

BUILDING TOGETHER

ddf
DILIJAN
DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION



A New Church and Dilijan's Spiritual Renaissance



REFLECTING ON FREEDOM AND RESILIENCE

As we reflect on significant dates like the International Day of Peace and the Independence Day of Armenia on September 21, we are reminded of the universal values of freedom, dignity, and peace. This year, another date, September 27, marks two years since the illegal arrest and detention of Ruben Vardanyan, by Azerbaijani authorities during the massive displacement of Armenians from Artsakh.

For over 30 years, Ruben has dedicated his life to creating in the name of strengthening communities. His work, including UWC Dilijan, the first international boarding school in Armenia, and Aurora Humanitarian Initiative honouring humanitarian heroes, Foundation for Science and Technology, Tatev Revival, Dilijan Development Programme and others, embodies the resilience of an independent Armenia.

The construction of the new church in Dilijan, an initiative he started, has a special meaning in this context. This space will stand as a symbol of faith, resilience, and enduring hope for peace. More than a place of worship, it is designed to be a sanctuary of unity, reflecting the principles Ruben has championed: bringing people together and creating a foundation for future generations.

"It gives Ruben strength that the construction of the church continues despite his imprisonment. On his behalf, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has supported him and our family during this difficult time".

*Veronika Zonabend
Ruben Vardanyan's wife*



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

"In Ruben's absence, we are determined to continue bringing the Dilijan church construction to fruition. Steady progress has been made possible thanks to the generosity of the friends and donors who have supported this important initiative."

*Arthur Amirkhanyan
Construction Project Manager*



We extend our deepest gratitude to all the supporters who have joined this project. This endeavor would not be possible without your generous contributions. Our founding benefactors are Ruben Vardanyan & Veronika Zonabend and Noubar & Anna Afeyan.

We are especially thankful to the over 1,000 donors from Dilijan, other parts of Armenia and the world – both individuals and organizations - who have contributed.

You can view the full list of donors and institutions on the project page.

PROJECT UPDATE



A picture of the Dilijan church
22 September 2025

Total Project Cost: \$6,550,000

- Capital construction: 80%
 - Design and technical supervision: 3%
 - Research and laboratory services: 3%
 - Administrative expenses: 5%
 - Landscape and furnishing: 4%
 - Contingency 5%
-

Project Status

- Projected Completion: 2028
- Construction Stage: 60% completed
- Total Cost: \$6,550,000
- Donations Collected: \$3,255,000
- Remaining Amount Needed: \$3,295,000

Founding Benefactors

- Ruben Vardanyan & Veronika Zonabend
- Noubar & Anna Afeyan

“Having restored and built churches across Armenia and abroad, I am grateful for the opportunity to lead the construction of the first church in Dilijan for almost a century. The vision of Ruben Vardanyan is taking shape thanks to our dedicated team.”

*Amiran Badishyan
Architect*



With a remaining amount of \$3,295,000 needed, we ask for your continued support to complete this vital project. Every donation, no matter the size, helps us build this symbol of hope and peace.



Our partner, **the "Noah's Children" Foundation**, invites you to contribute to the construction of the church by joining the campaign **on the www.mywayfund.com platform.**

"We are committed to matching every contribution to this significant project by fellow donors made through www.mywayfund.com. As a longtime supporter of the initiatives spearheaded by Ruben Vardanyan, we believe in their transformational power and want to enable the development of Armenia in any way we can."

The “Noah’s Children” Foundation was founded by a group of like-minded people with a shared mission: to support culture, science, and strengthen cooperation in developing countries—especially in Armenia and among Armenian youth worldwide. We are a California-registered non-profit organization, working mainly in Armenia and the United States.

 **JOIN CAMPAIGN**

You can also donate through the website of Dilijan Development Foundation which implements the construction project.

 **DONATE**
