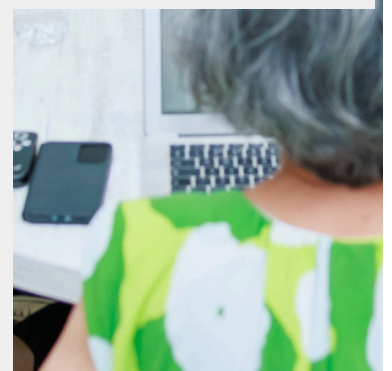
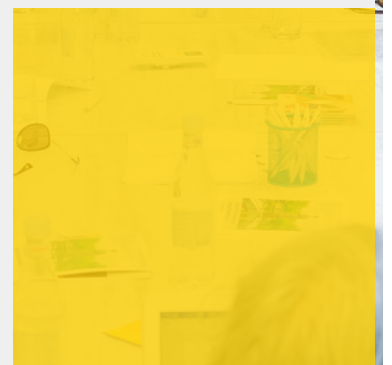
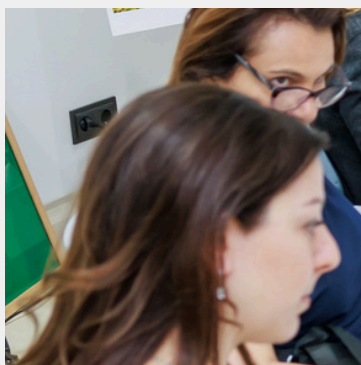


AIWA International

Annual Report

Year 2024

Key achievements, progress toward strategic goals, and impactful initiatives that are driving positive change and creating lasting value for communities and stakeholders.



President's Message

The Armenian International Women's Association (AIWA) was founded over 34 years ago by a passionate group of women who believed in the transformative power of women-led change. Governed by women, driven by women, and dedicated to addressing the unique needs and interests of women in our community and beyond, our mission has always been rooted in empowering women to create lasting impact.

Today, that mission remains as vital as ever. The social realities we face bring new challenges that demand our unwavering attention and action. Conditions faced by women and their families in Armenia, Lebanon and the world—exacerbated by conflict, displacement, and economic hardship—have only strengthened our resolve. In response, we've built collaborations with NGOs to better serve community needs, launching initiatives like EmpowerPath with HubArtsakh to equip women with the skills and opportunities needed to rebuild their lives and support their families through employment and empowerment.

Our work extends beyond programs; it lives in the resilience of women who have survived domestic violence through the Women's Support Center, in those who have built new futures through our scholarships, our skills development initiatives, and in the artistic talents nurtured through the Laurel Karabian Fund. We advocate for justice, peace, and leadership at international conferences and at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. Our support also helps women-led startups and scholars thrive.

As we approach our 35th anniversary next year, we recognize the challenges ahead are significant. Yet, we remain confident that with your continued partnership, we will fund programs that protect girls from violence, ensure access to education and healthcare, and expand digital and economic opportunities for all women and girls, regardless of their birthplace.

Thank you for your trust, support, and generosity for they are the foundation of our efforts that fuel hope and drive our commitment.

Silva Katchiguan

President,
Armenian International Women's Association (AIWA)



IMPACT 2024

In 2024, AIWA continued to make meaningful strides in empowering women and girls across Armenia and the diaspora. We launched and successfully completed the first cohort of our **Empower Path** initiative, reaching over 60 women with skills training, tools, and job placement support and laid the foundation to expand the program to Lebanon.

In May, we gathered in Yerevan for our 9th International Conference - Local to Global: Uniting for Change Mission Armenia, connecting with visionaries and changemakers to spark new ideas and collaborations.

Through our Scholarship Program, we continued to invest in the next generation of leaders, providing scholarships to over 50 recipients.

We proudly honored young Armenian-American talent through the Laurel Karabian Fund for the Arts, awarding Emily Simonian for *When Two of Us Meet, An Armenian-American Musical in Concert*.

Our webinar with Aline Kamakian—chef, entrepreneur, and World Central Kitchen partner—offered a powerful glimpse into the harsh realities of war-torn Lebanon, while highlighting the profound impact one person’s leadership can have in transforming lives.

