

Press release

17.10.2018

1900 km - 1 brave woman - 100 rural children

YEREVAN - Chess Master Arianne Caoili finishes the 1900 km bike ride and reaches Armenia. On October 17, he invited a press conference in Article 3 club.

“I wholeheartedly thank all the donors all over the world who have donated over \$6000 to COAF. We still have time to raise another \$4000 until October 14 and reach our goal of \$10,000,” mentioned **Arianne Caoili**.

Thanks to the bike ride, Arianne is raising money for the beneficiary borderline villages of the Children of Armenia Fund in the Tavush region. The \$10,000 to be raised will be used for the establishment of sports clubs, the purchase of equipment, and the work of teachers in the villages of Aygehovit, Berdavan, Ptghava, and Zorakan.

About 100 children from the communities mentioned above, will be included in the one-year boys' soccer, volleyball, and tennis clubs. In addition to training, children will have the opportunity to watch games in Armenia, host, or meet famous athletes of their sport.

Caoili, the wife of Armenian Chess Grandmaster Levon Aronian, had started her journey from the medieval Armenian port city of Ayas in Cilicia on September 21 and finished the trek in the town of Agarak located on the Armenian-Iranian border.

Children of Armenia Fund (COAF) is an organization dear to Arianne's heart since it is committed to improving the lives of children throughout rural Armenia by giving them opportunities for advancement.

Converse Bank has sponsored certain expenses related to the fundraising campaign. You can support Arianne Caoili's biking tour for COAF by visiting [her GoFundMe page](#).

The short movie about Arianne's journey [here](#).

*The Filipino-Australian chess player was awarded the title of Woman International Master (WIM) by FIDE. **Arianne Caoili** moved to Armenia in 2013 and has been engaged in various entrepreneurial and philanthropic initiatives. She is also the owner and editor-in-chief of Champord weekly newspaper. She serves as chairman of the board for the Champord Fund, an organization invested in the development of civil society and the training of young Armenian journalists.*

She loves Latino dances, sings, and writes songs. Loves Armenian cuisine, especially khorovats, as well as its village food one cannot find in a city. She is interested in the history of



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Armenia and has read many books about Armenia. Her Master's Degree refers to the business relations of Armenia and Russia. Arianne possesses a basic knowledge of Armenian.

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The Children of Armenia Fund (COAF) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that employs community-led approaches aimed at improving the quality of life in rural Armenia, with a particular focus on children and youth. COAF's target development areas are education, healthcare, social and economic development. COAF launched its programs in 2004, starting in one village and expanding to 44 villages in Armavir, Aragatsotn, Lori, Gegharkunik, Shirak, and Tavush regions, impacting over 75,000 people.

Since 2015 COAF has developed and started implementing a new vision – SMART Initiative. SMART is designed to advance a generation across the rural world through education that will benefit individuals, societies, and the environment. SMART will become an exemplary model of development and will be replicated in other regions and communities throughout Armenia. The first COAF SMART Center was opened on May 27, 2018, at the village of Debet, Lori region.

Converse Bank CJSC is a 25-year-old dynamically growing bank, which offers various services for individual and legal entities. The stable development of the Bank is due to transparent operation and reasonable policies of financial management.

The Bank's dynamic growth is provided by its highly-qualified, professional staff, thanks to which the Bank is able to quickly respond to changes happening in the market. At the same time, it continually offers new, convenient, and interesting bank services to the clients.