2006 AGBU Central Board of Directors

President
Berge Setrakian

Vice Presidents
Sarkis Demirdjian & Arshavir Gundjian

Treasurer
Nazar Nazarian

Secretary
Joseph Basralian

Honorary Member
His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians

Chairman of the Board
Louise Manoogian Simone

Vice Chairman
Nazar Nazarian

Members
USA: M. Michael Ansour, Carol Bagdasarian Aslanian, Richard Manoogian, Benon Sevan, Sam Simonian, Sinan Sinanian, Dickran Tevrizian FRANCE: Aris Atamian, Levon Kebabdjian SYRIA: Karnig Yacoubian

DIRECTOR EMERITUS
Barry Zorthian

IN MEMORIAM
Boghos Nubar, Founder
Alex Manoogian, Honorary Life President

Pursuant to the General Assembly held on December 9, 2006, a new Central Board of Directors was elected, along with the establishment of the Council of Trustees.

President
Berge Setrakian

Vice President
Arshavir Gundjian

Treasurer
Sam Simonian

Secretary
Berge Papazian

Honorary Member
His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians

Members

Council of Trustees
Sarkis Demirdjian, Richard Manoogian, Nazar Nazarian, Louise Manoogian Simone, Karnig Yacoubian

DIRECTOR EMERITUS
Barry Zorthian

IN MEMORIAM
Boghos Nubar, Founder
Alex Manoogian, Honorary Life President

FRONT COVER (top to bottom): Rita Demirdjian (left), representing the AGBU Lebanon District Committee, and Minister Leila Solh-Hamadeh (right), representative of the Walid bin Talal Foundation, cutting the ribbon to inaugurate the new AGBU Medical Dispensary in Antelias, Lebanon; An AGBU Senior Dining Center in Armenia; The AGBU Vahram Papazian Theatrical Group performs “Kna Mernir, Yegur Sirem” (Go Die, Come, I’ll Love You); Camp Nubar 2007; Montevideo’s AGBU Nubarian-Manoogian School.
AGBU Members & guests during the Centennial celebrations in Cairo, Egypt, April 2006. Photo: Garo V. Varjabedian (Egypt).
To our Members, Donors and Friends,

Maintaining a tradition, this biennial report attempts to convey the many accomplishments of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) within the confines of a defined time period. While it unveils a vast and impressive array of achievements, it is imperative to understand that the work of our great organization at this historic juncture should not be perceived as a mere series of successful events and contributions to worthwhile causes; rather, it should be appreciated as a plan of initiatives that aim to realize its pan-Armenian mission, and to achieve its cultural, educational and humanitarian goals through a clearly charted course of action.

The past two years were characterized by a series of grand events organized by our worldwide chapters, celebrating the glorious centennial of AGBU. This was also an occasion for highlighting the momentous role our organization has played in the survival of our nation, the vision of its founders and their organizational genius, their understanding of the spirit of the times, their deep sense of responsibility and accountability, their staunch commitment to our national institutions and their unwavering belief in Armenia. Qualities that earned AGBU a stalwart reputation and the well-deserved universal trust it rightfully enjoys today.
Our organization’s new orientation and vision materialized during this period. We are well aware of the challenges that our new diasporan communities face and the threat those challenges pose to emerging generations regarding the sustenance of our cultural heritage, values and identity. Our future course of action will have a strong impact on the viability of our nation, both in the diaspora and in our homeland.

With this understanding and a deep sense of responsibility, while continuing its commitment to current programs, AGBU has focused its attention on our new generation and has taken initiatives that will help instill in them a strong sense of identity and pride, awareness of issues, and involvement in community. Paramount to these initiatives are projects that provide opportunities for our youth to experience Armenia.

The creation of AGBU’s new organizational structure in Europe; the growth of the Young Professionals’ movement in various countries in Europe, particularly Eastern Europe; the newly established scout camp in Armenia and the summer work-travel programs for the youth; the expanding internship programs; the Internet-based Virtual College being developed in six languages to promote the study of Armenian language, history and culture; and the preliminary steps toward the realization of the visionary Melkonian Complex in Yerevan are tangible manifestations of AGBU’s new orientation.

It is true that AGBU today, more than ever, is fiscally strong, and enjoys the trust and respect of all. Yet the challenges and needs of our nation are vast and demanding. The financial situation worldwide and its negative impact for the current and upcoming years necessitate caution, determination and innovation on our behalf. Therefore, my plea to our membership, our chapters and our friends, is to join forces in promoting the noble mission of AGBU. Be in touch with the spirit of our times, stay the course toward our nation’s bright future, and perceive the actualization of our vision through the eyes of our youth and their aspirations, as they prepare to take leadership.

Berge Setrakian, President
## Consolidated Statements of Financial Position

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>December 31</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$ 9,022,575</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portfolio investments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions/Accounts receivable</td>
<td>3,351,823</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest receivable</td>
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<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Real Estate</strong></td>
<td>73,428,803</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Furniture, equipment and leasehold improvements, net</strong></td>
<td>1,530,320</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>301,058,545</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities:</strong></td>
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<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>$4,966,951</td>
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<td>Notes payable</td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>5,360,228</td>
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<td><strong>Net Assets:</strong></td>
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<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>59,736,830</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted</td>
<td>198,773,525</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>295,698,317</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>301,058,545</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(\(*\))These amounts represent book values. Total market values as of 12/31/2006 and 12/31/2007 are $214,601,984 and $233,435,384 respectively.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Biennial Financial Report 10-year Comparative Totals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>1996</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$301,058,545</td>
<td>$286,162,612</td>
<td>$182,135,549</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>51,263,852</td>
<td>47,759,992</td>
<td>26,030,651</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditure</strong></td>
<td>36,010,745</td>
<td>33,510,010</td>
<td>24,470,108</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Yearly % Increase (Decrease)  **10-year % Increase (Decrease)

All figures are in U.S. Dollars.

## PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE

**Public Support:**
- Contributions
- Membership dues
- Special events and other income

**Revenue:**
- Investment income
- Rental income
- Tuition and other school income
- Satisfaction of program restrictions
- Management income, reserve and capitalization

## TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE

## PROGRAM AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

**Programs:**
- Educational
- Cultural
- Religious
- Humanitarian
- Administrative
- Fundraising
- Foreign exchange/Translation adjustment

## TOTAL PROGRAM & ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

**Change in net assets, from operations**
**Inter-fund transfers**
**Change in net assets**

**NET ASSETS, beginning of year**
**NET ASSETS, end of year**
## Consolidated Statements of Activities

**Year Ended December 31, 2007**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
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<td>1,974,211</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11,021,098</td>
<td>9,946,181</td>
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<tr>
<td>26,340,917</td>
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<td>27,646,854</td>
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<tr>
<td>$32,985,140</td>
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<td>$8,398,791</td>
<td>(8,398,791)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1,696,517</td>
<td>(1,790,079)</td>
<td>93,562</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>$43,080,448</td>
<td>431,010</td>
<td>7,752,394</td>
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**Year Ended December 31, 2006**

<table>
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<tbody>
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<td>$3,895,536</td>
<td>$7,706,659</td>
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<td>$11,042,528</td>
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<tr>
<td>308,243</td>
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<td>$10,972,056</td>
<td>1,701,534</td>
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<td>1,679,005</td>
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<td>9,946,181</td>
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<tr>
<td>$21,912,732</td>
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<tr>
<td>21,760,954</td>
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<td>$36,599,502</td>
<td>(70,132)</td>
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<td>$4,082,100</td>
<td>(7,029,484)</td>
<td>(1,829,170)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1,665,459</td>
<td>(1,701,534)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>127,636</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$47,759,992</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Note

**Temporarily Restricted**

- **Permanently Restricted**

- **Unrestricted**

- **Total**

**Unrestricted**

- **Temporarily Restricted**

- **Permanently Restricted**

- **Total**

**Additional Notes**

- **Religious**

- **Programs**

- **Total Public Support and Revenue**

- **Funds**

- **Administrative**

- **Inter-Fund Transfers**

- **Net Assets**
COUNTLESS benefactors, donors and friends continue to strengthen our organization’s decades-long presence in Armenia and Karabakh by supporting vital programs that reach out to thousands of individuals. AGBU is proud to make a difference in the homeland through its numerous educational, cultural and humanitarian endeavors.

American University of Armenia

Continuing to lead the way in academic excellence in Armenia, the American University of Armenia (AUA) celebrated its 15th anniversary in November 2006 with a Gala Banquet in Los Angeles. Soon after reaching this milestone, the AGBU-funded institution received accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Annually, about 400 students enroll in AUA’s two-year program, earning Master’s degrees in Business Management, Conservation and Environmental Science, Engineering, Law, Political Science and International Affairs, Public Health and Computer Science.

Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra

The Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra (APO), which has been funded by AGBU since 1992, celebrated its 80th year of symphonic excellence with a special anniversary concert on June 8, 2006. In honor of this milestone, guest performers and conductors from France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, Switzerland and the United States were invited to perform with APO. The Orchestra also toured Moscow for one week in June 2006, in addition to Nuremberg, Germany; Bratislava, Slovakia; and the Czech Republic’s two largest cities, Prague and Brno, in September and October 2006 for fall music festivals. In 2007, the 110-member ensemble traveled to France during the month of February for concerts sponsored by the local AGBU Chapters in Lyon, Marseille, Nice, Paris, St. Etienne, Valence and beyond, as part of the country’s “Year of Armenia” festivities.

Children’s Centers

Three thousand talented students fill the halls of AGBU’s three Children’s Centers in the Nork, Arapkir and Malatya sections of Yerevan each day after school to expand their horizons and reach new heights of artistic merit. Since 1993, the organization has partnered with the Holy See of Etchmiadzin to sponsor these cultural institutions providing instruction to youth ages 6 to 16 in art, computers, crafts, dance, gymnastics, history, languages and music, in addition to weekly church services and Bible study courses in the adjoining chapels.

On October 17, 2007, 13-year-old Mariam Marukyan from the Nork Center was awarded the top prize during a ceremony at the United Nations in New York City for International Children’s Art Competition. Marukyan was one of six winners, selected from a pool of 12,000 global applicants for best depicting the competition’s theme “We can end poverty.” Also featured in the UN exhibit were art works by two other Nork Center students.
Karabakh Chamber Orchestra

Continuing its mission of disseminating musical culture, the Karabakh Chamber Orchestra played numerous concerts over the past two years and quickly gained a reputation after its 2004 founding as one of the best chamber orchestras in the South Caucasus with several invitations to perform abroad. Highlights included traveling to Yerevan for the “One Nation One Culture” festival in the summer of 2006 and a special concert organized in honor of Maestro Edouard Mirzayan’s 85th birthday. Together with the administration of the Karabakh Music School, the orchestra’s conductor, Gevorg Muradian, also started a music college in 2006 where future professional musicians study.

