

Jinishian JOTTINGS

...from poverty and despair to self-sufficiency and hope through relief, development and spiritual uplift.

pcusa.org/jinishian • 2017 Annual Gratitude Report • Jinishian Memorial Program

2017 ANNUAL GRATITUDE REPORT



From the vulnerable child to the most courageous survivor, God is lifting up the afflicted. Growing numbers of you are investing in the Jinishian Memorial Program (JMP), showing those who struggle in Armenia and the Middle East that they are not alone. Because your support is so vital, we gratefully share these stories and reports from 2017 with you.

Eliza Minasyan, executive director
Jinishian Memorial Program

Priorities are based on needs

Medical and humanitarian aid brought healing and hope to a more peaceful Syria (see page 6). We are developing Armenia's economic future by investing in young entrepreneurs (page 2). In Beirut, medical services expanded again, and proud homeowners overcame the odds (page 4). Total direct beneficiaries in 2017 numbered over 70,000 souls.

Donors make our work possible

Gifts received in our office go directly to fund programs with only 5 percent toward cost recovery. This ministry began thanks to the vision of Vartan Jinishian 50 years ago, but endowment dividends provided only two-thirds of country program operations in 2017. Without your

generosity, program budgets in Syria, Lebanon and Armenia could suffer cuts when they need us most.

Gifts are growing

Thanks to all who responded to this need, total annual U.S. donations increased 78 percent over the previous year. The average gift doubled to \$538 from diverse individuals, churches and organizations across 21 states. Presbyterians, along with Apostolic, Catholic and Evangelical Christians, are equally involved. International partners include World Vision, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, the European Union and many average citizens from Aleppo to Istanbul.

Funding global mission

All gifts to JMP go directly to fund relief, development and spiritual uplift projects in seven countries across the Middle East and South Caucasus. Advised by Apostolic, Catholic and Evangelical board members, JMP has served millions through 100 percent local missions since 1966. Administrative costs averaged 16 percent. Audited financial statements are available on our website or by request.



U.S. Contributions by Country: \$1.04 million

Armenia	47%
Lebanon	30%
Syria	16%
Jerusalem	4%
Istanbul	3%

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Michael Haratunian
Mark Momjian
Lacey Gilliam
Rev. Philip Woods

JMP ARMENIA UPDATE



In the face of a history marked by genocide, the Jinishian Memorial Foundation (JMF) in Armenia is on a mission for the dignity of God's people. And in the wreckage of communist collapse, JMF is generating creative, high-impact projects to boost economic independence. Armenia, surrounded by Muslim nations but strengthened

by Christian roots, has tremendous potential to grow. That's why 90 percent of Jinishian projects are designed to promote long-term, sustainable change.

This success is made possible by generous donors. International partners fund 29 percent of the budget. Even many locals who see the excellence and integrity of the programs firsthand

become donors as well.

Ultimately, renewal is God's work — from the rural pastor to the middle school debate club and the budding local industry. In 2017 JMF reached more than 60,000 beneficiaries by identifying needs across the country and uniting diverse grassroots leaders to meet them.

Training a new generation of leaders

JMF has developed a nationwide strategy to empower young leaders, equipping them to participate in a healthy democracy and to improve the socioeconomic conditions of their country.

Through the *Civic Dialogue and Action for Change* project, university students research and analyze issues around human rights, the environment and economic stability. Then, they craft proposals and earn small grants to confront problems in their own communities. One group of students provided tutoring for chronically ill children in the hospital and won Best



Humanitarian Voluntary Project of the Year.

Having already completed school and military service, Sargis participated in another JMF program for visionary young adults: *Youth in Action for Change*.

Although he was born in the harsh post-Soviet years when food, fuel and other resources were scarce, Sargis developed expertise in electronics and had a dream to train others. With Jinishian support, he and three friends enlisted other municipal stakeholders and designed a STEM program for dozens of disadvantaged youth, including programming, labs twice a week and individual projects. After a strong start with JMF, they have plans to continue and have already recruited a new group of kids, including many from a local orphanage.

Young entrepreneurs are taking off

Nearly three-quarters of Armenia's population are under the age of 30 — their talent and enthusiasm an untapped resource. With the scarcity of jobs and struggles of generational poverty, especially outside the capital city, many promising young adults emigrate to other countries seeking better opportunities.

