



Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief



2012 Annual Report

Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR)

*Providing
humanitarian relief to
orphaned Armenian
children and adults
throughout the world*

2012 Annual Report



Prepared by Wiegner & Yacoubian, LLC
for the

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Message from the National President

Dear SOAR Friends:

Thank you for making 2012 our most productive year to date!

SOAR continues to achieve significant growth in both distributions and geographic presence. In 2006, our first year of providing humanitarian relief to orphaned Armenian children, we made \$59,700 in distributions. In 2012, our distributions exceeded \$469,000, a more than 600-percent increase from our inaugural year.

Fifteen new Chapters also joined the SOAR family in 2012: Artsakh, Atlanta, Boston, Colorado, Javakh, Lebanon, London, Maine, Moscow, Paris, Providence, San Antonio, St. Louis, Toronto, and Wisconsin. The Chapters provide us with a critical localized presence across the world, reaching populations we could never have accessed in 2006. Their work and support have helped make SOAR a truly international organization. In addition, we have extended our reach to include three orphanages in Ainjar, Lebanon. SOAR now supports 27 institutions worldwide.

I could never have envisioned such growth. My heartfelt gratitude extends to all who continue to make this journey an auspicious one: our National Board of Directors, whose work has increased tenfold since 2006; our Chapters and volunteers, who faithfully advance the SOAR mission across the world; our Board of Trustees, which oversees our fiscal operations; our in-country Partners who coordinate our distributions; and, finally, our benevolent financial and emotional supporters. Your steadfast enthusiasm, commitment, and conviction are inspiring, and we thank you for an extraordinary 2012.

Respectfully,

*George S. Yacoubian, Jr., Ph.D., LL.M.
National SOAR President*



Introduction

Poverty in Armenia, still pervasive more than two decades after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, is rooted in a variety of factors, including government corruption, unresolved conflict with Azerbaijan over the Artsakh territory, economic blockades by Turkey and Azerbaijan, and an outdated technological base and labor force.

Children in Armenia are more vulnerable to the consequences of poverty than any other age or social group, resulting in increasing numbers of institutionalized children. Some are *natural orphans* who literally have no father or mother. Many more are *social orphans* whose parents are unable or unwilling to care for them. Today, there are approximately 1,500 children living in Armenia's orphanages. Added to this number is far too many children living with parents or relatives but in acute poverty. Government expenditures on social services are very low.

Although institutionalized children receive basic material and educational support, most facilities fail to care for their emotional and spiritual well-being. The U.S. Department of State's 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report ranks Armenia in Tier 2 status because its street children, orphans, and institutionalized children are at high risk of being trafficked or abused.



Creation and Management

George S. Yacoubian, Jr. and his wife Erica began their adoption process in 2005. Throughout that spring and summer, they went through their home study process and the various levels of domestic governmental approval. While in Armenia visiting the Our Lady of Armenia Center's summer camp, they saw their future daughter for the first time. George and Erica submitted their dossier to the Armenian government that fall, received preliminary approval in December, and obtained final approval the following March. Liliana arrived on American soil on April 23, 2006!



In the fall of 2005, George and Erica founded the Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR) as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to provide humanitarian relief to orphaned children living in Armenia. An experienced Board of Directors was assembled, a network of Partners in Armenia was recruited to assist with distributions, and the website (<http://soar-us.org/>) was launched. In 2009, a National Board of Trustees was created to annually review SOAR's fiscal operations and distributions.

SOAR assists the orphanages in Armenia by:

1. Working with for-profit corporations to provide donations of specific products. SOAR receives these goods in the United States and ships them to Armenia through the United Armenia Fund (UAF). UAF informs SOAR of the date of arrival in Armenia approximately one week in advance. All shipments go via sea container and arrive directly at the recipient orphanage.
2. Collecting donations from individuals, families, and groups across the United States and shipping them to Armenia via UAF.
3. Using cash donations to purchase goods and services. Some of these products and services are purchased outside of Armenia. Most, however, are purchased *in* Armenia. This serves the dual purpose of meeting the orphanages' needs while simultaneously supporting Armenia's economy. SOAR's Partners are responsible for either receiving the shipped goods or making the in-country purchases.

SOAR has grown tremendously during the past several years and has broadened its mission to include *orphaned Armenian children and adults throughout the world*. Its work supports 27 Armenian facilities worldwide: 21 in Armenia, two in Artsakh, and three in Lebanon, as well as one summer camp in Javakh.

