

2018

Annual Report



*Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief
(SOAR)*

Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR)



*Providing humanitarian relief
to orphaned Armenians
throughout the world*

2018 Annual Report

Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR)

ATTN: George S. Yacoubian, Jr.

150 N. Radnor Chester Road, Suite F200

Radnor, PA 19087

Cell: 267.615.1944 Fax: 610.229.5168

Email: gyacoubian@soar-us.org

Web: www.soar-us.org

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Greetings from the Executive Board Chairman

To Our SOAR Family:

As we embark on 2019, we reflect on a year filled with a series of unforgettable and moving moments, all of which encourage a sense of optimism. In 2006, our first full year of operations, our distributions exceeded \$59,700.00. In 2018, our distributions exceeded \$1.1M! SOAR's volunteer base continues to grow, with 137 Chapters and 6 Junior Groups perpetuating our mission around the world. We have developed an array of educational, professional, and social Programs which provide enrichment to the lives of the children we support, and this spring, for the first time, hosted "I Can," athletic games for special needs children and young adults.

The sustained interaction between global volunteers and our orphaned children demonstrate that geographical boundaries and cultural distinctions are no hurdle to the mission we embrace. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our SOAR team: Executive Board; Trustees; Mother Arousiag Sajonian; Susan Snavelly; Executive Director Hripsime Muradyan; Hasmik Hovhannisyan; Alina Karapetyan; Zoya Torosyan; Regional Directors; worldwide Chapter volunteers; and, finally, our financial and emotional supporters. Your unwavering loyalty to SOAR makes our work possible. As we come to the end of our 13th year of providing humanitarian assistance to orphaned Armenians around the world, thank you for allowing us to continue to assist, enrich, and protect the most vulnerable population of orphaned Armenians.

Respectfully,

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

Creation and Management

George S. Yacoubian, Jr. and Erica Yacoubian began their adoption process in 2005. Throughout the spring and summer, they went through home study and various levels of domestic governmental approval. While in Armenia during the summer of 2005, George saw Liliana for the first time. He submitted her adoption dossier to the Armenian government in the fall of 2005, received preliminary approval in December 2005, and obtained final adoption approval in March 2006. Liliana Sara Yacoubian, the inspiration for SOAR's work, arrived in the United States on April 23, 2006.

George S. Yacoubian, Jr. founded the Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR) in the fall of 2005 as a charitable organization that provides humanitarian relief to orphaned children living in Armenia. Dr. Yacoubian has served as SOAR's Executive Board Chairman since 2005 and provides oversight and guidance to all SOAR operations worldwide. In early 2006, an experienced and talented Board of Directors was assembled, a network of Partners in Armenia was recruited to assist with distributions, and the web site was launched. Between 2006 and 2008, SOAR established itself as the only charitable organization whose singular mission is to provide humanitarian assistance to orphaned Armenians around the world. In late 2007 and early 2008, SOAR launched its first two Chapters – in Los Angeles and Washington, DC. In 2009, a National Board of Trustees was created to annually review SOAR's fiscal operations and distributions. In 2010, SOAR launched its Sponsorship Fund, which today remains the primary mechanism through which micro-level needs are addressed. Since 2005 SOAR's work has impacted thousands of children across a multitude of constructs, with the penultimate goal to provide institutionalized children with the same educational, emotional, medical, and social support as their non-institutionalized counterparts.

In 2016, SOAR expanded its mission, recognizing that, after a decade of helping children in residential settings, it was necessary to take the proactive step of attempting to reduce the institutionalized orphan population in Armenia. Toward that end, SOAR now supports several day centers, all of which provide services to children at risk for institutionalization. SOAR also established its Services to Children in their Own Home (SCOH) Program. The SCOH Program works with residential institutions to deinstitutionalize and reunify children with biological families and provides home-based services after reunification to reduce the economic, social, emotional, and professional barriers within the family dynamic that may trigger reinstitutionalization.

Represented by 138 Chapters, 6 Junior groups, and more than 600 volunteers worldwide, SOAR supports 44 institutions – orphanages, boarding schools, day centers, and orphan summer camps – in Armenia, Artsakh, Javakh, Istanbul, Lebanon, and Syria. Chapters contribute to SOAR's mission in a variety of ways, from traditional fundraising to Program development to professional expertise. The common bond among members of the SOAR family is the unwavering belief that orphaned children and adults with disabilities represent the most vulnerable population of Armenian society.