JMF piloted the Youth Business Project for underserved youth in the remote regions of Lori and Gegharkunik. Given proper technical support and access to startup capital to launch and grow their own small businesses, otherwise unmotivated youth are creating value for their families and communities.

Today, JMF is coaching 22 young entrepreneurs to help them face challenges in their businesses while making low-interest funding available for up to five years. This long-term technical support while they strengthen their position in the marketplace is unprecedented. The formula is paying off: the new business accounts are the best performers in their funder's portfolio. For those who were otherwise ineligible for any loan, the success is a remarkable turning point, and the young entrepreneurs are deeply grateful for the opportunity to stand on their own feet.

Presently, JMF is seeking to become a member of the Youth Business

International Network and to fund expansion of the project to help more budding business owners realize their dreams.



In the Gavar, Gegharkunik region of Armenia, a young family runs a fruitful greenhouse business, thanks to a microloan and mentorship through JMP.

Overview of Work Funded in 2017

Civil Society and Education

- Youth Engaged in Society (110 school debate clubs)
- Civic Dialogue and Action for Change (seven universities)
- Youth in Action for Change projects impact the environment, human rights, economic stability (Vanadzor, Gyumri and Gavar)
- Debate-Discuss-Change university debate clubs (Yerevan city, Vanadzor, Gyumri and Gavar)

Community Development Grants

- Village beekeeping development (Odzun, Geghakar and Aragva, Georgia)
- Playground restoration (Hayordats Tun center, Yerevan)
- Cultural center renovation (Aralez village)
- Street-lighting (Jrashen village)
- Vardenis Development Initiative grants mobilize 24 rural communities:
 - Entertainment and self-education club (Lusakunq)
 - Cultural house renovation and water pipeline (Arpunq)
 - Heating solutions (Shatjrek)
 - “Creative Daily Life” (Norakert)
 - “Cultural Revival” (Tsapatagh)
 - “Miracle” playground (Lchavan)
 - “Who moved my cheese?” (intercommunity project)

Education and Children

- Summer church camp support, Armenian Apostolic, Evangelical and Catholic (2,500 kids nationwide)
- Summer camp support for children with disabilities
- Play it Fair human rights curriculum, K-8 (Yerevan)
- Spiritual Education and Experiences for Children (pastoral outreach in remote villages)
- Artistic empowerment, technical upgrades, Sundukyan State Academic Theatre of Armenia
- Armenian national dance workshop, publication by Ginosyan

Economic Development

- Microlending support to farmers
- Microlending support to small businesses
- Emergency Syrian refugee housing assistance
- Youth business development
- Engineering lab and IT education center (Stepanavan)
- Quick Start Project for youth employment (Gyumri)

Health Outreach

- Rehabilitation clinic development (Stepanakert, Artsakh)
- Autism and cerebral palsy day care center (Artsakh)
- Affordable online medical services (Tsovak, Vardenis region)
- Thyroid health improvement, raising awareness of current research (nationwide)
- Children’s wellness, school nurse training (Yerevan, Armenia)

Armenia Program Distributions \$513,214

<i>Civil society</i>	31%
<i>Education</i>	31%
<i>Health</i>	15%
<i>Community development</i>	13%
<i>Economic development (excluding revolving loan)</i>	1%
<i>Other</i>	9%

(i.e., cultural enrichment, playgrounds)

Armenia Advisory Board

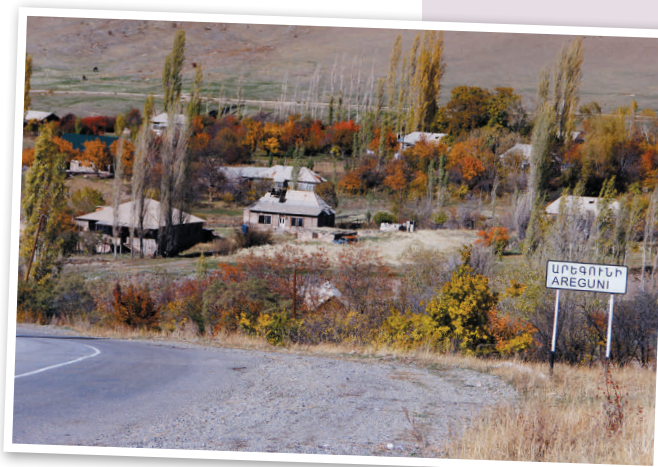
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- Harutyun Gharibjanyan
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International Partners

