

Lincy Foundation Donates \$100,000 to AACCA for its Wellness Center in Armenia



Yerevan high school students prepare for the start of the Wellness Center's most recent Health Walk for Breast Cancer Awareness in October 2005.

By James Faris

WASHINGTON, DC - The Beverly Hills, CA-based Lincy Foundation has donated \$100,000 to the Armenian American Cultural Association (AACCA) in support of its humanitarian project in Armenia, the Armenian American Wellness Center.

The Lincy Foundation donation will benefit program services and support expenses at the Wellness Center and was received at a very important time. The Wellness Center is in the midst of its largest transformation since its establishment in 1997. The current Center, previously operating from the first floor and basement of a five-story building on the campus of Yerevan State Medical University, is undergoing renovation and expansion to encompass the entire building.

When complete, the Wellness Center will offer expanded Primary Health Care protocols, including family

medicine, cytology, hematology, outpatient surgery, chemotherapy, and prostate cancer screening. The expanded and renovated building will utilize solar power and an innovative and ecologically clean energy system known as Combined Heat and Power (CHP) to provide the Wellness Center with a reliable power source. Seismic reinforcement of the structure will also ensure that the building is one of the safest in Yerevan during an earthquake. The renovation and expansion project began in late 2004 and will be completed in 2007.

Lincy Foundation Chairman, James D. Aljian, commenting on the donation noted, "We are pleased to be part of this life-saving project, providing women and their family members appropriate preventative health-care screening and medical services according to Western medical quality standards. The quality and accuracy of the services provided by the

Wellness Center explain the full waiting rooms each day."

The Armenian American Wellness Center, established in 1997 by the US-based AACCA, is a state-of-the-art health-care facility based in Yerevan, Armenia with two satellite centers to service rural areas. The mission of the Wellness Center is to save, prolong, and improve the lives of women through the early and accurate detection of their breast and cervical cancer and to provide primary health-care services to ensure the good health and well being of families in Armenia. To date, over 67,000 women have been screened for breast and cervical health at the Center and



Wellness Center gynecologists Lilit Hakobyan (left) and Manoushag Avanesyan (right).



Nune Masharyan, a radiologist at the Wellness Center, discusses mammography results with a patient.

thousands of lives have been saved.

The expansion and renovation of the Wellness Center is essential to expand the range of life-saving services available to the families of Armenia and is possible through the generous donations from public, individual and foundation donors such as the Lincy Foundation. Additional donors to the project include the Government of Armenia,

which donated to AACCA the entire building currently housing the Wellness Center. USAID has also committed \$950,000 to the expansion project and an additional \$1.2 million has been raised from individual and foundation donations.

For more information about AACCA and the Wellness Center, or to make a donation, visit them at www.aacainc.org.

Every Dollar Counts! Please consider making a donation to the Armenian American Cultural Association (AACCA) for its humanitarian project in Armenia, the **Armenian American Wellness Center**.

The AACCA is a US registered 501 (c)(3) tax exempt organization. All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law.

Yes, I would like to give a "Gift of Hope" to a mother and her family in Armenia

1,000 500 250 100 50 other _____

Name: *Mr/Mrs/Dr.* _____

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Address: _____

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Kindly, make your check payable to AACCA and mail it to:

Armenian American Cultural Association, 1300 Crystal Drive, Suite 1504, Arlington, VA 22202.



The Wellness Center's founder, Rita Balian (left), works with the Center's executive director, Khachanush Hakobyan.