

# Renaissance of Children

**A Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)  
registered in the Republic of Armenia**

Founded in 2001, the non-governmental organization (NGO) began with a clear mission – to support children with special needs and their families in their medical treatment, psychological and social rehabilitation, and full integration into society.

One of the main goals of the NGO is to support the work of the pediatric orthopedic department at “Arabkir” Joint Medical Center, headed by Dr. Garen Koloyan. The staff of the department includes three pediatric orthopedic surgeons (Dr. Vahe Yavryan, Dr. Ara Antaryan and Dr. Hamayak Khachatryan), anesthesiologist Dr. Armen Koloyan, nurses in the ward and operating room and a physical therapist. There are also two resident physicians in pediatric orthopedics, including Dr. Gevorg Jhangiryan from Karabakh, who will serve at the Children’s Hospital in Stepanakert following his residency.

During the past ten years, a number of projects have been successfully implemented by RENAISSANCE OF CHILDREN. A few of our highlights from 2011 include:

**1. Support to the Pediatric Orthopedic Department at “Arabkir” Joint Medical Center.** The department was founded in September 2007, and since that time, with the help of donors and supporters from different countries we were able to equip the operating room with modern equipment and state of the art instrumentation. An operating table, C-Arm device, cautery machine and anesthesia machine, all belonging to the NGO, are located at the medical center and provided to the department for its use. The department is providing in-patient treatment for more than **300** children and there are more than **4,000** consultations on an outpatient basis every year. The major sponsors of this project are: The Chicago Armenian Community and Dr. John Wilhelm (USA); Dr. Nishan Goudsouzian from Boston, MA (USA); Dr. Carolann Najarian, Boston, MA (USA); Dr.

Shant Shekherdimian, Los Angeles, CA (USA); Dr. Ara Nahabedian, London (UK); Dr. Aram Gazarian and UMAF organization (Lyon, France) and many others. Recently, with the help of RENAISSANCE OF CHILDREN NGO, THE department received a substantial donation of orthopedic implants and instruments from OrthoPediatrics Company (USA).

**2. Orthopedic Help to Children in orphanages in Armenia.** The NGO organized annual outreach clinics to the orphanages in Armenia and helps children from these institutions to receive their orthopedic and rehabilitation treatment. This project is implemented with the help of Araz Artinian (Montreal, Canada, and Yerevan, Armenia) and her Facebook friends. Many children from the Kharberd and Gyumri orphanages received surgeries free of charge in the orthopedic department. Some of these children were adopted through the Hopscotch Adoption, Inc. organization and now live with their new families in different countries throughout the world. Photographs of Mary (Carolyn) Grigorian (below) show the results of her treatment and her new life in the United States.



Before the treatment



After the treatment



With her new family – the Armstrongs

The Hopscotch Adoption organization helped the department purchase case padding materials valued at \$4,500.

**3. Development of Hand Surgery Services at “Arabkir” JMC.** Beginning in 2009, a hand surgeon – Dr. Davit Abrahamyan – joined the staff of the department on a part-time basis. This year with the help of Dr. Aram Gazarian from Lyon, France (a board member of RENAISSANCE OF CHILDREN FOUNDATION), the first case of nerve transplantation of a nine month old baby girl with brachial plexus paralysis was performed in Armenia. The team will continue collecting patients who meet the requirements for this kind of surgery and increase their experience in helping children with this pathology.



**4. Improvement of the Spine Surgery Project.** This project was successfully implemented during the last year. With the help of Professor Dr. Max Aebi from Bern University and a group of surgeons from Lyon (Dr. Christophe Garin and Kariman Abelin-Genevois), fifteen spine surgeries were performed at “Arabkir” JMC for children with severe congenital and acquired spine deformities. In February 2011, Prof. Aebi organized a workshop to discuss spine problems with more than 40 participants from throughout Armenia. He

also helped to organize the training of Dr. Davit Abrahamyan in Switzerland for spinal function monitoring during surgery, and helped to obtain the corresponding apparatus. The training cost was covered through the help of Prof. Aebi and Vrejouhy Artikian (Calgary, Canada), a nurse who is one of the volunteers in our department. The cost of the machine (\$28,000) was covered partially by the donations from Dr. Carolyn Najarian (\$10,000), Hratch Simonian (\$2,000) and the Demirjian family (\$5,000). The remaining funds were advanced by Prof. Aebi, which the foundation will need to reimburse in time.



Dr. Christophe Garin from Lyon also helped to obtain the newest version of spine instrumentation (CD Legacy) and various necessary implants valued at approximately \$18,000.



The cost of this part of the project will be covered by the RENAISSANCE OF CHILDREN FOUNDATION, from funds previously raised in the Armenian Community of Chicago.

**5. Hip Ultrasound Project.** This is a continuing project supported by the Jinishian Memorial Foundation, with the main goal of introducing hip ultrasound screening for newborns for early detection of hip dysplasia. With this method, it will be possible to diagnose hip problems in newborns and begin early treatment. During 2011, trainings of regional radiologists for the regions of Gegharkounik (Gavar and Martouny), Shirak (Akhourian), Tavoush (Idjevan) and Kotayk (Hrazdan) were accomplished. As a result, these regions now are covered with hip ultrasound screening.



During the last year of the program, approximately **1,000 newborns** have been screened and hip development problems were detected in 50 children. (Fifteen of them needed orthopedic treatment). An additional goal of the project is to make hip ultrasound screening a standard procedure for all newborns in the republic.

**6. Walker Production and Distribution for Disabled Children.** This year, thanks to Araz Artinian and her Facebook friends, we built an additional 31 posterior-entry walkers for children with cerebral palsy and other disabilities. These walkers allow the children to become independent walkers and improve their functional abilities. The cost of this project (each walker costs approximately \$150) were covered by Hratch and Seta Simonian (CA), who donated \$3,000 and Tatevik Babayan (Hye Helping Hands, CA), who raised another \$1,500.



The walkers are distributed for free to children in need and the present inventory will be enough to cover the needs of the country for the upcoming year.