- European Union
- World Vision Armenia
- Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation
- Karagheusian Foundation
- Armenian Medical Fund
- CARD Microfinance Institution



Armenia, surrounded by Muslim nations but strengthened by Christian roots, has tremendous potential to grow. Ninety percent of Jinishian projects, such as youth business development, are designed to promote long-term, sustainable change.

JMP LEBANON UPDATE



The ripple effect of the Syrian crisis continues to devastate Lebanon. As the refugee surge strained the small nation, the economy, environment and services could not sustain the pressure. Consequently, one in five people (1.2 million) live below the poverty line, and 300,000 additional Lebanese became unemployed in 2017. On a personal level, the stress can be crushing. Families are more vulnerable to illness, homelessness, broken relationships and broken spirits.

Through more than 13,000 client visits in 2017, the JMP donor-supported mission team provided critical, holistic care. JMP is unique among nonprofits in the Armenian community, consistently providing medication for chronic illness, medical counseling, preventive education and spiritual encouragement. Because refugees have no medical coverage, Jinishian shared expenses for 262 Syrian client bills.

With the belief that each of God's children has potential and dignity, JMP's social services team gives families tools to find jobs, improve their relationships



To meet growing need, JMP expanded medical services — a primary outreach since 1966, when Jinishian began serving the post-genocide population. The dispensary now has an in-house general practitioner, cardiologist, pharmacist and nurse.

and stay together. JMP programs prevent school dropouts and child labor by supporting vocational education, particularly for teens. Social workers address threats of domestic violence, human trafficking, drug addiction, legal and health issues. As a Christian outreach, local mission staff also offer hope and give comfort, encouraging trust in God and perseverance when adversity strikes.

Thus says the LORD of hosts: Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another. (Zechariah 7:9)

Program Distributions \$436,700

Health programs	63%
Families and seniors	19%
Community development	11%
"Happy Childhood" project	5%
Housing and special projects	1%
Syrian refugees	1%

The blessing of a home

Mardo and Maral Kharpoutlian were engaged during the civil war, then misfortune struck: a collapsing balcony immobilized Mardo for a year, their savings disappeared in a bank closure and their textile supplier went out of business. Unable to pay rent, they made a home in the back half of their sewing shop, although it had no kitchen. After their second child, they filed for emergency housing with little hope of being selected among the 400 other applicants. Yet when the JMP social worker reported their living

conditions, they were offered a contract for apartment ownership paid over 20 years. Thinking it was too good to be true, Maral tried to return the keys, but the JMP director encouraged her to keep faith and work hard.

"The family praises God and is very thankful to JMP for this blessing of a home," said Pauline Sagharian, JMP Lebanon director. In today's market of high demand and lack of safe, affordable housing, the JMP path-to-ownership program is a source of stability for families while being fiscally self-sustaining.



From the sewing shop in 1994, through hardship and sacrifice, the Kharpoutlians paid faithfully, finally becoming proud homeowners in 2017.

Overview of Work Funded in 2017

Community Health Development

Dispensary services
 Chronic illness medication
 Improving health care for women through education
 Health awareness sessions with free testing for respiratory health and diabetes control

Health Services

Hospital and medical expense assistance
 Syrian Armenian refugee aid
 Psychiatric residential care

Housing

Affordable housing
 Path to ownership
 Habitat for Humanity interest-free home repair loans

Community Development

Women's committee
 Children's holiday party
 Public housing building committee
 Microloans for economic development

Social Development

Social services for families
 "Happy Childhood" grant for basic needs, school and camp
 Teenage girls' self-development
 Employment office
 Senior assistance and home visits
 Community activities for seniors
 Christmas packages for home-bound seniors and special needs