Today, SOAR is represented by 29 Chapters: Artsakh, Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Colorado, Delaware, Detroit, Florida, Fresno, Idaho, Javakh, Lebanon, London, Los Angeles, Maine, Moscow, New York/New Jersey, North Carolina, Northern California, Paris, Philadelphia, Providence, San Antonio, St. Louis, Seattle, Toronto, Washington DC, Wisconsin, and Yerevan. Some Chapter volunteers are parents of adopted Armenian children; others simply recognize the significance of SOAR's work and want to help perpetuate its mission. The common bond among them all is the recognition that orphaned Armenians represent the most vulnerable population of Armenian society.

Quality Control

SOAR has a strict quality control protocol to assure that all donations, in their entirety, reach the intended recipients. This protocol has five elements:

1. SOAR rarely makes cash distributions directly to the orphanages. Rather, goods and services that can be procured in Armenia are purchased by SOAR's Partners and distributed directly to the orphanages.

2. It implements chain-of-custody procedures for any distributed goods or services, providing assurance that these items have been received by the orphanages in the exact quantity intended. These procedures have three steps:

- a. Partners sign for the shipments and/or attest to the type and quantity of goods or services procured in Armenia. This invoice includes an exact description of the type and quantity of goods and services.
- b. The recipient orphanage's director signs this same invoice, indicating that the exact type and quantity of goods and services received is the quantity indicated.
- c. Both invoices are mailed to the National SOAR President.

3. SOAR Partners, Yerevan Chapter members, and other volunteers who visit Armenia make random inspections of the orphanages. Any distribution discrepancies are to be reported immediately to the National SOAR President.

4. When possible, goods donated or services provided by SOAR are engraved and/or stamped with a corporate seal. Capital projects are acknowledged with a dedication ceremony and plaque.

5. A zero-tolerance policy for fraud, theft, and/or deception is imposed. Any malfeasance would result in the termination of assistance.



Orphanage Locations

SOAR supports 21 institutions in Armenia, two Armenian orphanages in Artsakh, an orphan summer camp in Javakh, and three Armenian orphanages in Lebanon. It has regular contact with the orphanage directors and maintain a current list of needs.

Armenian Evangelical Boarding School is located in Ainjar, Lebanon. The facility is home to approximately 75 healthy social orphans.

Boarding School #1 (formerly Zangak Orphanage) is a state orphanage in Stepanagert, Artsakh, housing approximately 35 children (both healthy and with special needs) between the ages of 4 and 16.

Boarding School #2 is a state orphanage in Kashatagh, Artsakh, housing approximately 17 children between the ages of 6 and 17.

Bzommar Orphanage is operated by the Armenian Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, a religious order of nuns established in 1847. Throughout the year, the Sisters carry out catechetical, cultural and social work with both natural and social orphans. Approximately 25 girls are housed at Bzommar.

Cardinal Aghajanian Orphanage is located in Ainjar, Lebanon. The orphanage is home to approximately 24 male social orphans.

Children's Home of Gyumri is a state orphanage in Gyumri housing approximately 100 children with special needs, ages 6 years and younger.

Gavar Orphanage is a state orphanage in Gavar housing approximately 115 children between the ages of 3 and 18.

Gyumri Social Childcare Center is a day center in Gyumri. Since July 2006, approximately 200 children from around the province have been served at the Center.

The Holy Cross Armenian Church of Javakh Summer Day Camp in Akhakalak, Georgia, serves roughly 250 social orphans living at or below poverty level in the nearby villages. The camp was created to get these children off the streets and provide them with a safe, clean, fun, and spiritual environment during the summer.

Kharberd Orphanage is a state orphanage in Kharberd housing approximately 280 children with special needs, ages 6 to 18.

Mari Izmirlyan Orphanage (formerly Hadug Tibi) is a state orphanage in Yerevan housing approximately 100 children with special needs between the ages of 6 and 18.

Mer Doon offers a home in Etchmiadzin for orphaned Armenian children who have outgrown their orphanage. Mer Doon offer education and a loving and compassionate family environment, thus easing the transition from orphanage life to mainstream society.

Mer Hooys houses approximately 20 teenage girls in the Arapkir district of Yerevan. The girls receive language and job skills training, computer instruction, college preparation and education, religious foundational teaching, life skills training, psychological support, and hope, confidence and love.

Nork Orphanage is a state orphanage in Yerevan housing approximately 80 children (both healthy and with special needs) ages 6 years and under.

Orphanage Locations

Nubarashen is a state boarding school in Yerevan housing approximately 83 children with special needs, ages 7 to 18.

Orphanage of Fridtjof Nansen (formerly Houys) is a state orphanage in Gyumri housing approximately 83 children between the ages of 4 and 18.