Our commitment to the Women’s Support Center (WSC) remains strong, as we continue to raise awareness, mobilize support, and work towards a world free from violence and fear. Together, we are empowering survivors and creating pathways to safety and dignity.

We strengthened our global voice with participation at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW 68) in March by hosting a panel on inclusive financing featuring prominent Armenian female leaders in their fields.

In April 2024, AIWA joined the Center for Truth and Justice (CFTJ) on a mission to the International Criminal Court in The Hague, advocating for accountability for gender-based war crimes committed against Armenian women during the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Meanwhile, AIWA affiliates have been actively engaging with their local communities, raising awareness about our mission, and contributing meaningfully to Central’s initiatives.

Together, we are driving lasting change — locally and globally.



LOCAL TO GLOBAL UNITING FOR CHANGE

In May 2024, AIWA hosted its 9th global conference, Local to Global: Uniting for Change, bringing together members and partners for an inspiring week in Yerevan during our **Mission Armenia**. The program featured influential speakers, dynamic panel discussions, candid conversations with visionaries and changemakers, and meaningful networking opportunities. We are deeply grateful to everyone who joined us and contributed to an unforgettable week of connection, learning, and collaboration.

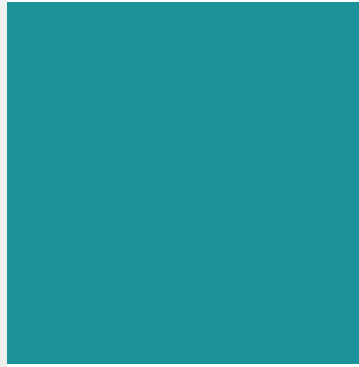


Special Thanks

AIWA's 9th International Conference Donors

Benefactor	Zarig Youredjian
Legacy	Margaret Mgrublian
Leader	Diane Cabraloff Sonya Doumanian Cynthia Norian Alice Petrossian Arsine Phillips
Advocate	Houry Aposhian Laura Dirdadian Nancy Kolligian Lori Muncherian Overseas Investments LLC Suzie Phillips Cynthia Tusan
Supporter	Maral N. Adalian Elizabeth Agbabian Ani Aivazian Elizabeth Akian Sonia & Zaven Akian Zela Astarjian Annie Balikian Nora Balikian Milka Bedikian Alfred Eisaian Farzam Gorouhi Hermine Janoyan Jean Kelegian Cecile Keshishian Suzanna Khatchatrian Haykanush Lputyan Armen Martirosyan Nicole Nishanian RSMInternational LLC Alla Sargsyan Christine Soussa Silvana Vartanian Ilean Yaghlegian Rogers Ohannes Megerdichian
Donor	Renita Esayian Sonia Iskandarian Mary Melikian Haynes Sandra Kalemkiarian





Empower Path

Unlocking Potential, Transforming Lives.

Launched in late 2023, AIWA's Empower Path initiative has already completed its first cohort, reaching over 60 women across Yerevan, Vartenis, and Ararad. In partnership with HubArtsakh and the Armenia Round Table Foundation, participants received hands-on training, tools, internships, and job placement support in fields such as beauty, hospitality, sewing, and social media marketing. The program also incorporated trauma relief, digital literacy, and soft skills to support long-term success.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, Empower Path will now expand to Lebanon with the Jinishian Memorial Association and launch a second cohort with HubArtsakh.



60+

Participants

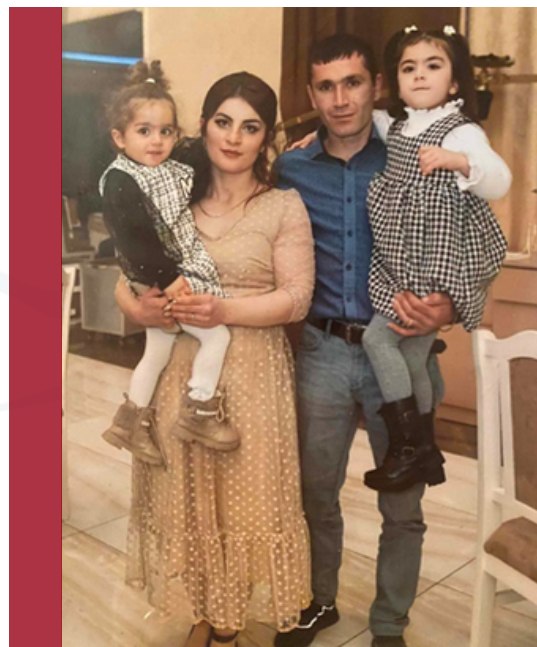
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Industries



