

Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR)



2021 Annual Report

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Greetings from the Executive Board Chairman

To Our SOAR Family:

As we move into 2022, our 17th year of providing charitable assistance to orphaned Armenians, it is important to remember that the challenges faced in 2020 and 2021 remain. Between COVID and the Artsakh War, we have again demonstrated our resiliency and our commitment to protecting the most vulnerable members of our society.

SOAR remains the only charitable organization whose humanitarian mission is devoted exclusively to orphaned Armenian children. Our work, however, continues to transcend residential childcare institutions. In addition to supporting day centers and transitional centers, and a commitment to deinstitutionalization and reunification for those residential facilities we support, our Families of Fallen Soldiers Support Center is the first of its kind in Armenia – a center where the families of Armenian servicemen killed in battle can go and received essential financial, professional, and emotional support. In addition, we launched our Artsakh Family Restoration Fund in November 2021 to assure that no children in Artsakh would ever have to be institutionalized because of the casualties of war. Central to the aims of post-war social reconstruction was the desire to empower Armenian families after the disruptive effects of war and to build a future in which cultural identify, family stability, and economic independence would be the foundation of a better life. To those families in Artsakh rebuilding their lives after the war, SOAR provides emotional and financial support with the ultimate goals of cultural preservation and economic self-sufficiency. Our pledge to never see the child of a fallen soldier or a family displaced because of war institutionalized is steadfast.

The sustained interaction between our global volunteers and the children and families 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 Snavely; Kim A. Yacoubian; our team in Armenia and

Greetings from the Executive Board Chairman (Continued)

Artsakh – Executive Director Hripsime Muradyan; Associate Director Hasmik Diaryan; Manana Mananyan, Ovsanna Mananyan, Gayane Merdinyan, Hasmik Meyroyan, Shushan Alexanyan, Marina Muradyan, Naira Sargsyan, Lora Amatuni, Varduhi Zakyan, Tatev Tumasyan, Mariam Vardanyan, Milena Badalyan, and Kristine Gevorgyan; 600+ worldwide Chapter volunteers; and, finally, our financial and emotional supporters. Your unwavering loyalty to SOAR makes our work possible.

Thank you for sustaining our efforts in 2021 and allowing us to continue to assist, enrich, and protect the most vulnerable populations of Armenians!

Respectfully,

George S. Vacoubian, Jr., Ph.D., LL.M., S.J.D. 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 138 Chapters, 4 Junior groups, 2 College Groups, and more than 600 volunteers worldwide, SOAR supported 36 institutions in 2021 – orphanages, boarding schools, day centers, and orphan summer camps – in Armenia, Artsakh, Javakh, 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 nine primary steps:

- 1. SOAR rarely makes cash distributions directly to the institutions. Rather, goods and services that can be procured in Armenia are purchased by SOAR staff and distributed directly to the orphanages. In-kind donations from the Armenian diaspora that can be shipped or hand-delivered are encouraged.
- 2. SOAR uses Microsoft Planner to retain receipts, pictures, and internal documents for all projects.
- 3. All purchases are memorialized with a receipt or invoice.
- 4. SOAR implements chain-of-custody procedures for all distributed goods or services to assure that items have been received in the exact quantity intended. The recipient provides written documentation to indicate that the goods and services received is the quantity indicated, after which this documentation is sent to SOAR National and retained in Microsoft Planner.
- 5. SOAR staff, Chapter members, and other volunteers who visit Armenia make random inspections of the institutions. Discrepancies are to be reported immediately to SOAR's Executive Board Chairman.
- 6. When possible, donations provided by SOAR are engraved and/or stamped with a corporate seal.
- 7. Capital projects are acknowledged with a plaque and/or dedication ceremony.
- 8. SOAR does not transfer funds to other organizations to distribute on our behalf.
- 9. A zero-tolerance policy for fraud, theft, and/or deception is imposed. Malfeasance would result in the termination of assistance.