Our Lady of Armenia Center is a private orphanage in Gyumri housing approximately 45 girls between the ages of 6 and 18. The Center is operated by the Armenian Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, a religious order of nuns established in 1847.

Our Lady of Armenia Center Summer Camp hosts approximately 800 children ages 8 to 15 throughout the summer, in four 16-day sessions. The Camp provides nutritious food, physical rest, recreational activities, and religious-educational experiences both to institutionalized children and to other needy boys and girls.

Sisters of Charity Orphanage–Bethlehem is a private orphanage in Yerevan housing approximately 15 infants and young children with special needs. The Sisters of Charity is a Catholic religious order established in 1950 by Mother Teresa to minister to “the poorest of the poor.”

Sisters of Charity Orphanage–Spitak is a private orphanage in Spitak housing approximately 33 older children and adults with special needs. The Sisters of Charity is a Catholic religious order established in 1950 by Mother Teresa to tend to “the poorest of the poor.”

SOS Children’s Village is an international organization that provides a home for children who have either lost or can no longer live with their parents. Located in Abovyan, SOS’s Armenian location houses approximately 80 children up to 15 years of age. When children turn 15, they move to one of three SOS centers in Yerevan where they remain until age 20.

Terchoonian Home is a private orphanage in Gyumri housing approximately 75 intellectually gifted children between the ages of 3 and 12.

Vanadzor Orphanage is a private orphanage in Vanadzor housing approximately 90 children 18 years of age and under.

Vardashen is a state boarding school in Yerevan housing approximately 82 children who “exhibit socially dangerous behavior.” They range between the ages of 6 and 18.

The Voice of the Armenian Church Summer Day Camp, operating under the auspices of the Eastern Prelacy and its Executive Council, is held in the summer retreat of Tsaghadzor every July for 8 days and hosts roughly 50 orphaned boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 16. The goal of the Camp is to create a sense of family where the children experience comfort, love, compassion, and care, while simultaneously instilling in them the love of Christ and the history of the Armenian Church.

Warm Hearth is a private group home housing approximately 13 orphans with disabilities and mental illnesses who have outgrown the state-funded orphanages. It provides each resident with an alternative to psychiatric institutions and offers holistic care in a family-like setting. Warm Hearth is located outside of Yerevan in 3rd Village.

Zadik Orphanage is a state orphanage in Yerevan housing approximately 138 children between the ages of 6 and 18. After the age of 18, the children move to either Rainbow House or a farming village in Arzni.

Mechanisms of Assistance

Balik-Jan Project

The Balik-Jan Project brings warmth, love, and comfort to orphaned Armenian children, with volunteers knitting, crocheting, and sewing infant, toddler, and children's clothes. The following items can be made in all children's sizes: booties, hats/bonnets, dresses, sweaters, ponchos, socks, mittens, scarves, and blankets. Persons interested in becoming a Balik-Jan volunteer can contact Anna A. Turcotte (SOAR-Maine Chapter President) at anna.turcotte@gmail.com.

Donation of Goods

SOAR ships to Armenia at least once a year. The following is a non-exhaustive list of items of items always needed by the orphanages: baby supplies (e.g., diapers and powder); Band-Aids; bath towels; bedding (for cribs and twin beds); blankets; new and gently used books; **new** clothing (infants through young adult); educational toys; musical items (e.g., CDs and radios); nonprescription medication (e.g., Tylenol and vitamins); personal hygiene products (e.g., brushes, combs, shampoo, and soap); shoes; and umbrellas. SOAR accepts certain products (e.g., diapers) only in their original sealed packaging. All items can be shipped to:

Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR)
c/o George S. Yacoubian, Jr.
Public Storage, #B037
245 West Chester Pike
Havertown, PA 19083

Financial Donations

All cash donations are tax deductible. Donations can be made by check or through SOAR's online donation system at <http://soar-us.org/>. All donations are acknowledged in writing for tax purposes. Checks should be made out to SOAR and mailed to:

Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR)
c/o George S. Yacoubian, Jr.
1060 First Avenue, Suite 400
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Special Gifts Program

In addition to conventional financial donations, SOAR offers a Special Gifts Program which includes donor-advised funds, endowments, in lieu of flowers, and scholarships. Current funds and scholarships encourage weaving, embroidery, art, education, and public service. For more information, please contact George S. Yacoubian, Jr., at (610) 213-3452 or gyacoubian@soar-us.org.



Sponsorship Program

Launched in the spring of 2010, SOAR's sponsorship program offers benefactors the opportunity to personally connect with an orphaned Armenian child or adult. *The entire donation benefits the individual sponsored. No funds support the facilities or SOAR generally, and SOAR assumes the cost of all wiring fees.*

Sponsors receive a photo and profile of the orphan they are sponsoring, updates on his/her health, and notes, drawings, or correspondence at least twice a year.