SHAHANE ABRAHAMYAN*Empower Path x ART Beneficiary*

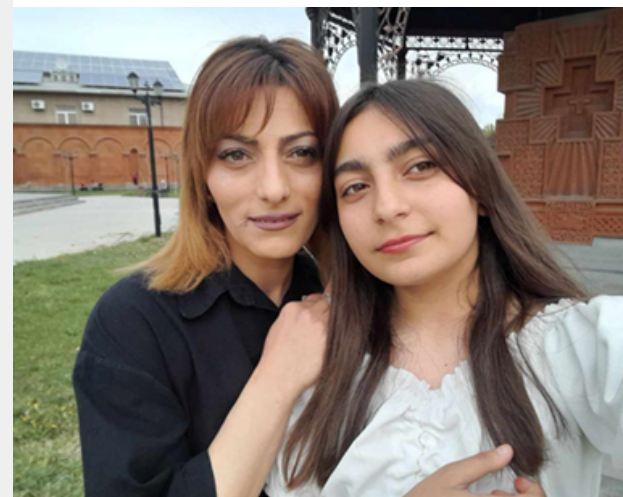
Shahane joined AIWA's Empower Path project through Armenia Round Table Foundation (ART) but lacked the necessary tools. Thanks to the provided make-up tools, she will be able to save up and purchase hairdressing equipment in the future, thereby helping her family achieve their dream of opening a hair salon together with her husband.



The program is a great opportunity to get the profession of my dreams and fulfill my biggest goal that I am striving for - opening a beauty salon.

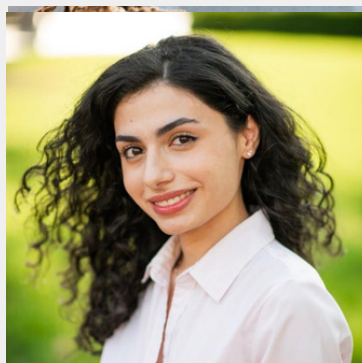
MELINE MALKHASYAN*Empower Path x HubArtsakh Slatsk Beneficiary***ASTGHIK GHUKASYAN***Empower Path x ART Beneficiary*

Astghik completed the social media program as part of AIWA's Empower Path x ART cohort which significantly enhanced her social media skills, giving her practical experience and confidence. Eager to find a job and support her family, she is determined to use her newfound expertise to secure stable employment.



Scholarships 2024

- 50+** Recipients
- \$80K+** Distributed
- 15** Global Institutions
- \$880K+** Lifetime Impact



Thanking Our Scholarship Donors

Thanks to our donors, students have access to more knowledge, skills and resources.

AIWA's scholarship program was initiated with the Agnes K. Missirian Scholarship, established in 1997 in memory of the professor of management at Bentley University who was an early AIWA member and a strong advocate for women's rights.

