

ARMENIAN AMERICAN MEDICAL SOCIETY CELEBRATED 32 YEARS OF SERVICE


Sold Out Gala Honored Community Leaders & Focused on Healthcare Needs of children in Armenia - May 13, 2017




Los Angeles, CA - The Armenian American Medical Society (AAMS) celebrated 32 years of service at The Globe Theatre in Universal City, CA. The sold out gala was attended by hundreds of guests and members focused on raising funds to aid the healthcare needs of children in Armenia.

Rev. Father Serovpe Alanjian (on behalf of Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of America) and Archpriest Father Nareg Pehlivanian (on behalf of Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian, Prelate of the Western Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America, delivered the invocation and a special message which set the evening in motion. The Armenian and American National Anthems were sung by long time AAMS member Sosie Mardirossian, RN, MSN. This year's show opened with a Tango performance by Argentinian Tango Champions of the Arthur Murray Studios in Montrose, CA. The Dancers thrilled the crowd with passionate and skillful performances of classic and modern Argentine Tango styles. This was a fitting theme given the upcoming 12th Armenian Medical World Congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina later this month. The evening was punctuated with wonderful performances by Ara Martirosyan

singing Armenian and international songs to a dancing audience. Comedian Mary Basmadjian also surprised and entertained the crowd with her improvisational skills. AAMS would like to thank the gala committee and Chair-Person Dr. Evelyn Baghdasraian Barkhoudarian. This year's Master of Ceremonies, Dr. Vicken Sepilian, kept the crowd highly engaged throughout the event and helped make this a successful fundraiser. Drs. Barkhoudarian and Sepilian enthusiastically presided over the live auction simulcast with Armenia courtesy of Los Angeles based Connectto Communications. This live webcast with Armenia gave the Gala attendees an opportunity to view the children directly involved and affected by the Juvenile diabetes summer camp. In 1992, the AAMS established the Juvenile Diabetes program in Armenia - the first program of its kind in the country. Since 2011, the Juvenile Diabetes Project has been organizing a summer camp for children with diabetes in Armenia. The camp offers children education on the correct use of insulin and proper lifestyle and nutrition in order to optimize their health. Via live webcast, attendees experienced a glimpse of what it is like to be at the camp as the children went through their activities, from classes to counseling to play time.



The Gala's live auction also raised money for AAMS's Pediatric Epilepsy Project, established in January of 2003. This was Armenia's first ever program to address the devastating consequences of children's epilepsy. The AAMS has furnished the Pediatric Epilepsy Clinic with much-needed state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment and provides necessary medications annually for thousands of children. Since its inception, the AAMS Pediatric Epilepsy Program has equipped the clinic with necessary specialized medical care to take care of all the children suffering from seizures in Armenia. With the success of the 32nd Gala AAMS can continue to provide Aid to Armenian children with diabetes and epilepsy in order to prevent the devastating consequences of these diseases. These services are offered free of charge and are often the only access Armenian children with diabetes and epilepsy will have to proper care. These programs offer young patients, for the first time, access to comprehensive, state-of-the-art, evaluation and treatment free of charge.



"The fundraising effort this evening paid off and will greatly help support programs that we launched and continue to support. In going with the theme of helping kids in Armenia this year the juvenile diabetes and pediatric epilepsy program get to reach that many more children" said AAMS President Raffi Tachdjian, MD, MPH, FAAAAI. For the award portion of the evening, board members Drs. Tachdjian, Galstyan, Kotikian, and Barkhoudarian presented awardees with special recognition and memorabilia from Ararat Armenian Brandy and Le Papillon.



The AAMS' 2017 Health & Heritage Award was presented to Dr. Daniel Stambouljian, MD honored for his lifelong commitment to the betterment of healthcare. Founder of the Pan-American Association of Infectious Diseases (API), he has been instrumental in improving healthcare in Armenia through vaccination campaigns and training for healthcare professionals.

The AAMS' 2017 Legacy Award honorees were Vahe Karapetian, Bared Maronian and Mike Sarian.

Mr. Karapetian was honored for his positive impact in the Armenian Community supporting projects to improve the well-being of the Armenian people, both in the diaspora and Armenia.





Mr. Maronian was honored for his committed efforts to spread genocide awareness and prevention on a global level.

Mr. Sarian was honored for his positive influence as an executive and his extensive community service.



"We are proud that our 32nd anniversary celebration was a success, and are happy to offer our proceeds to both juvenile diabetes and pediatric epilepsy projects" said AAMS Gala Chair Dr. Evelyn Baghdasraian Barkhoudarian.



"We are all gathered here tonight because of a common bond. We are here tonight because the AAMS has touched and enriched our lives in one way or another, whether through the countless professional development and networking opportunities that have served our members or the various humanitarian and charitable platforms that have inspired and engaged many of us to give back towards safeguarding the health and wellbeing of our communities both locally and worldwide" said Master of Ceremonies and former President Dr. Vicken Sepilian. And lastly, "This year's award recipients exemplified AAMS' core tenet of empowering the healthcare community" said Dr. Raffi Tachdjian, President of the organization.

The AAMS, with more than 600 members, is the largest Armenian medical society in the Diaspora. Our directory of health practitioners is a vital resource for patients seeking care in various health-related disciplines and specialties. Our mission is to promote health services, education and professional growth. To learn more about AAMS please visit www.aamsc.com.

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