Institutions We Support

In 2021 SOAR supported 36 institutions in five countries: 30 orphanages, special boarding schools, day centers, transitional centers, and summer camps in Armenia; one Armenian boarding school in Artsakh; one orphan summer camp in Javakh (Georgia); two Armenian orphanages in Lebanon; and two orphanges 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** in Stepanakert, Artsakh, houses healthy and special needs children between the ages of 4 and 16.
- 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.
- 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.
- House of Dreams was founded in 2019 to work with children who have special educational needs. They provide individual speech therapy, training by a special pedagogue and psychologist, and development of self-care skills. In addition to organizing events and excursions to museums and churches, House of Dreams offers age-focused programs on literacy, elementary mathematics, sand therapy, drawing, logic games, and art therapy. The House of Dreams Director is Tatev Mehrabyan.
- 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.
- Nakashian Children's Support Center (House of Hope-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.

Institutions (Continued)

- *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 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. Because of 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.
- Shirak Marz Child and Family Support Center located in Gyumri, is a merger of two
 childcare centers: Gyumri Social Childcare Center and the Orphanage of Fridtjof
 Nansen. The new Center is a hybrid facility that provides day services to families
 whose children are at risk for institutionalization while serving as a residential setting
 for children without permanent familial care.

Institutions (Continued)

- 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.
- 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 selfconfidence; 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.
- *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, Arinj, and Jermik Ankyun Geghanist, Armenia) houses adults with disabilities who have outgrown the state-funded orphanages. The three facilities provide the residents with an alternative to psychiatric institutions, offering holistic care in a family-like setting.

Institutions (Continued)

- 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 (Nubarashen) is a state boarding school in Yerevan housing children with special needs.
- Yerevan State Day Center was founded in July 2005 to support special needs
 children aged 6-18 years and their families who are experiencing difficult life
 circumstances and help facilitate their integration into society. The Center provides
 pedagogical, educational, and professional orientation services; psychological
 services, including play therapy, art therapy, speech therapy, and occupational
 therapy; primary health care and medical consulting; and rights protection and
 advocacy.
- 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 5 sponsorship types:

- · Child Sponsorship Fund
- · Families of Fallen Soldiers Relief Fund
- · Services to Children in their Own Homes (SCOH)
- · Artsakh Family Restoration Fund
- · SOS Village Sponsorships

In 2021, more than 500 children/familes/disabled adults were assisted through these sponsorships.















Funds (Continued)

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

Birthday: 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.

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

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

Orphan Transitional: 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 14 Programs are offered, including cultural discovery, digital literacy, financial planning, girls' empowerment, language tutoring, and mentoring and professional development

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

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

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

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



Programs (Continued)

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 arrivied at orphanages in Armenia, so that needs for immediate medical intervention will not be missed.

Female Empowerment: 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: Educates orphans in the areas of budgeting, employment, identity theft, and money management.

Global Hosting: 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: monitoring potential human rights violations within Armenia's orphanages, boarding schools, and day centers.

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

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

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

Reading: The aim of the program is to broaden children's' horizons as well as diversify their weekly activities to enhance their social and intellectual skill set.

2021 Distributions

- Classroom renovations at Yerevan Special School #11 (Nubarashen)
- Bathroom renovations at Warm Hearth, funded by SOAR Jacksonville and the Gulamerian Fund
- Tranitional Center girls meet with a psychologist to discuss all the current situations that can cause stress.
- Diapers and baby milk for Yerevan Children's Home, funded by SOAR Phoenix
- Tools for the new woodshop at Kharberd purchased with the donation from Dareh Poghosean
- New windows for the SOAR Transitional Center kitchen and large room
- Easter celebrations for all SOAR supported facilities, SCOH families, and Fallen Soldier families
- Garage and camp renovations at Our Lady of Armenia-Tashir



















- The Artsakh children at SOS Kotayk took an excursion to the Citizen Entertainment Center
- Renovation of the Transitional Center garden, funded by the SOAR New JerseyJuniors
- Final touches for a computer lab at Nakashian Children's Support Center and additional equipment
- 50 boxes of needed medications for Children's Home, Gyumri
- Certificates for all the girls at the Transitional Center for their computer courses!
- Birthday Fund sponsored celebrations throughout the year
- 6 months of Diapers for Dzorak funded by SOAR London



