



SOAR

Society
for
Orphaned
Armenian
Relief



2015
Annual Report



Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR)

*Providing humanitarian relief
to orphaned Armenians
throughout the world*

2015 Annual Report

Prepared by Wiegner & Yacoubian, LLC
for the
Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR)
c/o George S. Yacoubian, Jr.
150 N. Radnor Chester Road, Suite F200
Radnor, PA 19087
Cell: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168
Email: gyacoubian@soar-us.org
Web: www.soar-us.org

Table of Contents

Message from the Executive Board Chairman	4
Creation and Management	6
Quality Control	7
Locations We Support	8
Special Programs and Funds	10
The Albert Tamberchi Fund	13
The Harold and Josephine Gulamerian Armenian Orphan Fund	14
2015 Distributions	16
Activity Highlights	20
How You Can Help	28
Accounting Summary	30
Conclusion	31



Message from the Executive Board Chairman

Dear SOAR Friends:

Thank you for making 2015 our most productive year to date!

SOAR continues to achieve significant growth in both distributions and geographic presence. In 2006, our first full year of operations, we made \$59,700 in distributions. In 2015, our distributions exceeded \$1.175M!

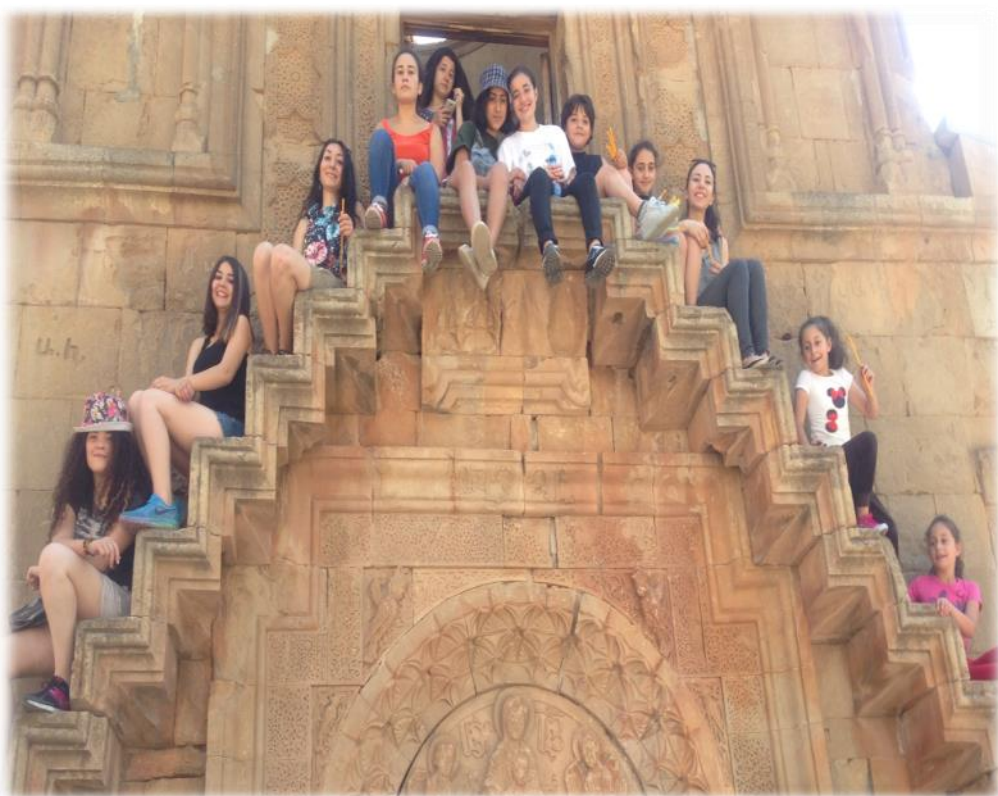
*SOAR's volunteer base has also grown tremendously, with **101 Chapters** and **5 Junior Groups** perpetuating our mission around the world. We have also developed an array of Programs which involve direct interaction with the orphaned population we serve. These Programs, diverse and multi-faceted, provide immediate enrichment to the lives of these children.*

My heartfelt gratitude extends to our Executive Board, whose work grows with each passing year; our Board of Trustees, who reviews our fiscal operations annually; Sr. Arousiag Sajonian, whose dedication to Armenia is an inspiration; our in-country staff – Executive Director Siranoush Hovhannisyan, Associate Director Hripsime Muradyan, and Program Manager Margarita Chichyan; our in-country Partners; our Regional Directors; our more than 400 Chapter volunteers worldwide; and, finally, our financial and emotional supporters. Your unwavering loyalty to SOAR makes our work possible. Thank you for an amazing first decade!

Respectfully,

*George S. Yacoubian, Jr., Ph.D., LL.M.
SOAR Founder and Executive Board Chairman*





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!

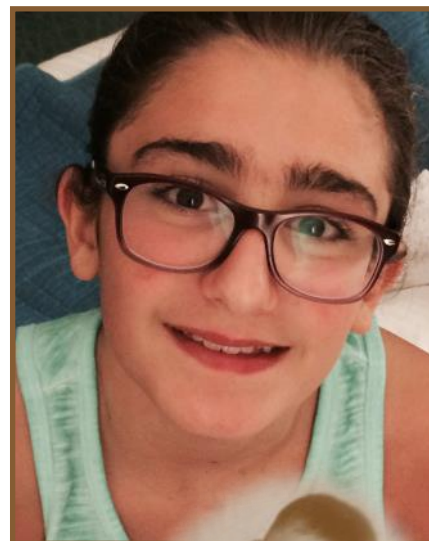
In the fall of 2005, George and Erica founded the Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR) as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to provide humanitarian relief to orphaned children living in Armenia. An experienced Board of Directors was assembled, a network of Partners in Armenia was recruited to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

SOAR assists orphaned Armenians through three primary mechanisms:

- 1) Working with for-profit corporations to provide donations of products. These goods are then shipped by SOAR to Armenia, where its Partners receive and distribute them.
- 2) Receiving new and used goods from donors and shipping them to Armenia. Partners in Armenia receive and distribute them.
- 3) Receiving cash donations, from individual donors and from foundations, to purchase goods and services for the orphanages. When possible, goods and services are purchased in Armenia. This method satisfies the orphanages' needs while also providing a much needed boost to the Armenian economy. SOAR's Partners are responsible for either receiving shipped goods or procuring the items and services in-country .

