

St. Sarkis Armenian Church ArmeniaFest Annual Report 2016

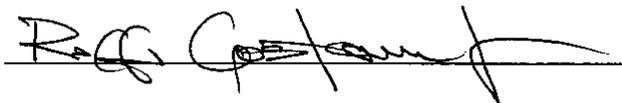
The 21st annual ArmeniaFest was held on the weekend of October 13, 14 and 15, 2016. ArmeniaFest is a cultural and food festival that takes place each year at our church site in Carrollton, Texas on the second weekend in October. We put together an entertaining program of folk dances, singing programs, children's games, Church tours, art and religious exhibits, delicious offerings of food and desserts, raffle, silent auction and other activities to celebrate our rich heritage and provide a healthy environment for a great family outing. More than 1500 people attend our festival each year and they include people from various backgrounds and ethnic groups.

The ArmeniaFest planning committee spent many months prior to the festival organizing the dance program (which was headed by Kristina Khesvadjian), the cultural hall exhibit (which focused on various aspects of Armenian culture), the fund raising and donation activities (which raised nearly \$50,000), the volunteer drive (which resulted in over 50 volunteers assisting in the kitchen, the Church hall, as well as the outdoor grounds), the food preparation (which included 25 volunteers involved in the meat cutting as well as grilling equipment set-up), the raffle and silent auction activities (which included numerous items generously donated from our friends and community), as well as a multitude of other activities which are required to organize a festival of this magnitude. All of this hard work paid off as we collected over \$120,000 in revenue.

We are currently beginning the planning for the 2017 ArmeniaFest. The dancers will soon begin practicing their new routines and the fund raising and donation committee will begin to raise funds for marketing and advertising activities as well as attracting sponsors that can contribute food and other items.

The Armenian community in the Dallas Fort-Worth area is looking forward to another exciting festival in 2017 and many years beyond.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raffi Gostanian', written over a horizontal line.

Raffi Gostanian

ArmeniaFest Chairman