- Equipment for the special needs children at Children's Home Gyumri funded by SOAR Dallas
- Renovations of the 3rd floor bathroom at Warm Hearth funded by SOAR Fresno and the Gulamerian Fund
- Distribution of items from Project Cure shipment
- Renovation of the bathroom at Yerevan Children's Home funded by SOAR and the Gulamerian Fund
- Renovations of the SOAR
 Transitional Center basement and new furniture, funded by the
 Norman K. Miller Charitable Fund and the Gulamerian Fund
- · "Last Bell" celebration at Vardashen
- June 1st celebrations for all SOAR supported facilities, SCOH families, and Fallen Soldier families
- SOAR London sent funds for Javakh summer camp



















- An excursion to Tsaghkadzor Square,
 Ropeway for the young ladies at Mer
 Hooys funded by SOAR Philadelphia
- · A Project Cure sea container to Armenia
- Four children from some of our fallen soldier families were able to go to AGBU camp in Bulgaria
- Beginning of an extension to the woodshop at Kharberd funded by the the Harold and Josephine Gulamerian Armenian Orphan Fund
- Food for Prkutyun funded by SOAR New York
- Kharberd went on their annual retreat to Sevan Lake
- Families from the Families of Fallen Soldiers Relief Fund went on a summer retreat to Dilijan
- School supplies for the children at Our Lady of Armenia Center
- Ani, from Sisters of Charity, received a shunt that was funded by the Harold and Josephine Gulamerian Armenian Orphan Fund for her needed surgical procedure



- An oxygen concentrator for Sisters of Charity
- The children at Our Lady of Armenia Center in Gyumri were able to have a party and received gifts of games and toys thanks to the Paul and Ethel Shakro Scholarship Fund.
- School Supply Drive for Orphans in Armenia by SOAR Dallas
- SOAR Anchorage funds \$1350 in supplies & equipment for Our Lady of Armenia Annie Bezikian Youth Center in Kanaker to accommodate increase in teen girl residents
- A new cradle for Angelina Sargsyan at Shirak Marz Child and Family Support Center
- Displaced children from Artsakh still living at a boarding school in Gyumri received new clothing and shoes
- Grand opening of the SOAR Families of Fallen Soldiers Support Center in Yerevan
- Arame Hakobyan, son of a retired Army Lieutenant, received tuition to continue his studies at French High School after Anatol Frantz























- Children in the SOAR Music Therapy Program participated in the "Side by Side Inclusive Music and Arts Festival
- Bread stipend for Prkutyun Day Center, funded by SOAR Philadelphia and personal fundraisers by board members of SOAR Frankfurt
- The children from Shirak Marz Child and Family Support Center took excursions throughout the year
- Renovation of the first floor second senior group bathrooms at Yerevan Children's Home funded by SOAR Los Angeles
- Project Cure Shipment to Children's Home Gyumri, Shirak Marz Akhuryan Region Medical Center, and Gyumri Maternity Center
- Medications for the children at Shirak Marz Child and Family Support Center
- Thanksgiving celebration for Our Lady of Armenia Center and Seniors, funded by SOAR Dallas
- New water tanks for Our Lady of Armenia Annie Bezikian Center



- Renovation of the second floor bathroom at Yerevan Children's Home (Nork) funded by SOAR Naples
- Warm Hearth residents entered items from their clay workshop at an exhibition at the International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- New kitchen equipment for the SOAR Transitional Center
- A new printer for the SOAR Transitional Center, a better internet connection, and a new tutor for their sewing classes, funded by SOAR Ventura County
- A new gate and fence for Our Lady of Armenia Educational Center, Tashir
- Christmas celebrations/gifts for EVERY child at SOAR supported facilities, SCOH families, and Fallen Soldier Families













Major Projects

Art Therapy

The goal of this project is to facilitate social inclusion of orphaned children housed at SOS Kotayk through art therapy. Funded by the Jirair S. and Elizabeth Hovnanian Foundation, puppetry, pottery, and sand therapy are the three modes implemented.



Dental Clinic

In 2021, the SOAR Dental Clinic serviced **553** children, seniors, and members of the local community that would otherwise not received any dental care.

