

## **Building a Home in Armenia**

By Elise Papazian

The Fuller Center for Housing Armenia . . . ahhh the friendships of both 'old' and 'new.' Feelings that say, "I am here for you." Time sure moves quickly and perhaps paths will part due to distance, yet a piece of the heart sits near memories made, holding a special warmth that will never fade.

Proudly, I have helped build three homes in Armenia since 2022 (one with a broken foot!). Every time I leave with a heart filled with wonderful memories. To think, the families don't have much, but they offer 'everything' . . . such is a gentle reminder that generosity is not measured by what one owns, but by the warmth of welcome when a home and a relationship are built!

Sharing hard work, silly laughter and grateful smiles . . . heartfelt tears flowed as we hugged, danced and became another form of 'family'!! Thank you dear Jackie Melkonian ElChemmas and everyone from back home who was involved in this journey. We participated in house blessings and visited previous homes we built. We were blessed to see the wonderful families living in beautiful homes as we broke bread at artfully dressed tables where once dirt floors and open walls stood.

If you are ever given the opportunity to be part of such an amazing adventure - I share two words: **DO IT!**