Creation and Management (Continued)

SOAR prides itself on collaboration, creativity, cross-cultural respect, fiscal responsibility, loyalty, and transparency. During the past 14 years, SOAR's work has transcended all reasonable expectations. In 2006, distributions totaled approximately \$60,000. Since 2015, SOAR has exceeded \$1M distributions annually. SOAR's efforts not only address the major humanitarian constructs of education, emotional and psychological support, nutrition, health and hygiene, dental and vision care, and fundamental human rights, but the Programs offer educational curricula on a multitude of topics that stimulate intellectual curiosity, empowerment, and enrichment.

For several of us, SOAR is our life's work, and we are blessed with a dedicated and selfless cadre of supporters who share our short-term aspirations and long-term vision. We are faced with an enormous responsibility. Our greatest trepidation is not inadequacy or a belief that we are ill-equipped to assist the orphaned children we have embraced as our own, but rather that we have influence and power beyond measure. Our daily routine involves an almost incomprehensible desire to assist the abandoned, the sick, the impoverished, and the abused. As SOAR's light shines, we hope that we are unconsciously giving our orphaned population the will to do the same.



Quality Control

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

This protocol has six 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 for any goods or services distributed to the orphanages. This assures us that these items have been received by our target population. These chain of custody procedures have three (3) sub-steps:
 - 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.
- 6) SOAR utilizes Microsoft Planner, which allows SOAR to retain all receipts, pictures, and internal documents for all projects.



Institutions We Support

SOAR supports 44 institutions in six countries: 31 orphanages, boarding schools, day centers and summer camps in Armenia; two Armenian boarding schools in Artsakh; two orphanages in Istanbul; one orphan summer camp in Javakh; four Armenian orphanages and one orphan summer camp in Lebanon; and three Armenian orphanages in Syria:

- *Armenian Evangelical Boarding School* in Ainjar, Lebanon, is home to healthy social orphans.
- *Birds' Nest Orphanage* in Byblos, Lebanon, has been home to thousands of Armenian children in the Middle East region for more than 90 years. Today, Birds' Nest houses healthy social orphans.
- *Boarding School #1* in Stepanakert, Artsakh, houses healthy and special needs children between the ages of 4 and 16.
- *Boarding School #2* in Kashatagh, Artsakh, houses healthy and special needs children between the ages of 6 and 17.
- *Boarding School #2 of Fridtjof Nansen (formerly Orphanage of Fridtjof Nansen)* in Gyumri, Armenia, houses children between the ages of 4 and 18. approximately 83 children between the ages of 4 and 18.
- *Bzommar Orphanage* in Bzommar, Lebanon, is operated by the Armenian Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, a religious order of nuns established in 1847. The Sisters carry out catechetical, cultural, and social work with both natural and social orphans. Approximately 10 teenage girls reside at Bzommar.
- *Cardinal Aghajanian Orphanage* in Ainjar, Lebanon, is home to orphaned boys.
- *Children's Home of Gyumri* houses children with special needs ages 6 years and younger.
- *Community Development and Social Support Center* in Gyumri, Armenia, is a non-residential center that offers alternative care and material assistance to special needs children and their families. The Center started its activities in 2012.
- *Dzorak Care Center* in Yerevan, Armenia, served as an orphanage for 400 children during the 1940s. In 1959, it became a boarding school for children from underprivileged families. Today, Dzorak serves as an orphanage and nursing home for adults with severe physical and psychological disabilities who have outgrown the traditional orphanage.
- *Gavar Orphanage* in Gavar, Armenia, houses healthy children under the age of 18.
- *Gyumri Social Childcare Center* is a day center in Gyumri, Armenia. Since July 2006, children from around the province who are at serious risk for institutionalization have been served at the Center.
- *Hrant Dink School* in Istanbul, Turkey, offers day services to Armenian children.

Institutions (Continued)

- *The Holy Cross Armenian Church of Javakh Summer Day Camp* in Akhakalak, Georgia, serves social orphans living at or below poverty level from the nearby villages. The camp provides the children with a safe, clean, fun, and spiritual environment during the summer.
- *Kalfayan Orphanage* in Istanbul, Turkey, was founded in 1866 by Srpuhi Kalfayan, an Armenian nun. Both the “Order of Kalfayan” and the orphanage exist today due to support from the Patriarchate and charitable donors.
- *Kharberd Orphanage* in Yerevan, Armenia, houses children and young adults with severe disabilities.
- *Mari Izmirlyan Orphanage* in Yerevan, Armenia, houses children with special needs between the ages of 6 and 18.
- *Mer Doon* offers a home in Echmiadzin for young Armenian girls 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.
- *Naghasyan Children’s Support Center (formerly Mer Hooy)* houses teenage girls in the Arapkir district of Yerevan. The girls receive language and job skills training, computer instruction, life skills training, psychological support, and hope, confidence, and love.
- *Orran*, “haven” in Armenian, was established in Yerevan in April 2000. In 2009, a second Orran center was established in Vanadzor. Today, Orran supports approximately 95 seniors and 200 children across Armenia.
- *The Our Lady of Armenia Annie Bezikian Youth Center* is a private facility in Kanaker that houses girls between the ages of 16 and 22 who have outgrown the traditional orphanage and who are transitioning to independent living. 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* in Gyumri, Armenia, housing healthy children 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 Our Lady of Armenia Center Summer Camp (Bzommar, Lebanon)* hosts children ages 8 to 15 throughout the summer. The Camp provides nutritious food, physical rest, recreational activities, and religious-educational experiences both to institutionalized children and other impoverished children throughout Lebanon.