Total visits in 2021 year	553 patient		
Social			
centers	168 patient		
		OLA	32
		Nansen	51
		GSCC	53
		Little Prince	32
Community	385 patient		
Dental Issue	27	-	
Extraction	27:	•	
Done	7:	3	
Consultation			
Tartar			
Removal	6:	1	
Polish			
Stomatitos			





Major Projects (Continued)

Families of Fallen Soldiers Relief Fund (FFSRF)

Launched in the summer of 2020, the FFSRF assists the families of fallen and severely disabled Armenian service personnel by providing emotional, educational, and financial support and children's enrichment assistance. The Fund aims to build strong, caring, and loving bonds with each family and to follow the widows and children through the years to assure that no children of fallen

Armenian soldiers are ever institutionalized. We believe that the service and sacrifices made by these Armenian service personnel should never be taken for granted and, just as they have become our heroes, we help their families get past their obstacles and guide them through their darkest times.







The New SOAR Families of Fallen Soldiers Support Center in Yerevan

In commemoration of the one -year anniversary of the beginning of the Artsakh War, SOAR held the grand opening of their Families of Fallen Soldiers Support Center in Yerevan. The Center will serve as a non-residential facility that provides economic assistance, grief counseling, academic tutoring, job placement, and other support services to families of soldiers killed or severely injured in battle. The overarching goal of the Center is to offer compassionate and holistic support to spouses, children, and families grieving the death of an Armenian soldier killed or wounded in battle.



Major Projects (Continued)

Human Rights Monitoring

SOAR's Human Rights Monitoring Program, created in December 2015, monitors potential human rights violations within Armenia's orphanages, boarding schools, and day centers. Specifically, the following constructs are monitored by in-country staff and volunteers: education, food and nutrition, human trafficking, hygiene, physical abuse and neglect, reunification, and sexual abuse. Using a multi-method design, these constructs are examined in each facility quarterly, with reports subsequently provided to facility directors and appropriate governmental personnel.

SOAR Founder and Executive Board Chairman held a Child protection webinar. Data from his Human Rights Monitoring Study were shared and discussed with those who joined.



Mobile Eye Care Project

In 2021 the Mobile Eye Care Van visited Tsaghgadzor camp taking care of the children in attendance, seniors from the center in Gyumri, residents of Prkutyun, and children from Sisters of Charity, Spitak, and made a stop at Vanadzor Orran Center. **718** patients were assisted!



Major Projects (Continued)

Music Therapy

Regular music therapy sessions are held at Yerevan Children's Home. This year the children also participated in a music therapy concert at Children's Home of Yerevan, participated in "Side by Side" Inclusive Music & Arts Festival, and gave a presentation in December of all they had learned.





SOAR Transitional Center

The Transitional Center is 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, the Albert Tamberchi Foundation, and an anonymous foundation.

The residents celebrated the second year of the Transitional Center! 2021 held a lot of experiences. The residents took a trip to Cafesjian Center for the Arts, their garden was transformed, and the basement underwent renovations to make space the the Transitional Center's new business, Gyumri SoArt! The residents also all received certificates for completing their computer courses. All the residents participated in volunteer work, including hosting a June 1st celebration for the children of fallen soldiers and local residents.





Activity Highlights

2021 continued to present struggles with restrictions in place due to covid. SOAR National and our chapters worked to use every avenue possible to continue to assist our target population.

SOAR National held multiple initiatives:



Christmas and Easter Campaigns



Giving Tuesday Campaign for "I CAN" SpecialOlympics



Virtual Piano Recital-Hayk Melikyan for the Armenian Genocide



New Corporate Giving Program



George Runs 8K for FFSRF



Child Protection Webinar



Annual NFL Pool Eliminator



Annual March Madness



SOAR Lotto

This year still held difficulties in holding in person events, but this did not deter the SOAR Chapters who held in person events when possible and safe, and continued to use the technology offered to hold online fundraisers, classes, raffles, and auctions.

All in person events followed local Covid regulations

FUNDRAISING

SOAR Amsterdam held a Facebook fundraiser to sponsor the Christmas celebration and gifts for the SOAR Transitional Center residents.

