

# PORTRAITS OF **PROMISE**



# Unlocking Artyom's Future

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*Staff Writer*

At Orphan's Promise we believe, whenever possible, the best-case scenario is for vulnerable kids to stay with their families. That means, we focus on bringing holistic support to little ones in need. Not only do we help individual boys and girls, but we also give parents the resources and tools they need to provide a safe, stable environment for their children.

What does that look like? Come with us to a small community in Armenia to hear Artyom and his family's story.

**These are the stories.**  
**These are the souls.**  
**These are the portraits of the**  
**lives we're changing.**









Artyom is 13 years old and lives in a small village in Armenia, a mountainous country situated between Asia and Europe. Many families in Armenia struggle to make ends meet and keep food on the table. Twenty-seven percent of the population lives below the poverty line.<sup>1</sup> The pandemic caused severe disruptions to the job opportunities, and unrest with Azerbaijan compounded the short- and long-term consequences on poverty and inequality, making it even more difficult for underprivileged families.<sup>2</sup>

Artyom grew up in a stable home with his parents and two older brothers. But tragically, in 2011, his dad died in a car accident, leaving his mother as the sole provider of the family. They moved in with their grandmother and several other relatives.

Artyom's mom worked hard to provide the basic necessities for her children. She was determined to keep her hope alive and find a way to raise her kids, even after losing her husband. She found a job as a seasonal laborer and worked in the fields until harvest time. Then, when the winters came, she worked in greenhouses. The winter months are very cold in Armenia, with temperatures hovering between 20 to 35 degrees most of the time. It was hard for her to find enough work to take care of her boys. But when Orphan's Promise heard she was struggling to keep the heat on at home, our Warm Winter project was able to help. The Warm Winter project supports Artyom's family, and other vulnerable families like them, by providing heat during the freezing winters.

"My children have grown up with you, thanks to your help. You have always been by our side to help us. When the winter began, and there was nothing to heat the house with, we started burning old wooden windows. It was during this period that you started helping us heat the house. The Lord answered our need through you!" said Artyom's mother.

***Twenty-seven percent of the population lives below the poverty line.***

1. [www.adb.org/countries/armenia/poverty](http://www.adb.org/countries/armenia/poverty)

2. [https://databankfiles.worldbank.org/data/download/poverty/987B9C90-CB9F-4D93-AE8C-750588BF00QA/SM2021/Global\\_POVEQ\\_ARM.pdf?cid=ECA\\_FB\\_Armenia\\_EN\\_EXT#:~:text=Applying%20this%20new%20poverty%20line,of%20the%20population%20in%202019](https://databankfiles.worldbank.org/data/download/poverty/987B9C90-CB9F-4D93-AE8C-750588BF00QA/SM2021/Global_POVEQ_ARM.pdf?cid=ECA_FB_Armenia_EN_EXT#:~:text=Applying%20this%20new%20poverty%20line,of%20the%20population%20in%202019)



Since 2015, Artyom and his brothers have been attending summer camps with Orphan's Promise. They've also been coming to our training center for classes with other kids from their community. Education plays a critical role in helping kids like Artyom unlock their future and reach their full potential. Early education is particularly important. UNICEF reports that children in pre-primary education are more than twice as likely to be on track in early literacy and numeracy skills than children missing out on early learning.<sup>3</sup> Being able to provide summer camps and classes for Artyom and his brothers over the past years has been essential for their development. Over the last two years, the Orphan's Promise School Backpack project has also provided Artyom and his brothers with school supplies, shoes, and backpacks so they could attend classes and invest in their education.

After losing his father, Artyom needed a safe, stable environment to learn and grow. At the training center, he is able to learn consistently, build friendships, and be mentored by his teachers. The impact of this kind of stability for a vulnerable child is far-reaching outside the classroom.

3. [unicef.org/armenia/en/press-releases/171000-children-armenia-are-not-enrolled-pre-primary-education-unicef#:~:text=NEW%20YORK%2C%209%20April%202019,a%20new%20report%20released%20today](https://www.unicef.org/armenia/en/press-releases/171000-children-armenia-are-not-enrolled-pre-primary-education-unicef#:~:text=NEW%20YORK%2C%209%20April%202019,a%20new%20report%20released%20today).

# NO, YOU'RE NOT SEEING DOUBLE!

Unfortunately, there was a mix-up at the printer back in July, and we sent Artyom's photos with a story about a little boy named Chiva in Cambodia.

Artyom's story was too good to waste, and the pictures you missed of Chiva are incredible. So, we're here to say: Read Artyom's story in this edition.

**Then, scan the QR code and check out the digital version of the July edition with the correct photos of Chiva!**





**His mom shared, “The training center has had a very positive impact on Artyom’s life. Before visiting the center, my son was careless and absent-minded. And now, he’s changed! Artyom is serious, organized and self-confident. Now, due to social and material circumstances, I could not provide my children with the opportunity to attend lessons in Yerevan or even bring them there. So, this is really a huge help for me and my son! Thanks to his English lessons, he started to study successfully in school, and his grades have improved. Computer literacy lessons were very useful for his studies. At school, Artyom helps his friends.”**

The tragic loss of his dad left Artyom angry at God and struggling with feelings of shame around being fatherless. At the training center, he found the support he needed to work through his experience and find peace in the midst of loss and difficulty. Now, his teachers say he is cheerful, hardworking, and has a good sense of humor. Artyom also loves to paint and dreams of being a builder one day.







“I really love to visit the training center. I made new friends, the lessons here are very interesting, and I am learning a lot of useful things. During my stay at the center, I have changed a lot. My relationship with my brothers is much better. I used to quarrel with everyone, but now I value relationships. I also used to blame God for taking my father, but then I realized that God knows what is best for us. I knew that I must apologize to Jesus for blaming Him. The lessons at the training center helped me to no longer be ashamed that I don't have a father,” Artyom shared.

Coming alongside an at-risk family like Artyom's is more than just a one-time offer to help. It means providing opportunities that make a long-term difference, like education. It also means offering short-term solutions, like heat in the winter so families can stay warm. It's about helping kids work through difficult emotions—and providing them a safe, stable place to learn how to use a computer and build healthy friendships.





Artyom shared: "I thank God for my teachers and for everyone who participates in the center. I thank the people who take us to lessons for free. And most importantly, I thank God for giving me many good friends. I'm happy!"

**Artyom's mom is overwhelmed with gratitude. She said, "I am very grateful for the training center. Your center gave Artyom knowledge and love for God. I am also grateful to the people who support the training center. Thanks to you, the center is working. God bless you!"**

Your faithful support brings hope to kids like Artyom every day. It is our privilege to partner with you in empowering vulnerable families like his with the keys to unlocking a brighter future.





give us a call: 1-800-818-4016

**orphanspromise.org**

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education



nutrition



discipleship



community transformation



strong families



anti-trafficking

