



# 2019

## Annual Report

*Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief  
(SOAR)*



# Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR)

## 2019 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](mailto:gyacoubian@soar-us.org)*

*Web: [www.soar-us.org](http://www.soar-us.org)*

# Table of Contents

Greetings from the Executive Board Chairman.....	4
Creation and Management.....	5
Quality Control.....	7
Institutions We Support.....	8
Funds.....	13
Programs.....	15
2019 Distributions.....	17
Major Projects.....	23
Activity Highlights.....	24
Accounting Summary.....	38
Conclusion.....	40





# Greetings from the Executive Board Chairman

To Our SOAR Family:

As we move into 2020 and begin to contemplate our fifteenth anniversary celebrations, we reflect on a year filled with significant achievements and milestones. In 2006, our first full year of operations, our distributions exceeded \$59,700.00. In 2019, distributions exceeded \$1.4M! SOAR's volunteer base continues to grow, with 145 Chapters and 6 Junior Groups perpetuating our mission around the world. We have developed an array of educational and professional Programs which provide enrichment to the lives of the children we support, and in December, after several years of planning, opened our own Center! SOAR's Transitional Center, the first of its kind in Gyumri, Armenia, is a residential setting for older teenage girls who have outgrown the traditional orphanage but who are not yet ready for independent living. Four young women joined us in December 2019 and January 2020. At our new Center, these young women will undertake university studies; cultivate a business; be enriched by our academic programs; appreciate volunteerism; learn essential life skills, including home and money management; build self-nurturance and self-confidence; and prepare themselves for emotional, fiscal, and professional independence.

The sustained interaction between our global volunteers and the orphaned children we support demonstrates that geographical boundaries and cultural distinctions are no hurdle to the mission we embrace. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to SOAR's leadership: our Executive Board; Trustees; Mother Arousiag Sajonian; Susan Snavelly; Kim A. Yacoubian; our team in Armenia – Executive Director Hripsime Muradyan; Hasmik Diaryan; Manana Mananyan, Armine Khachikyan, Gayane Merdinyan, Hasmik Meyroyan, Shushan Alexanyan, Lora Amatuni, Varduhi Zakyan, and Tatev Tumasyan; worldwide Chapter volunteers; and, finally, our financial and emotional supporters. Your unwavering loyalty to SOAR makes our work possible.

Today we remain the only charitable organization whose singular mission is to help orphaned Armenians around the world. As we come to the end of our 14th year, thank you for allowing us to continue to assist, enrich, and protect the most vulnerable populations of 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 our charitable 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 145 Chapters, 6 Junior groups, 2 College Groups, and more than 600 volunteers worldwide, SOAR supported 44 institutions in 2019 – 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 15 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) SOAR staff, Partners, and in-country Chapter members make random inspections of the RCI. Any distribution discrepancies are to be reported immediately to SOAR's Executive Board Chairman.
- 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 supported 44 institutions in six countries in 2019: 31 orphanages, boarding schools, day centers and summer camps in Armenia; two Armenian boarding schools in Artsakh; two day schools 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 Hooys)* 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)

- **SOAR's Transitional Center**, the first of its kind in Gyumri, is a residential setting for older teenage girls who have outgrown the traditional orphanage but who are not yet ready for independent living. The residents go to college; cultivate a business; be enriched by SOAR's academic programs; appreciate volunteerism; learn essential life skills, including home and money management; build self-nurturance and self-confidence; and prepare themselves for emotional, fiscal, and professional independence.
- **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.



# Institutions (Continued)

- *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 RCI in Yerevan, Armenia, that houses approximately 21 children between the ages of 3 and 18 and serves 83 additional children non-residentially. After the age of 18, the overnight children can move to either Rainbow House, a transitional home, or Zadikavan, a farming village in Arzni.





# 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:

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

***In 2019, more than 300 children/families/disabled adults were assisted through these 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 Fananjan Foundation.)

