

## PRESS RELEASE

Dr. Aram Cazazian From Bayside, Queens NY, Joined Forces With U.S. Marines Toys For Tots Literacy Campaign with MGE: Management Experts And Dozens Of Dental Colleagues To Combat The Scourge Of Illiteracy; Giving The Gift Of Reading To 110,000 Children.

### **Bayside Queens NY, November 21, 2016**

Dr. Aram Cazazian, local dentist from Bayside Queens NY, joined dozens of his dental colleagues from across America at a Gala event hosted by MGE: Management Experts in Florida honoring the U.S. Marine Corp and the Toys for Tots Literacy Campaign in a fight against illiteracy. The harm imposed on our children and future generations can no longer be tolerated. Millions of dollars are spent on education yet the U.S. ranks number 14 internationally. This is unacceptable and evokes a call-to-arms for effective participation by all.

Dr. Cazazian is more than a local dentist. He is an active and caring member of his community; always active in helping and caring for others. Case in point: Dr. Cazazian has been a Chairman of the Board of Directors for his Church in Douglaston NY for 12 years; he has organized and founded an Elementary school for 10 years; he has been involved in medical missions to needy countries, such as Armenia; and he provided volunteer work for Armenian organizations to take care of new immigrants to America; he has organized blood drives from his office and Church; he has participated in Toys for Tots for Christmas. Dr. Cazazian, as an immigrant who lived and experienced the repression of freedom behind the former Iron Curtain, understands the value of freedom in The United States. In fact, he has stated that every time he travels abroad and returns to the U.S. he kisses the ground when he lands.

However, there is a price of freedom, and consequently one needs to make a difference, he says: a difference means going above and beyond the call of duty. This is also why he joined the fight against illiteracy at this Gala and was awarded the Medal of Duty and a Three Star General's Commanders Award; presented by the U.S. Marines.

Looking at the facts one cannot deny that Illiterate children turn into illiterate adults, and those adults who are unable to read at a third-grade level not only feel excluded from society, but they also raise illiterate children, as they cannot teach them how to read. Is there a connection between illiteracy and poverty? According to recent U.S. Census Bureau reports, more than 20% of children under 18 years of age live in poverty—the highest poverty rate in 15 years. That's 15.5 million children! People in poverty cannot afford books. Now, add this to the U.S. Department of Education's National Center of Education statistics whereby 44 million adults are functionally illiterate, and according to the National Center for Education Statistics Queens has a 46 % lack of literacy skills; we have a problem. Furthermore, connect this with the Bureau of Justice statistics that about 41% of inmates in the State and Federal prisons and local jails had not completed high school or its equivalent leads one to ask: Is there then a connection to illiteracy, poverty and crime?

This is what motivated Dr. Cazazian and hundreds of attendees of this Gala to participate and ended up ensuring that 110,000 children would receive not only toys for Christmas, which in itself is a great gesture of humanity, but also the gift of literacy and the hopes of a brighter future for these children in successfully participating in our free society.

Dr. Aram Cazazian graduated from New York State University, and continues his studies every month in all areas of dentistry. He has received advanced training in the areas of orthodontics, endodontics, prosthodontics and TMJ treatment. Dr. Cazazian has also earned the First District Dental Society award, the Academy of General Dentistry award, and is recognized within the Armenian American Health Professionals Organization. As a dentist who loves his field of work, his goal is to educate all of his patients to help them maintain healthy gums and teeth for life.

Bayside Family Dentistry

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