Institutions (Continued)

- ***Our Lady of Armenia Center Summer Camp (Tsaghgadzor, Armenia)*** hosts approximately 800 children throughout the summer, in four 16-day sessions. The Camp provides nutritious food, physical rest, recreational activities, and religious-educational experiences both to orphan and otherwise needy children throughout Armenia.
- ***Our Lady of Armenia Educational Center*** in Tashir, Armenia, 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*** in Tashir, Armenia, 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 experiences to children from the Tashir community.
- ***Prkutyun*** in Yerevan, Armenia, is a day center that offers food, educational, and therapeutic services to children and young adults with disabilities.
- ***Saint Theresa's Little Flower Orphanage (Azizie and Meydan, Syria)*** is the House of Providence. After the 1915 Genocide, the Armenian Sisters of the Immaculate Conception stood responsible for the displaced and served as comforting and caring "mothers" for the lonely Armenian orphans. In 1936, "The Providence Orphanage" (Nakhakhnamootian Doon) was founded in the Syrian region of Azizie and was a haven for 300 orphaned children. Before March 2011, the orphanage housed up to 35 girls who lived in an environment of peace and who attended regular school. Because of the war and the unrest in Aleppo, many of the Armenian orphans could no longer stay at The Providence Orphanage. Some live in Meydan, a very poor Armenian section in Aleppo, and attend Zvartnotz School, while other orphans live in Azizie and attend Zanabek, the other Armenian school run by the Armenian Sisters of the Immaculate Conception.
- ***Shengavit Kindergarten*** in Shengavit, Armenia, houses students Monday through Friday whose families live in extreme poverty or which have histories of abuse, domestic violence or alcohol or drug addiction. Although some children return home on the weekends, approximately 150 remain at the school full-time.
- ***Sisters of Charity (SOC) (Bethlehem and Spitak)*** is a Catholic religious order established by Mother Teresa to tend to "the poorest of the poor." SOC-Bethlehem is a private orphanage outside of Yerevan that houses approximately 20 very young children with severe physical and mental disabilities. SOC-Spitak is a private orphanage that houses approximately 15 teenagers and adults with severe physical and mental disabilities.

Institutions (Continued)

- **S.O. Khach Orphanage** in Syria has been a family for more than 90 years. Before March 2012, the children lived in the Telil area of Syria. Due to civil unrest, the children moved to the Aram Manoogian Community Center in September 2012. S.O. Khach houses healthy children and young adults between the ages of 8 and 19 years old.
- **SOS Children's Villages' Armenian Charity Foundation - Idjevan and Kotayk** is a child-centered organization whose core mission is to provide care and development for children without parental care and children in difficult life circumstances. The organization was founded in 1989 in response to the devastating earthquake of December 1988. In 1990, SOS Children's Village in Kotayk opened its doors for children who had lost their parents in the earthquake. It was the first SOS Children's Village in any former Soviet republic. SOS Children's Village in Idjevan was founded in 2009. Presently, SOS Children's Villages in Armenia operate a wide range of child care and family strengthening community and educational activities.
- **Terchoonian Home** is a private orphanage in Gyumri, Armenia, housing children between the ages of 3 and 18.
- **Vanadzor Orphanage** is a private orphanage in Vanadzor, Armenia, housing healthy children under the age of 18.
- **Vardashen** is a state boarding school in Yerevan, Armenia, housing children who exhibit socially dangerous behavior between the ages of 6 and 18.
- **The Voice of the Armenian Church Orphan Summer Camp**, operating under the auspices of the Eastern Prelacy and its Executive Council, is held in the summer retreat of Tsaghgadzor, Armenia, and hosts orphaned children between the ages of 10 and 16. The Camp, held in July for eight days, exposes the children to comfort, love, compassion, and care, while simultaneously instilling in them the love of Christ and the history of the Armenian Church.
- **Warm Hearth (3rd village and Arinj, Armenia)** houses adults with disabilities who have outgrown the state-funded orphanages. The two facilities provide the residents with an alternative to psychiatric institutions, offering holistic care in a family-like setting.
- **Yerevan's Children Home (formerly Nork Orphanage)** in Yerevan, Armenia, houses children (both healthy and with special needs) ages 6 years and under.
- **Yerevan Special School Number 11 for Mentally Retarded Children (Nubarashen)** is a state boarding school in Yerevan housing children with special needs.
- **Zadik Orphanage** is a state orphanage in Yerevan housing approximately 20 children, ages 6–18.