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

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

**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.

**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.



# Programs (Continued)



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

**Female 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.

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

**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.

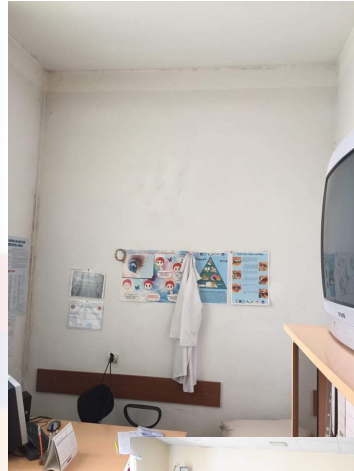
**Senior:** Electronically brings orphans in Armenia together with senior citizens living around the world.





# 2019 Distributions

- Renovation of infirmiry at Gyumri Social Childcare Center funded by SOAR Naples
- Toys for children in Javakh
- Monthly diapers for SOAR supported facilities
- New furniture for Dzorak
- Renovations of the infirmiry at OLA Gyumri, funded by SOAR London and SOAR San Diego
- A shipment with items from Project Cure and school supplies collected by SOAR Dallas
- A new changing room at the Kharberd hippotherapy arena funded by SOAR and the Harold and Josephine Gulamerian Armenian Orphan Fund
- A distribution of \$20,000 to Birds' Nest Orphanage for utility payments from SOAR Philadelphia
- A large distribution to Naghasyan Children's Support Center (formerly Mer Hooys) funded by SOAR Philadelphia
- Easter celebrations for SOAR supported facilities



# 2019 Distributions (Continued)

- Renovation of space for dehydration equipment at Dzorak
- A new minivan for Warm Hearth
- New garden furniture for Warm Hearth-3rd Village and Warm Hearth-Arinj funded by SOAR San Francisco Bay Area
- A Project Cure sea container shipped
- Playroom renovations at Tsaghgadzor Camp funded by SOAR New York
- New water pipes and boiler for Children's Home Gyumri funded by SOAR National
- June 1st celebration for all four facilities in Lebanon that SOAR supports. It was funded by SOAR Salt Lake City and SOAR Zurich
- June 1st celebration for SOAR supported facilities in Armenia
- Graduation for Vardashen funded by SOAR National
- Graduation for Terchoonian Home funded by SOAR National





# 2019 Distributions (Continued)

- A new playground at SOS Kotayk funded by SOAR Los Angeles
- A new potato peeler for Our Lady of Armenia Center funded by the Executive Board
- A new water heater for Our Lady of Armenia funded by SOAR San Diego
- Garden Project at Sisters of Charity funded by the Harold and Josephine Gulamerian Armenian Orphan Fund
- Javakh Summer Camp, funding by SOAR Baltimore
- A container of equipment funded by the Gulamerian Fund and facilitated by SOAR Rotterdam
- Equipment for the playground at SOS Kotayk which is a part of the Healthy Minds, Healthy Body Project
- Art therapy at SOS Kotayk funded by the Jirair and Elizabeth Hovnanian Foundation
- 5th annual Gulamerian Retreat
- Gravity chairs for Robert and Narek of Sisters of Charity, Bethlehem, funded by the SOAR Executive Board





# 2019 Distributions (Continued)

- **SOAR East Coast Regional Director, Susan Harootunian, and Executive Board Secretary, Denise Sisian, visited Kharberd Orphanage bringing clothes, shoes, and ice cream!**
- **A new washing machine for Ani Bezikian center funded by the SOAR Executive Board**
- **A donation of 75 chess boards was made by ChessAgain.com and Homenetmen, Toronto Chapter to all childcare facilities in Armenia supported by SOAR.**
- **Renovations of bathroom at Dzorak funded by SOAR Philadelphia**
- **Classroom renovations at Nubarashen funded by SOAR Ventura County Chapter in memory of Mrs. Maro Khatchadourian**
- **A new oven for Our Lady of Armenia Center Summer Camp (Tsaghgadzor) funded by SOAR San Francisco Bay Area**
- **New clothes and school supplies for Shengavit Kindergarten funded by SOAR San Francisco Bay Area**
- **Renovations of 1st floor bathroom at Warm Hearth, funded by SOAR New York**
- **Summer camp for Kharberd residents**





