



Social Responsibility

I TOOK THIS PICTURE in 2003 while visiting Armenia as part of a USAID-sponsored team conducting a study of emerging community-based social services in that country. As part of the study, we visited orphanages, homes for the elderly, and this school for children with special needs. The concept of children with special needs receiving formal schooling was new to Armenia, as schools and programs to accommodate them were just coming into existence.

Social work and social services were non-existent in Armenia until foreign social workers came into the country following the terrible earthquake there in 1988. Through partnerships with several U.S. universities, schools of social work were subsequently established at Armenian universities and thousands of social workers were trained to provide services to populations at risk. The school that this boy was attending was founded by an American woman who

recognized the need, provided the funding, and formed a partnership with an Armenian couple to operate the school. This was just one of the many examples I saw of Armenia's commitment to improve the lives of its citizens and the international cooperation that was making that possible.

KRIS AULENBACH

NAFSA: Association of International Educators consultant
Washington, D.C.

YOU'RE INVITED! We invite you to submit your photos along with a brief (approximately 200 words) description of why these images are important in your understanding of a person, place, idea, or incident from your experiences in international education. The photos could be of a simple moment on your home campus involving international students, a major event in an exotic location, or anything in between. The editors of *International Educator* will run selections on this page throughout the year. Please contact us for submission details at magazine@nafsa.org.