A sponsored girl in Gyumri shops for painting materials. Staff reports: "She was very pleased and told us that she used to paint with the water colors of her cousin... who lives very far away, and she could not even imagine that she would have her own [one day.]"

SOAR offers two sponsorship options:

Traditional Sponsorship: For a minimum of \$50 a month (\$600 annually), sponsorships provide for items such as tuition (or a savings account for future tuition), educational books and supplies, musical tutoring, and medical care. Minimum one-year commitments are required. Birthday and/or holiday gifts are always appreciated and can be arranged through SOAR.

Special Occasion Package: For \$150 annually, the Special Occasion Package provides \$50 each for Easter, Christmas, and a birthday gift. SOAR will coordinate all purchases, consistent with the recipient's wishes. SOAR respectfully asks that the \$150 be paid up front and in full.

Sponsorship Program (cont.)



SOAR distributed approximately \$30,000 in sponsorship funds in 2012 and currently has 112 orphans sponsored at 15 facilities in Armenia and Artsakh. SOAR's goal is to have 1,500 sponsorships worldwide by 2015.



Sponsorship Program (cont.)



Sponsorship funds are housed in Philadelphia. When an orphanage director needs sponsorship funds, the request is made through Siranoush Hovhanissyan and Varduhi Baloyan, SOAR's Yerevan- and Gyumri-based Partners. They in turn submit the request to George S. Yacoubian, Jr., National SOAR President, or Raffi Jehanian, SOAR's Stateside Sponsorship Program Coordinator.

Approved funds are wired by either George or Raffi. A Sponsorship Program database is maintained to document the individuals sponsored, their sponsors, and the specific items, amounts, and dates of distributions. At any time, sponsors can be informed of the specifics for any and all distributions.



Sponsors traveling to Armenia may enjoy meeting their sponsored children.



Please visit <http://soar-us.org/enroll.html> for additional sponsorship information and to enroll.



Chapter Highlights

SOAR's National Auction

In late November and early December, the Chicago and Atlanta Chapters joined national SOAR's national headquarters in its first online auction, operated through Bidding For Good. Nearly 500

items were available, including art, books, clothing, hand crafts by the orphaned children in Armenia, jewelry, sports memorabilia, and vacation packages. In addition, many

items were offered for sale, including the funding of capital projects, sponsorships, and the hosting of Christmas parties for the 25 orphanages supported by SOAR worldwide. In all, the auction raised nearly \$20,000.

The logo for BiddingForGood, with "Bidding" in blue, "For" in orange, and "Good" in blue.

SOAR-Delaware

In September, SOAR-Delaware raised \$200 at an Oasis Family Fun Center Fundraiser Night. The boys and girls had a blast with the Soft Playground, Ballocity area, Rock Climbing, Bowling, Basketball Jump, and Arcade Games.

In October, SOAR-Delaware partnered with SOAR-Philadelphia to host its annual Italian Night at Saint Mark's Church in Wynnwood, PA. The dinner was a great success, raising more than \$2600. While listening to the beautiful live music of Elise Dadourian and The Dan May Band, everyone enjoyed a delicious meal of lasagna, salad, and homemade desserts (many of which were Armenian!) Raffles were held, and guests many went home with wonderful prizes.

In December, SOAR-Delaware and SOAR-Philadelphia hosted a Complimentary Dinner & Wine Sponsorship Party, graciously hosted by Anita and Robert Sinton in their beautiful home in West Chester, Pennsylvania. An abundant feast was made by Anita and her sisters, Adrineh Hoplamazian and Armineh Andoun, including appetizers, lasagna, meatballs, chicken marsala, desserts, and home-made *paklava*.

A very touching video made by SOAR-Chicago was shown, covering the history of SOAR since 2006. The video features a little girl, Narine, and her gratitude for her sponsorship. It truly touched everyone's heart; there was not a dry eye in the house. There was also a Giving Tree where donations were made for coats, boots, hats, gloves, and scarves.

The evening was a huge success, raising more than \$3,000, and exceeded everyone's expectations!

Chapter Highlights (cont.)

SOAR-Chicago

In April 2012, the Saint Gregory's Woman's Guild met for knitting/crocheting sessions to fill two boxes for the Balik-Jan Project. These items, along with 500 water bottles for the Our Lady of Armenia Summer Camp, were shipped by sea container in the fall.

