

***Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief
(SOAR)***



2023
Annual Report

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Greetings from the Executive Board Chairman

To Our SOAR Family:

Our tireless work in 2023 yielded many significant accomplishments, including the opening of our Ada Keshishyants Day Center for Children with Disabilities (Vanadzor) and our third Transitional Center (Yerevan), for young men. These Centers reflect our continued commitment to Armenia's most vulnerable populations. While SOAR remains the only charitable organization whose humanitarian mission is devoted exclusively to orphaned Armenian children, our work continues to transcend residential childcare institutions by providing emotional, financial, and professional support to our Artsakh families and the families of Armenian servicemen killed in battle.

The sustained interaction between our global volunteers and the populations 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 Executive Board; Trustees; Susan Snaveley; Chapter volunteers; and, most importantly, our team in Armenia under the guidance of our Executive Director Hripsime Muradyan and Associate Director Hasmik Diaryan, who keep us connected, emotionally and tangibly, to those populations we are blessed to serve.

The excitement of our work was tempered by the loss of one of our dearest friends and colleagues, Manana Mananyan. Manana had been with SOAR since 2014, first as a volunteer, and later as our Development Manager. Her sudden loss has left an empty place in our hearts.

To our financial and emotional supporters who join us on this evolving journey, thank you for allowing us to assist and enrich the endangered and the unprotected!

Respectfully,

George S. Yacoubian, Jr.

George S. Yacoubian, Jr., Ph.D., LL.M., S.J.D., M.S.

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 140 Chapters, 5 Junior groups, 1 College Group, and more than 600 volunteers worldwide, SOAR supported 37 institutions in 2023 – orphanages, boarding schools, day centers, and orphan summer camps – in Armenia, Artsakh, Javakh, and Lebanon. 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 17 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.

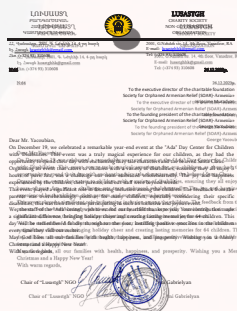


Quality Control

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 2023 SOAR supported 37 institutions in four countries: 33 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); and two Armenian orphanages in Lebanon

- *Ada Keshishyants Day Center for Children with Disabilities* is the first of its kind in Vanadzor. The Center serves as a non-residential facility for children with developmental, emotional, intellectual, physical, and psychological disabilities in Vanadzor, Armenia.
- *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.

Institutions (Continued)

- *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 Hooy)* houses teenage girls in the Arapkir district of Yerevan. The girls receive language and job skills training, computer instruction, life skills training, psychological support, and hope, confidence, and love.
- *Orran*, "haven" in Armenian, was established in Yerevan in April 2000. In 2009, a second Orran center was established in Vanadzor. Today, Orran supports approximately 95 seniors and 200 children across Armenia.
- *The Our Lady of Armenia Annie Bezikian Youth Center* is a private facility in Kanaker that houses girls between the ages of 16 and 22 who have outgrown the traditional orphanage and who are transitioning to independent living. The Center is operated by the Armenian Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, a religious order of nuns established in 1847.
- *Our Lady of Armenia Center* in Gyumri, Armenia, housing healthy children between the ages of 6 and 18. The Center is operated by the Armenian Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, a religious order of nuns established in 1847.
- *Our 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.
- *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 Centers (one in Gyumri and two in Yerevan)*, are residential settings for older teenagers who have outgrown the traditional orphanage but who are not yet ready for independent living. The residents go to college; assist with SOAR’s online business; are 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.
- *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.
- *Yerevan’s Children Home (formerly Nork Orphanage)* in Yerevan, Armenia, houses children (both healthy and with special needs) ages 6 years and under.

Institutions (Continued)

- *Yerevan Special School Number 11 (Nubarashen)* is a state boarding school in Yerevan housing children with special needs.
- *Yerevan Ajapnyak Community Children's Social Care 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 Yerevan Child Assistance Center* 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.



Funds

Sponsorship Fund

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

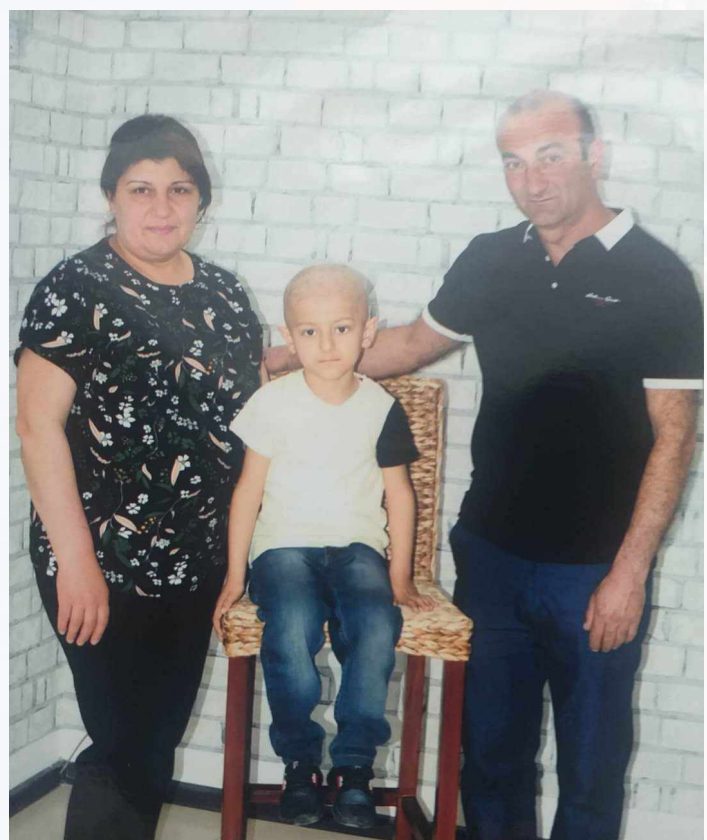
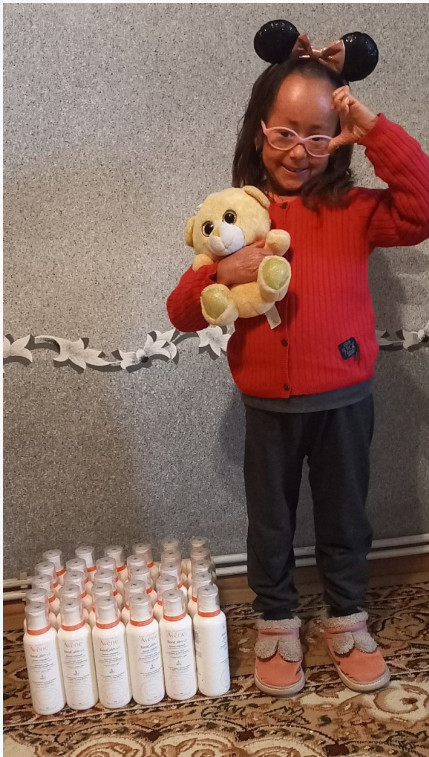
The Sponsorship Fund allows you to personally connect with an orphaned Armenian child or adult. Your entire donation goes directly to the orphan you are sponsoring; no funds support their orphanage or SOAR generally, and SOAR assumes the cost of all wiring fees.