Funds

Sponsorship Fund:

The Sponsorship Fund is the primary mechanism for addressing *child-specific* needs.

The Sponsorship Fund allows you to personally connect with an orphaned Armenian child or adult. Your entire donation goes directly to the orphan you are sponsoring; no funds support their orphanage or SOAR generally, and SOAR assumes the cost of all wiring fees.



SOAR has 3 sponsorship types with close to 300 children and families sponsored.

- Sponsorship Fund
- Services to Children in their Own Homes (SCOH)
- SOS Village Sponsorships



Funds (Continued)

Art Fund: The Art Fund facilitates interest in the visual arts by offering financial assistance for art supplies, private lessons, and scholarships to advanced art institutions.

Baptism Fund: The Baptism Fund began in July 2015 to provide funds to those institutions interested in having their children baptized in the Armenian Church.

Birthday Fund: The Birthday Fund is a program whereby parents request donations to SOAR in lieu of gifts for their children's birthdays. The funds are used to host monthly birthday parties for the children at Naghasyan Children's Support Center (formerly Mer Hooys) and the residents at Warm Hearth.

Dental Fund: To address dental issues in Armenia, SOAR's Dental Fund was created and is overseen by a team of dental experts. The Fund has three (3) primary components:

- Dental clinic construction
- Recruiting dental professionals to volunteer at the OLA Summer Camp
- Procure dental supplies

Diaper Fund: Disposable diapers in Armenia are very expensive. In addition to cost, government allocations for diaper expenses are very low and do not adequately control for the diaper needs of the children. While SOAR firmly believes that the Armenian government should be exclusively responsible for the cost of baby supplies in the state orphanages, we have genuine concern for hygiene and the children's comfort. To address these issues, the Diaper Fund was launched in October 2014 to provide diaper subsidies to Yerevan's Children Home (formerly Nork Orphanage) and Mari Izmirlyan Orphanages.

Eye Care Fund: The Eye Care Fund began in February 2015 to address the diagnosis and treatment of children with serious vision problems.

Orphan Transitional Fund: Chapter volunteers work directly with young adults in Armenia as they transition to independent living, offering mentorship in the areas of education, interview coaching, job training and placement, counseling, and financial planning.

Programs

Developed and managed by our Chapter volunteers, SOAR Programs are academic curricula implemented virtually to the institutions in Armenia. Approximately 20 Programs are offered, including cultural discovery, digital literacy, financial planning, girls' empowerment, language tutoring, life skills, and professional orientation.

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

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.

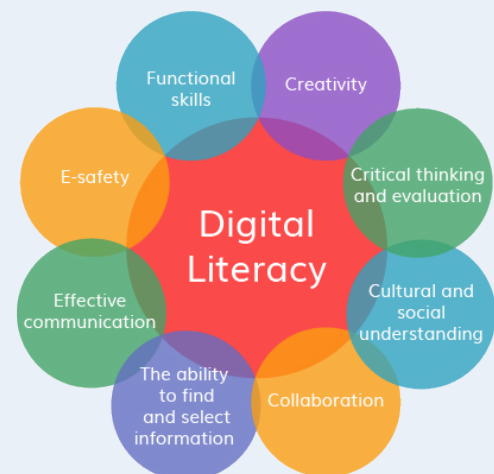
Child Reunification and Family Training (CRAFT) Program: guiding the process of returning children in temporary out-of-home care to their families of origin. (Underwritten by the Carol Fananjian Foundation.)

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.

Cultural Discovery Program (CDP): advances cultural understanding between global SOAR Chapter volunteers and the orphaned 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.

Digital Literacy and Coding (DLC): The SOAR Digital Literacy Program serves as a preparational step to empower children from disadvantaged conditions to participate and excel in coding and engineering related studies in schools and activity centers that are offered nationwide.



Programs (Continued)



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

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

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, Chinese, 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 makewiser 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.

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

Professional Orientation Program: Designed to prepare students for today's competitive and evolving job market.

Senior: Electronically brings orphans in Armenia together with senior citizens living around the world.