LUCY KASPARIAN AHARONIAN SCHOLARSHIP

NISHAN AND MARGRIT ATINIZIAN SCHOLARSHIP

ETHEL JAFARIAN DUFFETT ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

ARPINE KHARAJIAN SCHOLARSHIP

EVA AND JACK MEDZORIAN SCHOLARSHIP

ALICE KANLIAN MIRAK SCHOLARSHIP

AGNES MISSIRIAN ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

DR. CAROLANN S. NAJARIAN SCHOLARSHIP

HRIPSIME PARSEKIAN SCHOLARSHIP

MARY V. TOUMAYAN SCHOLARSHIP

ROSE "AZAD" HOVANNESIAN ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

HASMIK MGRDICHIAN SCHOLARSHIP

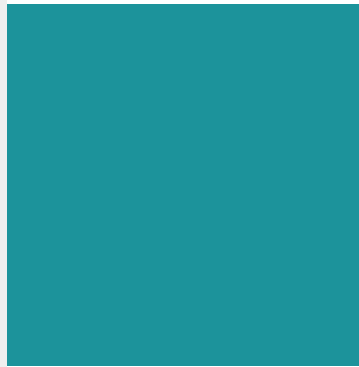
NINA AND RAFFI FESTEKJIAN SCHOLARSHIP

OLGA PROUDIAN SCHOLARSHIP IN DIPLOMACY

SUZANNA KHATCHATRIAN SCHOLARSHIP

AIWA LOS ANGELES AFFILIATE

AIWA NEW ENGLAND AFFILIATE



Grants

The Laurel Karabian Fund for the Arts was established in 2017 by the Los Angeles affiliate of the Armenian International Women’s Association to honor the memory of Laurel Karabian, the first president of AIWA’s Los Angeles Chapter and a staunch supporter of the arts. It is earmarked to support cutting-edge, high-quality young and emerging female talents that reflect the creative aspirations of the Armenian-American community.



2024 Laurel Karabian Fund For the Arts Recipient is:

**Emily Simonian
for When Two of Us Meet**

**An Armenian-American Musical
in Concert.**



Women's Support Center

Since the founding of the Women's Support Center in Yerevan, AIWA has been a primary sponsor of this full-service domestic violence center that also engages in advocacy work to create systemic change for victims of Domestic Violence. Funds for WSC are raised through AIWA affiliate organized events that bring awareness to myths and taboos regarding domestic violence and more broadly, the role of women in society.

5K

Raised in 2024

\$278K +

Total Raised since 2010

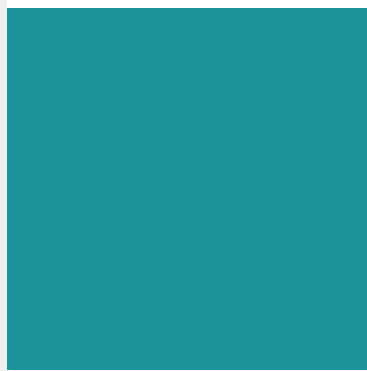


AIWA @UNCSW 68

As a member of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) NY, AIWA hosts a parallel panel every year in March at the CSW annual sessions contributing to the efforts that support peace and equality around the world.

An engaging panel discussion titled “Enhancing Women’s Empowerment Through Inclusive Financing and Stronger Institutions” took place on March 18th, 2024, as part of the 68th session of the NGO Commission on the Status of Women NY. Esteemed speakers provided invaluable insights during the discussion.





Affiliates

In 2024, we proudly inaugurated AIWA Yerevan, joining our sister affiliates — AIWA Chicago, AIWA Los Angeles, AIWA New England, AIWA Greater New York and AIWA San Francisco — in expanding AIWA’s global community and deepening our ties to Armenia.

AIWA affiliates hosted a wide range of community engagement events throughout the year—from educational webinars, career and networking, fitness gatherings to fundraisers and co-sponsored programs with partner organizations—each contributing to our shared mission of connection, learning, and impact.

6

Affiliates

19

Events

Local Impact, Global Mission

Moments That Brought Us Together —
and Made a Difference.