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 Armenian facilities in Armenia, Artsakh, Lebanon, Syria, and Javakh. (See pp 8–9.)

Today, SOAR is represented by 101 Chapters around the world. 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.

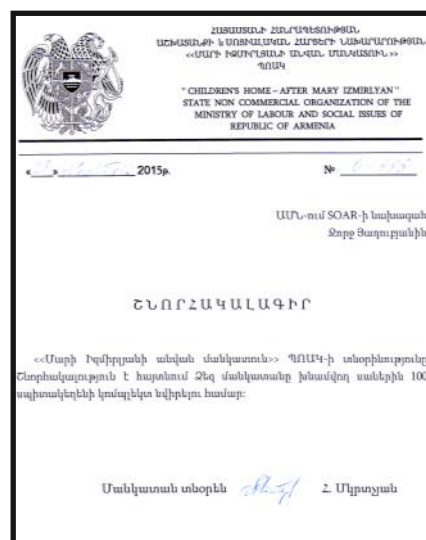


Quality Control

SOAR imposes a strict quality control protocol to assure that all goods and services reach their intended recipients.

This protocol has five primary steps:

- 1) We rarely make cash distributions directly to the orphanages. Rather, those goods and services that can be procured in Armenia are purchased by our Partners and distributed directly to the orphanages.
- 2) We implement chain-of-custody procedures that ensure that all goods or services reach their intended recipients:
 - ⇒ In-country Partners sign an invoice giving an exact description of the type and quantity of goods or services received.
 - ⇒ The orphanage directors then sign the invoice.
 - ⇒ The invoice with both signatures is mailed to the Executive Board Chairman for filing in permanent records.
- 3) Our Partners, Yerevan Chapter members, and other volunteers who visit Armenia make random inspections of the orphanages to assure that a reasonable quantity of goods remains. Discrepancies are reported immediately to the Executive Board Chairman. To date, no discrepancies have ever been reported.
- 4) When possible (as with appliances, furniture, and books), goods provided by SOAR are engraved and/or stamped with a corporate seal. Major projects are acknowledged with a SOAR dedication plaque.
- 5) We implement a zero-tolerance policy for fraud, theft, and/or deception. In the event of a discrepancy, the orphanage concerned will no longer be eligible for SOAR assistance.



Locations SOAR Supports

S OAR's work benefits orphaned Armenians cared for in the following locations:

Armenia

- ♦ **Children's Home of Gyumri** is a state orphanage in Gyumri housing approximately 100 children with special needs, under the age of 6.
- ♦ **Community Development and Social Support Center** in Gyumri offers alternative care and material assistance to children with special needs ages 6–18.
- ♦ **Dzorak Care Center** in Yerevan serves as an orphanage and nursing home for approximately 120 adults with severe physical and psychological disabilities who have outgrown the traditional orphanage.
- ♦ **Gavar Orphanage** is a state orphanage in Gavar housing approximately 65 children between the ages of 3 and 18
- ♦ **Gyumri Social Childcare Center** is a day center in Gyumri primarily serving children 6-18 years old from disadvantaged families.
- ♦ **Kharberd Orphanage** is a state orphanage in Kharberd housing approximately 280 children with special needs, ages 6–18.
- ♦ **Mari Izmirlyan Orphanage** is a state orphanage in Yerevan housing approximately 100 children with special needs between the ages of 6 and 18.
- ♦ **Mer Doon (“Our Home”)** offers a home in Etchmiadzin for orphaned Armenian adults (18 and over) who have outgrown the traditional orphanage. Mer Doon offers education and a loving and compassionate family environment, thus easing the transition from orphanage life to outside society.
- ♦ **Mer Hooys (“Our Hope”)** 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 60 children (both healthy and with special needs) under the age of 6.
- ♦ **Nubarashen** is a state boarding school in Yerevan housing approximately 83 children with special needs, ages 7– 18.
- ♦ **Orphanage of Fridtjof Nansen** 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 in Tsaghgadzor** hosts approximately 800 children ages 8 to 15 in four sixteen-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.
- ♦ **Our Lady of Armenia Educational Center in Tashir** is operated by the Armenian Sisters of the Immaculate Conception and provides meals and after-school activities to approximately 30 orphaned and otherwise needy children.
- ♦ **Our Lady of Armenia Educational Center Summer Camp (Tashir)** hosts approximately 50 children ages 7-15 for four weeks throughout the summer. The Camp provides nutritious food, physical rest, recreational activities, educational opportunities, and religious-educational experiences to children from the Tashir community.
- ♦ **Shengavit Kindergarten** boards 250 children (at least Monday through Friday, and in most cases on the weekend as well) whose families are living in extreme poverty or have histories of child abuse, domestic violence, or drug addiction. The first of its kind, Shengavit is a standard-setting institution.
- ♦ **SOS Children's Villages' Armenian Charity Foundation - Idjevan** provides for children without parental care or in difficult circumstances, operating a wide range of childcare and family strengthening community activities.

Locations SOAR Supports

- ♦ **SOS Children's Villages' Armenian Charity Foundation - Kotayk** provides for children without parental care or in difficult life circumstances, operating a wide range of child care and family strengthening community and educational activities.
- ♦ **Terchoonian Home** is a private orphanage in Gyumri housing approximately 75 intellectually gifted children, ages 3–12.
- ♦ **Vanadzor Orphanage** is a state orphanage in Vanadzor housing approximately 90 children, age 20 and under.
- ♦ **Vardashen** is a state boarding school in Yerevan housing approximately 82 children, ages 6–18, who “exhibit socially dangerous behavior.”
- ♦ **The Voice of the Armenian Church Orphan Summer Camp**, operated by the Eastern Prelacy, is held in Tsaghgadzor every July and hosts roughly 50 orphaned boys and girls, ages 10–16. The camp offers the children love and seeks to instill in them the love of Christ and the history of the Armenian Church.
- ♦ **Warm Hearth/Jermik Ankyun** is a private group home, located just outside of Yerevan, which cares for approximately 13 adult orphans with disabilities and mental illnesses. Warm Hearth’s family-like atmosphere offers residents a wonderful alternative to psychiatric institutions.
- ♦ **Zadik Orphanage** is a state orphanage in Yerevan housing approximately 20 children, ages 6–18.

