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MERA Makes Its Money Work for the ORIA Charitable Fund

If a guy has everything, what do you get him for a gift? Steve Boodakian and Sy Mahfuz of MERA Consulting Group recently came to the same conclusion – a gift that makes a difference in the lives of others. So, instead of giving each other something, they donated \$1000 to the Oriental Rug Importers Association Charitable Fund, which benefits children in major rug weaving countries around the world, providing money for schooling, healthcare and nutritional needs.

According to Mahfuz, he and Boodakian made the donations in the names of their fathers and grandfathers, all of whom spent their entire adult lives passionately engaged in the importing and selling of fine Oriental rugs. “Steve’s dad, Leo, and my father, Fred, were our mentors and teachers,” said Mahfuz. “All those who knew them would agree that this gift is a reflection of the heartfelt kindness that they brought to our industry.”

Boodakian thinks it makes sense for “two guys who don’t want for a thing” to make a donation of this kind. “Our families have always donated to charities during the holidays, in lieu of that ‘extra gift’ to family members. We think it would be wonderful if everyone did the same thing,” he said, to which Mahfuz added, “Choose any charity you’d like. We happen to think the ORIA Charitable Fund is one that deserves the rug industry’s attention.”

The Oriental Rug Importers Association is a national trade association formed in 1958 to foster ethical business practices in the Oriental rug trade. ORIA's membership consists of more than 80 leading U.S.-based importers of handmade rugs, who import from virtually every carpet sourcing country, including India, Pakistan, China, Nepal, Tibet, Turkey and Romania.

MERA Consulting Group helps importers, wholesalers and retailers of area and Oriental rugs to better sell their products in today’s retail environments; offers education, sales and motivation seminars for home décor professionals; and provides certified appraisal services to insurance companies, law firms and individuals. Contact MERA by calling 603-880-7333, or find them online at www.MCGroupUSA.com