



## Project Agape 30 Year Celebration

**October 21, 2023**

On Saturday, October 21, 2023, a group gathered at Mt. Pleasant UMC to celebrate 30 years of Project Agape. Nara MelKonyan, Project Director, Bishop Shelton and Bishop Ward, the Agape Board, team members and other volunteers were in attendance. We celebrated 30 years of partnership between the people of NC and the people of Armenia; a partnership between Methodists from North Carolina and the Armenian Apostolic Church.

We celebrated:

- Reopening schools.
- Establishment of a hospital and medical clinics.
- Building an orphanage/childcare center.
- Homes repaired.
- Distribution of humanitarian supplies from Agape Center warehouse.
- Providing funds for gardening tools, cows, and chickens.
- Long-term relationships during difficult times.

We mourned for:

- Lives lost during earthquakes and recent wars.
- Ethnic Armenians forced from their homes in Artsakh.
- (Azerbaijan has reclaimed Artsakh following the recent war)
- Loss of medical clinics, schools, and all our buildings.

We committed ourselves to move forward:

- We are now a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization in the United States.
- We will continue to work in a new place under Naras' leadership.
- We will send humanitarian relief items if there is a need.
- We will support vocational training for displaced persons.

How we can help:

- Blankets are needed for recently displaced persons. Nara can purchase blankets locally for \$22. Please consider making a monetary donation.
- Nara asked us to continue with the Christmas Shoebox project. Often only gift children receive.
- Ben Rogers at MRC hopes to ship a container by the end of 2023.