SOAR has **6** sponsorship types:

- Child Sponsorship
- Families of Fallen Soldiers Relief (see more on page 30)
- Services to Children in their Own Homes (SCOH)
- Artsakh Family Integration
- Veteran's Educational Assistance (established in 2023)
- SOS Village

***In 2023, more than 600 children/families/
disabled adults were assisted through
these sponsorships.***

Sponsorship Fund (Continued)



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.

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 Nakashian Children's Support Center (formerly Mer Hooys) and the residents of Warm Hearth.

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 Orphanage.

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.

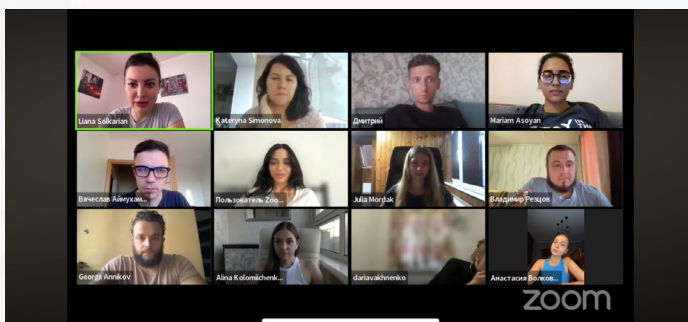
Bible Study: providing an introduction to stories of the Bible in a child-centered format.

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.

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)

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.

Mental Health and Well-Being: to explore the importance of stress management in our lives and to better understand the concept and benefits of mental well-being.

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.



2023 Distributions

Equipment and furniture for the training center at the SOAR Transitional Center, Gyumri.

1 laptop, 1 computer, and 1 multifunctional printer for Prkutyun funded by SOAR Portland (OR)

The residents of the SOAR Transitional Center, Yerevan attended the Chamber Music Hall in Yerevan to enjoy the performance of Hasmik Harutyunyan.

New projector for OLA Annie Bezikian Center, Kanaker

New kitchen equipment for Dzorak Care Center, funded by SOAR Jacksonville.

Food for the Family of Armine Petrosyan.

New laptop, smartphone, and printer for Sisters of Charity Orphanage, Bethlehem.

Monthly diaper distributions to multiple facilities that have children and adults using diapers.



2023 Distributions (Continued)



New laptops for the young ladies at both SOAR Transitional Centers, Gyumri and Yerevan, funded by SOAR Chicago! The young ladies have begun computer classes as well.



Sponsorship funds were used to support university tuition for all of the residents at Our Lady of Armenia Annie Bezikian Center in Kanaker.

Renovations at Children's Home of Gyumri 9th Department, funded by SOAR New York and the Harold and Josephine Gulamerian Armenian Orphan Fund.



Portable X-ray machine for the SOAR Dental Clinic funded by the Harold and Josephine Gulamerian Armenian Orphan Fund.

Wedding gifts for Diana Avetisyan, a graduate from Artsakh Boarding School.

Birthday Fund sponsored celebrations throughout the year.



2023 Distributions (Continued)

Monthly bread stipend for Prkutyun Day Center funded by the Harold and Josephine Gulamerian Armenian Orphan Fund.

The participants in the Art Therapy pottery class were able to take an excursion to “Mane Tiles” handmade mosaic and ceramic tile workshop to learn about the details of the production process.

Easter celebrations for all SOAR supported facilities and Fallen Soldier Families.

The grand opening of the new computer lab at Nakashian Children’s Support Center.

SOAR purchased hearing aids for Marianna Jambrazyan. She has a rare condition that requires specialized and expensive hearing aids.

32 residents at Prkutyun received new eyeglasses.

Medical scrubs for the workers at Sisters of Charity Orphanage.



2023 Distributions (Continued)



June 1st celebration and gifts for the children at Artsakh Boarding School.

Eight Fallen Soldier Families received funds thanks to SOAR Brussels.

Monthly food stipends for the residents of Prkutyun.

Summer excursion for the young ladies of Nakashian Children's Support Center

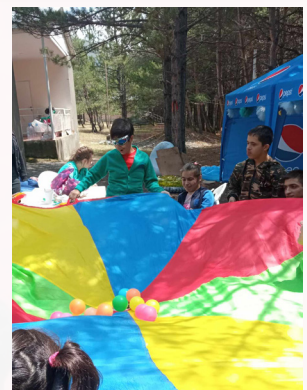
Javakh Summer Camp funded by the Harold and Josephine Gulamerian Armenian Orphan Fund.

AGBU camp in Bulgaria funded by the Harold and Josephine Gulamerian Armenian Orphan Fund.

Summer Camp for the children of Mari Izmirlyan and Children's Home of Gyumri orphanages.

An unforgettable one-week vacation for 15 Mari Izmirlyan residents and 5 companions at Dzaxkadzor Rossia Hotel.

Summer outing for some of the children of Kharberd Orphanage, funded by the Harold and Josephine Gulamerian Armenian Orphan Fund.



2023 Distributions (Continued)

**Renovations of the entry way and library
at the SOAR Transitional Center, Gyumri,
funded by SOAR La Canada.**

Fundraiser for Angelina Petrosian's second precedure that has enabled her to walk!

Project Cure shipment.

Renovations of four bedrooms at Our Lady of Armenia Center, funded by SOAR Montreal.

New furnishings for the new Transitional Center for Young Men in Yerevan.

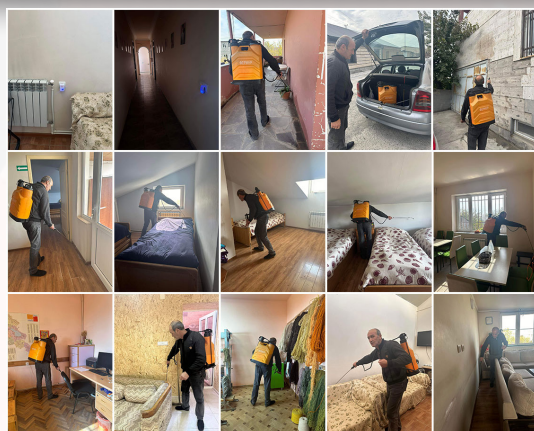
Extermination services for Warm Hearth to get rid of a scorpion infestation!

Thanksgiving for the children at Our Lady of Armenia Center, Gyumri.

Thanksgiving for the residents of the three SOAR Transitional Centers.

Healthy Lifestyle classes for the residents of the SOAR Transitional Center, Gyumri.

4-year anniversary celebration for the residents of the SOAR Transitional Center, Gyumri. A new updated plaque was unveiled.