Michael Aram invited SOAR-Chicago to participate in two "Charity Shop" events at Bloomingdale's at Old Orchard Shopping Plaza on the North Shore of Chicago. In May and again in December, open and private invitations were distributed, and 10 percent of the proceeds were donated back to SOAR by Michael and his team. Also in May, Anne Galovich and Deanna Bargamian served on a four-week NATO Summit Committee for the Union League, giving a voice for SOAR in the local area.



On June 30, Chicago hosted its 2nd annual rooftop fundraiser in downtown Chicago. Dr. Kevin and Deana Bargamian hosted the event on their rooftop overlooking Navy Pier on Lakeshore Drive. There were many silent auction baskets beautifully prepared by board member Patty Nigohosian, as well as a Michael Aram Platter raffled off to the more than 80 guests in attendance.

On October 7, Chicago hosted a Wine Tasting and Luncheon at Saints Joachim and Anne Church in Palos Heights. There was a brief question and answer period after showing the new SOAR video published by the Chapter.



SOAR-Chicago also coordinated several major projects throughout the year. Chapter board members David Baboorian and Michelle Diekhans partnered with Charity Wines to create a SOAR label. (Wines are available for purchase at <http://soar-us.org/wines.html>.) In addition, Eric Diekhans created a video highlighting SOAR's accomplishments since 2006, available now on SOAR's homepage (<http://soar-us.org/>.)

In all, SOAR-Chicago distributed \$5,000 to Nork Orphanage to renovate and outfit its computer lab and to purchase 60 sets of linens, \$700 for a heating pump at Vanadzor Orphanage, and \$500 to the Our Lady of Armenia Summer Camp.

Chapter Highlights

SOAR-Florida

In October, SOAR received a \$15,000 donation from a private donor in Tampa. The money was earmarked to purchase a new car for the Our Lady of Armenia Center in Gyumri.

SOAR-Fresno

SOAR's Fresno Chapter hosted children's book author Talene Dadian White from New York at the Fresno *Prpooor* Festival on September 30.

Talene sold many copies of her Armenian-ized fairy tales (written in Western Armenian and English) and donated a significant percentage of the sales to SOAR. For more information about the books, see Talene's website at www.armeniankidsbooks.com.



SOAR-London

SOAR-London had a great inaugural year. Since the first meeting at a café in north London in February, the Chapter has been making progress in spreading SOAR's mission of helping orphaned Armenian children.

While in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh this past summer, SOAR-London president Lucy met the Yerevan Chapter, visited Marie Izmirlian orphanage, and collected beautiful handmade cards from Zatik orphanage to sell in London.

The Chapter held its first fundraiser in July at the Armenian street festival, the largest annual gathering of Armenians in the UK. They had an enthusiastic turnout of volunteers and sold out of all of Zatik's cards in record time, despite the rainy London conditions. It was a wonderful opportunity to spread the message of SOAR's work in the community.

In the months of August and December, with the support of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Kensington, SOAR-London also held bake sales featuring Armenian and American treats to help the children at the Sisters of Charity orphanages. The year's total funds raised amounted to £1348 (\$2,130).

Along with expanding the Chapter to gain more members and outreach, in 2013 SOAR London will be focusing on helping raise funds for orphans with medical needs.

Chapter Highlights

SOAR-Los Angeles

SOAR's Los Angeles Chapter (SOAR-LA) held its annual banquet fundraiser on June 16th in Pasadena on the breathtaking grounds of Ambassador Mansions and Gardens. This was a beautiful event that drew more than 200 supporters and raised funds to renovate computer labs in three Armenian orphanages. Guests enjoyed a sensational performance by world renown violinist Yelena Yegorian, a beautiful tango

performance, and an unforgettable comedy act by Ara Basil, followed by dinner, refreshments, and dancing. The silent auction featured one-of-a-kind pieces by Michael Aram, fine jewelry, sports collectibles, and many other items. Guests marveled at the works of art by Sharm, who generously offered part of the sale proceeds to SOAR. Master of Ceremonies Mark Geragos shared his commitment to the cause and encouraged the guests to show their support for SOAR and Armenian orphans. Other celebrity guests included Shavo from System of a Down, who came with his family to support SOAR.



The event was covered by *Yerevan Magazine*, which offered free subscriptions to all guests as a thank-you.

SOAR-LA held its 3rd annual Casino Royale event on November 10th at the Hilton Hotel in Glendale. About 300 guests attended the event and enjoyed an evening of fantastic ambiance, fun games, great prizes, and laughter with comedian Ara Basil. The event raised enough funds to complete the final orphanage computer lab renovations supported by the Chapter, to start work on new projects, and to provide the orphanages with much needed items for the winter.



On November 27th, SOAR-LA hosted a Michael Aram brunch at Bloomingdale's in Costa Mesa.