Artsakh/Kharabagh

- ♦ **Boarding School #1** is a state orphanage in Stepanagert housing approximately 22 social and natural orphaned children ages 8–15.
- ♦ **Boarding School #2** is a state orphanage in Kashatagh housing approximately 22 children, ages 8–15.

Javakh, Georgia

- ♦ **The Holy Cross Armenian Church of Javakh Summer Day Camp** in Akhakalak serves roughly 250 social orphans living at or below poverty level. The camp gets these village children off the streets during the summer and provide them with a safe, clean, fun, and spiritual environment.

Lebanon

- ♦ **The Armenian Evangelical Boarding School** in Ainjar is home to approximately 75 social orphans.
- ♦ **Birds' Nest Orphanage** in Byblos provides boarding, education, spiritual guidance, and encouragement to children from broken families and in need of care and compassion. It houses 37 children, ages 6 months–17 years.
- ♦ **Bzommar Orphanage** is operated by the Armenian Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, who carry out catechetical, cultural and social work with both natural and social orphans. It houses approximately 25 girls.
- ♦ **Cardinal Aghajanian Orphanage** in Ainjar is home to about 24 boys who are social orphans.

Syria

- ♦ **St. Theresa's Little Flower Orphanage-Azizie**, run by the Armenian Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, cared for up to 35 girls till civil unrest made it necessary to relocate many of the orphans.
- ♦ **St. Theresa's Little Flower Orphanage-Meydan**, run by the Armenian Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, cared for up to 35 girls till civil unrest made it necessary to relocate many of the orphans.
- ♦ **S.O. Khach Orphanage** has raised several generations of youth who have become important citizens. Due to civil unrest, in 2012 the children had to be moved to a community center where they are still being cared. There are 14 boys and girls there now, ages 8–19.

Special Programs and Funds

SOAR's work includes a host of special programs and funds aimed at developing the linguistic, educational, vocational, and emotional capacities of orphaned Armenians around the world. Each program is overseen by a particular Chapter.

Armenian Heritage Program: creating a network of children adopted from Armenia, and sharing information about Armenian culture with those adopted into non-Armenian families.

Armenian Language Program: providing instruction in the Armenian language, particularly for children adopted from Armenia who are now living in the diaspora.

Art Fund: teaching the basics of art at Mari Izmirlyan Orphanage and Gyumri Social Childcare Center, and helping children with particular interest and talent move forward with individual lessons and career help.

Bible Study Program: providing an introduction to stories of the Bible in a child-centered format.

Business Development Program: assisting Armenian orphanages in the development of business ideas by reviewing their business plans, identifying strategies for implementation, etc.

Child Reunification and Family Training (CRAFT) Program: guiding the process of returning children in temporary out-of-home care to their families of origin. *(Underwritten by the Carol Fananjian Foundation.)*

Computer Science Program: providing virtual instruction on operation systems (Windows and Linux) and the use of Office programs (Word, Excel, and Power Point), web design, and image processing.

Dental Fund: providing stocked & staffed dental facilities to fight cavities, the most prevalent chronic disease among children in Armenia.

Disability Early Warning System (DEWS): identifying physical and mental disabilities of children newly arrived at orphanages in Armenia, so that needs for immediate medical intervention will not be missed.

English as a Second Language Program (ESL): developing Armenian children's understanding and use of English.

Eye Care Fund: addressing the diagnosis and treatment of children with serious vision problems.

Fairy Tale Program: giving a special targeted approach to children with special behavioral or communication needs.



Special Programs and Funds

Financial Planning Program: educating orphans in the areas of budgeting, employment, identity theft, and money management.

Genocide Education Program: using remembrance of past atrocities and fighting of genocide denial and revisionism to work toward prevention of future atrocities.

Girls' Empowerment Program: improving the girls' social, health, and economic resources so that they can stay in school longer, avoid early marriage, delay sexual activity, and prevent unintended pregnancy and transmission of sexually transmitted diseases.

Global Hosting Program: allowing orphaned or seriously underprivileged children to live with a host family in the States and enjoy a variety of enriching experiences., including a week at Camp Hye Sierra in California.

Human Rights Monitoring Program: monitoring potential human rights violations within Armenia's orphanages, boarding schools, and day centers.

Language Tutoring Program: enhancing the foreign language skills of orphaned Armenians through tutoring in English, French, Italian, Russian, Spanish, Japanese, Bulgarian, and Ukrainian by SOAR volunteers.

Life-Skills Coaching Program: teaching children to be their best, to live with far less stress and fear, to make wiser decisions, and to unleash limitless creativity.

Mentoring Program: providing personal interaction with adults around the world who can share their education, wisdom, and life and career experiences with institutionalized children.

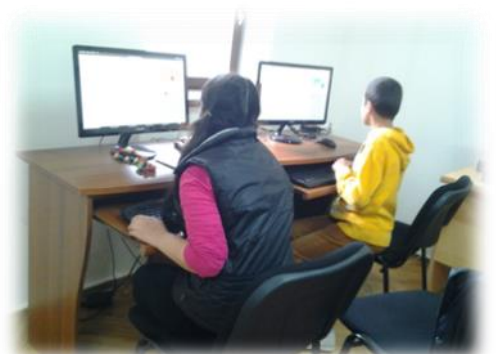
Multidisciplinary Tutoring Program: allowing Chapter board members around the world to offer orphaned Armenians tutoring in mathematics, the natural sciences, computer science, humanities, and other important disciplines.

Orphan Transitional Program: facilitating independent living for Armenia's institutionalized children once they outgrow their orphanages.

Pen Pal Program: arranging traditional letter writing between first grade Armenian children in the United States and orphaned children in Armenia.

Senior Program: electronically bringing orphans in Armenia together with senior citizens living around the world.

Virtual Mission Team: offering mentorships, classroom lessons/projects, and internship opportunities with leading worldwide business and education professionals.



. . . Special Programs and Funds

Sponsorship Program

The sponsorship program personally connects sponsors with an orphaned or otherwise needy child or adult. Full, mid-level, and Special Occasion sponsorship levels are possible. *The entire donation goes directly to the individual being sponsored; no funds support the orphanage or SOAR generally.* SOAR assumes the cost of all wiring fees.

