



K. George and Dr. Carolann S. Najarian

Highly regarded philanthropic leaders, K. George Najarian, a native of Cambridge and Carolann S. Najarian, M.D., originally of New York City, have been actively involved in Boston's Armenian- American community for many years. In 1989, in response to the earthquake that devastated Armenia, they helped to establish the Armenian Health Alliance, Inc., a Boston based non-profit organization to provide direct medical relief to the victims of the earthquake and more recently, the war ravaged areas of Nagorno-Karabagh. At that time, Dr. Najarian left active medical practice to volunteer full-time as president of the Armenian Health Alliance. The Najarians also provided major support in 1999 to establish the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry Trust, a non-profit organization based in Armenia. In 1989, Dr. Najarian was named "one of Boston's most interesting women" in Boston Women magazine.

Since 1987, the Najarians have made over fifty trips to the Republic of Armenia and to Nagorno-Karabagh, traveling extensively throughout both countries. The purpose of these trips was to assess the medical needs and deliver essential assistance to hospitals in major cities and villages in rural areas. In 1994, Dr. Najarian founded the Primary Care Center of Gyumri, the city most devastated by the earthquake of 1988, to provide free care and medicine. In 1995, she founded the Arpen Center for Expectant Mothers, in the capital city of Stepanakert, to provide monthly assistance of food, vitamins, clothing, and other basic necessities. Dr. Najarian documented her experiences in *A Call from Home: Armenia and Karabagh, My Journal* (1999), which brings together her experience growing up as the daughter of Armenian immigrants and that of a medical relief worker in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh.

The Najarian's more local philanthropic activities include establishing scholarships for students at Boston University School of Medicine, Queens College, and Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School as well as support of non-profits including the Food Project, Facing History and Ourselves, and The Salvation Army in Cambridge.