The next day, it loaded a 44-foot sea container with goods to ship to Armenia! Thanks to very generous donations by numerous donors, this became a huge humanitarian relief for the orphaned children.



Chapter Highlights (cont.)

SOAR-Philadelphia

On Friday, September 14, the Philadelphia Chapter held a fundraiser at Café Clave, 4305 Locust Street, in University City. The Armenian music night featured Lori Panosian singing *a cappella*. She sang several memorable songs including “Lori,” her namesake song. A good time was had by all, socializing and enjoying the delicious *mezza*, desserts, and door prizes. All the proceeds benefitted Nork orphanage in Yerevan.

In October, SOAR-Delaware partnered with SOAR-Philadelphia to host its annual Italian Night at Saint Mark’s Church in Wynnewood, PA. The dinner was a great success, raising more than \$2600. While listening to the beautiful live music of Elise Dadourian and The Dan May Band, everyone enjoyed a delicious meal of lasagna, salad, and homemade desserts (many of which were Armenian!) Raffles were held, and guests many went home with wonderful prizes.

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The video features a little girl, Narine, and her gratitude for her sponsorship. It truly touched everyone’s heart; there was not a dry eye in the house.

There was also a Giving Tree where donations were made for coats, boots, hats, gloves, and scarves.

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Chapter Highlights (cont.)

SOAR-Wisconsin

The third annual “Day on the Blue” Armenian orphanage fundraiser at Lake Nagawicka drew more than 130 Armenians and their friends, who gathered on the patio at the home of Dr. Chuck and Mary Kay Hajinian to raise money for the most disadvantaged children of Armenia. The August 4th fundraiser, sponsored by the SOAR-Wisconsin Chapter, brought in close to \$14,000 in cash contributions and approximately \$4,000 in donated items. This was by far the most outstandingly successful “Day on the Blue” yet!



One hundred percent of the funds raised were allocated to three institutions in Armenia, all of which care for children with special needs: Kharberd, Vardashen, and the Sisters of Charity–Bethlehem. The donations provided winter clothing, blankets, and other needed items for some of Armenia's most disadvantaged children.

The gracious hosts for the event were Dr. Chuck and Mary Kay Hajinian, who opened their home to the guests. Live Armenian dance music was provided by Vahan Kamalian, Kai Kazarian, and Michael Kamalian. Dr. Ani Saryan provided instruction in Armenian line dancing on the patio, enjoyed by Armenian and non-Armenian guests alike. A remarkable acrobatic water ski performance was mounted by Harrison Aghjian and friends from the Pewaukee Waterski Club. Party guests enjoyed light refreshments including homemade Armenian pastries. A vigorous silent auction included a number of exceptional donated items, including an original framed example of Armenian needlework, an oriental carpet, medieval Armenian coins, original artwork, golf vacations, jewelry, Armenian brandy, wine, and more.

Chapter Highlights (cont.)

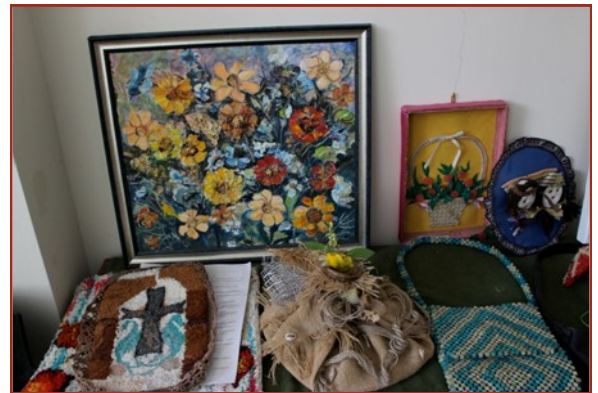
SOAR-Washington DC

SOAR's Greater Washington, DC Chapter (SOAR-DC) had a successful year of fundraising and engagement with the community. Over the past year, SOAR-DC participated at local festivals, held well-attended events, and traveled to Armenia to make an in-person donation on behalf of the Chapter.



On March 25, SOAR-DC helped “run” Arlington’s Silver Diner in a joint effort to raise funds. Community members from all over the Greater Washington region traveled to eat at the diner in support of Armenian orphans. Silver Diner donated 20 percent of the evening’s proceeds to SOAR.