SOAR Anchorage held "Education for Tomorrow" Christmas Campaign and funded supplies & equipment for Our Lady of Armenia Annie Bezikian Youth Center in Kanaker.

SOAR Atlanta held a very successful "Sip N' Paint" fundraiser.

SOAR Baltimore held a Virtual Gata Baking Demo to raise funds for the family of fallen Soldier Vilen Sargsyan, worked with Perpetual Pomegranate who created a SOAR Collection to raise funds for the Families of Fallen Soldiers Fund, and teamed up with HYEChains to show some love to those in need on Valentine's Day.

SOAR Boston SOAR Boston held a "Giving Tuesday Fundraiser for Families of Fallen Soldiers" and held a Super Bowl Squares fundraiser.

SOAR Brussels "Wine and Cheese Party" featuring Tigran Khanjaryan, and held Ladaniva – The Wind of Mountains outdoor concert.

SOAR Cadiz Chapter President held a "Birthday Fundraiser for Family of Fallen Soldier Arsen Martirosyan", and SOAR Cadiz Board Member held a "Fundraiser for Family of Fallen Soldier Sargis Aghajanyan".

SOAR Cairo Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors in Cairo, they are making a meaningful difference in the lives of at-risk Armenian children and families year after year.

SOAR Chicago collaborated this year SOAR Wisconsin on the annual Wisconsin golf outing raising over \$30,000 for the new SOAR Families of Fallen Soldiers Support Center, and sponsored a facility Christmas celebration.

SOAR Cincinnati held a campaign for the Family of Fallen Armenian Soldier, Albert Bagyants.

SOAR Clearwater held a Facebook fundraiser "EVERY child should have a Christmas to remember", to raise fund for Christmas celebrations for children of our fallen soldiers.

SOAR Cleveland sponsors two children through the SOAR Sponsorship Fund, and held a Mother's Day Fundraiser for Families of Fallen Armenian Soldiers.

SOAR Copenhagen board member held a fundraiser for Displaced Family of Fallen Soldier Harutyun Nalbandyan.

SOAR Dallas held a "Peace on Earth" Christmas Campaign for Family of Fallen Armenian Soldier Gevorg Tankabekyan, funded a Thanksgiving celebration for Our Lady of Armenia Center and Seniors, held a School Supply Drive for Orphans in Armenia, held a Father's Day Fundraiser for Family of Fallen Hero Arthur Grigoryan, and held an Easter Fundraiser for Special Needs Equipment for Children's Home of Gyumri.

SOAR Detroit SOAR Detroit sponsored a Christmas for a facility/family.

SOAR Eindhoven held a Facebook fundraiser to sponsor the Christmas celebration and gifts for the SOAR Transitional Center residents.

SOAR Frankfurt board members held a persoanl fundraiser for the bread stipend for Prkutyun Day Center.

SOAR Fresno held a "Tis the Season" Christmas Raffle to raise funds for diapers for Dzorak Daycare Center, held "Cause an Effect" with Chipotle, and held a campaign for the Family of Fallen Soldier, Garik Gapoyan

SOAR Geneva had a table at their local Christmas Market, bringing awarenes of SOAR and selling cards made by the children at Zadik Orphanage.

SOAR Harrisburg held a Fundraiser for Sergey Karapetyan, wounded Armenian soldier.

SOAR Helsinki board member held a fundraiser for Family of Fallen Soldier Gevorg Gasparyan.

SOAR Idaho held a "Joy to the World" Christmas Fundraiser for Family of Fallen Soldier Hovik Tamazyan.

SOAR Indianapolis held *two* virtual online painting class fundraisers with Anna Krtshatsyan and "Online Armenian Baking Class" with Arpi Melkonyan.

SOAR Inland Empire sponsored a Christmas for a facility/family

SOAR Jacksonville sponsored a Christmas for a facility/family, received a \$200 donation from the Knights of Columbus organization, and held their annual BBQ.

SOAR La Cañada participated in HAYKFOROURHEROES hike to raise funds for the SOAR Artsakh Family Restoration Fund and held a Paint and Sip fundraiser for the Families of Fallen Soldiers Relief Fund.