In 2015, this program provided more than 200 sponsorships in Armenia and Lebanon.



Syrian Armenian Disaster Relief

2015 saw the continued care of SOAR for needy Syrian Armenians, disbursing the following through the course of the year:

1. \$21,000 for Aleppo, raised by SOAR-Wisconsin.
2. \$7,000 to Aleppo, raised by SOAR-La Cañada.
3. \$3,000, raised by SOAR-Ventura.
4. Medications valued at \$10,000, shipped by SOAR-La Cañada to the Syrian Armenian Relief Center in Yerevan.
5. \$450,000 relief shipment made to the Syrian Armenian Relief Center in Yerevan.
6. \$16,600 to St. Theresa's Little Flower Orphanage in Aleppo.

January 2015

"I am sure you have seen the devastated condition of Syria and especially Aleppo. For more than a month there is NO fuel, NO mazote to heat the houses or schools, NO benzene to run cars, and NO propane and NO electricity, and on top of all this the weather is sub zero and we are freezing. Please keep us in your prayers, and the Lord will keep us safe."

—Sister Louisa
St. Theresa's Little Flower Orphanage



The Albert Tamberchi Foundation

The Albert Tamberchi Foundation was established in 2013 as a non-governmental organization that provides financial assistance to orphans, sick children and destitute senior citizens of Armenian origin. Through a cooperative agreement with SOAR, the Albert Tamberchi Foundation provides support to orphaned Armenian children and adults around the world.



2015 Contributions from the Albert Tamberchi Foundation

- ◆ Playground renovation at the Orphanage of Fridtjof Nansen
- ◆ Security system installed at Nubarashen
- ◆ Construction of dental suite at Our Lady of Armenia Center – Gyumri
- ◆ 17 air conditioners for Shengavit Kindergarten
- ◆ Renovation of recreation room at Our Lady of Armenia Center – Tashir
- ◆ New water pipes for Our Lady of Armenia Center – Gyumri



The Harold and Josephine Gulamerian Armenian Orphan Fund

2015 Contributions from the **Harold & Josephine Gulamerian Armenian Orphan Fund**

- ♦ Renovation of Recreation Room at the Our Lady of Armenia Center – Tashir
- ♦ Balcony, dining room, and basement renovation at Our Lady of Armenia – Tashir
- ♦ Eye exams, eyeglasses, and exam equipment through SOAR Eye Care Project
- ♦ Hippotherapy Arena for Kharberd Orphanage
- ♦ Aqua Therapy Center at Mari Izmirlyan Orphanage
- ♦ New furniture for Zatik Orphanage
- ♦ 10 new showers, and repairs of bath floor and heating system at Mer Hooys
- ♦ Hallway renovations at Our Lady of Armenia – Gyumri
- ♦ Javakh Orphan Summer Camp
- ♦ New wood flooring for Warm Hearth

(continued, next page)

The Harold and Josephine Gulamerian Armenian Orphan Fund was established in 2013 as a non-denominational charitable organization to assist orphaned Armenians. Partnering with SOAR, the foundation provides funds to educate, empower, and improve the lives of orphaned Armenian children and adults throughout the world.



The Harold and Josephine Gulamerian Armenian Orphan Fund



2015 Contributions from the **Harold & Josephine Gulamerian Armenian Orphan Fund**

- ◆ Dental clinic at Our Lady of Armenia Center – Gyumri
- ◆ Gulamerian Armenian Orphan Fund Retreat
- ◆ Shipment of soap for Our Lady of Armenia Summer Camp
- ◆ Renovations at Our Lady of Armenia – Tashir
- ◆ 61 new mattresses for Vanadzor Orphanage
- ◆ Renovations at The Holy Cross Armenian Church of Javakh Summer Day Camp
- ◆ Computer lab at Mer Hooys
- ◆ Repairs on sewer system at Warm Hearth
- ◆ Installation of security and fire alarm systems at Shengavit Kindergarten
- ◆ 40 mattresses for Orphanage of Fridtjof Nansen
- ◆ 61 mattresses for Vanadzor Orphanage
- ◆ Renovations for a new art studio in Javakh



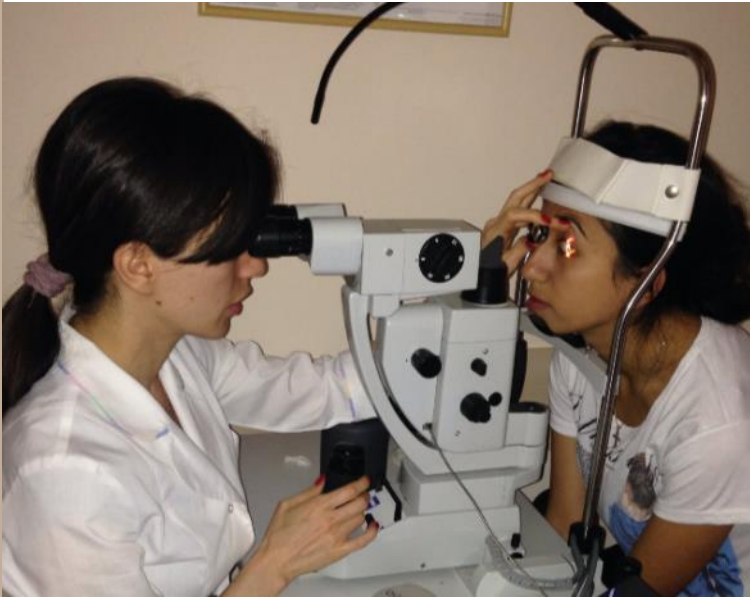
2015 Distributions

- ♦ Salon equipment and chair for Vanadzor Orphanage hairdresser
- ♦ 3 baby jumpers for Gyumri Children's Home
- ♦ Eye exams, eyeglasses, and exam equipment through SOAR Eye Care Fund
- ♦ Furniture, bed linen, pillows, and blankets for Zadik
- ♦ Renovation of playground at Orphanage of Fridtjof Nansen
- ♦ Day of Mother's and Beauty celebration at Kharberd
- ♦ Art and medical/dental supplies for Kharberd
- ♦ Easter treats for Zadik and Nubarashen.
- ♦ Renovation of the Recreation Room, balcony, kitchen & dining room, and basement of the Our Lady of Armenia- Tashir
- ♦ Periodic diaper deliveries
- ♦ Masis Event at Kharberd to celebrate Parents' Day and opening of a new daycare center
- ♦ Scales, medication, and kitchen supplies for Mari Izmirlyan Orphanage
- ♦ 17 air conditioners for Shengavit Kindergarten
- ♦ Shoe lockers for Mer Hooys
- ♦ 10 new showers, bath floor repairs, and renovation of heating system at Mer Hooys