On June 2, SOAR-DC participated at the 20th Annual Alexandria Armenian Festival. Participants in the festival had the opportunity to learn more about the organization and its outreach programs that help orphaned children in Armenia. SOAR-DC volunteers provided information about the orphanages the group supports and the child sponsorship program. Featured at the SOAR booth were works of art by orphaned Armenian children from Terchoonian Home orphanage in Gumri, Armenia. Since the 1989 earthquake that devastated many cities in north-west Armenia, Alexandria has supported Gumri as its sister city. In light of this special connection, money raised during the festival directly benefited the children at Terchoonian Home orphanage. SOAR-DC partnered with Talene Dadian White, an Armenian children’s book author, who sold her books at the festival. A portion of the proceeds from book sales benefited SOAR.



Chapter Highlights (cont.)

In July 2012, SOAR-DC president Natalie Grigorian and board member Wright Sigmund traveled to Armenia (at their own expense) to visit a few of the orphanages.

Natalie and Wright visited the Our Lady of Armenia Center Summer Camp to learn more about the Center and make an in-personal donation on behalf of SOAR-DC. They attended the morning *badarak* (church service), participated in weekly sporting events, and joined the children and staff members for lunch.



The board members also visited two orphanages in the city of Gyumri: Our Lady of Armenia Center and Terchoonian Home. The Chapter earmarked funds to help the orphanage buy new carpets for its classroom. Natalie and the Terchoonian Home's director visited a local vendor to purchase the new carpet and hired men to install the new flooring.

On October 5–6, SOAR-DC participated in a two-day food festival at St. Mary's Armenian Church. Volunteers displayed information about the orphanages the Chapter supports as well as SOAR's child sponsorship program. Featured at the SOAR booth was photography from Armenia by one of the board members, Nataliya Rann Kuznetsova. Artwork by Terchoonian Home orphans was also featured.



Distributions

SOAR's 2012 distributions exceeded \$469,000, a more than 600-percent increase from its inaugural year. Moreover, in 2006 SOAR supported just 16 orphanages in Armenia. Today, it reaches 26 facilities in Armenia, Artsakh, Javakh (Georgia), and Lebanon.

Throughout 2012, SOAR distributed more than \$30,000 in sponsorship funds. The sponsorship program is SOAR's primary mechanism for providing *individualized support* to orphaned Armenian children and adults. This year's funds were used for medical and dental care, excursions, birthday and holiday gifts, tuition, art and chess lessons, and school supplies.



Other 2012 disbursements include the following:

APRIL: Shipment of \$70,000 in new art supplies, school supplies, clothes, toys and games, books, and baby supplies to the Our Lady of Armenia (OLA) Summer Camp and Sisters of Charity–Bethlehem orphanage.



MAY: Funding of a celebration for International Children's Defense Day. Celebrated on the first day of summer, this holiday is marked in Yerevan with children's joy and laughter, colorful balloons, interesting events, celebrations, chalk drawings, and concerts.

JUNE: Donation of \$7,000 to the OLA Summer Camp. SOAR also funded \$2,500 worth of food and supplies for the two Sisters of Charity orphanages, \$450 worth of diapers for Nork; and made donations of \$1500 for the Javakh Summer Day Camp, and \$1000 for Terchoonian Home.



SUMMER: Allocation of \$25,000 for the renovation of computer labs at Gavar, Nubarashen, and Vardashen orphanages. (This completed a two-year effort to renovate and outfit computer labs in 11 orphanages: Gavar, Houys, Mari Izmirlyan, Nork, Nubarashen, Our Lady of Armenia, SOS Children's Village, Terchoonian Home, Vanadzor, Vardashen, and Zadik.)



Distributions

SUMMER (cont.): Allocation of \$1,000 for each of Lebanon's orphanages, \$1000 for each of Artsakh's two boarding schools, and \$6,000 for a flooring renovation at Kharberd. Lastly, SOAR provided Terchoonian Home with a \$1,000 fuel subsidy.

SEPTEMBER: Allocation of \$5,000 for Kharberd, \$2000 for Nubarashen, \$4,000 for Sisters of Charity–Bethlehem, and \$2000 for Vardashen. SOAR also made a \$1000 donation to each of the Artsakh orphanages in the memory of Mr. Avedis Vanklian, who had passed away on July 19th. Finally, \$5,000 was disbursed to Nork.



OCTOBER: Funding of \$3,000 for the renovation of a historical piano at Our Lady of Armenia Center, \$700 for a new water heater for Vanadzor, and \$2,500 distribution for new linens and blankets for Gavar. A \$15,000 donation, earmarked to purchase a new car for the OLA Center, was also received by SOAR during this period.

NOVEMBER: Shipment of new clothes, computer equipment, office supplies, diapers, and camp and medical supplies. Valued at more than \$228,000, the entire shipment was earmarked for Kharberd Orphanage.