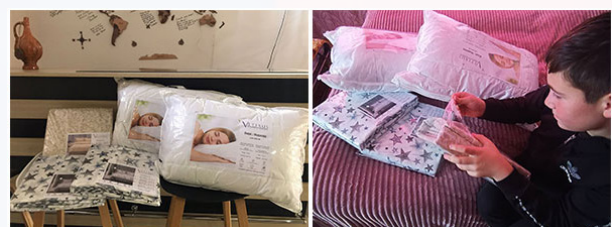


2023 Distributions (Continued)



Through the Artsakh Relief Fund efforts:

- Dry food packages, hot meals, hygiene supplies, diapers, first aid supplies, and folding beds to displaced families from Artsakh!
- Bedding, pillows, and covers purchased for Artsakh families.
- Tools purchased to restart family businesses.
- Shoes, clothing, and household supplies purchased.
- Food, medicine, winter clothes, and hygiene supplies purchased.
- New beds and mattresses purchased for families.
- New housing found and paid.



2023 Distributions (Continued)

Sea containers valued at \$280,020.75 were shipped to Armenia.

Christmas celebrations/gifts for *EVERY* child at SOAR supported facilities, SCOH families, Artsakh families, and gifts for Fallen Soldier Families.



Major Projects

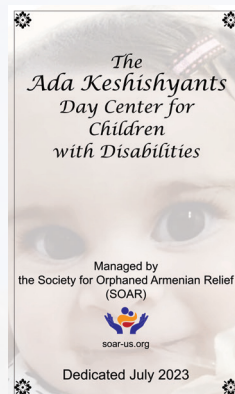
Ada Keshishyants Center for Children With Disabilities

SOAR opened the Ada Keshishyants Center for Disabled Children in July 2023. The first of its kind in Vanadzor, the Center serves as a non-residential facility for children with developmental, emotional, intellectual, physical, and psychological disabilities in Vanadzor, Armenia. Dedicated in the name of Ada Keshishyants, who suffers from a life-threatening, rare genetic disease called Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) Type 1.

To learn more about this deadly disease, please visit [here](#). Children with SMA die slowly, rarely reaching two years of age. One shot of Zolgensma could have helped treat or even cure Ada, but at a cost of \$2.125 million. In 2021, the funds were raised to purchase Zolgensma, but complications arose, and unfortunately, Ada was not able to receive the treatment.

During the time period of July-December 2023, **71** special needs children were enrolled in the Center. The strategy of the project is to provide services of speech therapist, psychologist, ergo therapist, kinesitherapist, art therapist, and social work.

The staff visited **91** forcibly displaced Artsakh families and carried out a thorough needs assessment. They conducted a needs evaluation and **5** children with special needs from displaced families started receiving the special services.



Major Projects (Continued)

Art Therapy

The goal of this project is to facilitate social inclusion of orphaned children housed at SOS Kotayk and Idjevan through art therapy and is funded by the Jirair S. and Elizabeth Hovnanian Foundation.

Three modes are implemented at SOS Kotayk:

Puppetry workshop and children mobile puppet theatre. Up to 25 children between the ages of 8 and 15 learn puppetry, master puppet actor's skills, and perform for approximately 150 children in SOS Kotayk and the surrounding communities. The theatre introduces national values to the children, teaches them to distinguish between good and evil, educates their worldview, and enriches insights.

Pottery workshop. Up to 15 children between the ages of 8 and 15 participate in pottery to develop motility of fingers and to reduce stress and aggression.

Sand therapy. Sometimes children are unable to verbalize emotional states, particularly in the face of trauma, neglect, or abuse. Intended for children between the ages of 3 and 15, the non-verbal nature of sand therapy helps children achieve feelings of comfort and security. This method of therapy serves as a valuable and powerful outlet for children and an incredibly insightful method of gaining access to traumatic experiences.

Two modes are implemented at SOS Idjevan:

Stained glass. Up to 20 children learn the skill of stained glass which uses art media, the creative process, and the resulting artwork to explore feelings, reconcile emotional conflicts, foster self-awareness, manage behavior and addictions, develop social skills, improve reality orientation, reduce anxiety, and increase self-esteem.

Arts and crafts. Many types of art forms are used in the arts and crafts including drawing/coloring, painting, sculpting, finger painting, weaving, and collages. This mode utilizes the creative process to help people explore self-expression and, in doing so, find new ways to gain personal insight and develop new coping skills.

The classes at SOS Idjevan lasted 10 months. Each of them was organized twice a week one hour per class. The children not only learned about Stained-glass techniques, various areas of Art, they also developed skills in painting, embroidery, tapestry, glass painting and design.

During the courses, the children learned to manage their behaviour, emotions, aggression through joint work, and gained a sense of calmness. They have developed social skills. All this is reflected in the evaluations and conclusions regularly carried out by the village psychologist during her daily work.

Major Projects (Continued)

Art Therapy - Continued

Throughout the project, the children also worked with mandalas, which enabled them to discover their inner resources. Within a month of the end of the courses, the children actively prepared for an exhibition of their works and master classes, which took place on October 30, 2023.

Throughout 2023 there were **65** participants in the workshops' classes: 53 children from the village and 12 children from the community.

The classes at SOS Kotayk lasted 10 months. The pottery course was held twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays for two hours. Sand therapy sessions were conducted on Mondays and Saturdays for a total of two hours. And the puppetry workshop course took place on Tuesdays and Fridays for 2.5 hours.

Initially, the program planned to have 50-55 beneficiary children from the SOS Children's Villages organization, but since the children of the Family Strengthening Program were also included, the total number of beneficiaries increased. The direct beneficiaries of the project are **85** children **55** of whom are from SOS Children's Village Kotayk, as well as **30** beneficiaries of Direct Family Strengthening program, who also participated in workshops.

The indirect beneficiaries are about **160** children for whom the children's theatre made performances. Two performances were held in the reporting period. One was held in summer with more than 100 audience. The second was held in November for more than 60 children displaced from Artsakh. The children also received gifts made by the students of the pottery group.

The participants in the pottery class made an excursion to Mane Tiles handmade mosaic and ceramic tile workshop to let children learn about the details of the production process.

See photos on the next page.

Major Projects (Continued)

Art Therapy - Continued



POTTERY



PUPPETRY



SAND THERAPY



Major Projects (Continued)

Dental Clinic

In 2023 the SOAR Dental Clinic serviced **465** children, seniors, and members of the local community that would otherwise not received any dental care.

This year the clinic also provided services to the children displaced from Artsakh and to participants of the new SOAR Maternal and Newborn Health Fund.

The dental clinic also emphasizes early diagnosis and treatment of dental problems, as well as dental and oral care literacy, for which they conducted visits to schools in various rural communities, conducted research among 1st and 7th grade students, taught dental care through games and didactic materials. proper care, consumption of healthy food.