Karabakh Repopulation Project

Karabakh President Arkady Ghukassian and Deputy Prime Minister Ararat Danielian, along with several ministers, dignitaries and AGBU representatives, were on site for the ribbon-cutting ceremony that took place in September 2006 for the new Norashen School in Karabakh’s Hadrut region. The elementary school, which was funded by the AGBU Southern California District and the Sydney Chapter, is designed to accommodate 80 students and has eight classrooms, one event hall, a teacher’s lounge and a principal’s office. The Toronto and Cairo Chapters, along with AGBU Young Professionals groups and private donors, also donated funds for the project. The official ribbon cutting was followed by the groundbreaking ceremony of the nearby village of Jrakn, which is situated 200 meters away from Norashen. Both initiatives are part of AGBU’s Karabakh Repopulation Project, which was initiated in 2002 and has been helping to rebuild the war-torn villages that were abandoned following the 1988 to 1994 conflict with Azerbaijan. To date, two dozen homes have been built for over 100 residents.

Senior Dining Centers

Since Armenia’s independence, AGBU continues to sponsor six Senior Dining Centers in Yerevan, Sevan, Etchmiadzin and Hrazdan to provide hot meals daily to pensioners and orphans numbering over 1,200. Portions are always ample and recipients take additional food home to share with family members and friends. Moreover, volunteers deliver meals to beneficiaries who cannot make it to the Centers.

Vaskenian Seminary

Situated on scenic Lake Sevan, the Vaskenian Seminary serves as an oasis of spirituality to over 100 young men who have dedicated their life to God. The expansive campus, church and retreat-like setting contribute to the religious training and education received by the clergy who go on to serve Armenian communities throughout the world.

Ultrasound

Aiming to remain at the forefront of Armenia’s medical community, the AGBU Ultrasound Center in Yerevan made great strides in the past two years with the receipt of 22 new ultrasound machines, which will help save the lives of many in Armenia, Karabakh and Javakhk through preventative screenings and early detection. The Center trains doctors and regularly receives a vast array of academic materials (journals, videos, etc.) from abroad. Central Board Member Dr. Levon Nazarian established the facility in 2000 at the Yerevan State Medical Institute, in partnership with Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia.
Schools and scholarships have for decades provided a head start toward a better life for numerous generations of Armenians from worldwide communities, and they have helped preserve and promote the Armenian language and heritage. AGBU provides ongoing supervisory support to 5,500 students in its schools worldwide, including the newly inaugurated High School in Pasadena. In view of the financial hardships faced by many of the schools due to growing deficits, the Central Board continued to allocate subsidies, as needed, to help sustain their services to the students and their communities.

At the same time, a comprehensive strategy was developed to direct efforts toward four major areas of focus that constitute the wider aspect of AGBU’s educational mission: 1) Existing schools and their fiscal and quality management in face of changing demographics and expectations; 2) Scholarship policies that help identify, support and maintain talent, leadership and involvement; 3) Coordination, development and sharing of resources and teacher experiences to maximize the effectiveness of Armenian instruction in regular and extension schools; and 4) Development of global initiatives through programs that are trans-national, target our youth outside mainstream Armenian organizations and maximize the impact of our resources.

AGBU Education Department: A New Vision

The new vision of AGBU’s Education Department is built on the realities and challenges of our new and evolving diasporan communities. Geographically, there has also been a shift of axis from the original Middle Eastern communities to those of North America, Europe, Russia and Eastern Europe.

The impact of this change has manifested primarily through the generation gap between the first generation of immigrants and their children born and raised in the host countries of the diaspora. Consequently, traditional educational practices implemented through Armenian day schools and Saturday schools have become less effective, reaching only a small fraction of school-age children, while losing students to mainstream institutions which parents perceive as better venues for preparing their children for future careers.

To carry out AGBU’s vision in the face of these challenges, new organizational initiatives were implemented over the last two years: Artoun Hamalian joined the Department as Director of Education; and an Educational Advisory Committee was formed. The Advisory Committee brings together a diverse group of individuals with extensively diverse professional backgrounds in education, including school administration, instructional design and curriculum development, research experience in social development and social integration, educational psychology and sociology, child and family development, college admissions and scholarship management, learning software technologies, and educational television programming. A scholarship committee was also formed to revise existing policies and offer new strategies that help provide wider outreach and achieve better applicant selection.
**Education Advisory Committee**
Artin Arslanian, Anny Bakalian, Nvair Beylerian, Natalie Gabrelian, Noreen Hajinlian, Artoun Hamalian, Carmen Mansourian, Mary Papazian, Ruzanna Topchyan, Nicole Vartanian, Ani Yazedjian, Yervant Zorian and Carol Aslanian (Central Board of Directors Liaison).

**Scholarship Advisory Committee**
Carol Aslanian, Maral Hajjar, Artoun Hamalian, Maral Jebejian, Sarine Der Kaloustian, Lilit Kurdiyan, Hripsime Roupen and Steve Semerdjian.

**Study Abroad**
The Study Abroad Program in Armenia targets diasporan Armenian youth interested in blending accredited academic coursework in their specific fields with the benefit of cultural immersion. The program will provide an attractive and inviting environment while partnering with universities in Armenia and abroad.

Yervant Zorian presents a prototype of the “AGBU Armenian Virtual College.”

**Virtual College**
One of the important projects that began to take shape during this period was AGBU’s first-of-its-kind Virtual College, which is an Internet-based, accredited distance learning program in six languages on the topics of Armenian history, music, architecture, art and language. The program equally targets high school honors-level pupils, college students and learning enthusiasts.