DECEMBER: Allocation of \$2,500 for Lebanon's three orphanages. SOAR also funded replacement of windows at Warm Hearth (\$3,500), renovation of the speech therapy room at Kharberd (\$4,000), and a second water heater at Vanadzor (\$700). Finally, it allocated \$2,000 for the 2013 Javakh Summer Day Camp.

Perhaps most importantly, many generous donations enabled SOAR to fund Christmas parties at **ALL** of its orphanages and children's centers.



Accounting Summary¹

Opening Balance	\$17,941.00
Total Annual Revenue	\$576,243.00 ²
Total Orphanage Distributions	\$469,502.00
• Armenian Evangelical Boarding School (Lebanon)	\$2,300.00
• Boarding School #1 (Artsakh)	\$2,900.00
• Boarding School #2 (Artsakh)	\$2,300.00
• Bzommar Orphanage (Lebanon)	\$1,600.00
• Cardinal Aghajanian Orphanage (Lebanon)	\$1,600.00
• Children's Home of Gyumri	\$2,050.00
• Gavar	\$30,400.00
• Gyumri Social Childcare Center	\$3,000.00
• Houys	\$400.00
• Javakh Summer Day Camp	\$3,500.00
• Kharberd	\$252,217.00
• Mari Izmirlyan Orphanage (formerly Hatug Tibi)	\$1,500.00
• Mer Doon	\$400.00
• Mer Hooy	\$1,110.00
• Nork	\$7,800.00
• Nubarashen	\$13,550.00
• Our Lady of Armenia Center	\$88,200.00
• Sisters of Charity (Bethlehem and Spitak)	\$26,100.00
• SOS Children's Center	\$400.00
• Terchoonian Home	\$4,840.00
• Vanadzor	\$6,400.00
• Vardashen	\$9,900.00
• Warm Hearth	\$3,835.00
• Zadik	\$1,300.00

1. SOAR's 2012 tax return was prepared by Greg Mangasarian, Mangasarian and Associates, 103 Chesley Drive, Suite 103, Media, PA, 19063.

2. This figure includes the work from our National Headquarters and all Chapters.

Accounting Summary¹

Expenses	\$75,486.00
• Advertising and promotion	\$31,860.00
• Banking fees	\$1,420.00
• Facilities and equipment rental	\$5,998.00
• Fundraising	\$14,206.00
• Information technology	\$1,928.00
• Insurance	\$314.00
• Office expenses	\$7,847.00
• Other expenses	\$3,026.00
• Professional (accounting and legal) fees	\$4,949.00
• Travel	\$3,938.00
Closing Balance	\$49,153.00

1. SOAR's 2012 tax return was prepared by Greg Mangasarian, Mangasarian and Associates, 103 Chesley Drive, Suite 103, Media, PA, 19063.

Conclusion

The Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR) was established in the fall of 2005 to provide humanitarian relief to orphaned Armenian children. Its long-term goal is to provide orphaned Armenian children throughout the world with the resources fundamental to their physical, emotional, and intellectual development. Over time, it aims to provide these underprivileged youth with the tools necessary to become accomplished, educated, and self-supporting Armenian adults.

The SOAR family boasts more than 150 volunteers worldwide, supporting 21 institutions (orphanages and summer camps) in Armenia, two Armenian orphanages in Artsakh, an Armenian summer camp in Javakh, four Armenian orphanages in Lebanon, and one Armenian orphanage in Syria. Its website (www.soar-us.org) provides a complete description of the organization, the population served, and the work done to date.

In calendar year 2012, SOAR distributed **\$469,502.00** to its target population, shipping a variety of new clothes, toys, diapers, games, books, art, school and office supplies, and personal hygiene products. Throughout 2012, SOAR distributed more than \$30,000 in sponsorship funds to 15 orphanages. SOAR's Sponsorship Program is the primary mechanisms through which it provides *individualized support* to orphaned Armenian children and adults. The funds were used for a variety of needs, including medical and dental expenses, birthday and holiday gifts, tuition and tutoring, hobbies (e.g., art and chess lessons), and school supplies. SOAR's continued growth also allowed it to fund a variety of capital projects, including the renovation of computer labs in Gavar, Houys, Mari Izmirlyan, Nork, Nubarashen, OLA, SOS Children's Village, Terchoonian Home, Vanadzor, Vardashen, and Zadik.

SOAR is extremely grateful for the emotional and financial support it receives throughout the world. The desire to improve the lives of orphaned Armenian children is the bonding element among all of its supporters. If you have any questions about SOAR, the orphanages it serves, or this 2012 report, please contact George S. Yacoubian, Jr., at (610) 213-3452 or by email at gyacoubian@soar-us.org.







SOAR

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