(continued on next page)



2015 Distributions



- ♦ Bibles for the children at Vanadzor
- ♦ Hippotherapy Arena at Kharberd
- ♦ Funding, plus eight boxes of items donated for Javakh Summer Camp
- ♦ Gulamerian Armenian Orphan Fund Retreat
- ♦ New water pipes and hallway renovations for Our Lady of Armenia Center
- ♦ Shipment of soap for Our Lady of Armenia Summer Camp
- ♦ 50 mattress covers and 2 refrigerators for Nubarashen
- ♦ New air conditioners for Mer Doon
- ♦ Blood glucose meter for Children's Home of Gyumri
- ♦ Stair and bathroom renovation at Warm Hearth
- ♦ 61 new mattresses for Vanadzor Orphanage
- ♦ Renovations at The Holy Cross Armenian Church of Javakh Summer Day Camp
- ♦ 40 mattresses for Mari Izmirlyan Orphanage
- ♦ 75 wheelchair belts and 25 leg fixators for Kharberd
- ♦ Two large boxes of new toys and new clothes for Mari Izmirlyan Orphanage
- ♦ School supplies for Gyumri Social Childcare Center

(continued on next page)

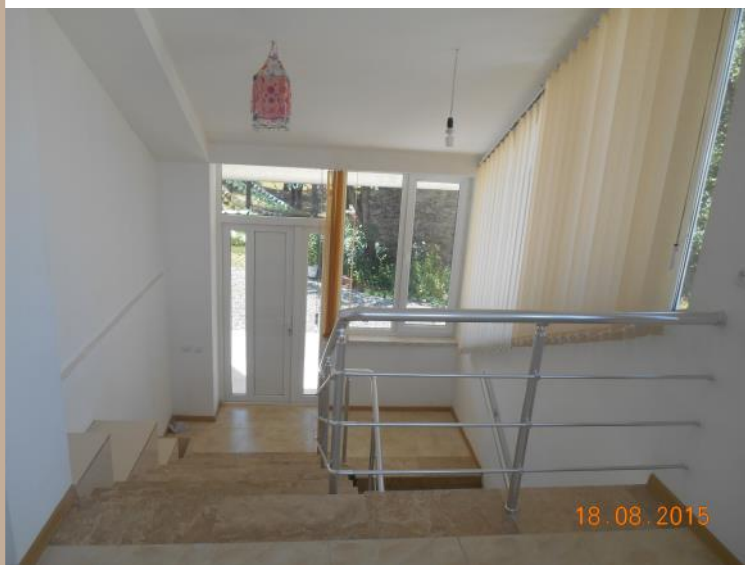
2015 Distributions

- ♦ Aqua Therapy Center at Mari Izmirlyan Orphanage
- ♦ Dental suite at Our Lady of Armenia – Gyumri
- ♦ Computer lab for Mer Hooys
- ♦ Laptop, screen and projector for spiritual classes for Warm Hearth residents
- ♦ Fire and security systems for Shengavit Kindergarten
- ♦ Security system for Nubarashen
- ♦ New wood flooring and sewer system repairs for Warm Hearth
- ♦ 40 beds, 40 private closets, and 40 mattresses for Mari Izmirlyan
- ♦ New laptop and projector for Shengavit Kindergarten
- ♦ 40 mattresses for Orphanage of Fridtjof Nansen
- ♦ Shipment of medicine to the Syrian Refugee Center in Yerevan
- ♦ 11 wheelchairs for Kharberd Orphanage
- ♦ 2 refrigerators and 6 rugs for Mer Hooys
- ♦ Presents for the children at Nubarashen
- ♦ Renovations for a new art studio in Javakh
- ♦ New medical nebulizer for Children's Home Gyumri
- ♦ medical items for the Kharberd dental clinic

(continued on next page)



2015 Distributions



- ♦ Urgently needed medication for boy at Mari Izmirlyan
- ♦ Shipment of toys and soap to Kharberd Orphanage
- ♦ Warm hats and soft toys for the Children's Home Gyumri
- ♦ 8 boxes of school supplies for Terchoonian Home
- ♦ Thanksgiving celebration for the children at Our Lady of Armenia – Gyumri
- ♦ New Year's & Christmas parties for 21 locations
- ♦ Christmas gifts for SOS Children's Villages
- ♦ Excursions to local places of fun and interest for the children from various orphanages

Activity Highlights



SOAR–National

- Celebrated its 10th anniversary in March, with a cocktail reception, planning meetings, and a grand gala in Philadelphia
- Held its annual March Madness Pool
- Established the Orphan Transitional Program
- Held its annual NFL Eliminator Pool
- In December, along with other organizations and agencies, officials from Armenia's

Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, UNICEF, and USAID, attended the committee meeting of the national commission on child protection.



Amman

- Oversaw all of SOAR's internal graphic design needs

Atlanta

- Committed to help oversee the Mentoring Program

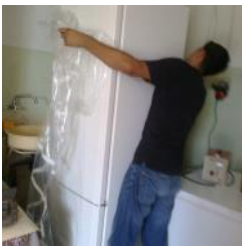


Baltimore

- Hosted a one-day beginners' Hatha Yoga class at Yin Yang Yoga & Wellness
- Hosted a fundraiser dinner at Nora's Kabob Ellicott City

Bismarck

Committed to participate in the Language Tutoring Program



Boston

- Chapter president Charlie Garo Arakelian helped organize the first official SOAR-Phoenix meeting. "The meeting was highly productive and all important initial groundwork set-up," he reported. "I am proud to be a part of this great organization that is growing with the efforts of so many wonderful people!"
- Funded two refrigerators for Nubarashen Orphanage



