

Philanthropist Anoush Mathevosian Donates Additional \$275,000 for the Armenian American Wellness Center in Armenia

By Christina Yagjian & Maria Princi

WASHINGTON, DC - Anoush Mathevosian, longtime philanthropist and a Founding Benefactor of the Armenian Genocide Museum and Memorial in Washington, DC, recently donated an additional \$275,000 to the Armenian American Cultural Association (AACA) in support of its humanitarian project in Armenia, the Armenian American Wellness Center (AAWC).

This donation will support the complete renovation and expansion of the six-story building where the Wellness Center currently occupies only the first floor (ground floor) and part of the basement for its pathology laboratory. "When completed in 2007, the project will utilize American building standards, innovative techniques to seismically reinforce the building and environmentally clean energy generated through solar power and a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) system. The renovated and expanded 6-story building will be home to a state-of-the-art Primary Health Care facility, a mini 'Mayo Clinic' for the Caucasus providing quality diagnosis and treatment on-site," commented Rita Balian, Wellness Center Founder and AACA President. The renovation and expansion project is estimated to cost over \$3 million with an additional \$2 million necessary to equip and furnish the building.

During a recent interview with Ms. Mathevosian, she shared her thoughts on the project, "I am delighted to be a sponsor of the renovation and expansion



Anoush Mathevosian, philanthropist, a longtime supporter of the Armenian American Wellness Center.

of the Wellness Center as this undertaking is essential, not merely to increase the size of the existing Center, but rather for the expansion of services available to the families of Armenia." She continued, "I am also a huge supporter of Rita Balian. I have followed her work since the inception of the Wellness Center and she is extremely committed to this cause, as well as many other Armenian causes, working from the bottom of her heart. Her enthusiasm and energy are boundless."

In recognition of Ms. Mathevosian's generous gift, the AACA will dedicate the 2nd floor of the Wellness Center as the **Anoush Mathevosian: Family Medicine Floor**. This floor will be dedicated to Family Medicine, which will include

Pediatric, Cardiovascular and Gastrointestinal Care as well as Urological Health Services, to provide American-standard Prostate Cancer Screening, which will be introduced for the first time in Armenia. The **Anoush Mathevosian: Family Medicine Floor** will also include a Medical Library and a Learning Resource Center (LRC) to facilitate an Internet link for communication between AAWC medical staff and the AACA US Medical Advisory Board, international medical library resources, and US medical specialists in various relevant fields to promote better diagnosis and treatment approaches at the Wellness Center in Armenia.

Ms. Mathevosian's contributions to AACA for the Wellness Center project totals over \$300,000, to date. This generosity only begins to tell the story of this accomplished philanthropist. Longtime trustee of the Armenian Assembly of America and Board Member of the

Armenian National Institute (ANI), Anoush Mathevosian has dedicated herself to promoting Armenian issues and helping the Armenian cause, both in the United States and Armenia. She is also a longtime supporter of the Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR) and has contributed to their efforts to bring educational opportunities to underprivileged Armenian youth through the construction of the Mathevosian School in Vanadzor and the renovation of a summer camp in Yeghegnadzor, Armenia. Her work as a Founding Benefactor of the Armenian Genocide Museum and Memorial in Washington, DC also speaks to her dedication to preserving her Armenian heritage and to educating the public on the Armenian genocide.

When asked about her donation and its anticipated impact, Mathevosian stated, "I have always been concerned with the welfare of the Armenian family and the

education of young people and, with my support to the Wellness Center and the introduction of Family Medicine, I can be assured of high-quality medical care for the families of Armenia." Ms. Mathevosian stated that her main objective in her philanthropy is to bring about healthy, well-educated and happy Armenian families.

The AACA Board of Directors expresses its sincere gratitude for Ms. Mathevosian's noble and generous gift to secure the health and well-being of mothers and their families in Armenia.

Please remember the Wellness Center in your annual giving. A donation to the Center is a perfect way to honor or memorialize a loved one.

For more information about the Wellness Center, or to make a donation, please contact AACA at its office in Arlington, Virginia by e-mail at info@aacainc.org, or by telephone at (703) 416-2555.



The future view of the building which will house the Armenian American Wellness Center. The renovated and expanded building will be home to a state-of-the-art Primary Health Care facility after the completion of the \$3 million project in 2007.



Ms. Anoush Mathevosian, Philanthropist, surrounded by Wellness Center staff, participants of the 6th US Medical Mission, and the Center's Co-Founders. Guests listed from L to R are: Peace Corps volunteer Mary Lou; Professor Julia Albright, immunologist; Jasna Basaric-Keys, Pathology Technician; Rita Balian & Hranush Hakobian, Co-Founders; Michelle Parsons, RN & Mammography Technologist; and Valarie Hollenback, Bio-Technician for stereo-tactic core biopsy.



The building as it looked when it was donated to the Wellness Center by the Armenian Government in June 2002.



The Wellness Center as it looks today, in the process of a major renovation project which includes seismic reinforcement and expansion.