SOAR London held a Facebook Fundraiser "12 Days of Christmas" for the family of fallen Armenian soldier, Hovik Tamazyan, Vatche Cherchian, SOAR London Chapter President, and long-time friend and SOAR London supporter, Alen Duvarciyan, once again participated in the Tough Mudder to raise funds for SOAR and orphaned Armenians, sent funds for javakh Summer Camp, and monthly diaper distributions to Dzorak.

SOAR Los Angeles sponsored a Christmas for a facility/family and hosted a "Dine to Donate" at Golden Road Brewing.

SOAR Miami held an International Women's Day Fundraiser for Families of Fallen Armenian Soldiers.

SOAR Minneapolis held a "Deck the Halls" Christmas Fundraiser for Family of Wounded Soldier Artur Paremuzyan, held Do Good With Chipotle, and engaged friends and family to fundraise for SOAR emergency efforts.

SOAR Montreal fundraised for the Families of Fallen Soldiers Relief Fund.

SOAR Naples funded renovations of the second floor bathroom at Yerevan Children's Home.

SOAR New Jersey threw a Fund Fiesta to support bedroom renovations at Yerevan Children's Home.

SOAR New York held "Holiday Cocktail Party and Fundraiser" and a "Paint & Sip Fundraiser" to purchase food for the children and youth at Prkutyun.

SOAR Orange County hosted "Happy Hour" to raise funds for the Families of Fallen Soldiers Relief Fund.

SOAR Perth held a Facebook "Jingle Bells" Christmas Fundraiser for the family of fallen soldier Vilen Sargsyan and SOAR Perth Board Member Hayk Tumasyan held a Facebook Birthday Fundraiser for Families of Fallen Soldiers. SOAR Perth Board Members bake Gata and sell at community events to raise funds for the Families of Fallen Soldiers.

SOAR Philadelphia sponsored a Christmas for a facility/family, hosted a Cemetery Tour at Arlington Cemetery, Drexel Hill, PA, held a Designer Handbag Raffle to fund an excursion to Tsaghkadzor Square, Ropeway for the young ladies at Mer Hooys, and held an Easter Egg Hunt Fundraiser.

SOAR Phoenix sponsored a Christmas for a facility/family and hosted Bouzouki Night at Alexander's Greek Kitchen raising funds for diapers for our facilities that are in short supply.

SOAR Portland, (ME) held a campaign supporting SOAR Lotto 2021 for "Higher Education of Vulnerable Youth in Armenia".

SOAR Rocky Mountains held a "Giving Tuesday Campaign" for orphaned Armenian girls.

SOAR Rotterdam held a Facebook fundraiser to sponsor the Christmas celebration and gifts for the SOAR Transitional Center residents.

SOAR Sacramento held "The Great Holiday Shopping Extravaganza", held SOAR Sacramento and Perpetual Pomegranate Collab – Shop Tree of Life Collection to raise funds for Narek Nikoghosyan of Kaherberd Orphanage, and held an "Art Auction for Families of Fallen Soldiers".

SOAR St. Louis held a "Give Thanks Fundraiser for Families of Fallen Soldiers" and held an Easter Raffle Campaign for Families of Fallen Soldiers.

SOAR Salt Lake City Chapter President Publishes Children's Book – Proceeds Earmarked for Lebanon Orphanages.

SOAR San Diego held a "Holly Jolly" Christmas Fundraiser for a Christmas party and gifts for the children at Children's Home Gyumri.

SOAR San Francisco Bay Area held their Annual Honey Sales for Beirut Orphans and held a "Honey for Heroes Fundraiser".

SOAR Seattle held a Facebook Fundraiser for the new SOAR Families of Fallen Soldiers Support Center.

SOAR Syracuse held a virtual Armenian vegan cooking tutorial and stories to benefit the Families of Fallen Soldiers Relief Fund.

SOAR Toronto held a "World Orphans Day Online Auction" and held a campaign for Families of Fallen Armenian Soldiers.

