance of the filtering system.

The local official newspaper of Kashatagh region published an article about this project which was also shared by one of the official newsletters of the Republic of Armenia.

[Link to the Website Article](#)

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