



Press Release  
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## **COAF's 21st Annual Gala Raises Over \$7M to Transform Lives in Rural Armenia**

Star-Studded Evening Features Joe Manganiello, Andrea Martin, Gloria Gaynor, Eric Bogosian, along with Karren Karagulian and Vache Tovmasyan of the Golden Globe-Nominated Film *Anora*

### **NEW YORK CITY—December 16, 2024**

The Children of Armenia Fund (COAF) hosted its 21st Annual Holiday Gala on December 14 at Cipriani's in New York City, uniting over 450 supporters for an elegant evening dedicated to transforming lives in rural Armenia. The event raised more than \$7 million to fund education, healthcare, and community development programs for children and families in underserved regions of the country.

This year's proceeds will sustain COAF's programs through 2025 and support the construction of a new COAF SMART Center in the Armavir region. Modeled after the flagship SMART Center in Lori, the new facility will offer innovative educational programs to rural youth. Plans are also underway for two additional centers in the Syunik region. A key priority for 2025 will be integrating artificial intelligence into COAF's curriculum, preparing students with the skills needed to thrive in a technology-driven world.

The evening showcased a distinguished lineup of guests and honorees. COAF Board Member and acclaimed actor Joe Manganiello, honored at last year's Gala, reflected on his life-changing pilgrimage to Armenia last Spring. *Succession* actor Eric Bogosian presented the 2024 Cultural Advocacy Award to Karren Karagulian and Vache Tovmasyan, stars of the Golden Globe-nominated film *Anora*. Highlights also included a special appearance by actress Andrea Martin and a show-stopping headline performance by music icon Gloria Gaynor.

This year's *Save a Generation Award* honored longtime COAF Board members Shaké and Vahé Nahapetian for their enduring contributions. The evening also featured Maksim Yervandyan, an 18-year-old Harvard undergraduate and COAF beneficiary, who shared, "Tonight, I am living proof that your support transforms lives. Thank you for believing in us, and for your faith in what the future holds for my generation back home."



The evening was hosted by COAF VP of Development Haig Boyadjian and Araksya Karapetyan, anchor of KTTV FOX11's Good Day LA. The event culminated in a live auction led by celebrity auctioneer Gabriel Butu, inspiring generous contributions from the crowd.

COAF Founder Garo Armen remarked, “For over two decades, our community’s unwavering commitment has driven remarkable impact, and this year’s gala reflects that dedication.”

Following the event, COAF’s Executive Director Liana Ghaltaghchyan added: “Our goal is to expand access to the opportunities in life that every child deserves. The generosity of our supporters brings us closer to making that vision a reality.”

For those unable to attend, there’s still time to make a difference. Visit [www.coaf.org](http://www.coaf.org) to learn more about COAF’s transformative work and how you can contribute to shaping Armenia’s future.

### **About COAF**

*The Children of Armenia Fund (COAF) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to transforming the lives of children in rural Armenia through a holistic approach to education, healthcare, social work, and economic development. COAF enhances access to essential services through state-of-the art programs, dedicated to nurturing learning, well-being, and creative discovery. COAF helps young Armenians expand their universe so that they can shape a brighter future.*

### **For media inquiries please contact:**

#### **Mark Gargarian**

*Director of Marketing and Communications  
[mark.gargarian@coaf.org](mailto:mark.gargarian@coaf.org)*