SOAR Ventura County held a very successful Fall Luncheon for the Families of Fallen Soldiers Relief Fund and funded a new printer for the SOAR Transitional Center, a better internet connection, and a new tutor for their sewing classes

SOAR Warsaw chapter president, Patrycja Hadryjan, held an online interview with George S. Yacoubian, Jr., the Founder and Executive Chairman of SOAR

SOAR Wisconsin held their annual golf outing raising over \$30,000 for the new SOAR Families of Fallen Soldiers Support Center and sponsored multiple facility and family Christmas celebrations























PROGRAMS & ADMINISTRATIVE

SOAR Aarhus gave a presentation to the children at Gavar through the Cultural Discovery Program.

SOAR Abu Dhabi is an internal administrative chapter assisting with purchasing.

SOAR Amman gave a presentation to the children at Shirak Marz through the Cultural Discovery Program.

SOAR Antwerp participates in the Female Empowerment Program.

SOAR Athens gave a presentation to the children at Gavar through the Cultural Discovery Program.

SOAR Barcelona gave presentations to the children at Gavar and Orran through the Cultural Discovery Program.

SOAR Bucharest gave a presentation to the residents of the SOAR Transitional Center through the Cultural Discovery Program.

SOAR Budapest gave presentations to the residents of the SOAR Transitional Center and Shirak Marz through the Cultural Discovery Program.

SOAR Cairo participates in the Sponsorship Fund bringing awareness and matching supporters to SOAR sponsorships.

SOAR Daimus gave a presentation to displaced Artsakh children staying at Boarding School #1 in Gyumri through the Cultural Discovery Program.

SOAR Detroit oversees all aspects of the Volunteer Program.

SOAR Doha is an Internal Administrative Chapter overseeing medical requests and funding.

SOAR Dublin gave a presentation to the children at Shirak Marz through the Cultural Discovery Program.

SOAR Estonia participates in the Global Hosting Program *and* the Digital Literacy and Coding Program.

SOAR Harrisburg gave a presentation to the children at Orran through the Cultural Discovery Program.

SOAR Hartford oversees the Disaster Assistance and Response Team.

Houston is an Internal Administrative Chapter overseeing medical requests and funding.

SOAR Kansas City (Mo) gave a presentation to the children at Shirak Marz through the Cultural Discovery Program.

SOAR Krakow gave a presentation to the children at Gavar through the Cultural Discovery Program.

SOAR Las Vegas holds regular classes with the girls at the SOAR Transitional Center through the Mentoring Program.

SOAR Leeds gave a presentation to the children at Gavar through the Cultural Discovery Program.

SOAR Marseille gave a presentation to the children at Orran through the Cultural Discovery Program.

SOAR Melbourne gave a presentation to the children at Gavar through the Cultural Discovery Program.

SOAR Milan gave a presentation to the children at Gavar through the Cultural Discovery Program.

SOAR New Delhi gave a presentation to the children at Shirak Marz and the residents at the SOAR Transitional Center through the Cultural Discovery Program.

SOAR Nottingham participates in the Language Tutoring Program giving regular instruction with the girls at the Transitional Center.

SOAR Oslo gave a presentation to the children at Gaver through the Cultural Discovery Program.

SOAR Oxbridge gave a presentation to the residents at the SOAR Transitional Center through the Cultural Discovery Program.

SOAR Perth gave a presentation to the children at Gavar through the Cultural Discovery Program.

SOAR Pisa is an Internal Administrative Chapter overseeing medical requests and funding.

SOAR Pittsburgh gave a presentation to the girls at the Transitional Center through the Cultural Discovery Program.

SOAR Portland (ME) gave presentations to the children Gavar, Shirak Marz, and the residents of the SOAR Transitional Center through the Cultural Discovery Program.

SOAR Puerto Rico gave a presentation to the girls at the Transitional Center through the Cultural Discovery Program.

SOAR Rome gave a presentation to the children at Orran through the Cultural Discovery Program.

SOAR Rotterdam gives English lessons twice weekly to the young ladies at the SOAR Transitional Center through the Language Tutoring Program

SOAR Saint Petersburg gave presentations to the children at Shirak Marz and the residents of the SOAR Transitional Center through the Cultural Discovery Program and give regular instruction in Russian to the children at Gavar through the Language Tutoring Program.