**Scholarships**
Year after year, AGBU’s Scholarship Program continues to provide financial assistance to hundreds of worthy university and graduate students all over the world through grants and loans.
- Total amount of grants and scholarships distributed in 2006 & 2007: $1,942,936
- Total number of student recipients in 2006 & 2007: 988

**AGBU Schools**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>School Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARGENTINA</td>
<td>Buenos Aires</td>
<td>Marie Manoogian Institute (K-12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUSTRALIA</td>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>Alexander Primary (K-6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Alex Manoogian Saturday School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BULGARIA</td>
<td>Dobrich</td>
<td>Saturday School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Haskovo</td>
<td>Saturday School</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Plovdiv</td>
<td>Saturday School</td>
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<td>Rousse</td>
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<td>Sliven</td>
<td>Saturday School</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Yambol</td>
<td>Saturday School</td>
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<tr>
<td>CANADA</td>
<td>Montréal</td>
<td>Armen Québec-Alex Manoogian (K-8)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Toronto</td>
<td>Daniel &amp; Alice Zaroukian (K-6)</td>
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<td>Saturday School</td>
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<td>Vienne</td>
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<td>Beirut</td>
<td>Boghos K. Garmirian (K-9)</td>
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<td>Sisag H. Varjabedian Saturday School</td>
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<tr>
<td>OHIO</td>
<td>Cleveland</td>
<td>Saturday School</td>
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</table>
New Melkonian Center in Armenia

The transitioning of the Melkonian vision to Armenia was the realization of the original dream of the Melkonian Brothers who wanted to establish the academy in Armenia. Inspired by the concept of an international university city, the new Melkonian complex will be composed of modern facilities for living and recreation capable of accommodating hundreds of individuals. It will attract our young generation in multitudes to Armenia throughout the year, while providing a venue for enrichment to the local community.

As detailed by the preliminary architectural plans that were evaluated on site by Central Board members in early September of 2007, and still under review, the complex will be comprised of three buildings that can accommodate more than 350 persons at any given time, a beautiful plaza, a theater, meeting/lecture halls, exhibition hall, outdoor and indoor sports facilities, outdoor and indoor restaurants and cafes, a chapel, media library, and language lab. The 4-acre hilltop property acquired by AGBU for this state-of-the-art complex provides a panoramic view of the city and easy access to downtown Yerevan.

A major aspect of this Educational Center, among other initiatives, will be to facilitate the Study Abroad Program in Armenia for Armenian youth. Study abroad experiences are appreciated and encouraged by colleges and universities around the world and there are a growing number of worldwide programs and options for undergraduate and graduate students to participate in. By providing an attractive and inviting environment and developing a list of study abroad choices in partnership with universities in Armenia, AGBU will attract diasporan Armenian youth to blend accredited academic coursework in their specific fields with immersion in cultural experiences.

The Melkonian Center is envisioned as a key location for Armenia’s Chess Federation to promote Armenia’s intellectual talent. It is also designed to be the headquarters of AGBU’s first-of-its-kind Virtual College, which is an Internet-based, accredited distance learning program capable of reaching a wide base of learners worldwide.

The new Melkonian Center is designated to be a hub for cultural activities and a flexible resource-rich environment for a variety of programs that will help bring hundreds of diasporan Armenian youth together in Armenia year round. We believe the new Melkonian project will strengthen the connectivity between the various communities outside Armenia, ensuring that the Republic of Armenia will continue to be the focal point for Armenians everywhere.
Internships & Generation Next

New York Summer Intern Program

Celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2007, the New York Summer Intern Program made a lasting impact on the lives of Armenian college students from around the world. In 2006 and 2007, a total of 70 students from Argentina, Australia, Canada, Egypt, England, France, Lebanon, Syria, and the United States were housed at New York University dorms and immersed themselves in the city’s culture, business, nightlife and daily excitement. The program allows interns to get a head start in their future field of employment by working at top companies, including Merrill Lynch, Columbia University Hospital, and HBO. In addition to a daily internship position, students attended a number of educational and cultural events, including two annual events sponsored by the local AGBU Young Professionals. Almost 700 worldwide interns have benefited from this extraordinary, life-changing program.

Paris Summer Intern Program

Almost 20 Armenian university students from Armenia, Australia, Austria, Canada, Lebanon, and France participated in the third and fourth sessions of the Paris Summer Intern Program. Interns were housed in the city's “Armenia House” and exposed to the exciting culture of Paris. Each student interned at a business related to their field of interest and had the chance to participate in educational endeavors and excursions in the French capital, ranging from meetings with members of the French National Assembly to a lecture by the president and vice-president of Microsoft’s European operations.

Yerevan Summer Intern Program

The premier year of the Yerevan Summer Intern Program in 2007 proved to be a huge success as 16 students from Canada, Egypt, Romania, and the United States were housed at Yerevan State University’s dormitories, and spent five weeks interning at top institutions, including the Foreign Ministry, the National Assembly, the Central Bank and leading medical facilities. Interns also had the chance to participate in Armenian language and dance classes, Armenian history lectures and meetings with various governmental leaders. In their spare time, students visited historic landmarks and rural regions within the country, including a trip to Karabakh, and witnessed firsthand all AGBU programs. To keep friends and family informed about their homeland experiences, interns posted entries and photos on a specially designed blog.

Generation Next Mentorship Program

Living up to its mission of providing Southern California youth of Armenian descent who are faced with difficult choices in today’s often tense school environments with positive role models and support, Generation Next Mentorship Program continues to connect mentors and mentees through innovative and productive group activities, such as rock-climbing expeditions, an artistic showcase, beneficial workshops, and community and cultural events. Moreover, Generation Next has benefited from the addition of an enthusiastic new director and almost 20 new mentors, who get together with their mentees on a weekly basis and offer the guidance necessary for them to succeed in all aspects of life. Modeled after the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America program, Generation Next receives funding from the Glendale Unified School District and obtained scholarships for seven students to participate in personal development courses in 2006.
Guests look at the “Nine Contemporary Artists from Armenia” exhibition in Pasadena, California.

Artist and designer Kevork Shadoyan takes a bow after his “Armenian Silk Road” fashion show in Sydney.