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 SOAR Families of Fallen Soldiers Support Center in Yerevan

With its grand opening in 2021, the Center serves 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.



Lili's Bed and Breakfast



Lili's Bed and Breakfast (B&B) is adjacent to the Ani Bezikian Youth Center in Kanaker, a section of Yerevan approximately 10 minutes from City Center. The Youth Center is a transitional residence for older teenage girls who have aged out of the Our Lady of Armenia Center, an orphanage in Gyumri overseen by the Armenian Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

(Mother Arousiag Sajonian, Superior). The Kanaker residence facilitates independent living in a safe and nurturing environment by allowing the girls to work and go to school. The B&B is owned and managed by SOAR and run by the residents of the Annie Bezikian Center.

All proceeds from Lili's B&B go to SOAR's Orphan Transitional Fund.

Major Projects (Continued)

Maternal and Newborn Health

In June 2023, our Maternal and Newborn Health Fund was established to provide prenatal and newborn assistance to vulnerable, first-time expectant mothers in Armenia. SOAR works with the Community Development and Social Childcare Center in Gyumri to identify the most suitable candidates.

We support key elements of quality care during pregnancy, including birth preparedness and complication readiness, and counsel expectant mothers on pregnancy danger signs. Physicians and social workers ensure that mothers receive quality care during childbirth, regular post-delivery medical attention, and trainings that facilitate better motherhood skills.

To incentivize our target population, we have established programmatic enrichments to address the social and structural barriers to patient compliance.



Major Projects (Continued)

Mobile Eye Care Project

In 2023 the Mobile Eye Care Van visited SOS Children's Village, Kotayk, Our Lady of Armenia Summer Camp, and Prkutyun. 984 exams were given, 54 children and adults received glasses, and 25 received interventional and special treatments. The breakdown of services are below.

1. SOS Children's Villages in Kotayk - 174 patients, glasses provided to 23 patients
2. Our Lady of Armenia Summer Camp - 800 patients
3. Interventional treatment for 4 children in January, 6 children in March, 8 children in June, 7 children in October
4. "Prkutyun" NGO glasses provided to 31 patients

Summary

Examinations - **984**

Glasses provided - **54**

Interventional Treatments - **25**



Major Projects (Continued)

Music Therapy

Music therapy is the clinical and evidenced-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program. It consists of using music therapeutically to address physical, psychological, cognitive, behavioral, and/or social functioning.

Regular music therapy sessions are held at Yerevan Children's Home and Sisters of Charity Bethlehem and Spitak as well as other facilities that care for the disabled.

In June of this year, residents from Kharberd Orphanage participated in the "Seeds of Armenia" concert with a beautiful performance on the bells.



Major Projects (Continued)

SOAR Transitional Centers - one in Gyumri and two in Yerevan

SOAR's Transitional Centers are residential setting for older teenage girls who have outgrown the traditional orphanage but who are not yet ready for independent living. At our Center, these young women attend college; cultivate a business; are 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 of the Transitional Center in Gyumri celebrated their **fourth** year that was filled with activities. The Papken and Anahid Megerian Transitional Center in Yerevan was opened in 2022 and The Harold and Josephine Gulamerian Center for Young Men was opened this year.



SOAR Transitional Center, Gyumri



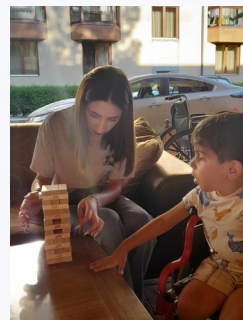
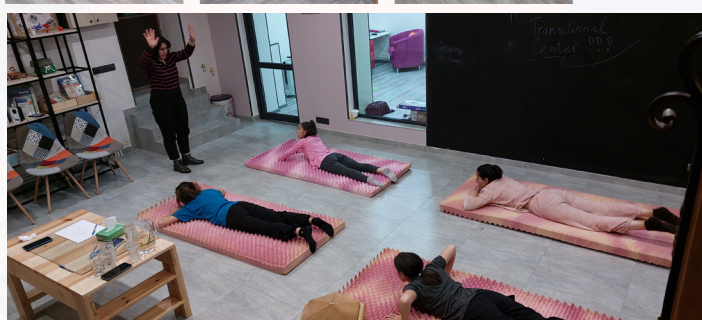
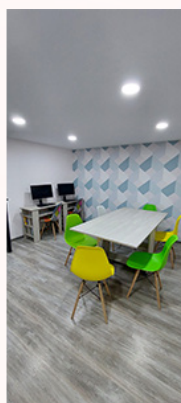
SOAR Harold and Josephine Gulamerian
Transitional Center for Young Men, Yerevan



SOAR Papken and Anahid Megerian
Trantional Center, Yerevan

SOAR Transitional Center, Gyumri

- Equipment and furniture for the Training Center
- The residents each received a new laptop
- Computer classes for everyone
- A visit to the SOAR facilities in Yerevan; the Transitional Center and the Fallen Soldier Support Center followed by an excursion to Equipment and furniture for the Training Center and then dinner
- Everyone received a birthday celebration
- “Perfume: Scent of a Woman” event, presented by Arthur Aleksanyan
- To prepare for volunteering at camp, the residents received clothing, appropriate camping gear, footwear, etc. SOAR also purchased their luggage, hygiene supplies, and water bottles.
- Liana Unusyan graduated with her bachelor’s degree from National Polytechnic University of Armenia Gyumri Branch.
- Volunteering at Our Lady of Armenia Summer Camp
- Volunteering at Camp for Children’s Home of Gyumri
- Renovations of the entryway and library
- A series of training of varying topics has been started at the Center
- Healthy Lifestyle classes for the residents of the Center
- Celebration of International Volunteer Day
- A book reading was organized on “Monte’s Life”. Rafayel Harutyunyan visited the Center to share with the students real stories that Monte and Rafayel experienced during the war time in 1992 fighting together for our land.
- 4-year anniversary celebration/a new plaque unveiled
- Online courses through SOAR Chapter members



Major Projects (Continued)

Gyumri So-Art - A Transitional Center Business

gyumrisoart.com



Gyumri So-Art was developed for the social adaptation of orphans, to provide basic professional skills and to educate them on fiscal independence. We approach our handcraft business to educate our young women in entrepreneurial rather than consumer thinking and to help them appreciate the importance of financial security in the early stages of independent living. Those orphans could leave the walls of a boarding school or orphanage being self-sufficient, socially adapted, active and confident.

Here, the young women create tote bags, Marash bags, tablecloths, table runners, and pillowcases. By supporting our workshop, you not only get quality handcrafts from Armenia but also help our young women acquire professional skills. This is your contribution to Armenia's future.

The website for the Gyumri So-Art store was launched in early 2022.
In 2023 the store sold to 45 customers with gross sales of \$2,122.26.