20
24

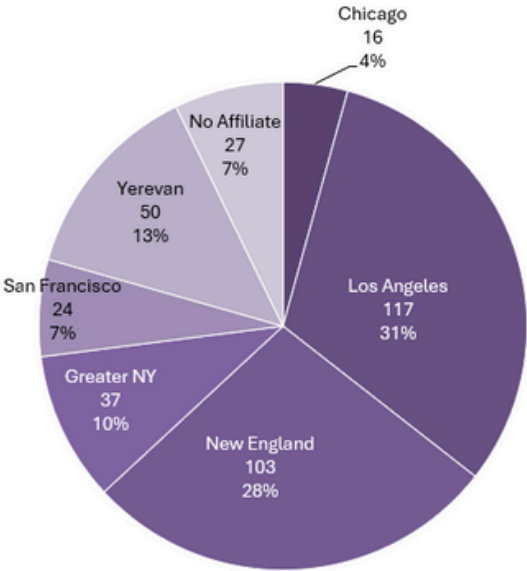


Membership Overview

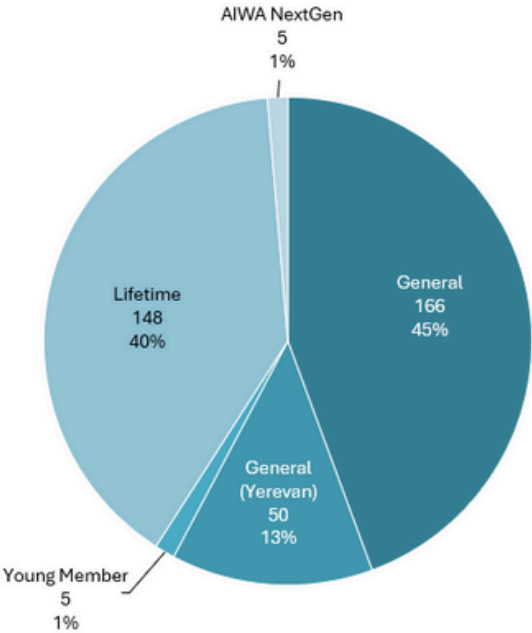
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Active Members

AFFILIATES



MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

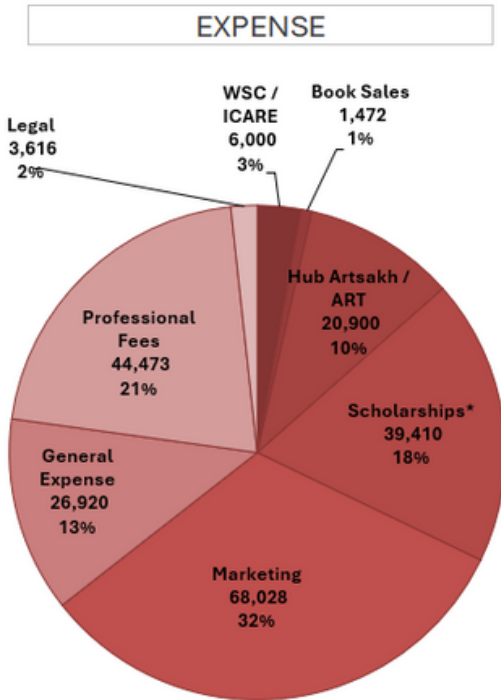
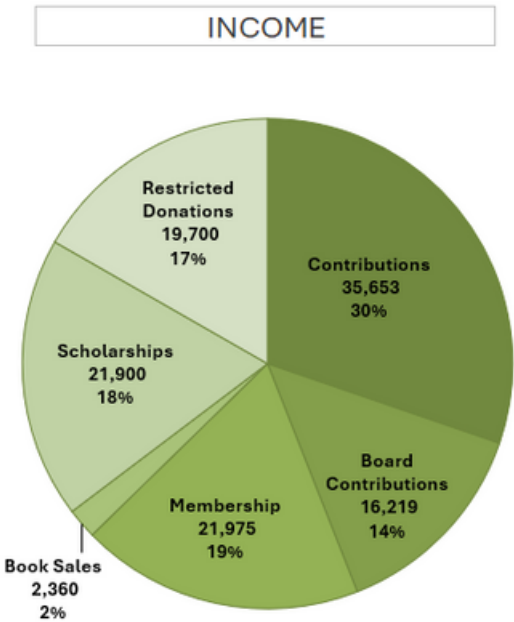


Thanking Our Donors (2024)