AGBU Sofia Chamber Orchestra performs in February 2007.


AGBU Baghdad’s Sayat Nova Chorus prepares to sing for a crowd of 500 people at the AGBU Center on November 18, 2006.

The Armenian Heritage Centre was launched on April 24, 2006 by AGBU Melbourne.

Cultural

Thousands and thousands of culture enthusiasts applauded in auditoriums all over the world as AGBU presented numerous popular endeavors.
Often functioning as the organization’s central nervous system, AGBU’s over sixty-dozen chapters plan a variety of activities to fulfill fundraising, cultural and educational goals within each local community to promote and perpetuate the Armenian identity.

AGBU’s global 48 centers and offices serve as a hub for its membership to congregate and celebrate their heritage.

**Educational**

Recognizing that education continues at every age, AGBU Chapters organized lectures and conferences to engage the minds of their membership.

A two-day seminar on “Reporting & the Media” organized by the Damascus Chapter in March 2006.

Los Angeles Hye Geen sponsored a conference on “The Status of Armenian Communities Living in the United States.”

In November 2007, AGBU Montreal hosted AGBU Nubarian Library Director Raymond Kevorkian for a series of lectures on AGBU and Armenian history.

**Children’s Centers West Coast Tour**

The AGBU Nork Children’s Center performing arts troupe traveled to the Western United States at the invitation of AGBU and the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of America during November 2007. The events were attended by thousands in Texas (Dallas) and California (Los Angeles, Orange County and San Francisco).

This one-of-a-kind tour de force, coined as the “Armenian Cirque de Soleil,” is a mosaic of music, dance, poetry recitation, thrilling gymnastics and acrobatics, which showcases the talent, spirit and vitality of 52 young performers, ages 10 to 19. The AGBU students present a remarkable repertoire of traditional Armenian and contemporary art forms through the Haykazunk Ethnographic (Folk) Ensemble, Narek Dance Ensemble, Nork Circus Ensemble, Armens Drum Ensemble and Assoub Step Ensemble.
Fundraising & Philanthropy

Fundraising efforts always have the same goal, but AGBU’s Chapters pride themselves on finding unique ways to succeed at their mission.

Elisabeth Istanboulli organized a fashion show at the Sir James Henderson School in Milan attended by over 500 people to benefit the AGBU Children’s Centers.

Cypriot chapters (Larnaca, Limassol & Nicosia) presenting their donation to the relief fund for victims of the fires that swept through Greece during August 2007.

New England District raises $15,000 for AGBU’s Karabakh Repopulation Project through a benefit concert.

Guests of the “Noyan Tapan” boat cruise on Lake Ontario — an AGBU Toronto fundraiser for the Nor Jraberd Repopulation Project.

Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra Tours France

From February 6 - 15, 2007, the 120-member Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra (APO) toured seven French cities (Nice, Vendee, Saint-Etienne, Lyon, Valence, Marseille, and Paris) to entertain thousands of music lovers as part of the “Year of Armenia” festival of Armenian culture that took place in France during 2006-2007.

Sponsored by AGBU and with the involvement of the organization’s many French chapters, the nine-day APO tour provided one of the highlights of the “Year of Armenia” in France, by showcasing the high level of achievement in Armenia’s cultural institutions.
ARGENTINA
BUENOS AIRES: Vahram Hairabedian, Ruben Kechichian (as of Mar 2006)
CORDOBA: Ricardo Erezian

AUSTRALIA
MELBOURNE: Maral Tchorbadjian
SYDNEY: Vahe Artinian

AUSTRIA
VIENNA: Berge Seraydarian

BRAZIL

BULGARIA
BURGAS: Hagop Movsesian
DOBRICH: Häg Egikian
HASKOVO: Garo Hachadurian
PLOVDIV: Hripsime Tovmasyan, Roupen Chavoushian (as of Oct 2007)
RUSSE: Edmon Dogramajian
SILISTRA: Mgrdich Kalustdian
SLIVEN: Varta Garabedian
SOFIA: Sonia Avakian-Bedrosian
VARNA: Vanuhi Arakelian
YAMBOL: Sonya Arshavir Hovnanyan

CANADA
MONTREAL: Viken Attarian, Rita Kuyumjian (as of Jul 2006), Armen Bechakjian (as of Sept 2007)
TORONTO: Knar Basmadjian, Eugene Karadjian (as of Jun 2006)

CYPRUS
LARNACA: Stepan Kamakian
LIMASSOL: Merouj Sarkissian
NICOSIA: Karekin Costanian

EGYPT
DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF EGYPT, CAIRO: Berdj Terzian
CAIRO: Onnig Belekdanian, Viken Djizmedjian (as of Apr 2007)
ALEXANDRIA: Sarkis Vartzbedian
ENGLAND
LONDON: Harout Aghajanian, Noushig Setrakian (as of Apr 2006)

ETHIOPIA
ADDIS ABABA: Vahakn Karibian

FRANCE
DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF FRANCE, PARIS:
Denis Ketchedjian
LYON: Michel Sandjian
MARSEILLE: Bernard Besoian
NICE-COTE D’AZUR: Chakée Hagopian-Clausen
PARIS: Richard Abdalian, Sam Najarian (as of Jun 2006)
ST. CHAMOND/ST. ETIENNE: Leonardo Basmadjian
VALENCE: Philippe Panossian
VIENNE: Soukias Soukiassian

GREECE
DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF GREECE,
ATHENS:
Dikran Abassian, Hagop Fejsjian (as of Apr 2006)
THESSALONIKI: Haigouhi Portukalian

