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To Whom It May Concern:

This is in support of the proposal entitled *Community Development Transition School* presented by the *Center for the Development of Civil Society (CDCS)*. It is my great pleasure to participate in this project as I think that it will have a major positive impact in developing civil society in Armenia, empowering young women and men to take a significant role in shaping Armenian society for the good of all citizens.

As a Visiting Fellow in Armenia for nearly two years, I have had many opportunities to work and to become acquainted with many Armenian people, including many young people. For the most part, they are bright, well-educated, talented, and hard working and have great potential to advance and as the leaders of the future, together to create a flourishing Armenia. In particular, young women and men lack experience with the civil society that is the foundation for such development. More mature people also have much to contribute to Armenian society but as products of the Soviet system, they are in need of reeducation to help them understand and appreciate the difference they can make. With appropriate education, training, and development in the tools of civil society, helping them to take a productive and proper role in political and civic life, there is great hope for this society. Indeed, I have observed tremendous change following each new opportunity offered.

But to achieve major societal change requires a concentrated approach, not various disconnected activities that are insufficient to accomplish the desired results. The Community Development Transition School proposed is a comprehensive approach with linked activities of trainer-the-trainer workshops, networking, a resource center, publications, conferences and seminars, building one upon another to accomplish the sort of major change that is necessary if Armenian society is to advance. Furthermore, the CDCS has a strong track record of carrying out projects and achieving significant results.

This project is likely to be a major force for positive change in Armenia and I hope you will choose to be a part of such an important endeavor.

Yours truly,

**Barbara A. Coe, Ph.D.**