# 2019 Distributions (Continued)

- New glasses and needed medications for Kharberd residents
- A garden for Warm Heart funded by SOAR San Diego and the Harold and Josephine Gulamerian Armenian Orphan Fund
- A new microwave and freezer for OLA Kanaker funded by the Gulamerian Fund
- Blankets for Shengavit Kindergarten funded by SOAR San Francisco Bay Area
- A celebration for senior day for the elderly center in memory of the second anniversary of the death of Angela Adjemian donated by her daughter, Betty, Betty's children, Suzy (Suren) and Armen, and her great grandchild Angela. And a party for the children at OLA to celebrate the birth of Suzy's daughter!
- Much needed mechanical and cosmetic repairs on two buses for Saint Theresa's Little Flower Orphanages in Syria funded by SOAR Salt Lake City
- SOAR purchased an apartment for the Tsaturyan family
- Vocational training continues for 4 students, thanks to SOAR Brussels
- Cupboards for Our Lady of Armenia Annie Bezekian Youth Center, funded by SOAR National





# 2019 Distributions (Continued)



- New furniture purchased for the newly renovated classrooms at Nubarashen
- Renovations of bathrooms at Dzorak, funded by SOAR Philadelphia
- Winter coats purchased for 53 children living in a residential care facility in Gyumri funded by SOAR San Francisco
- A Thanksgiving celebration for several of the facilities in Armenia hosted at OLA
- Christmas celebrations for ALL SOAR supported facilities





# Major Projects

## Mobile Eye Care Project

SOAR Mobile Eye Care Project will provide traveling vision care for children housed in Armenia's residential childcare institutions (orphanages and special boarding schools), for children and families who receive services through specialized day centers in Gyumri, Vanadzor, and Yerevan, and to children and adults in remote villages across Armenia. SOAR is hoping to impact over 2,000 children and adults annually, targeting 40-50 patients per week.

The van and equipment for the van have been purchased, SOAR received approval from the humanitarian committee, and the van is currently being adapted for our Mobile Eye Care Project.

Significant financial support was received by the Hirair and Anna Hovnanian Foundation.



## SOAR Transitional Center

SOAR held the grand opening of their new Transitional Center. It will be the first of its kind in Gyumri – a residential setting for older teenage girls who have outgrown the traditional orphanage but who are not yet ready for independent living. At our new Center, these young women will go to college; cultivate a business; be enriched by our academic programs; appreciate volunteerism; learn essential life skills, including home and money management; build self-nurturance and self-confidence; and prepare themselves for emotional, fiscal, and professional independence. Significant financial support was received by the Harold and Josephine Gulamerian Fund and the Albert Tamberchi Foundation.



# Activity Highlights

## **SOAR National**

- Held its annual "March Madness NCAA Pool
- Held meetings in Philadelphia for chapter presidents and/or treasurers from 22 US chapters
- George S. Yacoubian, Jr. ran in the Rock N' Roll Half Marathon for SOAR
- Held its annual NFL Pool Eliminator
- Made multiple visits to Armenia



## **SOAR Aarhus**

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

## **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 Ankara**

- 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





# Activity Highlights (Continued)

## **SOAR Baghdad**

- Participated in the Business Development Program

## **SOAR Baltimore**

- Held a very successful event, "Dine for a Cause", at Syriana Cafe and Gallery
- Helped fund Javakh Summer Camp



## **SOAR Barcelona**

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

## **SOAR Berlin**

- Participated in the Girls' Empowerment Program

## **SOAR Bogogta**

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

## **SOAR Boston**

- Hosted a Scotch and Steak Soiree



## **SOAR Brussels**

- Held a Concert and Dance Party fundraiser
- Hosted a very successful piano recital featuring world renowned pianist, Hayk Melikyan
- Funded vocational training for 4 students



## **SOAR Bucharest**

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

## **SOAR Budapest**

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

# Activity Highlights (Continued)

## **SOAR Cadiz**

- Participated in the Language Tutoring Program

## **SOAR Cairo**

- Participated in the Language Tutoring Program (English)

## **SOAR Chicago**

- Hosted 2nd annual Mother's Day Brunch
- Increased sponsorships as well as sponsored 2 SCOH families
- Sponsored facility Christmas parties



## **SOAR Cincinnati**

- Assists in the production of the SOAR semi-annual newsletter

## **SOAR Colorado**

- SOAR Colorado held their inaugural fundraising event, "Happy Hour"