IRAN
TEHRAN: Roupen Ter Poghosian

IRAQ
BAGHDAD: Hampahtzoum Shehranian

ITALY
MILAN: Haig Alexanian

LEBANON
DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF LEBANON,
BEIRUT:
Avedis Demirdjian

SOUTH AFRICA
JOHANNESBURG: Jacques Adanalian

SWITZERLAND
GENEVA: Taline Avakian

SYRIA
DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF SYRIA, ALEPPO:
Bedros Boyadjian
ALEPPO: Varoujan Tnekejian
DAMASCUS: Takvor Boyadjian
KAMISHLY: Yervant Mirzoyan
LATAKIA: Hagop Attamian
YACOUBIEH: Kevork Khatchadourian

URUGUAY
MONTEVIDEO: Hagop Chamikian

USA
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DISTRICT COMMITTEE, LOS ANGELES:
Vahe Imasdounian

CHICAGO, IL: Leona Mirza
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT, MA:
Souren Maserejian
DETROIT, MI: Nadya Sarafian, David Terzibashian
CLEVELAND, OH: Sebouh Setrakian
PHILADELPHIA, PA: Elizabeth Barone, Clara Samelian
PROVIDENCE MEN, RI: William Aznavourian
HOUSTON, TX: Sarkis Ohanian
PRESIDENT’S CLUB: Vartkess & Rita Balian
FOCUS 2007

Over 700 participants from 15 countries attended the fourth and largest FOCUS biennial affair in New York from July 26 to 29, 2007. The four-day event included networking, fundraising and social activities in Manhattan and garnered over $85,000 through pre-event fundraising, which will go toward a special scholarship endowment fund for the New York Summer Intern Program in honor of its 20th anniversary.

Guests of honor at the sold-out Gala evening with 540 guests were Mr. & Mrs. Vartkess and Rita Balian, New York Summer Intern Program founders and co-chairs of the AGBU President's Club, which oversees the Intern Program's fundraising initiatives.

Now highly anticipated by young Armenian professionals around the world, FOCUS serves as a weekend event for global young Armenian professionals to unite and share their international perspectives, as well as provide a venue to showcase notable contributions and achievements made by AGBU’s diverse youth programs.

Notable Achievements

Special milestone accolades go to the Alexandria (11) and Valence Chapters (100th and 75th anniversaries respectively), and the Plovdiv Erebouni Choir (2) (35th anniversary). In 2007, AGBU also applauded Maestro Alvaro Hagopian (3), a graduate of the Manoogian-Nubarian School who was appointed conductor of the Montevideo Philharmonic Orchestra, and Alexis Govciyan (4), a longtime member who received the French Legion of Honor and became the chairman of the newly formed AGBU Europe District. Moreover, the organization continues to support and encourage non-Armenian scholars who contribute to the propagation of Armenian heritage, literature, language and history through the annual AGBU Garbis Papazian Award. Recipients of the award in 2006 and 2007 were Wolfgang Gust (5), Peter Cowe (6) and G.H. Guarch (7).

FOCUS Captions: (clockwise from top): A scene from the Gala; Gala honorees and Co-chairs of the President’s Club, Mr. & Mrs. Vartkess Balian; Members of the FOCUS 2007 Organizing Committee; FOCUS on Art.
Young Professionals

The only Armenian network of its kind spanning five continents, the AGBU Young Professionals (YP) make Armenian communities around the world thriving, better places to live through civic involvement and international cooperation.

Inspiring their peers to get involved and stay involved, the open-door policy of AGBU YPs has garnered them a worldwide reputation for promoting a sense of community and belonging for young Armenians ages 22 to 40.

Proof positive, the AGBU YP Network expanded to 21 groups over the past two years with new chapters emerging in Detroit, London, São Paulo, Sydney, Toronto, Vienna, Washington, D.C., Yerevan and Zurich.

Substantive and always making an impact, the network collectively sponsored 180 cultural, educational and benefit events in 2006 and 2007, representing 20% of AGBU worldwide activity. Sharing the fruits of their labor, the groups also invested $74,000 back into the community with over 80% of the funds earmarked for worthwhile AGBU programs in Armenia and Karabakh.

Young Professionals Chairs 2006-2007

**ARMENIA**
YEREVAN: Shushanik Ghalatkchchyan

**AUSTRALIA**
SYDNEY: Kris Boghossian

**AUSTRIA**
VIENNA: Hrayar Sarikyan

**BRAZIL**
SÃO PAULO: Paulo Bilezikjian

**BULGARIA**
PLOVDIV: Suzanna Arutyunyan

**SWITZERLAND**
GENEVA: Karineh Manaserian-Cattin

**LEBANON**
BEIRUT: Shant Ohanian (2006),
Guy Markarian (2007)

**USA**
LOS ANGELES, CA: Cynthia Simonian (2006),
Jenny Kiljian (2007)

**BOSTON, MA:** Alexis Butler (2006),
Areg Bagdasarian,
Antranig Mardiros (2007)

**DETROIT, MI:** Merrily Toroyan

**FRANCE**
PARIS: Vanessa Ketchadian (2006),
Aurélie Deyirmendjian (2007)

**ORANGE COUNTY, CA:**
Greg Sermabekian (2006),
Talin Babikian (2007)

**WASHINGTON, D.C.:**
Leana Movsessian

**ENGLAND**
LONDON: Armine Afrikian

**ORANGE COUNTY, CA:**
Greg Sermabekian (2006),
Talin Babikian (2007)

**USA**
LOS ANGELES, CA: Cynthia Simonian (2006),
Jenny Kiljian (2007)

**BOSTON, MA:** Alexis Butler (2006),
Areg Bagdasarian,
Antranig Mardiros (2007)

**DETROIT, MI:** Merrily Toroyan

**FRANCE**
PARIS: Vanessa Ketchadian (2006),
Aurélie Deyirmendjian (2007)

**ORANGE COUNTY, CA:**
Greg Sermabekian (2006),
Talin Babikian (2007)

**WASHINGTON, D.C.:**
Leana Movsessian

**IRAN**
TEHRAN: Armen Khachikian (2006),
Maria Ghazarians (2007)

**YP Greater New York**

**YP Sofia**

**YP Sydney**

**YP Lebanon**

**YP Los Angeles**
When it comes to exciting summer fun, young Armenians will often say that they can’t wait to go back to their AGBU camps, whether in Buenos Aires, the mountains of southern France or upstate New York.

