

HELPING HANDS

My piece, titled “Helping Hands”, raises awareness about Armenian genocide. It displays a young girl carrying her little brother, running away from a building/church on fire. Embers are flying and looks of fear are painting the two childrens’ faces. Screams resonate in their eardrums, smoke is getting into their system; the two are more terrified than they’d ever been. The fire was caused by the Ottomans trying to exterminate the Armenians in that town/city, and the little girl and her brother managed to escape before they got to them. There are hands in front of them with red hearts, offering to help them and give them a shelter. The sky behind the hands is a light blue, a big contrast to the black smoke. On the other side, where there is help and love, the sky is clearer and bluer. The hands symbolize the human-to-human interaction. How so? I included them in the artwork, for they represent people helping one another. One should never have to suffer alone. Interaction is key to assisting one through rough and hard situations, especially in ones like the Armenian genocide. Social interaction and support are very important factors when it comes to keeping one healthy not only physically, but mentally as well. Every living thing, every animal, every human deserves a chance at life and a chance to be happy. The hearts on the hands represent others (it’s no one in particular, all human beings can be kind) opening *their* hearts to provide food, warmth, and kindness to those who are in need. In my picture, the young girl and her brother are the ones in need - they’re still immature/young, and they cannot survive on their own yet. If they were abandoned, with no food or aid, their chances of surviving would be a lot less than if people helped. Human-to-human interaction - it helps people in need more than one may think.