## **SOAR Copenhagen**

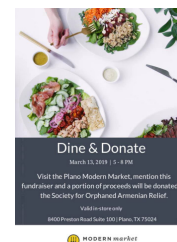
- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

## **SOAR Cyprus**

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

## **SOAR Dallas**

- Held a school supply drive
- Held a Dine and Donate fundraiser at Modern Market



## **SOAR Detroit**

- Detroit oversees all aspects of the Volunteer Program
- Hosted Armenian Day at Detroit Tigers game



# Activity Highlights (Continued)

## **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
- 

## **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 Hamburg**

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program
- 

## **SOAR Harrisburg**

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program



# Activity Highlights (Continued)

## **SOAR Hartford**

- Oversees the Disaster Assistance and Response Team

## **SOAR Helsinki**

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program and Language Tutoring Program



## **SOAR Houston**

- Participated in the Disability Early Warning System Program

## **SOAR Idaho**

- Is an Internal Administrative Chapter overseeing social media

## **SOAR Indianapolis**

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

## **SOAR Inland Empire**

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

## **SOAR Jacksonville**

- Hosted 2nd Annual BBQ fundraiser
- Held an online live auction of a Michael Aram piece



## **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



# Activity Highlights (Continued)

## **SOAR Krakow**

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

## **SOAR Kranodar**

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

## **SOAR Las Cruces**

- Participates in the Bible Study Program

## **SOAR Las Vegas**

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program and the Female Empowerment Program
- Held multiple online fundraisers through social media

## **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 2nd Annual “Quiz Night” fundraiser



## **SOAR Los Angeles**

- Hosted a mother's day event with David Yurman



## **SOAR Luxembourg**

- Participated in the Language Tutoring Program (English)

## **SOAR Lyon**

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

# Activity Highlights (Continued)

## **SOAR Malta**

- Participated in Global Hosting Program

## **SOAR Madrid**

- Participated in the Computer Science Program, mentoring the children at Gyumri and Vanadzor in 2019

## **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**

- Participated in the Language Tutoring Program (Russian and English)
- Facilitated the SOAR March Madness Pool
- Held a Fall Music Fundraiser



## **SOAR Minsk**

- Participated in the Language Tutoring Program (Russian)

## **SOAR Munich**

- Participated in the Computer Science Program

## **SOAR Muscat**

- Participated in the Computer Science Program





# Activity Highlights (Continued)

## **SOAR Naples**

- Gave funds to the SOAR Dental Fund/Clinic

## **SOAR New Delhi**

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

## **SOAR Jersey**

- Held “Fund at the Pier” fundraiser



## **SOAR New Orleans**

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

## **SOAR New York**

- Held their Spring Rooftop Mix and Mingle fundraiser
- Funded playroom renovations at Tsaghadzor Camp
- Funded 1st floor bathroom renovations at Warm Hearth



## **SOAR Nottingham**

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

## **SOAR Odessa**

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

## **SOAR Oxbridge**

- Oversees the Financial Planning Program

# Activity Highlights (Continued)

## SOAR Panama

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

## SOAR Philadelphia Metro

- Made a distribution of \$20,000 to Birds' Nest Orphanage for utility payments
- Made large distribution to Naghasyan Children's Support Center (formerly Mer Hoos)
- Held a Mother's Day Raffle drawing for a Louis Vuitton tote
- Hosted "Eat for a Cause"
- Funded renovations of bathroom at Dzorak

Item	Quantity	Price per unit	Total price in AMD
big towels	40	5,000 ₼	200,000 ₼
small towels	40	2,500 ₼	100,000 ₼
bedding set	40	8,000 ₼	320,000 ₼
pillows	20	3,000 ₼	60,000 ₼
sewing machine	1	98,300 ₼	98,300 ₼
printer	1	150,000 ₼	150,000 ₼
scanning, copying, printing device	1	145,000 ₼	145,000 ₼
vacuum cleaner	1	89,000 ₼	89,000 ₼
bench/loom for weaving carpet	1	170,000 ₼	170,000 ₼
weaving bench	1	30,000 ₼	30,000 ₼
weaving tools - box	1	20,000 ₼	20,000 ₼
weaving yarn	14	5,000 ₼	70,000 ₼
hot water kettle			
carpet - m2			
rug - m2			



