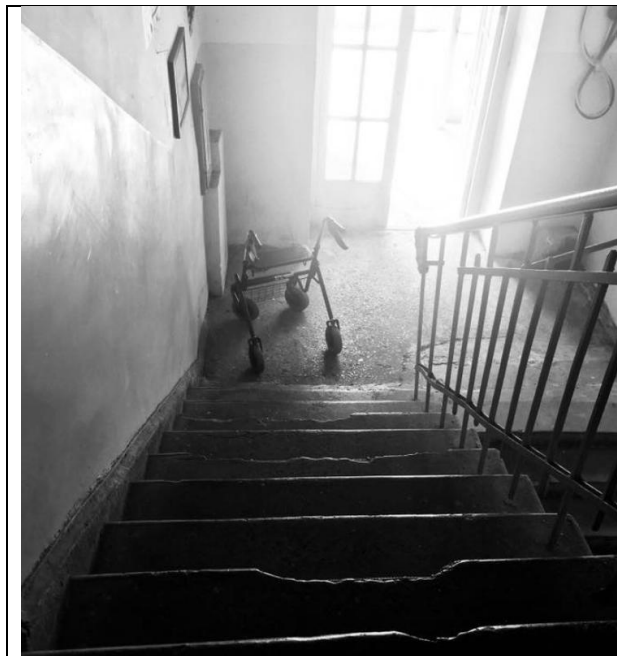


## EREO Timeline

In 2018, we embarked on a project to fund a permanent home for Equal Rights Equal Opportunity (EREO) in Vanadzor, Armenia. This is one of the most visibly successful projects primarily because of the leadership's commitment to good governance. A remarkable Return On Investment for an initial investment of \$38,000 USD. Our visit in May 2025 with Anush Aslanyan the president was to review their progress. They have since expended their scope and reach to include individuals with hearing and visual impairment in addition to mobility, and motor impairment serving the third largest municipality in Armenia. I am sharing this timeline to show the impact of a small investment can have. Every seed you plant holds potential. Some sprout into trees that overflow with fruit, while others quietly enrich the soil for future growth.

**August 2018 Appeal by Tim Straight** - Tim Straight makes an appeal on Facebook: "Late last night I was told by an organization working with the disabled in Vanadzor that the apartment they work out of has been sold, and they have to get out. They have been bounced around quite a bit in the past few years and need a place to call home. These folks are engaged and hard working. Would love to help them out! Hint: a small house in Vanadzor costs about \$15.000. If you have thoughts, preach!"

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1DksqnTQvb/>



*Hi Tim- I volunteered at EREO last summer providing free speech therapy and English lessons. I took this picture in the hallway as I was leaving one day. This walker belongs to Taron who has Cerebral Palsy. Every day he has to leave his walker at the bottom of the steps and climbs up the steps using the railing and whatever energy he can gather. Your fund-raising efforts have a greater impact than you could ever imagine - Maral Antonian (Demirjian)*

Shahe Momjian, acting on the appeal from Tim, starts a GoFundMe campaign directed to his high school classmates and family to raise \$15,000 to purchase property.

George Keushguerian – Founder of TwinPeaks Software, a high school classmate responds with a generous offer to purchase a property.

**November 2018 Property Purchase** - George travels to Armenia, purchases the property on Tumanyan 9a St for \$22,000 and leases it to them for 10 years at \$0 dollars.



*George in the center with founders Anush Aslanyan to his left and Anush Arakelyan to his right in front of the property*

**December 2018 EREO moves in** - Shahe Momjian travels to Armenia drives to Vanadzor with Tim Straight to deliver \$15,046 USD collected from the GoFundMe campaign. Anush puts \$10,000 USD in a 8.5% Term Deposit at AmeriaBank and allocates the rest for improvements.



*Tim Straight with Anush Aslanyan at AmeriaBank*

**June 2019 EREO Residency** -George travels to Vanadzor to establish EREO's legal status as residents of the property.

**August 2019 – March 2020 Renovations** - Renovation and Improvements totaling \$5,016 USD funded mostly by the GoFundMe contributions of classmates, friends, and Family and other local donors.

- Installation of carpet flooring to improve indoor heating.
- Installation of a security system.
- Partial construction of an accessibility ramp.
- Electrical system upgrade.

**December 2019 – January 2020 Renovation-** Renovation and Improvement funded by the Armenian Relief Foundation. Total budget 2,199,800 AMD (Approximately \$5,000) to modify accessibility of restrooms to make it more comfortable for wheelchair users. Installed a new toilet and a low sink.

- New refrigerator, kitchen sink, and a cupboard.
- Installed a heating system, replaced windows and added protective bars, installed blinds.
- Replaced two main office doors with metal ones.

**July 2021- November 2021 Renovation** - Renovation and improvement funded by Green Line NGO: Total budget: AMD 1,880,000 (Approximately \$4,000 USD)

- Renovation of the meeting room: painting of the walls and installation of laminate flooring.
- Landscaping of the organization's garden: paving, installation of benches and lighting.



**July 2022 – September 2022 USAID Help-** In 2022 EREO draws the attention of USAID which commits funding improvements to bring the facility to internationally accepted standards of accessibility by Renovating and extending the open balcony, installing a non-skid ramp. Total budget: AMD 3,057,932 (Approximately \$7,386.31 USD)

**May 2025 USAID Donation** - USAID terminates its operation in Armenia and disposes its assets. Consequently, EREO receives a 2014 Mitsubishi Outlander.

**Today** – Bank balance on the \$10,000 USD term deposit \$21,300 USD (8,190,870.50 AMD) plus vehicle valued at \$14,000 USD which EREO intends to sell. Approximate Total cash balance after sale of vehicle: \$35,000.



*USAID Armenia Mission Director John Allelo with EREO president Anush Aslanyan to his right and Anush Arakelyan to his left accompanied by Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Narek Mkrtchyan in front of EREO Facility.*

*-Shahe Momjian July 4, 2025*