Brussels

- Funded medication and other necessities for its sponsored children and siblings
- Committed to help oversee the Child Reunification and Family Training Program
- Chapter member Eduardo Balekjian visited Mari Izmirlyan Orphanage
- Held "Moustache Fundraising Party"
- Received thank-you letters from two orphanages that the Chapter has supported
- Provided furnished and heated home for sponsored children Rafik and Syuzanna
- December: Sent Christmas gifts for Rafik and Syuzanna

Activity Highlights

Budapest

- Committed to help oversee the Business Development Program



Cadiz (Spain)

- Gave foreign-language lessons to orphans in Armenia and funded an excursion to the Yerevan zoo for the children at Zadik Orphanage



Cairo

- Established the Senior Program
- Introduced SOAR to the community through a Facebook page, fliers, etc.
- Funded 19 sponsorships (in spite of the unfavorable exchange rate between US dollars and Egyptian pounds!)
- Provided tutoring in English
- Arranged individual visits to orphanages in Armenia
- Girls' basketball team from Cairo visited orphanages in Armenia



Charlotte

- Chapter president Marat Akopian visited Nubarashen Orphanage, with treats for the children, and Shengavit Kindergarten, with clothing and a projector for the auditorium
- Provided art supplies for Shengavit Kindergarten
- Received donations from 19 families during a hugely successful SOAR Introduction event.



Chicago

- More than 100 people came out to the Chapter's 5th annual fundraiser to enjoy wonderful music, good food, and friends. This year's event, which marked the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, was a moving tribute to Armenian culture, and a reminder that so many Armenian children still need help. Over \$6,000 was raised for new dental clinics in Armenia.
- Hosted a booth at the Taste of Armenia Street Fair, one of the premiere Armenian picnics in the Chicago area
- Posted a public "Merry Christmas" card soliciting donations for the orphans in Armenia

Cleveland

- Committed to help oversee the Business Development Program
- Held a Movie and a Dinner event in March
- Hosted three Sunday fellowships
- Shipped 11 new wheelchairs to Kharberd Orphanage

Activity Highlights



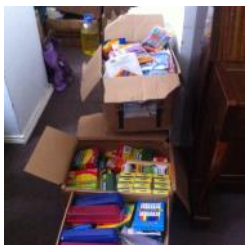
Colorado

- Raised \$4,700 at its annual January Art Show to benefit the 2015 art program at Warm Hearth, a group home in Armenia founded in 2006 for orphans with disabilities who have outgrown orphanages. The art program allows Warm Hearth residents to enjoy painting, paper mache, beading, carpet-weaving, drawing, embroidery and making traditional Armenian dolls. The residents now participate in exhibits and fairs in Armenia and sell their artwork to support the home. The January Art Show in Colorado has raised a total of \$21,144 since the first event six years ago and has increased the annual budget for Warm Hearth's art program from zero to nearly \$5,000.
- Chapter members and their friends and family came together for the third annual garage sale to support the Chapter's next January Art Show.



Copenhagen

- Funded an excursion for children from Mari Izmirlyan Orphanage. The children went to "The Found Dream" cafe where they had a lunch of pizza, salad, olives, cheese, chips, fried chicken, drinks, and a cake. They played games, sang, and danced. It was an unforgettable day.
- Chapter member Lusine brought a big egg from Denmark for the children of Zatik Orphanage. She then made a trip to Nubarashen with fruits, gifts, and candy for an Easter celebration.



Dallas

- Oversaw the Financial Planning Program
- Hosted the Chapter's first School Supply Fundraiser. The entire team pulled together to create a memorable event and raise awareness for this important cause. There was an amazing musical performance by violinist Radu Cernat. Donated items will be sent to Mari Izmirlyan Orphanage in Yerevan and Terchoonian Home Orphanage in Gyumri.
- Participated in the 2015 Dallas Armenian Festival
- Funded eight boxes of school supplies for Terchoonian Home

Detroit

- Committed to help oversee the all three components of the Volunteer Program

Doha (Qatar)

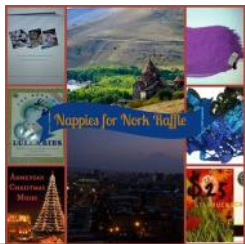
- Committed to oversee the the English as a Second Language Program
- Helped oversee the new Disability Early Warning System (DEWS) Program

Estonia

- Committed to help oversee the Human Rights Monitoring Program

Frankfurt/Bonn

- Committed to help oversee the Financial Planning Program
- Participated in the Language Tutoring Program



Greensboro

- Committed to help oversee the Child Reunification and Family Training Program
- Adoptive mom Viviane Martini organized Nappies for Nork Orphanage Raffle in collaboration with SOAR, Hopscotch Adoptions, and private donors of raffle items

Activity Highlights

Hamburg

- Committed to help oversee the Human Rights Monitoring Program

Hartford

- Committed to help oversee the Armenian Heritage Program

Idaho

- Committed to oversee the Bible Study Program
- Oversaw all of SOAR's social media needs



Inland Empire (CA)

- Purchased \$900 worth of diapers and kitchen supplies for Mari Izmirlyan Orphanage



La Cañada (CA)

- Chapter president visited Mari Izmirlyan and Nork orphanages
- Hosted the Chapter's launch party, an exquisite wine and cheese reception. The evening was highlighted by many distinguished guests who responded generously in support of SOAR La Cañada and its efforts.
- Received \$10,000 worth of essential medications from Glendale Pharmacy for the SyrianArmenian-Syrian refugees in Armenia.
- Held its first annual gala at the beautiful Langham Huntington Hotel in support of Syrian Armenians and Armenian orphans worldwide. Through the outstanding success of this first event, \$75,000 was earmarked for projects including the construction of a medical lab for Mari Izmirlyan Orphanage, a playground for Our Lady of Armenia Orphanage, the dental care campaign in Gyumri, and humanitarian relief for the Syrian Armenian orphans in Aleppo.
- Held Art & Jewelry Trunk Show, and sold ornaments both at Tavlian Preschool and online
- Sponsored two orphanages' Santa parties, purchased two refrigerators, and sent a large quantity of toys valued at over \$500) to ____.