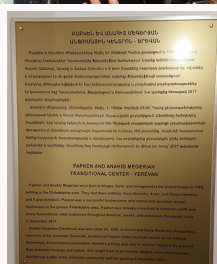
Some of the store products are below:



Major Projects (Continued)

Papken and Anahid Megerian Transitional Center, Yerevan

- The residents of the Center attended the Chamber Music Hall in Yerevan to enjoy the performance of Hasmik Harutyunyan
- Birthday celebrations for every resident
- New laptops for every resident and computer classes
- A visit from the Transitional Center, Gyumri residents, followed by a visit to the Van Gogh Exhibition in Yerevan and dinner
- Plaque in place honoring Papken and Anahid Megerian
- Monthly grocery shopping trips
- The residents of the Center worked together to clean the new Harold and Josephine Gulamerian Transitional Center for Young Men followed by a lunch out
- A Thanksgiving celebration for the residents
- Online courses through SOAR Chapter members



The Harold and Josephine Gulamerian Transitional Center for Young Men, Yerevan

- Renovations of the Center
- The residents of the Center for Young Women in Yerevan worked together to clean!
- New appliances and furnishings



Chapter Highlights

SOAR National held multiple initiatives:



Artsakh Relief Campaign



Christmas and Easter Campaigns



Dedicated the month of September to our fallen and severely wounded soldiers and POWs



Giving Tuesday Campaign for Housing for Artsakh Families

George S. Yacoubian, Jr.
will be running in the
**AAGR American Association
PHILADELPHIA MARATHON**
26.2 • 13.1 • 5K
Half Marathon
NOVEMBER 18, 2023

Help George reach his goal of
\$5,000
for Artsakh Relief.

Learn more about
SOAR's Artsakh Relief
efforts at
soar-us.org/artsakh-relief

GO HERE
to sponsor George

For more information, contact George at
gyacoubian@soar-us.org

Thank you in advance for your support!

George Yacoubian Ran for Artsakh Relief



Annual NFL Pool Eliminator

MARCH MADNESS
The 15th Annual March Madness Pool
\$100 entry with a 75/25 split between winner of the pool and SOAR

To register:
1) Go to www.dreamtime.com
2) Click "Register Free" or use your login information from last year
3) After registering, click "Join NCAA Pool"
4) Enter the pool name: **soar**
5) Select the SOAR pool
6) Enter the pool password: **soar-naa**
7) Click "View SOAR Now"
8) Make your picks
9) GO HERE to pay online, or send check to:
SOAR c/o George S. Yacoubian Jr.
150 N. Radnor Chester Rd., Suite F200, Radnor, PA 19087

The tournament starts on
March 18, 2021.
*Payout is at round!
Entries and payment
check or CD
MUST be received by 11:00 or
you will be eliminated
before the tournament begins
GOOD LUCK!

Annual March Madness



Seeds of Armenia Concert



Emergency Medical Campaign for Norayr Khachatryan



Mother's Day Campaign for Widows of Fallen Soldiers



2nd Medical Fundraiser for Angelina Petrossian

Chapter Highlights (Continued)

FUNDRAISING

SOAR Anchorage finished their “Empower Families” campaign for the family of fallen Senior Sergeant Squad Commander Vahram Hovhannisyan and held their Artsakh Relief Campaign

SOAR Atlanta held a very successful “Sip N’ Paint” fundraiser.

SOAR Baltimore held a 50/50 Raffle for Artsakh Relief, collected ILOF donations for the father of a board member, and received a percentage of the proceeds for a local fashion show.

SOAR Brussels held “Black” Concert - War Through the Eyes of a Musician and raised funds to support 8 fallen soldier families.

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 held a very successful Armenian Wine Tasting Event Oscar Isberian Rugs for Artsakh Relief, and helped to support the SOAR Diaper Fund, and sponsored Christmas celebrations and gifts for SOAR supported facilities. SOAR Chicago also hosted a table at the Evanston picnic and [purchased laptops for all the residents of the SOAR Transitional Centers in Gyumri and Yerevan.

SOAR Cleveland held Holiday Fundraiser for Artsakh Relief

SOAR Copenhagen provided gifts and arranged the Christmas celebration for our displaced Artsakh children.

SOAR Dallas held a Holiday Campaign for Artsakh Relief, hosted a Modern Market Dine and Donate Fundraiser, held their 6th consecutive School Supply Drive for Orphans in Armenia, and held their 3rd Annual Father’s Day Fundraiser.

Chapter Highlights (Continued)

SOAR Detroit participated in Armenia Fest at the Royal Oak Farmers Market and held their 1st Annual Armenian Heritage Night with the Detroit Pistons.

SOAR Frankfurt, Munich, Berlin, and Hamburg held a campaign for Artsakh Relief, collaborated with Aroma wines to fundraise for the families of fallen soldiers, and held an Armenian Wine Tasting Event.

SOAR Fresno held a “Spring Fundraiser” to raise funds for new van tires and mobile ramps for Warm Hearth.

SOAR Geneva board member held an In Lieu of Gift Fundraiser for SOAR.

SOAR Greater Cincinnati held a campaign for Artsakh Relief.

SOAR Harrisburg held a Fundraiser for the Family of Fallen Soldier Taron Stepanyan.

SOAR Indianapolis held an online campaign for Artsakh Relief.

SOAR Jacksonville held Yoga Charity Sessions, held their annual BBQ, and online Armenian Rare Coin Auction, and held an online raffle to win a Breckenridge Four-Night Stay.

SOAR London held a campaign to raise funds for Christmas for the patients of the Ada Keshishyants Center, held a “Just Giving” Campaign for SOAR, and collected ILOF donations in memory of the father of the SOAR London Chapter President.

SOAR Los Angeles hosted a Comedy Night Fundraiser for Artsakh Relief and held an Easter Celebration Fundraiser for the residents of Gavar Orphanage.

SOAR Melbourne, Perth, and Sydney held a campaign for Artsakh Relief.

SOAR Miami held a “Miami Formula-1 Grand Prix Raffle”.

Chapter Highlights (Continued)

SOAR Minneapolis continues to fundraise for The Chunmei Guo Memorial Scholarship Fund which was created to help toward the education of young women studying in the sciences. A silent auction that was held by ACOM benefitted SOAR Minneapolis.

SOAR Montebello held a campaign for Artsakh Relief.

SOAR Montreal hosted a “Grand Benefit Concert” and funded the renovations of four bedrooms at Our Lady of Armenia Center.

SOAR Naples held a “Winter Event” to raise funds for Families of Fallen Soldiers.

SOAR New Jersey held a campaign for Artsakh Relief.

SOAR New York a “Holiday Campaign” for Artsakh Relief and funded renovations of the 9th Department and Children’s Home of Gyumri.

SOAR Orange County hosted a “Sunset Soiree” and a “Spring Fling” for SOAR.

SOAR Perth held a fundraiser for the Family of Armenian Soldier Aram Danielyan.

SOAR Philadelphia hosted a very successful “Designer Bag Bingo” and hosted Tatev Amiryan Solo Concert of Armenian Piano Music to benefit House of Dreams.