## SOAR Phoenix

- Participated in the ArmeniaFest held at the St Apkar Armenian Apostolic Church in Scottsdale
- Participated at the Annual Genocide Awareness Week at Scottsdale Community College
- Funded diapers for MI and SOC Bethlehem



## 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 Portland (OR)

- Participated in the Pen Pal Program

## SOAR Prague

- Oversees blogging



# Activity Highlights (Continued)

## **SOAR Rome**

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

## **SOAR Rotterdam**

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program
- Facilitated the shipment of a container of equipment funded by the Sports for Children Foundation



## **SOAR St. Louis**

- Held vacation package raffle



## **SOAR Saint Petersburg**

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

## **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 much needed mechanical and cosmetic repairs on two buses for St. Theresa's Little Flower Orphanages in Syria
- Held Yoga for The Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief
- Held SOAR's Annual March Madness Pool



## **SOAR Salzburg**

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

# Activity Highlights (Continued)

## **SOAR San Diego**

- Helped to fund garden for Warm Hearth
- Funded new water heater for Our Lady of Armenia Center
- Held a very successful “Painting with a Purpose” fundraiser



## **SOAR San Francisco Bay Area**

- A new oven for Our Lady of Armenia Center Summer Camp
- Diapers for Mari Izmirlyan
- New clothes and school supplies for Shengavit Kindergarten
- Blankets for Shengavit Kindergarten
- Winter coats purchased for 53 children at Nansen



## **SOAR Santiago**

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

## **SOAR São Paulo**

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program and Global Hosting Program

## **SOAR Seattle**

- Held Network for Charity



## **SOAR Slovakia**

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

## **SOAR Sochi**

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program



# Activity Highlights (Continued)

## **SOAR Sofia**

- Participated in the Global Hosting Program

## **SOAR Southeast Asia**

- Participated in the Global Hosting Program

## **SOAR Stockholm**

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program

## **SOAR Tbilisi**

- SOAR Tbilisi participates in the Cultural Discovery Program and is an Administrative chapter assisting with excursions to Georgia

## **SOAR Tehran**

- Participated in the Language Tutoring Program

## **SOAR Thessaloniki**

- SOAR Thessaloniki participates in the Cultural Discovery Program
- Hosted the Global Hosting Program

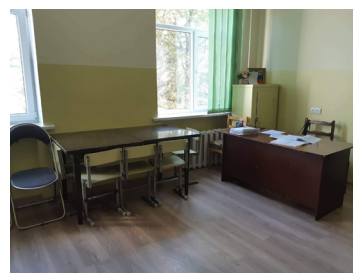


## **SOAR Vancouver**

- Participated in the Disability Early Warning System Program

## **SOAR Ventura County**

- Classroom renovations at Nubarashen funded by the Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR)-Ventura County Chapter in memory of Mrs. Maro Khatchadourian



# Activity Highlights (Continued)

## **SOAR Vienna**

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program
- 

## **SOAR Warsaw**

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program
- 

## **SOAR Washington DC Metro**

- Participated in the Cultural Discovery Program
- 

## **SOAR Wisconsin**

- Sponsored multiple children
- Helped fund Mobile Eye Care Project
- Funded facility Christmas parties
- Held annual golf outing/dinner

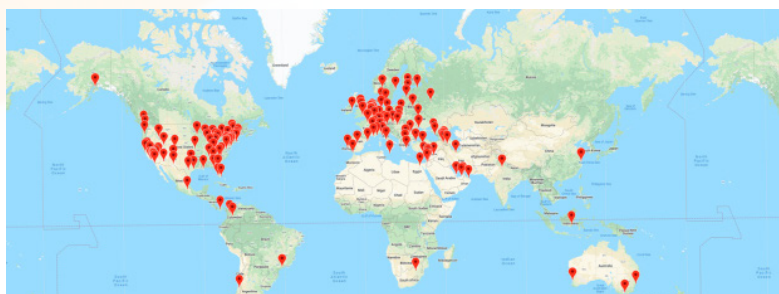


## **SOAR Yerevan**

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

## **SOAR Zurich**

- Helped fund June 1st Celebration in Lebanon
- Board member Tanya Mobayed made a visit to OLA Gyumri