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AFHIL, Aghasarkissian Home Appliances, ARCL "Araxi Boulghourjian" Socio-Medical Center, Habitat for Humanity Lebanon, Happy Childhood Foundation, Howard Karagheusian Foundation, Marash Compatriotic Association, Ministry of Health through YMCA, Municipality of Anjar, Municipality of Antelias and Naccache, Municipality of Bourj Hammoud, Municipality of Bsalim, Mezher and Majzoub, SADCO – Sami Dandan & Co., St. Marc Medical and Diagnostic Center, Ten Ten Shoes, Yeraz Travel and Tourism, Anonymous brothers in Christ, Bishop Georges Assadourian, Minister Avedis Guidanian, Hripsimiantz College secondary students, Hagop Khatcherian, Nar Khatchadourian, Hagop Loshkhajian, Hagop Lousararian, Peggy Lee Manoogian, Sebouh Mekhjjan, Minister Jean Oghassabian, MP Hagop Pakradouni, Sam Rakoubian, Hreir Sagherian, Maro Telvizian and others

Mission Staff

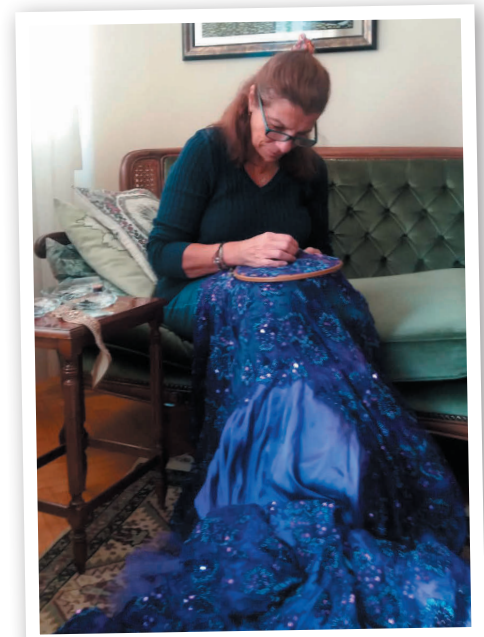
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 Rita Vartanian

JERUSALEM AND ISTANBUL

Jinishian reached 1,200 of the most vulnerable among Armenian communities in Jerusalem and Istanbul in 2017. Run almost entirely by devoted volunteers, they keep administrative costs down to only 2 percent.

Volunteers in Istanbul brought aid to more than 150 neglected households living in acute distress. True to JMP's mission to offer dignified pathways to self-sufficiency, the program increased small business loans by 50 percent in 2017. Dozens of proud workers were able to grow their businesses — skilled crafters, online distributors and tradesmen in auto repair and carpentry. Vocational grants for computer and language skill-building spurred employment.

In Jerusalem's Armenian Quarter, the Jinishian health clinic serves an average of 100 patients each week, including clergy. Small allowances are a lifeline for families in poverty.



Sonya has her own dress design business. A small grant helped supply lace and beads. Jinishian is a vital thread in the fabric of support to Christian minorities in Istanbul.

JMP SYRIA UPDATE

Jinishian Memorial Program
JMP

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Foes have come against our brothers and sisters in Syria: some whose bloodlust took loved ones and health. Other distant powers keep the economy in a chokehold. From within, there's the voice of fear. Yet the love of God binds Armenian communities together, and they choose hope.

If God is for us, who can be against us? ... Who can separate us from the love of God?

It's estimated that during the war two-thirds of Christians and two-thirds of health professionals left Syria. Most who remained had the least resources but the greatest devotion and courage. The Jinishian Memorial Program is uniquely positioned because it collaborates with all local churches and services to identify unmet needs. In 2017, 75 percent of the budget went to address the health crisis and assist thousands in desperate need of medical care. Hundreds of Armenian families that fled the war have returned home to stay, motivated by peace to rebuild, but even those fortunate enough to have jobs can barely afford basics. Expenses have increased 10- to 20-fold, but wages have not. Power is still only available a few hours a day.

JMP has been a lifeline for over 7,000 people struggling to overcome poverty, unemployment, grief, injury and property loss in 2017. We are especially grateful to our committed monthly partners who fund the work of restoring health, jobs and homes in Syria.



Healing trauma. Social worker Patricia Gurunian provided workshops, counseling and games to give these young teens tools to cope with anxieties they still carry from the war.