For the past two summer seasons, thousands of youngsters participated in the organization’s day and sleep-away camps, with youth often traveling from other countries to join in.

The France District also organizes a well-attended weeklong ski camp every winter for youth.
Established eight decades ago, AGBU’s scouting program teaches discipline, courage and survival skills to young Armenians starting as cubs or brownies, and graduating all the way to leadership positions. Many of the global groups organize annual trips in the summer and/or winter seasons to practice their skill sets, strengthen the bond among troop members and enjoy wilderness settings. The Buenos Aires Antranik troop celebrated its 20th anniversary in June 2006 with a special event attended by over 500 supporters. Montreal’s scouts were recognized by their peers in May 2007 at the annual Gala of Excellence for the Scouts of Metropolitan Montreal with several awards, including the coveted Inukshuk, which is awarded to senior scouts for a singular achievement that serves as a model of excellence for the entire scouting movement. The Montreal troop earned the Inukshuk for their second humanitarian mission to Armenia.
Athletics

AGBU’s many athletic teams proved that hard work and team spirit always pay off. After winning the Lebanese National Championships for the fifth and sixth years in a row, the unbeatable AYA Antranik Beirut Girls Basketball Team went on to represent their country in the Arab League Championships and take home the gold. The win came as AYA Lebanon celebrated its 75th anniversary.

In Egypt, the Cairo Men’s Basketball Team won the annual HMEM Basketball Tournament. In California, the SCDC Glendale/Pasadena teams celebrated their 15th anniversary. The Ararat Futsal team from Nicosia, Cyprus received numerous trophies during the 2006-2007 season.

Regional games in North and South America united over a thousand Armenian youth in four cities. Montevideo (2006) and Sao Paolo (2007) hosted the annual South American Games held annually in July, a three decades-long tradition. And for the first time in many years, teams from Los Angeles participated in the biannual Canadian Games, which took place in Toronto in July 2007.
Year after year, AGBU’s numerous youth groups demonstrate their commitment to their heritage.

Aleppo AYA initiated a dance group, 15-member chamber orchestra and children’s choir. In Beirut, the local AYA dance group performed for a large audience at the UNESCO Palace in March 2007 in honor of International Women’s Day and the Cairo Dziadzan Children’s Choir performed a repertoire at the local children’s cancer hospital in December 2007.

The France District once again organized its “Young Pioneers” trip to Armenia for teenagers (ages 15 to 18), which reconnects diasporan youth with their ancestral motherland. In December 2007, the Paris Youth group organized a three-day art exhibit featuring Italian Armenian artist Vahram Aghazarian.

In May 2006, AGBU Silicon Valley initiated a Kids Club, aimed at Armenian children aged 6-12. The group focuses on connecting youth to their culture through educational and enjoyable activities, including field trips, games and pen pal communication with children in Armenia. Now hosting monthly gatherings, the Kids Club has grown to 30 members.

In South America, AGBU’s four youth leagues (known as Liga de Jóvenes) organized their 6th and 7th annual Woodstokian music festival that attracted a thousand young Armenians in Buenos Aires with hundreds of others watching the event on the popular YouTube video-sharing website. In March 2007, Cordoba hosted the third annual AGBU Armenian Inter-provincial Festival with a goal of building social connections between Argentinean communities that are geographically distant from one another. The Festival welcomed individuals from Buenos Aires, Cordoba, Corrientes, Mar del Plata, Misiones, Neuquén and Rosario. In August 2007, AGBU Cordoba’s Ararat Dance Ensemble held a performance that attracted over 500 people.
On April 15, 1906, at the residence of Boghos Nubar in Cairo, Egypt, the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) was born when 10 prominent individuals signed the first Article which formed the AGBU Central Board of Directors. One hundred years later, the organization continues to stand at the forefront of the Armenian nation with its longstanding educational, cultural and humanitarian endeavors, and exciting new projects underway to educate and motivate global youth about their heritage. Throughout 2006 and 2007, dozens of worldwide activities took place to commemorate this milestone event for AGBU, toast its accomplishments, and look forward to another bright century filled with promise.

Among the highlights of AGBU’s Centennial were special events organized in Cairo, the birthplace of AGBU; Paris, where a Gala Evening was held in the Palace of Versailles; and Armenia and Karabakh, a most fitting locale to close the Centennial festivities and look ahead to the future.
AGBU Egypt Centennial guests visit the pyramids of Giza near Cairo, Egypt.

AGBU Central Board Members, guests and friends at the grave of AGBU founder Boghos Nubar in Paris, France.

Special Guests at the French Gala at Château Versailles.

The Centennial Gala at the Château Versailles near Paris, France.
The Southern California District Committee honors AGBU Trustee Richard Manoogian for his lifetime of service to AGBU and Armenians during the Los Angeles gala event.
On April 8, 2007, AGBU sponsored a grand Centennial cultural showcase at the Opera House in Yerevan, Armenia.

On April 8, 2007 after Easter Sunday services, the AGBU Centennial Time Capsule, to be opened in 2106, was buried on the grounds of The Holy See of Etchmiadzin. AGBU members were in Armenia to attend the finale of the AGBU Centennial festivities in Yerevan, Armenia.