**SOAR Chapter Locations Worldwide**



# Activity Highlights - Juniors

## ***“Children Helping Children”***

***SOAR recognizes the importance of developing the future leaders of the Armenian community. SOAR-Juniors was created in October 2013 (by Philadelphia Juniors) for youth between the ages of 8 and 17.***

### ***SOAR Atlanta Juniors***

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

### ***SOAR New Jersey Juniors***

- Sponsored Tigran, from Our Lady of Armenia Center (Armenia)
- Funded an Easter celebration for OLA



### ***SOAR Philadelphia Metro Juniors***

- Hosted a “Flapjack Fundraiser”
- Held an Ice Skating Fundraiser



# Accounting Summary

## Distributions

• Armenian Evangelical Boarding School.....	\$2,700.00
• Artsakh #1.....	\$1,118.00
• Artsakh #2.....	\$300.00
• Birds' Nest Orphanage.....	\$20,500.00
• Boarding School #2 of Fridtjof Nansen.....	\$1,500.00
• Bzommar.....	\$700.00
• Cardinal Aghajanian Orphanage.....	\$700.00
• Community Development and Social Support Center.....	\$8,932.00
• Children's Home Gyumri.....	\$2,526.00
• Dental Clinic.....	\$1,037.00
• Dzorak Care Center.....	\$16,700.00
• Eye Care Project.....	\$100,934.00
• Female Empowerment Program.....	\$3,907.00
• Gavar Orphanage.....	\$3,305.00
• Gyumri Social Childcare Center.....	\$14,792.00
• Hrant Dink School.....	\$8,350.00
• Javakh.....	\$7,100.00
• Kalfayan Orphanage.....	\$3,200.00
• Kharberd Orphanage.....	\$33,460.00
• Mer Doon.....	\$4,000.00
• Naghasyan Children's Support Center (formerly Mer Hooys)...	\$5,810.00
• Mari Izmirlyan Orphanage.....	\$5,545.00
• Orran.....	\$17,996.00
• Our Lady of Armenia Center.....	\$80,603.17
• OLA-Kanaker.....	\$7,113.00
• OLA-Tashir.....	\$960.00
• OLA-Tsaghgadzor.....	\$17,471.00
• Prkutyun.....	\$1,296.00
• Rainbow House.....	\$200.00
• Services to Children in their Own Homes (SCOH).....	\$42,022.00
• Shengavit Kindergarten.....	\$1,750.00
• Sisters of Charity.....	\$800.00
• S.O. Khach.....	\$1,400.00
• SOS-Kotayk.....	\$28,600.00
• St. Theresa's.....	\$10,200.00
• Transitional Center.....	\$79,075.00



# Accounting Summary (Continued)

• Terchoonian Home.....	\$250.00
• Vanadzor.....	\$7,609.00
• Vardashen.....	\$250.00
• Warm Hearth.....	\$34,220.00
• Yerevan's Children Home (formerly Nork Orphanage).....	\$12,300.00
• Yerevan Special School Number 11 for Mentally Retarded Children (Nubarashen).....	\$18,460.00
• Sea Containers.....	\$522,294.23
• Miscellaneous.....	\$199,224.90
• SOAR House.....	\$47,674.06
<b>TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS.....</b>	<b>\$1,376,889.36</b>

## Administrative

• Salaries.....	\$58,372.00
• Bank.....	\$6,641.47
• Cell.....	\$620.00

**TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE.....\$65,633.47**

**GRAND TOTAL.....\$1,442,522.83**

# 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 creativity, cross-cultural respect, fiscal responsibility, and transparency. During the past 14 years, SOAR's work has transcended all reasonable expectations. In 2006, distributions totaled approximately \$60,000. In CY2019, SOAR exceeded \$1.4M 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. Our most significant accomplishment in 2019 was the opening of our Transitional Center – a “first of its kind” home in Gyumri, Armenia, for older teenage girls who have outgrown the traditional orphanage but who are not yet ready for independent living.*

*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.*

*If you have any questions about SOAR, our mission, the populations we serve, or this 2019 annual report, please contact George S. Yacoubian, Jr., at (610) 213-3452 or [gyacoubian@soar-us.org](mailto:gyacoubian@soar-us.org).*

