

# Armenian International Medical Fund Sets Milestone:

## 42 Impaired Children Received the "Gift of Hearing" Since 2004

LOS ANGELES - Armenian International Medical Fund (AIM Fund) successfully completed its 7th medical mission in Armenia from November 18th to 24th of 2010.

Since 2004, 42 hearing impaired children and young adults have received the "gift of hearing" through cochlear implant surgery with 100% success rate. Children are attending normal schools and receiving high marks in their academic work.

During this mission, volunteer professionals from UCLA Health System, Dr. Akira Ishiyama, Alison Grimes and Salpy Akaragian, operated on 8 children, participated in a conference and opened the training center for temporal bone drilling, which is the first in the Region.

The surgeries took place at Erebouni Medical Center with the support of the Armenian Prime Minister, Tigran Sargsian, Minister of Health, Dr. Artium Kushkyan, Drs. Nara Mamikonyan, Arthur Shukuryan, Armine Martirosyan, Vigen Bakhshinyan and Ms. Inessa Harutyunyan.

The success of the mission is due to the dedication and commitment of many individuals from Armenia, Europe and the United States. In addition, Stryker and cochlear corporations, Erebouni Medical Center and Garo Mardirossian Law Firm donated multiple pieces of equipment and partial donation of a cochlear implant for this mission.

For more information, please visit [ArmenianIMF.org](http://ArmenianIMF.org) or call (818) 257-8998.



Dr. Akira Ishiyama and Salpy Akaragian, RN-BC, MN, FIAN, with implanted children

## 9 More Children Can Hear Now

Akaragian just spoke with Dr. Arthur Shukuryan in Armenia who informed her that all 8 children plus Narek (complicated case) now are able to hear. The "switch on" took place December 21 in Armenia, and "you can imagine the joy that these families felt and children's responses when they heard words for the first time."

Akaragian expresses her thanks to all who help by being part of this great cause. Everyone certainly made a difference in the lives of 9 children and their families. Special recognition to Dr. Akira Ishiyama for making "miracles" in Armenia with his "golden hands".



Implanted children and their families with Dr. Ishiyama and Salpy Akaragian



Over 40 children can hear now. Three year old Sergey could not hear. Thanks to the cochlear implant by Dr. Akira Ishiyama of UCLA, Sergey was operated in November of this year, two months ago, and now Sergey can ... hear.

Quality Wedding Invitations  
*Armenian*



Anoush Alexanian  
Full Service Hair and Facial

## A Celebration Tea: Give to "Hear" Sunday March 7<sup>th</sup>

The Armenian International Medical Fund (AIM Fund) marks another successful year for 2009. The foundation, also known as the "ear project" is receiving recognition throughout the Armenian community not only in California but the rest of the world as well. In 2009, a total of 5 candidates received the "gift of hearing" by surgically placing multi-channel electrodes (part of the device) in the inner ear. These children ranged from 2 to 6 years of age and also included a 20 year old artist who recently lost his hearing. Prior to the New Year, the devices were "switched on", all the recipients were able to hear and families

celebrated the New Year with great joy and hope.

Due to individuals like you who possess the utmost compassion, as of today 34 young children and adults hear, speak and take part in their society. The success of these implants for all the recipients is 100%.

Plans are now underway to implant additional children in 2010, with the help of the Armenian Community, Ministry of Health and professionals from Armenia and the US. These surgeries are performed at Erebouni Medical Center in Yerevan, Armenia under the leadership of Drs. Akira Ishiyama (UCLA) Arthur

Shukuryan (Erebouni) and Mrs. Salpy Akaragian, RN-BC, MN (UCLA).

To continue raising funds and give hope to more families and children, the AIM fund will be holding a Mother and Daughter Tea Event on March 7<sup>th</sup> at the Scarlet Tea Room in Pasadena from 10:30am to 2:30pm.. Donation is \$45 per person We hope you can join us at this fundraising event. The Scarlet Tea Room is located at 18 west Green St. Pasadena California For additional information please visit [Armenianimf.org](http://Armenianimf.org) or call at 818 257-8998 to RSVP.

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