2018 Distributions

- **Payment of electricity through the winter months at Zatikavan**
- **Winter coats, warm blankets, a kitchen stove, socks and underwear for the children at Boarding School #2 of Fridtjof Nansen**
- **Monthly diapers for Yerevan's Children Home and Mari Izmirlyan Orphanages**
- **A huge shipment of medical and dental equipment and supplies through Project Cure**
- **A huge distribution of toys by SOAR through Project Cure**
- **Two new washer/dryer combos for Gavar**
- **Shoes for the children at Our Lady of Armenia Educational Center**
- **Two professional blenders for Children's Home Gyumri**
- **A new computer lab for Community Development and Social Support Center**
- **Saturday classes for English improvement at AEBS**
- **Shoes for Shengavit Kindergarten**
- **Legal fees to start two proceedings for brothers to get their legal heir rights back**



2018 Distributions (Continued)

- Renovations of five rooms at Kharberd
- New furniture for the clay workshop at Kharberd
- Completion of the kitchen/cafeteria renovations at Our Lady of Armenia Summer Camp
- Renovations of three bathrooms at Yerevan Special School Number 11 for Mentally Retarded Children (Nubarashen)
- Gas installation at Naghasyan Children's Support Center
- 9th grade graduation celebration at Vardashen
- I Can, Sports Without Limits
- June 1st celebration for Kharberd
- Sports shoes and socks supplied for the children at GSCC to participate in the National Sport Event
- Bicycles for the children at Shengavit Kindergarten
- The walls at Tsaghkadzor summer camp's cafeteria were painted



2018 Distributions (Continued)

- Upgraded dental rooms with digital x-rays in Tsaghkadzor camp
- New bedrooms and furniture at Cardinal Aghajanian Orphanage
- New furniture for Warm Hearth-Arinj from Project Cure
- A graduation for Hrant Dink
- Javakh summer camp support
- An excursion for the children of CDSSC
- A shipment of new clothes and shoes for Gyumri
- New air conditioners for Mer Doon
- 4th annual Gulamerian Retreat
- New van for Birds' Nest Orphanage
- Asphalting of the yard at Gavar
- Repairs at Gavar Orphanage
- The children of Orran received new shoes
- Seven children from Zatikavan went shopping for school clothing



2018 Distributions (Continued)

- Renovation of a playroom at Yerevan Special School Number 11 for Mentally Retarded Children (Nubarashen)
- Renovation of the infirmiry at OLA Gyumri
- Six new bikes for the children at Yerevan Special School Number 11 for Mentally Retarded Children (Nubarashen)
- Renovation on the 2nd and 3rd floors at Yerevan Special School Number 11 for Mentally Retarded Children (Nubarashen)
- Shoes, boots, and clothing for the children at Shengavit Kindergarten
- Pre-renovation for a wood shop at Kharberd
- A new home for Svetlana Grigorian of GSCC
- New computers for Gyumri Social Childcare Center
- New washing machines for Our Lady of Armenia
- Athletic and language programs for the 2018/19 school year for AEBS
- New heaters for OLA
- Gifts and Christmas parties for every institution SOAR supports



Activity Highlights

SOAR National

- Held its annual “March Madness NCAA Pool
- Held “I CAN” Sports Without Limits in Armenia
- Held its annual NFL Pool Eliminator
- Held a private showing of “They Shall Not Perish”
- Held its annual online auction



SOAR Abu Dhabi

- Abu Dhabi is an internal administrative chapter assisting with purchasing

SOAR Albuquerque

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program and the Language Tutoring Program

SOAR Amman

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program and the Language Tutoring Program

SOAR Amsterdam

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

SOAR Antwerp

- Participated in the Girls' Empowerment Program

SOAR Athens

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

SOAR Atlanta

- Held a bowling fundraiser and raffle



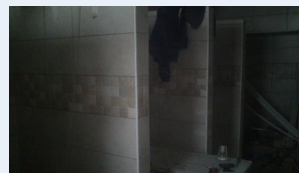
SOAR Baghdad

- Participated in the Business Development Program

Activity Highlights (Continued)

SOAR Baltimore

- Helped fund renovation of three bathrooms at Yerevan Special School #11 for Mentally Retarded Children



SOAR Barcelona

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

SOAR Berlin

- Participated in the Girls' Empowerment Program



SOAR Bismarck

- Participated in the Language Tutoring Program (Russian and English)

SOAR Bogogta

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

SOAR Boston

- Hosted a fundraising event featuring Michael Aram at Bloomingdales
- Held an online fundraiser
- Funded renovations of the pottery room and furniture for Kharberd



SOAR Budapest

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

SOAR Burlington

- Participated in the Senior Program

SOAR Cadiz

- Participated in the Language Tutoring Program

SOAR Cairo

- Participated in the Language Tutoring Program (English)