Benefactor \$20001-\$25000	Zarig Youredjian		
Visionary \$10001-\$20000	Nina Festekjian John Mirak Foundation		
Legacy \$5001-\$10000	Sylva Simonian		
Leader \$2501-\$5000	Ani Kharajian Carolann Najarian, M.D. Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU)		
Advocate \$1001-\$2500	Nicole Babikian Hajjar Sharyn Boornazian Diane Cabraloff Jirair & Aline Christianian Taline Festekjian	Arsine Phillips Sonia Konialian Aller Overseas Investments LLC Alice Petrossian	
Supporter \$501-\$1000	Christine Aharonian Roset Atinizian Armine Manukyan Humphrey James & Janet Balakian Hermine Janoyan	Silva Katchiguian Eliza Keverian Arman Mansourian Teni Melidonian Gayane Karen Merguerian	Margaret Mgrublian Cynthia Norian Anna Ohanyan Larry Peters Judith Saryan
Associate \$251-\$500	Aida Sethian Ani Aivazian Vicki Alani Elizabeth Akian Emma Arakelyan Armenian Bar Association Annie Balikian	Carmen Barmakian Nancy Barsamian Rita Bejakian Aida Bejakian Tamar Chamassian Lena Derkevorkian Sonya Doumanian	Taline Ferra Balikian Diana Hekimian Zepour Kouyoumjian Anouch Matevossian Barbara Tellalian Christine Soussa
Friend \$200-\$250	Lisa Aboyan Houry Aposhian Charlene Asdourian Nora Bezdikian Melanie Bilazarian Naira Chaloyan Françoise & Edward Djerejian Vivian Ekchian Ruth Falletti Takuhi Fidanian	Elizabeth Ganjian Tamar Karkazian Jean Kelegian Suzanna Khatchatrian Annie Kousharian Barbara Merguerian Mariam Manoukian Gohar Markosyan Nicole Nishanian Hripsime Parsekian	Paige Pieroni Joan Quinn Lana Rifkin Sedrak Sargisian Ellen Sarkisian Arshalouys Sarkissian Gayane Tatouljian Nadia Ucuzian Silvana Vartanian Ilean Yaghlegian Rogers
Donor \$1-\$199	Gayane Aghabalyan Chris Anderson Silva Antreassian Laurie Atwater Taline Avakian Christine Aznavoorian Tatoul Badalian Rachel Becerra Sossi Boladian Cristina Cira Tania Gulekjian Mobayed Candice Hamparsumian	Lucy Yeghiayan Delefevre Isgouhi Kaloshian Astrig Kamal Jim Kent Marilyn Kezirian Carla Khachadoorian Cathleen Koch Linda Lepordo Alice Madanyan John Matthews Anna Medzorian	Lucy Menetian Catherine Minassian Rachel Nersesian Craig Norberg-Bohm Ani Rostomyan Delilah Shahbazian Dyan Sierra Alice Skenderian Joanne Tashjian Taline Tokatlian Lusine Yeghiazaryan

Financials

2024



**Scholarships includes ~\$20k paid from endowed funds received prior to 2024*

Looking Ahead

As we chart our path forward, AIWA remains deeply committed to maximizing our impact. Toward the end of 2024, we took meaningful steps to reduce expenses, streamline our operations, and strengthen internal processes. These improvements reflect our commitment to responsible stewardship and position us to serve more women and expand our reach with greater efficiency. By doing more with less, we are ensuring that every dollar goes further—supporting the programs and initiatives that empower Armenian women around the world.

Looking ahead to 2025, our affiliates will continue to engage the community through a diverse range of robust events, while we maintain our presence on the global stage through our annual participation in the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) parallel panel.

We remain committed to expanding our scholarship programs, with the goal of raising additional funds to support even more students in pursuing their educational dreams.

Building on the success of our inaugural year, we are growing our Empower Path initiatives through a new partnership with the Jinishian Memorial Foundation, based in Beirut, Lebanon, and by launching a new cohort in collaboration with Hub Artsakh and the American University of Armenia (AUA).

We are also proud to highlight AIWA San Francisco's upcoming gala, celebrating the enduring legacy of Diana and Lucille Apcar and honoring Lucille Apcar's generous gift to AIWA in support of women-led initiatives.





Thank You

To our dedicated team, partners, affiliates, and supporters—your unwavering commitment to AIWA's mission has been instrumental in helping us uplift women and girls around the world. Your contributions and collaboration have made a lasting impact, and we look forward to continuing this journey together.

Want to be part of the effort? [Become a Member](#)

Already a member? [Donate to empower more women and girls](#)