SOAR Phoenix held a private showing of the movie “Armenia, a Love Story”. SOAR hosted producer, war correspondent and published author Chuck Holton at the Via Linda Senior Center after the July 15th showing. The chapter also purchased diapers for Yerevan Children’s Home and Sisters of Charity, and sponsored Christmas celebrations thanks to the special Cocoa Bomb Fundraiser held by board member Margaret Ehramjian’s daughter Ani.

SOAR Portland, (OR) held an online “Holiday Raffle” and hosted a “Holiday Wine and Painting Fundraiser” for Our Lady of Armenian Annie Bezikian Center.

Chapter Highlights (Continued)

SOAR Providence held a “Bake Sale” fundraiser and a “Winter Khash Gathering”. The chapter raised funds for eye surgery for Mariam Asoyan, a resident of the SOAR Transitional Center in Yerevan and for children of our fallen sildier families.

SOAR Rocky Mountains hosted “Rhythms of Resilience: A Birthday Celebration & Charity Auction” to raise funds for Artsakh Relief.

SOAR Rotterdam helped facilitate a shipment of sports equipment to Armenia from “sports for Children Foundation”.

SOAR St. Louis held a “Gift Bazaar Raffle” . The chapter was also very instrumental in helping the family of Angelina Petrosian when they came to St Louis Children’s Hospital for her life changing operation.

SOAR Salt Lake City Chapter President Publishes Children’s Book – Proceeds Earmarked for Lebanon Orphanages and ran the Salt Lake City Half Marathon again in honor of her father.

SOAR San Diego held a campaign for Artsakh Relief.

SOAR San Francisco Bay Area hosted “Tatev Amiryan, Solo Concert of Armenian Piano Music” and held an online campaign for Artsakh relief.

SOAR Saudi Arabia held an online campaign for Artsakh Relief.

SOAR Seattle chapter co-president asked for donations to SOAR In Lieu of Gifts for her baby shower.

SOAR Syracuse held an online 50/50 Raffle for Artsakh Relief and held an Easter Basket Raffle to fund Easter celebrations for the children at SOAR supported facilities.

SOAR Tampa Bay held an online campaign for Artsakh Relief.

Chapter Highlights (Continued)

SOAR Tennessee received donations in memory of a community member that wished to support SOAR.

SOAR Toronto held a very successful Paint N' Sip Fundraiser to help provide food for the residents of Warm Hearth, and held an online campaign for Artsakh Relief.

SOAR Tuscon held an online campaign for Artsakh Relief.

SOAR Ventura County held a "Holiday Campaign" for Artsakh Relief, held a "Dine to Donate" with Panda Express, and held an "Easter Celebration Fundraiser" for the children at SOS Village Idjevan.

SOAR Washington DC held an online campaign for Artsakh Relief.

SOAR Wisconsin held their 14th Annual Fundraiser For Armenian Orphans. This year it was held at Weissgerber's Golden Mast Inn. The chapter brought in more than \$45,000!

Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR) Wisconsin Chapter
14TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER FOR ARMENIAN ORPHANS
Sunday 9/24/23 4:00 - 7:00 pm
Weissgerber's GOLDEN MAST INN on Okauchee Lake
W349 N5293 Lucy's Lane, Okauchee, WI 53064
HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES • ARMENIAN DESSERTS
The Comedy of Chuck "Garbo" Haginian
Armenian Line Dancing Lessons
50/50 Raffle • Silent Auction • Cash Bar
DONATIONS START AT \$100 PERSON
SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT SOAR-WI.ORG FOR TICKETS AND EVENT SPONSORSHIP
Consider becoming an event sponsor! (Your response is needed by September 15th)
Platinum Sponsor \$5,000
Gold Sponsor \$2,000
Silver Sponsor \$1,000
Bronze Sponsor \$500
We are raising funds for Sisters of Charity, a facility that rescues abandoned handicapped children in Armenia, and other orphan projects
For more information, call: Chuck Haginian: 262-352-4140 or Lucine Sgheris: 262-490-0380

JOIN US at the HOLE-IN-THE-WALL GOLF CLUB
3600 Goodlette-Frank Road Naples, FL 34103 (at the corner of Goodlette-Frank Road and OMB Drive)
Now in the midst of a horrible war, the Armenian orphans need more help than ever
Saturday February 11, 2023
SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF NAPLES CHAPTER WINTER EVENT
6:00-7:00 Cocktails
Dinner to follow
Chapter Update and Comedy by the Great "Garbo"
For more information and to RSVP, please contact Mark Duszynski at naples@soar-us.org or call/text 414-792-4234

SOAR Atlanta Chapter
Paint and Sip Fundraiser
May 6, 2023 1:00-4:00 pm
Armenian Church of Atlanta
9820 Coleman Rd. Roswell, GA 30075
TICKETS - \$50
Includes: Snacks - One Drink Ticket - Paint Class
Purchase tickets below
All proceeds will help the Family of Fallen Soldier Vahagn Apinyan
atlanta@soar-us.org

Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR) Los Angeles Chapter
COMEDY NIGHT for Artsakh Relief
Jack Jr. Vartough Tota Mary Basmajian
Armen Babatoloukian
WEDNESDAY 11.29.2023
Doors open at 7:30pm - Show begins at 8:00pm
The Landmark - 10635 Woodman Ave, Mission Hills, CA 91345
Ticket pricing - \$100 - \$75 - \$60 - \$45 (small bites included with \$100 tickets)
PURCHASE TICKETS BELOW
soar-las@soar-us.org

RUNNING FOR ORPHANS 2023
Talar Herculan Coursey is running the Salt Lake City Half Marathon on April 22, 2023
to raise money for food for Bird's Nest Orphanage in Beirut and the Armenian Evangelical Boarding School in Anjar to honor her father's memory.
To sponsor Talar visit: soar-us.readapp.co/campaigns/runningfororphans2023 or scan the QR code



Chapter Highlights (Continued)

SOAR Orange County
Spring Fling
Thursday
April 20, 2023
HAPPY HOUR 6 pm - 9 pm
 at
 La Vida Cantina - 1870 Harbor Blvd, Costa Mesa, CA

TICKETS - \$50
 Includes 1 Free Drink and Appetizers
PURCHASE BELOW

All proceeds to benefit the Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR)


 orangecounty@soar-us.org

SOAR Philadelphia
Designer Bag Bingo
AND
Backgammon Tournament
Saturday
October 14, 2023
 6:00-Doors Open 7:00-The Games Begin!
 Light Bites • Raffles • 50/50 • BYOB

Tickets:
\$45 /person
\$50 - Backgammon Tournament
(cash prizes)

To purchase tickets, visit
 soar-us.reachapp.co/campaigns/philly-bingo-backgammon

Armenian Sisters Academy
 440 Upper Gulph Rd.
 Radnor, PA 19087

For more information, contact:
 Kim Johnson at 610-405-2709 or
 Jessica Fox at 484-390-0792

All proceeds to benefit Our Lady of Armenia Center in Gyumri.
 The Center houses 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 1842.