The opening of the exhibition “Armenians: In Search of Refuge,” at St. Joseph University in Beirut, which was curated by the AGBU Nubarian Library.

Young Professionals during the Centennial festivities in Karabakh.

On April 8, 2007, AGBU sponsored a grand Centennial cultural showcase at the Opera House in Yerevan, Armenia.
With 15 print and online publications in 2006-2007, AGBU reaches close to 100,000 Armenians annually with information about activities and news of interest to all Armenians.

In response to the growing role of the Internet in people’s lives, AGBU continues to develop its online presence. From Facebook to Flickr and from LinkedIn to YouTube, AGBU has in the last two years expanded its online services to attract a global cross-section of Armenians.

**Publications**

AGBU News Magazine (USA)
AGBU Voice (Bulgaria)
Ararat Quarterly (USA)
Deghegadou (Egypt)
Desilk (Canada)
ENEWSletter (USA)
Generación 3 (Argentina)
Hayatsk (Syria)
Hoosharar (USA)
Khosnag (Lebanon)
Mioutune (Australia)
Nor Tsayn (Australia)
Revue Arménienne (France)
UGAB Méditerranée (France)
Yeram (Syria)

**Web Sites**

**Flagship Sites**

agbu.org
agbu.org/blog
agbu.org/yp

**District Sites**

agbucan.org
agbueurope.org

**Chapter Sites**

agbu.org.uk
ugab.org.ar
agbu.org.au
ugab.org.br
agbuchicago.org
agbutoronto.ca
agbumeontreal.org
ugab.org.uy

**School Sites**

agbuscdc.org
agbume.org
alexmanoogian.qc.ca
agbutorontoschool.com
manoogian.org

**Committee Sites**

antranig.org
agbu.co.nr
usnubar.org
agbugennext.org

**Additional Web Services**

Facebook
LinkedIn
YouTube
Xing

Visit AGBU.org for a complete and up-to-date list of all AGBU websites.
2006 & 2007 AGBU Programs

Alumni Associations (3)
Gulbenkian Manoogian Nubar Schools (CA, USA)
Lazar Najarian Calouste Gulbenkian School (CA, USA)
Tarouhi Hovagimian School (CA, USA)

Art Academy (1)
Sarian Academy (Aleppo, Syria)

Camps & Day Camps (10)
Antranik Day Camp (Antelias, Lebanon)
Arevik Day Camp (Toronto, Canada)
Camp Nubar (NY, USA)
Camp Unger (Sofia, Bulgaria)
Colonia de Vacaciones (Buenos Aires, Argentina)
Colonie de Vacances (Hautes Alpes, France)
Green Camp (Plovdiv, Bulgaria)
Kessab Camp (Kessab, Syria)
Summer Day Camp (Cordoba, Argentina)
Summer Day Camp (Kamishly, Syria)

Choral Groups (9)
Antranik Junior Choir (Aleppo, Syria)
Antranik Junior Choir (Antelias, Lebanon)
Aravod Choir (Yambol, Bulgaria)
AYA Choir (Baghdad, Iraq)
Coro Shnorhalì (Buenos Aires, Argentina)
Dziadzan Children’s Choir (Cairo, Egypt)
Gomidas Choir (Haskovo, Bulgaria)
Grung Choir (Montevideo, Uruguay)
Koghtan Choir (Paris, France)

Dance Ensembles (7)
Akhtamar Dance Ensemble (Kamishly, Syria)
Antranik Dance Ensemble (New Jersey, USA)
Antranik Dance Ensemble (Aleppo, Syria)
Antranik Dance Ensemble (Antelias, Lebanon)
Ararat Dance Ensemble (Cordoba, Argentina)
Dance Ensemble (Thessaloniki, Greece)
Mirage Jazz Ballet Ensemble (Plovdiv, Bulgaria)
Sardarabad Dance Ensemble (CA, USA)

Intern Programs (3)
New York Summer Intern Program
Paris Summer Intern Program
Yerevan Summer Intern Program

Library/Research Center (1)
Bibliothèque Nubar/Nubarian Library (Paris, France)

Medical Centers (2)
Medical Dispensary (Beirut, Lebanon)
Ultrasound Center (Yerevan, Armenia)

Mentorship Program (1)
Generation Next Mentorship Program (CA, USA)

Musical Groups (8)
AYA Marching Band (Aleppo, Syria)
Chamber Orchestra (Sofia, Bulgaria)
Chamber Orchestra (Stepanakert, Karabakh)
Chamber Orchestra (Aleppo, Syria)
Dzirani Vocal Ensemble (Cordoba, Argentina)
Erebuni Ensemble (Plovdiv, Bulgaria)
Hye Herosner Marching Band (CA, USA)
Philharmonic Orchestra (Yerevan, Armenia)

Radio Shows (2)
Armenian Radio Program (Lyon, France)
Armenian Radio Program (Melbourne, Australia)

Special Committees (6)
Asbeds (Aleppo, Syria)
Asbeds (Antelias, Lebanon)
Asbeds (CA, USA)
FOCUS (NY, USA)
Hye Geen (CA, USA)
New York Special Events Committee (NY, USA)

Theater Groups (6)
Ahazank Theater Group (Paris, France)
Ardavazt Theater Group (CA, USA)
Bedros Attamian Theater Group (Aleppo, Syria)
Theater Group (Toronto, Canada)
Vahram Papazian Theater Group (Antelias, Lebanon)
Youth Theater Troupe (Haskovo, Bulgaria)

The Haykazounk Folk Ensemble of the AGBU Nork Children’s Center.