Activity Highlights (Continued)

SOAR Chicago

- Hosted 1st annual Mother's Day Brunch
- Hosted a table at Armenian picnic in Evanston
- Helped to fund "I CAN" Sports Without Limits
- Sponsored facility Christmas parties



SOAR Copenhagen

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

SOAR Cyprus

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

SOAR Dallas

- Held a school supply drive
- Collected a shipment of new clothes and shoes for Gyumri



SOAR Detroit

- Detroit oversees all aspects of the Volunteer Program

SOAR Doha

- Is an Internal Administrative Chapter overseeing medical requests and funding

SOAR Dubai

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

SOAR East Asia

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

SOAR Eindhoven

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

Activity Highlights (Continued)

SOAR Estonia

- Participated in the Global Hosting Program and the Computer Science Program
-

SOAR Frankfurt/Bonn

- Participated in the Language Tutoring Program
-

SOAR Fresno

- Oversees the Global Hosting Program
-

SOAR Greensboro

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program and the Global Hosting Program
-

SOAR Grenoble

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program
-

SOAR Hamburg

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program
-

SOAR Harrisburg

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program



SOAR Hartford

- Oversees the Disaster Assistance and Response Team
-

SOAR Helsinki

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

Activity Highlights (Continued)

SOAR Houston

- Participated in the Disability Early Warning System Program
-

SOAR Idaho

- Is an Internal Administrative Chapter overseeing social media
-

SOAR Inland Empire

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program
-

SOAR Jacksonville

- Hosted a BBQ fundraiser
- Hosted “May the 4th Be With You” Health Expo



SOAR Johannesburg

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program
-

SOAR Kansas City (MO)

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program
-

SOAR Kiev

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program
-

SOAR Krakow

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program
-

NEWS AND EVENTS!

Activity Highlights (Continued)

SOAR La Cañada

- Funded new heaters for OLA
- Junior members visited Mari Izmirlyan bringing gifts and supplies for the children



SOAR Las Vegas

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

SOAR Leeds

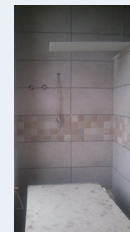
- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

SOAR Lisbon

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

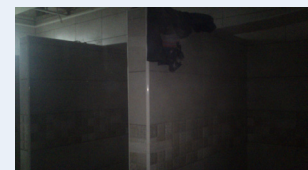
SOAR London

- Funded renovation of infirmiry at OLA
- Hosted a “Quiz Night” fundraiser
- Funded renovations of three bathrooms at Yerevan Special School Number 11 for Mentally Retarded Children (Nubarashen)



SOAR Los Angeles

- Hosted “One Night in Havana” fundraiser
- Funded renovations of three bathrooms at Yerevan Special School Number 11 for Mentally Retarded Children (Nubarashen)



SOAR Luxembourg

- Participated in the Language Tutoring Program (English)

Activity Highlights (Continued)

SOAR Lyon

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program
-

SOAR Malta

- Participated in Global Hosting Program



SOAR Madrid

- Participated in the Computer Science Program, mentoring the children at Gyumri and Vanadzor in 2018



SOAR Marseille

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program
-

SOAR Mexico City

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program
-

SOAR Miami

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program
-

SOAR Milan

- Participated in the Mentoring Program
-

SOAR Minneapolis

- Held a kick-off event to introduce SOAR and their chapter to the community



Activity Highlights (Continued)

SOAR Minsk

- Participated in the Language Tutoring Program (Russian)

SOAR Montebello

- Hosted "Armenian Comedy Night" benefit
- Participated in the L.A. Big 5K



SOAR Montreal

- Held annual fundraiser; A Classical Concert



SOAR Moscow

- Donated winter coats, warm blankets, underwear, socks, pajamas, and a new stove to Boarding School #2 of Fridtjof Nansen (formerly Orphanage of Fridtjof Nansen)



SOAR Munich

- Participated in the Computer Science Program

SOAR Naples

- Hosted their inaugural event

NEWS AND EVENTS!