SOAR Salt Lake City is an Internal Administrative Chapter assisting in legal matters.

SOAR San Diego gave multiple presentations to the children at Orran and Gavar through the Cultura Discovery Program.

SOAR Saudi Arabia gave a presentation to the children at Orran through the Cultural Discovery Program.

SOAR Slovakia gave a presentation to the children at Orran through the Cultural Discovery Program.

SOAR Sochi gave a presentation to the children at Shirak Marz through the Cultural Discovery Program.

SOAR Vancouver is an Internal Administrative Chapter overseeing medical requests and funding.

SOAR Vienna gave a presentation to the children at Gavar through the Cultural Discovery Program.

SOAR Warsaw gave a presentation to the children at Shirak Marz through the Cultural Discovery Program.

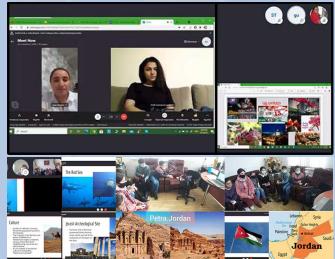












Activity Highlights - College Groups

SOAR Assumtion University Group organized a booth at the school's Activities Fair.

SOAR Ramapo College of New Jersey held held a "Be Thankful" fundraiser for Loucine Torossian of Our Lady of Armenia Center.





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 New Jersey Juniors held a very successful virtual cupcake event. They raised enough to fully fund the renovations of the garden at the SOAR Transitional Center.

SOAR New York Juniors held a Christmas Luncheon.



SOAR Philadelphia Juniors held a "Carwash Fundraiser for Our Lady of Armenia Center" and an online "Bingo" fundraiser.

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	\$10	\$ 5	\$25	\$20	\$15	
	\$15	\$10	\$ 5	\$25	\$20	
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Accounting Summary

Distributions

Armonian Evangalical Poording Cohool	¢44 250 00
Armenian Evangelical Boarding School Birde' Neet Orghonese	
Birds' Nest Orphanage	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
Community Development and Social Support Center	
Children's Home Gyumri	
Dental Clinic	
• Dzorak Care Center	
• Eye Care Project	
Families of Fallen Soldiers Relief Fund	•
Gavar Orphanage	
House of Dreams	
Javakh Summer Camp	
Kharberd Orphanage	\$8,146.00
 Nakashian Children's Support Center (House of Hope-Mer Hooys).\$13,400.00
• Orran	\$5,791.00
Our Lady of Armenia Center	\$50,011.39
OLA-Kanaker	
OLA-Tashir	\$3,600.00
OLA-Tsaghgadzor	\$400.00
• Prkutyun	
Services to Children in their Own Homes (SCOH)	
Shirak Marz Children and Family Social Services	
Sisters of Charity	
• SO Kach	
SOS-Idjevan	
SOS-Idjevan	
SOS-Kotayk	•
• St. Theresa	
Transitional Center	
Vardashen	
The Voice of the Armenian Church Orphan Summer Camp	
• Warm Hearth	
Yerevan Children's Home (Nork)	•
Yerevan Special School Number 11 (Nubarashen)	· ·
Yerevan State Day Center	
Zadik	
Sea Containers	
Miscellaneous	•
· WIISCEIIAITEOUS	\$32,073.37
TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS	¢024 002 EE
TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS	.pas 1,005.55

Accounting Summary (Continued)

Administrative

Salaries Bank	
• Cell	
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE	\$84,645.89
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,016,449.40



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 16 years, SOAR's work has transcended all reasonable expectations. In 2006, distributions totaled approximately \$60,000. In CY2021, SOAR exceeded \$1.1M 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. Our most significant accomplishment in 2021 was the opening of our Families of Fallen Soldiers Support Center in Yerevan. The Center will serve as a non-residential facility that provides economic assistance, grief counseling, academic tutoring, job placement, and other support services to families of soldiers killed or severely injured in battle.

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 2021 annual report, please contact George S. Yacoubian, Jr., at (610) 213-3452 or gyacoubian@soar-us.org.