50/50 RAFFLE
FOR ARTSAXH RELIEF
 Hosted by SOAR Syracuse & Baltimore

50% of the total funds raised will be split
 into three prizes.

1st Prize 25% - 2nd Prize 15% - 3rd Prize 10%

Drawing: Monday, January 8th

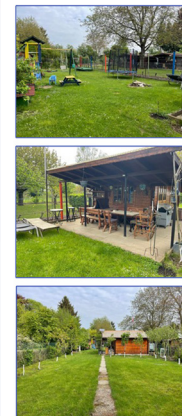
10 Tickets	5 Tickets	1 Ticket
\$100	\$75	\$20
(\$10/each)	(\$15/each)	

Purchase at
 soar-us.reachapp.co/campaigns/50-50

50% of the total proceeds will go to
 SOAR's Artsakh Relief efforts.

Share with friends and family
 THE MORE TICKETS SOLD, THE BIGGER THE PRIZE!

syracuse@soar-us.org  baltimore@soar-us.org



14. Mai 2023
13:00

Wiesbaden-Bierstadt,
Hof Erlenblick

Deutschland SOAR - Verein der
Armenischen Waisen Hilf
und DE-ARM Dialog Wiesbaden
laden zum AromaAura Weinfest-Verkauf ein

Registrieren Sie sich bitte auf
 Whatsapp bei Deutschland SOAR
 und wir werden Ihnen die Adresse
 der Veranstaltung zusenden.
 chat.whatsapp.com/51a22q4FFH1WCF4s46H

Bitte teilen Sie uns bis zum 13. Mai 2023 mit,
 ob Sie kommen können.
 frankfurt@soar-us.org



• **Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR) • Established 2005 •**

YOU'RE GONNA NEED MILK FOR THAT

DETROIT

• **1st Pistons Armenian Heritage Night • Sunday, March 19, 2023 • Court of Dreams •**

DETROIT PISTONS vs Miami Heat

SOAR Ventura County
Holiday Campaign
 for Artsakh Relief

Thru
December 19th

Private Showing

ARMENIA
a love story

• **ARMENIA** •
 FILMED & DIRECTED BY CHUCK HOLTON

Saturday, July 15th & Sunday, July 16th 3pm
Touchar Cinema 1515 N Hayden Rd, Scottsdale

Ticket proceeds will go to S.O.A.R.
\$15 Adults, \$7.50 Children under 12
 For tickets email opahm@soar.net
 or call Artin Knodjian 480.620.2042





SOAR New Jersey
for Artsakh Relief



SOAR Dallas
and
San Antonio

School Supply Fundraiser

Orphans in Armenia need our help!

THRU SEPTEMBER 4th
 Help us raise funds for school supplies for
 the children at Our Lady of Armenia Center
 in Gyumri!

USE THE DONATE BUTTON ABOVE

Chapter Highlights (Continued)

PROGRAMS & ADMINISTRATIVE

SOAR Amman gave a presentation to the children at Orran through the Cultural Discovery Program and participates in the Language Tutoring Program.

SOAR Antwerp participates in the Female Empowerment Program.

SOAR Athens gave a presentation to the residents of the SOAR Transitional Center, Gyumri through the Final Take Film Program.

SOAR Berlin participates in the Female Empowerment Program holding sessions regularly with the residents of the SOAR Transitional Centers.

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

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

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

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

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

SOAR Hamburg gives presentations to the children at Orran for the Digital Literacy and Coding Program.

SOAR Helsinki gives English lessons to the children at Orran through the Language Tutoring Program.

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

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

Chapter Highlights (Continued)

SOAR Kansas City (MO) gave a presentation to the children at Orran through the Cultural Discovery Program.

SOAR Las Vegas holds regular classes with the girls at the SOAR Transitional Center through the Mentoring and Female Empowerment Programs.

SOAR Luxembourg participates in the Language Tutoring Program (English).

SOAR Malta participates in the Global Hosting Program.

SOAR Moscow participates in the Digital Literacy and Coding Program and the Female Empowerment Program holding sessions regularly with the residents of the SOAR Transitional Centers.

SOAR Nottingham participates in the Language Tutoring Program holding regular instruction with the residents at the SOAR Transitional Center, Gyumri.

SOAR Odessa ran a Project Management IT course which included residents of the SOAR Transitional Center, Yerevan.

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

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

SOAR Saint Petersburg gives 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 São Paulo participates in the Global Hosting Program.

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

SOAR Sofia participates in the Global Hosting Program and hosted the group attending AGBU Camp.

Chapter Highlights (Continued)

SOAR Stockholm gave a presentation to the children at Orran and to the residents of the SOAR Transitional Center, Yerevan through the Cultural Discovery Program and to the children at Yerevan Children's Home.

SOAR Tbilisi gave a presentation to the residents of the SOAR Transitional Center, Gyumri through the Cultural Discovery Program.

SOAR Tehran gave a presentation to the residents of the SOAR Transitional Center, Yerevan through the Cultural Discovery Program and participates in the Language Tutoring Program.

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

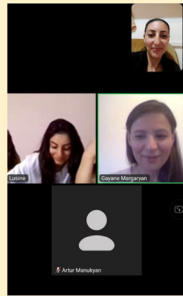
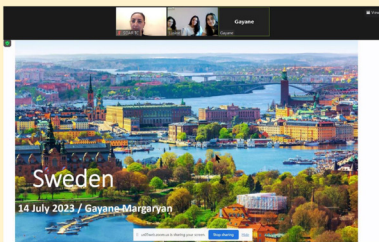
SOAR Vancouver is an Internal Administrative Chapter overseeing medical requests and funding.

SOAR Zurich gave a presentation to the residents of the SOAR Transitional Center, Gyumri through the Cultural Discovery Program.

