

AMERICAN FRIENDS of GEORGIA, INC.

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Dear Friends,

Someone recently asked me “Do they really still need a great deal of help in Georgia?” The short answer is yes, and here are some reasons why...

Many people who are internally displaced, in poverty with no employment opportunities, ill without adequate care and orphans are living on aid from AFG and other international organizations.



Building needed for expansion at Dzegvi Community Shelter

higher prices for basic necessities such as electricity, fuel and food. This has raised the cost of running our vital projects that help the most vulnerable in Georgia. We recently heard from Zviad Khapava, who directs Bediani Children’s Village, that their electricity bill has almost doubled.

Another example of this relates to the Dzegvi Community Shelter. Functioning as a home for 75 people of all ages, it is one of our longest running projects, started in 1995 as an orphanage for street children. **Today it’s at full capacity and more people need to live there.** Therefore we have a critical need for expansion of the community. Currently the population is comprised of mentally ill persons, disabled persons, former street children, abandoned elderly and abandoned single mothers with young children.



Ramani, a Dzegvi resident, who helped build the new water system

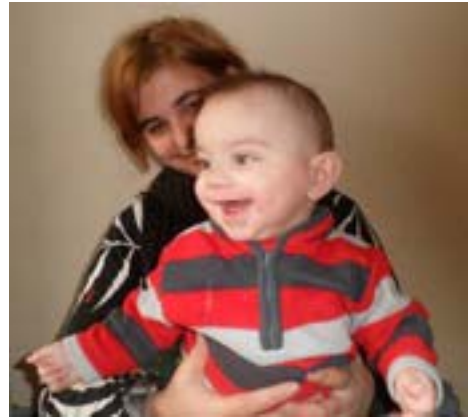


Children of single mothers at Dzegvi Shelter

Mother Mariam-Emilia and Nana Gogochuri, who live at and run the Dzegvi Community Shelter, have asked AFG to raise the \$35,000 needed to repair the roof and make habitable a building at the Shelter that can provide increased housing.

Thanks to your generosity over the past year, AFG was able to fix the broken water supply to the Shelter, restoring water and heat. And thanks to the tireless work of our wonderful volunteers in Georgia, Carol and Ned Pennock, AFG purchased a large washing machine and repaired a broken one, fixed a shower, and purchased a backup generator to prevent destruction of the new water system during a power outage. Food and medicines were also purchased with your donations.

A Very Happy Holiday Season to You and Yours!



Single mother and child living at Dzegvi



Room at Dzegvi. This family is a grandmother taking care of two of her grandchildren.

Sincerely,



Marusya Chavchavadze
Executive Director

P.S. In this joyful season, we ask for your continued generosity, as it is needed now more than ever.