Los Angeles

- Co-sponsored renovation of the Recreation Room at the Our Lady of Armenia Center - Tashir
- Co-sponsored 17 air conditioners for Shengavit Kindergarten
- Held 5th Annual Summer Gala, Casino Royle at Hollywood's beautiful Taglyan Cultural Complex. Thanks to outstanding event sponsors, SOAR-LA raised over \$63,000 in both donations and child sponsorship. The event was later spotlighted in PEOPLE magazine
- Shipped two large boxes of new toys and new clothes to Mari Izmirlyan Orphanage



Activity Highlights

Lyon

- Committed to oversee all French instruction through the Language Tutoring Program.

Montreal

- Hosted fundraiser at the home of Dr. Sarkis Yeretsian

Munich

- Committed to co-manage the Computer Science Program



New Jersey

- SOAR-New Jersey Juniors hosted a "Bowling for Orphaned Children" event and had a wonderful turnout as well as a lot of fun!
- Held the second annual Annual Mother's Day Brunch, a huge success



New York

- Hosted "an evening of fun with SOAR" in June
- Held a benefit Cocktail Soiree at the home of philanthropists Joan and George Hornig to raise funds for Mer Doon. Guests enjoyed cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and performance of Aram Khachaturyan by the renowned Karine Poghosyan. Select pieces of Joan Hornig jewelry were on display for purchase, with all profits going to SOAR.
- Christmastime email and social media to fund holiday parties for the orphanages.



Orange County (CA)

- Established the Pen Pal Program
- Held a sold-out wine and silent auction event at Newport Beach
- Chapter President Nareg Mouradian visited Armenia and toured Zadik orphanage. He was very touched by the orphans who have special needs and returns to Orange County with confirmed commitment to help these children.
- Money donated by Chapter board member Hera Kissoyan was used to purchase needed items for Mari Izmirlyan Orphanage
- Many Chapter supporters joined in a hugely successful hike at the beautiful Crystal Cove National Park, in support of the Armenian orphans around the world.



Philadelphia Metro

- Hosted online Tupperware Party, raising \$182.80
- In April, arranged for Clothes Mentor and The Sweet Taco to donate 20% of supporters' purchases directly back to SOAR
- Hosted annual Italian Dinner Night, complete with raffle and gift baskets, at St. Mark's Armenian Church in Wynnewood, PA

Activity Highlights



Phoenix

- Held inaugural SOAR meeting, a highly productive time laying the groundwork for the Chapter's future work
- Chapter president Artin Knadjian and his family visited Armenia and had a very beneficial tour of Mari Izmirlyan orphanage
- Hosted introductory luncheon at Saint Apkar Church and Cultural Center
- Held a very successful fundraising event, hosted by Margaret Ehramjian & family and

attended by many local politicians, celebrities, and SOAR supporters. The proceeds were designated for the infants and children at Nork Orphanage.

Pisa

- Established the Disability Early Warning System (DEWS) Program, as well as committing to oversee all medical-related initiatives and interventions that SOAR supports



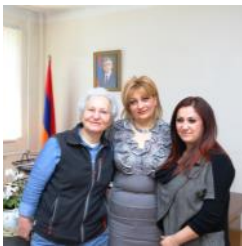
Poland

- Funded Christmas party for Mari Izmirlyan Orphanage



Providence

- Gallery Z hosted a month-long exhibit of the works of over 30 artists as part of the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide, with a portion of the proceeds to benefit SOAR



Sacramento

- May: Chapter president made a visit to Children's Home of Gyumri, taking diapers, fruits, and cookies
- Hosted silent auction & toy drive event

Saint Petersburg

- Committed to help oversee the Girls' Empowerment Program



San Antonio/Austin

- Helped establish the Computer Science Program
- Sponsored virtual Genocide Conference in Armenia
- Held "Coats & Cash for Kids" event with music, food, auction, and collection of in-kind donations

Activity Highlights



San Diego

- Held inaugural gala in Sherman Oaks. Many supporters attended and enjoyed a fun and exciting time. Proceeds were designated for humanitarian relief for the Armenian orphans and children in Syria.
- Worked on raising awareness within the Armenian community
- Ruffled off unique baskets each month



San Francisco/Oakland

- Organized a Casino Night to benefit the children at the Evangelical Boarding school of Ainjar, Lebanon. New friendships were made, and the evening was a HUGE success!

Seattle

- Committed to help oversee the Girls' Empowerment Program.
- Chapter member Beth Shepherd also committed to jointly oversee the Armenian Heritage Program

Southeast Asia

- Committed to help oversee the Girls' Empowerment Program, the Financial Planning Program, and the Business Development Program



Southern Netherlands

SOAR Team ran De 20 van Alphen annual race, with sponsorship proceeds to benefit orphaned Armenian children through SOAR's Pen Pal Program.

Stockholm

- Committed to oversee the Orphan Transitional Program

Ventura County (CA)



- Co-sponsored renovation of the playground at Orphanage of Fridtjof Nansen
- SOAR-Ventura Juniors held a garage sale and sponsored two special-needs children
- Held an *unbelievably* successful picnic—a truly cultural event, in which the SOAR-Ventura Juniors also actively participated
- Sponsored computer lab, purchase of rugs, and office renovation at Mer Hooys.
- Sent humanitarian relief to Aleppo's orphanages
- Co-sponsored dental clinic for Our Lady of Armenia Center and Gyumri in general
- Hosted hugely successful Holiday Brunch and Boutique, with many distinguished guests. Proceeds benefited Our Lady of Armenia Center's second floor construction, Mer Hooys' educational fund, further support of the dental clinic's construction in Gyumri, Warm Hearth orphans, and Christmas parties for the orphans in Armenia and Syria.

Activity Highlights

Washington DC Metro

- Established the Eye Care Project



Wisconsin

- Chapter members visited orphanages in Yerevan and Vanadzor
- Raised funds through a golf outing, dinner, and entertainment event
- Advertised Chapter planning meeting to bring in new members
- Funded donation of 40 beds, 40 individual closets, and 40 mattresses for Mari Izmirlyan



Zurich

- Chapter treasurer Tania Gulekjian Mobayed introduced SOAR to her church, which donated the collection from Easter Mass to support it. Through this, the Chapter was able to support 10 children at Birds' Nest Orphanage in Lebanon.
- Celebrated team member Alexia's birthday in co-operation with Inter Nation and collected CHF1'200, which will support a special program for art in Armenia
- Tania Mobayed and her children ran the Yerevan Half Marathon. The money they raised and items donated from the event went to the children at Nubarashen Orphanage and to help eight children from another orphanage receive English lessons.
- "Take Bestcare" childcare in Zug donated CHF 1'000, which the Chapter designated for the Christmas evening at Bird's Nest Orphanage in Lebanon and for English lessons.