Activity Highlights (Continued)

SOAR New Delhi

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program
-

SOAR New Orleans

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program
-

SOAR New York

- Funded a new computer lab at CDSSC
- Hosted a “Spring Soiree” fundraiser
- Funded repairs at Gavar Orphanage
- Hosted “Holiday Cocktail Fundraiser”



SOAR Nottingham

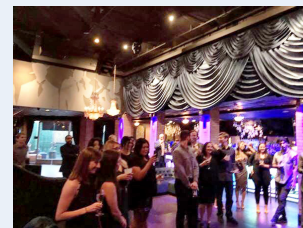
- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program
-

SOAR Odessa

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program
-

SOAR Orange County

- Hosted a fundraising event at the exquisite EnVy lounge in Newport Beach



SOAR Oxbridge

- Oversees the Financial Planning Program
-

SOAR Panama

- Helps oversee the Child Reunification and Family Training (CRAFT) Program

Activity Highlights (Continued)

SOAR Pasadena

- Hosted “A Night in Havana” fundraiser



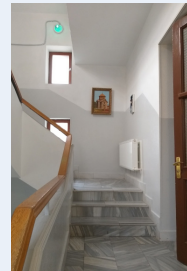
SOAR Philadelphia Metro

- Funded purchase of a new van for Birds' Nest Orphanage
- Funded installation of gas at Naghasyan Children's Support Center (formerly Mer Hoos)
- Hosted “Black and White Ball”



SOAR Phoenix

- Funded new heaters for OLA
- Hosted a table at ArmeniaFest in Scottsdale
- Held first annual Golf Tournament
- Board member Berj Dikranian visited SOAR supported facilities in Armenia



SOAR Pisa

- Participated in the Disability Early Warning System Program

SOAR Pittsburgh

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

SOAR Portland (ME)

- Participated in the Girls' Empowerment Program

SOAR Pittsburgh (OR)

- Participated in the Pen Pal Program

Activity Highlights (Continued)

SOAR Prague

- Oversees blogging
-

SOAR Providence

- Helped to the a new apartment for the Mkrtchyan sisters
 - Gary Grigoryan, chapter president, visited the Mkrtchyan sisters as well as some of the facilities SOAR supports
 - Hosted a BBQ fundraiser
-



SOAR Riga

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program
-

SOAR Rome

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program
-



SOAR Rotterdam

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program
-

SOAR St. Louis

- Held vacation package raffle



SOAR Saint Petersburg

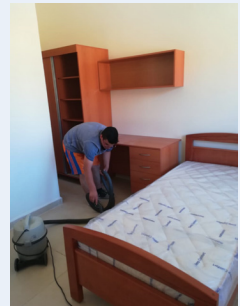
- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program



Activity Highlights (Continued)

SOAR Salt Lake City

- Is an Internal Administrative Chapter assisting in legal matters
- Talar Heculian Coursey participated in the Salt Lake City Marathon receiving an enormous amount of donation pledges for SOAR
- Sponsored facility Christmas parties
- Funded new bedrooms and furniture for Cardinal Aghajanian Orphanage



SOAR Salzburg

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

SOAR San Diego

- Helped to fund thee renovations of the infirmiry at OLA Gyumri
- Held an introductory event to re-introduce SOAR's presence in the San Diego area



SOAR San Francisco Bay Area

- Funded new A/C units at Mer Doon



SOAR Santiago

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

SOAR São Paulo

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program and Global Hosting Program

Activity Highlights (Continued)

SOAR Sofia

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program
-

SOAR Southeast Asia

- Participated in the Global Hosting Program
- Marine Ivanyan, SOAR Southeast Asia Chapter President, made a visit to Yerevan Special School Number 11 for Mentally Retarded Children (Nubarashen)



SOAR Stockholm

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program
-

SOAR Syracuse

- Hosted a luncheon/bingo fundraiser



SOAR Tehran

- Participated in the Language Tutoring Program
-

SOAR Vancouver

- Participated in the Disability Early Warning System Program
-

NEWS AND EVENTS!

Activity Highlights (Continued)

SOAR Yerevan

- is a Liaison Chapter but also participates in orphanage visits and helps in overseeing SOAR events in Armenia
-

SOAR Zurich

- Supported AEBS in Anjar with athletic and language programs for the 2018/19 school year
- Participated in 5kM Charity Walk & Luncheon with the Zug Int. Women's Club and Therapie Hunde Switzerland
- Helped to fund Saturday classes for English improvement at AEBS



Activity Highlights - Juniors

SOAR Atlanta Juniors

- Sold Christmas ornaments (sleighs) at the Westminster alternative gift fair

SOAR La Cañada Juniors

- Vem and Noy Chatoyan of SOAR La Cañada Junior Group made a visit to Mari Izmirlyan Orphanage bringing gifts and supplies for the children



SOAR Los Angeles Juniors

- Assisted the LA Chapter with their "A Night in Havana" fundraiser



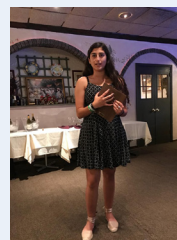
SOAR New Jersey Juniors

- Hosted their Annual Ice Skating Fundraiser



SOAR Philadelphia Metro Juniors

- Hosted an award dinner for Lena Bardakjian who was chosen as the SOAR Junior Volunteer of the Year
- Held a volunteer recruitment meeting