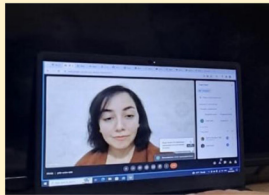


Chapter Highlights (Continued)

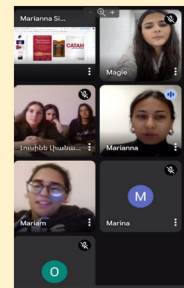
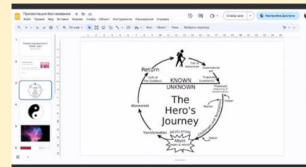
Cultural Discovery Program July 14th, Stockholm Chapter Gayane Margaryan



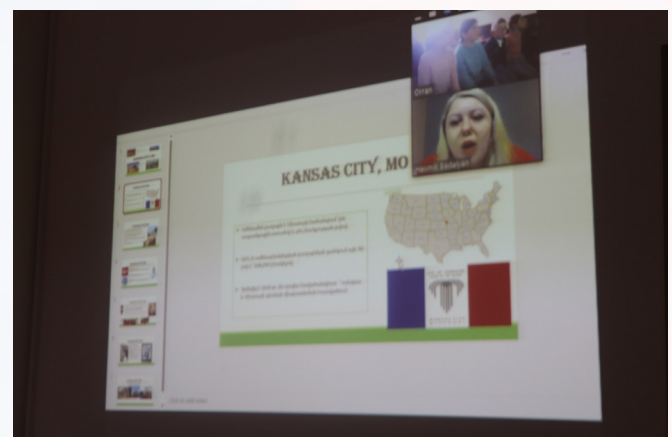
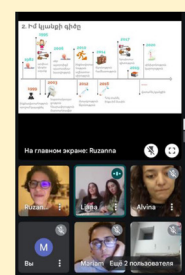
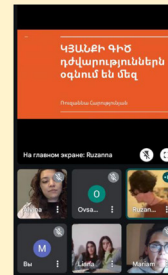
Cultural Discovery Program Oct 27th, Tehran Chapter, Shadi Avani



Female Empowerment Program Oct 17th, Moscow Chapter, Marianna Simonyan



Female Empowerment Program Nov 11th, Berlin Chapter, Ruzanna Harutyunyan



Junior Highlights

“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 an online Easter fundraiser for Our Lady of Armenia, Tashir and held an Easter Cookie Sale! Chapter with their Piano Concert and Designer Bag Bingo events.

SOAR North Valley Juniors went on a camping trip, saved turtles, and raised funds for SOAR.

SOAR Philadelphia Juniors held a Car Wash and assisted the Philadelphia Chapter with their Piano Concert and Designer Bag Bingo events.



Accounting Summary

Distributions

• Ada Keshishyants Center.....	\$17,673.00
• Armenian Evangelical Boarding School.....	\$5,329.00
• AFIF/FFSRF.....	\$28,620.00
• Birds' Nest Orphanage.....	\$21,650.00
• Community Development and Social Support Center.....	\$4,060.00
• Children's Home Gyumri.....	\$18,156.00
• Dental Clinic.....	\$7,783.00
• Dzorak.....	\$599.00
• Eye Care Project.....	\$10,441.00
• Gavar.....	\$500.00
• House of Dreams.....	\$13,103.00
• Kharberd Orphanage.....	\$2,595.00
• Mari Izmirlyan.....	\$5920.00
• Nakashian Children's Support Center.....	\$12,270.00
• Orran.....	\$5,819.00
• Our Lady of Armenia Center.....	\$54,067.00
• OLA-Kanaker.....	\$30,100.00
• OLA-Tashir.....	\$500.00
• Prkutyun.....	\$6,802.00
• Services to Children in their Own Homes (SCOH).....	\$9,145.00
• Shirak Marz Children and Family Social Services.....	\$6,559.00
• Sisters of Charity, Bethlehem.....	\$24,103.00
• Sisters of Charity, Spitak.....	\$500.00
• SOS-Idjevan.....	500.00
• SOS-Kotayk.....	\$500.00
• Transitional Center, Gyumri.....	\$78,196.00
• Transitional Center, Yerevan.....	\$9,720.00
• Transitional Center for Young Men, Yerevan.....	\$251,437.00
• Vardashen.....	\$500.00
• Warm Hearth.....	\$7,502.00
• Yerevan Children's Home (Nork).....	\$700.00
• Yerevan Special School Number 11 (Nubarashen).....	\$850.00
• Yerevan State Day Center.....	\$3,4000.00
• Sea Containers.....	\$288,020.75
• Programs.....	\$5,000.00
• Miscellaneous.....	\$308,816.79

Accounting Summary (Continued)

TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS.....\$1,257,905.81

Administrative

• Salaries.....\$46,151.00
• Bank.....\$7,001.18

TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE.....\$53,152.18

GRAND TOTAL.....\$1,311,057.99

Conclusion

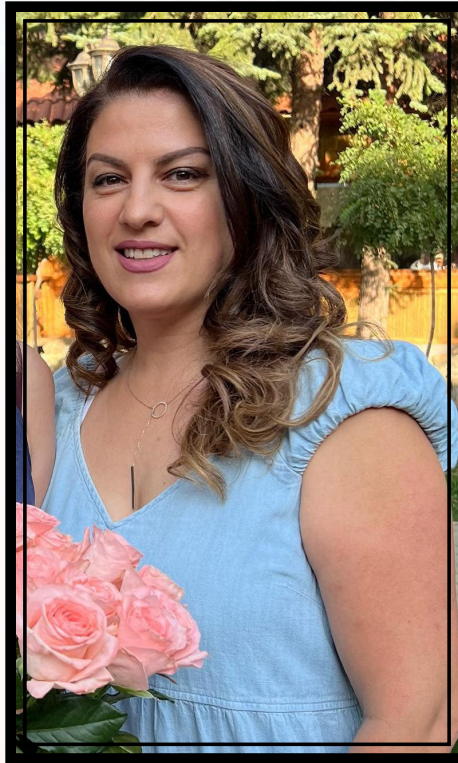
The Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR) was established in 2005 to provide humanitarian relief to orphaned Armenian children and orphaned Armenian adults with disabilities. Today, we support 34 institutions – orphanages, day centers, residential childcare facilities, summer camps, and transitional centers – in Armenia, Javakh, and Lebanon. In 2006, distributions totaled approximately \$60,000. In CY2023, our distributions exceeded \$1.3M. Today, we not only address the major humanitarian constructs of education, psychological support, nutrition, health and hygiene, dental, medical and vision care, and fundamental human rights, but our Programs offer educational and professional curricula that stimulate intellectual curiosity, empowerment, and enrichment. Our most significant accomplishments in 2023 were the opening of the Harold and Josephine Gulamerian Transitional Center for Young Men in Yerevan and the Ada Keshishyants Day Center for Children with Disabilities in Vanadzor.

We continue to be blessed with a dedicated team of supporters who share our short-term aspirations and long-term vision. Nineteen years ago, as I embarked on parenthood with the adoption from Armenia of my oldest daughter, Liliana, I asked God to make me a better human. He brought me SOAR. For that, I am eternally grateful.

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

If you have any questions about SOAR, our mission, the populations we serve, or this 2023 annual report, please contact George S. Yacoubian, Jr., at (610) 213-3452 or gyacoubian@soar-us.org.





In Memory of Manana Mananyan

Manana joined the SOAR family in 2014, first as a volunteer for SOAR Vanadzor and then as our Development Manager. She not only used her talents for SOAR, but also taught English to orphaned children and assisted with fundraising for Orran, a SOAR-supported center that helps underprivileged and socially vulnerable elderly and children.

Her life was spent in service to others, and her absence will leave an empty space in our hearts. In her memory, SOAR has created the Manana Mananyan Memorial Fund to benefit orphaned and otherwise underprivileged children in Lori Region (Marz) in Armenia.