How You Can Help

Baptism Project - Contribute to fund for orphanages interested in having their orphaned children baptized

Benefit Wines - Purchase ABC Cellars charity wines, a lineup of six estate-grown imported wines.

Birthday Fund - Request donations to SOAR in lieu of gifts for your children's birthdays. The funds are used to host monthly birthday parties for the children at Mer Hooys Orphanage and the residents at Warm Hearth.

Disposable Diaper Fund - Contribute to diaper subsidies for Nork and Mari Izmirlyan Orphanages, as government allocations for the purpose are inadequate.

Disaster Assistance and Response Team - Consider your willingness and physical fitness to offer on-the-ground volunteer services in the event of a disaster.

Donate -

- Goods. Though new shipping requirements with the United Armenia Fund (UAF) make it no longer feasible for SOAR to send small quantities of goods, it can still make special shipments when there is sufficient bulk to fill an entire sea container. SOAR is deeply grateful to all who have donated smaller quantities in the past and respectfully requests that, going forward, you consider hosting fundraising events that raise cash in lieu of goods; SOAR can then purchase the goods in Armenia.

- Money. All cash donations to SOAR are tax-deductible. Also, many employers will match charitable contributions made by their employees (and in some cases, by retirees and/or spouses).

Funds & Scholarships - Establish a fund or scholarship such as these:

Lara T. Arabatlian Memorial Medical Fund

Sarkis Esmerian Educational Fund

Arlene Marilyn Koumjian Educational Scholarship

Haig and Alice Koumjian Rug Weaving Memorial Fund

Jeanette Koumjian Art Scholarship

Sonya Anne Martin Scholarship for Public Service

Hasmik Nikoghosyan Memorial Education Fund

Megan Nicole Pelter Medical Scholarship



How You Can Help

Intern - Take the opportunity as an undergraduate, graduate, or law school student to secure internships (virtual or on-site) managed by SOAR's Executive Board in Philadelphia.

Shop Online - Take advantage of one of these FREE charitable online shopping programs:

iGive.com - Shop at over 1400+ stores registered with iGive, and a percentage of your purchase will be donated directly to SOAR.

AmazonSmile - Select “Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief” (not “SOAR”) as your charity, and always shop using smile.amazon.com.

eBay Giving Works - For either shopping or selling, select “Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief” (not “SOAR”), and add it to your charity list.

SOAR's Online Store - Shop for apparel (infant, youth, and adult), books about the Armenian homeland, greeting cards, photography, and ornaments.

Special Gifts Program - Be advised on how to make bequests, charitable gift annuities, charitable lead trusts, charitable remainder trusts, donor-advised funds, endowments, in lieu of flowers, retained life estates, scholarships, and wealth replacement trusts.

Volunteering in Armenia - Lend a hand in Armenia itself through the Professional Delegation (short-term medical, dental, and physical therapy missions to undertake a specific project), student internships, or volunteering at a summer camp. (Individuals with interest and training in athletics, art, foreign languages, music, and religion are welcome to apply.)



You shop



They benefit

Accounting Summary

• Armenian Evangelical Boarding School (Lebanon)	\$3,300.00
• Birds' Nest (Lebanon)	\$13,850.00
• Boarding School #1 (Artsakh)	\$666.00
• Boarding School #2 (Artsakh)	\$400.00
• Bzommar Orphanage (Lebanon)	\$925.00
• Cardinal Aghajanian Orphanage (Lebanon)	\$300.00
• Community Development and Social Support Center	\$400.00
• Children's Home of Gyumri	\$2,585.00
• Dzorak Care Center	\$300.00
• Gavar Orphanage	\$623.50
• Gyumri Social Childcare Center	\$105,666.00
• Javakh Summer Day Camp (Georgia)	\$10,522.00
• Kharberd Orphanage	\$172,132.00
• Mari Izmirlyan Orphanage	\$88,205.13
• Mer Doon	\$3,327.00
• Mer Hooys	\$69,690.00
• Nork Orphanage	\$9,300.00
• Nubarashen	\$8,043.00
• Orphanage of Fridtjof Nansen	\$20,806.00
• Our Lady of Armenia Center (Gyumri)	\$409,437.09
• Our Lady of Armenia Summer Camp	\$69,560.00
• Our Lady of Armenia Educational Center (Tashir)	\$56,450.00
• Our Lady of Armenia Summer Camp (Tashir)	\$800.00
• Services to Children in Their Own Homes	\$350.00
• Shengavit Kindergarten	\$19,221.00
• S.O. Khach (Syria)	\$2,300.00
• SOS Children's Center (Idjevan)	\$5,425.00
• SOS Children's Center (Kotayk)	\$2,300.00
• St. Theresa's (Azizie and Meydan)	\$16,600.00
• Syrian Armenian Relief Center (Yerevan)	\$10,000.00
• Terchoonian Home	\$4,812.00
• Vanadzor	\$11,643.00
• Vardashen	\$300.00
• Voice of the Armenian Summer Camp	\$6,000.00
• Warm Hearth	\$17,641.48
• Zadik	\$6,936.00

Total Distributions \$1,150,816.20 ¹

1. This figure includes the work from our Executive Board and all Chapters.

Conclusion

The Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR) was established to provide orphaned Armenian children throughout the world with the resources fundamental to their physical, emotional, and intellectual development. Over time, we aim to provide these underprivileged youth with the tools necessary to become accomplished, educated, and self-supporting Armenian adults.

In calendar year 2015, SOAR distributed \$1,150,816.20 to our target population, donating new toys, diapers, games, school and office supplies, personal hygiene products, and mattresses, as well as funding a variety of capital projects across many of our orphanages.

We are extremely grateful for the emotional and financial support received throughout the world, and we look forward to perpetuating our mission and growing the SOAR family for years to come.





SOAR

Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief
c/o George S. Yacoubian, Jr.
150 N. Radnor Chester Road, Suite F200
Radnor, PA 19087
Cell: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168