SOAR Ventura County Juniors

- Funded renovations of a playroom at **Yerevan Special School Number 11 for Mentally Retarded Children (Nubarashen)** with donations raised from in lieu of birthday gifts



Accounting Summary

Distributions

• Armenian Evangelical Boarding School.....	\$4,300.00
• Artsakh #1.....	\$510.00
• Lili's Bed and Breakfast.....	\$1,975.00
• Birds' Nest Orphanage.....	\$45,235.00
• Bzommar.....	\$300.00
• Cardinal Aghajanian Orphanage.....	\$300.00
• Community Development and Social Support Center.....	\$12,557.00
• Children's Home Gyumri.....	\$4,956.00
• Damascus (Bishop Armash Nalbandian).....	\$6,500.00
• Dental Clinic.....	\$709.00
• Dzorak Care Center.....	\$5,700.00
• Echmiadzin.....	\$20,000.00
• Gavar Orphanage.....	\$4,110.00
• Gyumri Social Childcare Center.....	\$28,461.00
• Hrant Dink School.....	\$5,500.00
• Javakh.....	\$2,360.00
• Kalfayan Orphanage.....	\$300.00
• Kharberd Orphanage.....	\$32,361.00
• Mer Doon.....	\$1,911.00
• Naghasyan Children's Support Center (formerly Mer Hooys).....	\$7,675.00
• Mari Izmirlyan Orphanage.....	\$1,968.00
• Orran.....	\$16,200.00
• Our Lady of Armenia Center.....	\$74,387.43
• OLA-Kanaker.....	\$16,366.00
• OLA-Tashir.....	\$1,113.00
• OLA-Tsaghgadzor.....	\$16,500.00
• Prkutyun.....	\$993.00
• Services to Children in their Own Homes (SCOH).....	\$9,381.00
• Shengavit Kindergarten.....	\$3,600.00
• Sisters of Charity.....	\$2,326.00
• S.O. Khach.....	\$1,400.00
• SOS-Idjevan.....	\$13,050.00
• St. Theresa's.....	\$3,800.00
• Terchoonian Home.....	\$845.00

Accounting Summary (Continued)

• Vanadzor.....	\$4,286.00
• Vardashen.....	\$20,228.00
• VOTAC.....	\$4,000.00
• Warm Hearth.....	\$43,139.00
• Yerevan's Children Home (formerly Nork Orphanage).....	\$12,000.00
• Yerevan Special School Number 11 for Mentally Retarded Children (Nubarashen).....	\$79,100.00
• Zadik Orphanage.....	\$600.00
• Sea Containers.....	\$285,637.05
• Miscellaneous.....	\$284,620.60
TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS.....	\$1,081,280.08

Administrative

• Salaries.....	\$45,192.00
• Bank.....	\$3,839.77
• Cell.....	\$660.00

TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE.....\$49,745.77

GRAND TOTAL.....\$1,131,025.85

Conclusion

The Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR) was established in the fall of 2005 to provide humanitarian relief to orphaned Armenian children and orphaned Armenian adults with disabilities. SOAR's long-term goal is to provide orphaned Armenians throughout the world with the resources fundamental to their physical, emotional, and intellectual development.

SOAR prides itself on collaboration, creativity, cross-cultural respect, fiscal responsibility, loyalty, and transparency. During the past 14 years, SOAR's work has transcended all reasonable expectations. In 2006, distributions totaled approximately \$60,000. In CY2018, SOAR exceeded \$1M in distributions. Our efforts not only address the major humanitarian constructs of education, emotional and psychological support, nutrition, health and hygiene, dental, medical and vision care, and fundamental human rights, but the Programs offer educational curricula on a multitude of topics that stimulate intellectual curiosity, empowerment, and enrichment.

For several of us, SOAR is our life's work, and we are blessed with a dedicated and selfless cadre of supporters who share our short-term aspirations and long-term vision. We are faced with an enormous responsibility. Our greatest trepidation is not inadequacy or a belief that we are ill-equipped to assist the orphaned children we have embraced as our own, but rather that we have influence and power beyond measure. Our daily routine involves a compulsive desire to assist the abandoned, the sick, the impoverished, and the abused. As SOAR's light shines, we hope that we are unconsciously giving our orphaned population the will to do the same.

Conclusion (Continued)

If you have any questions about SOAR, our mission, the populations we serve, or this 2018 annual report, please contact George S. Yacoubian, Jr., at (610) 213-3452 or gyacoubian@soar-us.org.