Rebuilding begins. Millions of internally displaced people hope to restore their properties, but the task is daunting, while daily life is still a great struggle and dangers remain.



Safe children. JMP blessed almost 600 children with one-day summer school programs in Aleppo, which resumed thanks to increased security.



Peace and Hope. Aleppo schools opened without bombs for the first time in seven years. JMP helped relieve the huge strain on parents with new backpacks and winter coats for hundreds of kids.

Program Distributions \$170,200

Health needs	75%
Emergency grants	10%
Family allowances	10%
Hunger relief	4%
Senior allowances	1%

Overview of Work Funded in 2017



School checkups

Community Health Development

- Prescriptions
- Financial assistance for hospitalization, diagnostic, dental, eye care
- Specialist referrals and treatments
- School health checkups

Social Development

- Emergency grants
- Family allowances
- Senior allowances
- Holiday hunger relief
- Milk powder distribution

Children

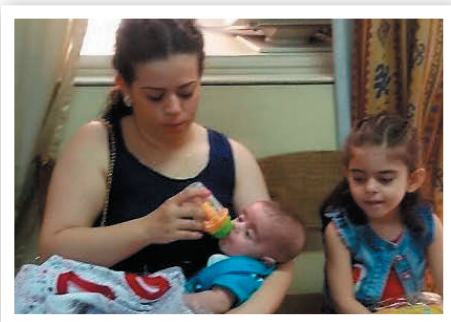
- Summer day trips
- School backpacks
- Winter coats
- Christmas parties
- Workshops for war trauma
- Baby clothing distribution

Celebrations

- Easter gatherings
- Christmas gatherings
- Luncheon with church leaders
- St. Vartan's visit for seniors
- Easter clothing for children



These sisters fled ISIS-controlled Raqqa for Damascus. JMP connected the industrious refugees with a direct donor for their washer and refrigerator.



One quarter of the JMP budget goes to emergency grants, allowances for families and hunger relief. Beneficiaries not only gain supplies but a community of support.



In 2017, people finally came out of their homes feeling happy, secure and hopeful for JMP-hosted holiday gatherings. Because of the program's deep local roots in Damascus, Kamishly and Aleppo, donors can also give personal blessings like Easter clothes and church banquets.

Mission Staff

- Talin Topalakian, director
- Ani Deukmejian
- Magie Kahkejian
- Verjin Demirjian
- Maria Boshgezenian
- Arpy Gevoghlanian
- Rita Yaghljian
- Mgrdich Spenjian
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- Tamar Bedrossian

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- Antranig Marashlian



Jinishian staff and volunteers pray for blessing upon all supporting Syria. They serve with joy and sacrificial tenacity to honor genocide survivors before them and to lift up the next generation.

Armenia tour group returns encouraged.

Sixteen pilgrims experienced the hospitality, beauty and history of Armenia on a Jinishian-hosted trip in October 2017. They made a pilgrimage to the Genocide Memorial, explored beautiful, bustling Yerevan and traversed the exquisite countryside with vistas of Mount Ararat. The Rev. Doug Hognlund went to explore his own Armenian heritage and returned impacted by the tenacity he saw in the face of genocide, communism and threats of attack. Instead of fear or self-pity, he saw gratitude and generosity through the faith of the people and the work of Jinishian. The group visited village families, farmers, pastors and student leaders and celebrated JMP's 50 years of mission.



How can you get involved today?

- Invite JMP to speak to your church or civic organization about our life-changing work.
- Visit Armenia with us! Experience the warm hospitality of this beautiful, ancient Christian homeland and see transformative projects in action.
- Monthly gifts start at only \$10! This is a great way to sponsor the ongoing need for renewal in Syria. Click the yellow "Give" button at pcusa.org/donate/E051792, enter your desired amount, and check "I'd like to make a recurring donation."
- Return the envelope included. To fund specific areas, please attach a memo or make a note in the comments when you give.

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Eliza Minasyan, executive director

Cara Taylor, communications associate

We thank God for your heart to bring dignity and hope out of poverty and despair by supporting relief, development and spiritual uplift in Armenian communities. Give securely at pcusa.org/donate/E051792.

2017 Donors

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