



SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Road, F-200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

Email: gyacoubian@soar-us.org Web: www.soar-us.org

2015 Report to The Carol Fananjian Foundation



SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Road, F-200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

Email: gyacoubian@soar-us.org Web: www.soar-us.org

Table of Contents

Creation and Management	3
Quality Control	4
Institutions We Support	5
Reunification	10
Budget	22
Conclusion	23



SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Road, F-200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

Email: gyacoubian@soar-us.org Web: www.soar-us.org

Creation and Management

George S. Yacoubian, Jr. and his wife Erica began their adoption process in 2005. Throughout that spring and summer, they went through home study and various levels of domestic governmental approval. While in Armenia visiting the Our Lady of Armenia Summer Camp, they saw Liliana for the first time. George and Erica submitted their dossier to the Armenian government that fall, received preliminary approval in December 2005, and obtained final approval in March 2006. Liliana arrived in the United States on April 23, 2006.

The Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR) was established in the fall of 2005 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that today provides humanitarian relief to orphaned Armenian children and orphaned Armenian adults with disabilities in Armenia, Artsakh, Javakh, Lebanon, and Syria. In early 2006, an experienced Board of Directors was assembled, a network of Partners in Armenia was recruited to assist with distributions, and the website was launched. In 2009, a National Board of Trustees was created to review annually SOAR's fiscal operations and distributions.

Represented by more than 100 Chapters and 5 Junior groups worldwide, SOAR supports 34 institutions throughout the world. Some volunteers are parents of adopted Armenian children; others simply recognize the significance of SOAR's work and want to help perpetuate its mission. The common bond among them all is the recognition that orphaned Armenians represent the most vulnerable population of Armenian society.



SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Road, F-200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

Email: gyacoubian@soar-us.org Web: www.soar-us.org

Quality Control

SOAR has a strict quality control protocol to assure that all donations reach the intended recipients. This protocol has five essential elements.

1. SOAR rarely makes cash distributions directly to the orphanages. Rather, goods and services that can be procured in Armenia are purchased by in-country staff and distributed directly to the institutions.
2. SOAR implements chain-of-custody procedures for any distributed goods or services, providing assurance that these items have been received by the orphanages in the exact quantity intended. These procedures have three sub-steps:
 - a. In-country staff sign for the shipments and/or attest to the type and quantity of goods or services procured in Armenia. This invoice includes an exact description of the type and quantity of goods and services.
 - b. The recipient institution's director signs this same invoice, indicating that the exact type and quantity of goods and services received is the quantity indicated.
 - c. Both invoices are mailed to SOAR's Executive Board Chairman.
3. SOAR Partners, in-country Chapter members, and other volunteers make random inspections of the institutions. Discrepancies are to be reported immediately to SOAR's Executive Board Chairman.
4. When possible, goods donated or services provided by SOAR are engraved and/or stamped with a corporate seal. Capital projects are acknowledged with a dedication plaque.
5. A zero-tolerance policy for fraud, theft, and/or deception is imposed. Any malfeasance would result in the termination of assistance.



SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Road, F-200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

Email: gyacoubian@soar-us.org Web: www.soar-us.org

Institutions We Support

SOAR supports 24 institutions in Armenia, two Armenian orphanages in Artsakh, an orphan summer camp in Javakh, four Armenian orphanages in Lebanon, and three Armenian orphanages in Syria:

Armenian Evangelical Boarding School is located in Ainjar, Lebanon, and is home to approximately 75 healthy social orphans.

Birds' Nest Orphanage is located in Byblos, Lebanon, and has been home to thousands of Armenian children in the Middle East region for more than 80 years. There are currently 37 children housed at Birds' Nest, ranging in age from 6 months to 17 years old.

Boarding School #1 is a state orphanage in Stepanagert, Artsakh, housing approximately 35 children (both healthy and with special needs) between the ages of 4 and 16.

Boarding School #2 is a state orphanage in Kashatagh, Artsakh, housing approximately 17 children between the ages of 6 and 17.

Bzommar Orphanage is operated by the Armenian Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, a religious order of nuns established in 1847. Throughout the year, the Sisters carry out catechetical, cultural and social work with both natural and social orphans. Approximately 25 girls are housed at Bzommar.



SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Road, F-200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

Email: gyacoubian@soar-us.org Web: www.soar-us.org

Cardinal Aghajanian Orphanage is located in Ainjar, Lebanon. The orphanage is home to approximately 24 male social orphans.

Children's Home of Gyumri is a state orphanage in Gyumri housing approximately 100 children with special needs, ages 6 years and younger.

Dzorak Care Center, located in Yerevan, served as an orphanage for 400 children during the 1940s. In 1959, it became a boarding school/sanitarium for children from underprivileged families. Today, Dzorak serves as an orphanage and nursing home for approximately 120 adults with severe physical and psychological disabilities who have outgrown the traditional orphanage.

Gavar Orphanage is a state orphanage in Gavar housing approximately 115 children between the ages of 3 and 18.

Gyumri Social Childcare Center is a day center in Gyumri. Since July 2006, approximately 230 children from around the province have been served at the Center.

The Holy Cross Armenian Church of Javakh Summer Day Camp in Akhakalak, Georgia, serves 250 social orphans living at or below poverty level in the nearby villages. The camp was created to provide the children with a safe, clean, fun, and spiritual environment during the summer.

Kharberd Orphanage is a state orphanage in Kharberd housing approximately 280 children with special needs between the ages of 6 and 18.

Mari Izmirlyan Orphanage is a state orphanage in Yerevan housing approximately 100 children with special needs between the ages of 6 and 18.

Mer Doon offers a home in Etchmiadzin for Armenian children who have outgrown their orphanage. Mer Doon offer education and a loving and compassionate family environment, thus easing the transition from orphanage life to mainstream society.



SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Road, F-200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

Email: gyacoubian@soar-us.org Web: www.soar-us.org

Mer Hooy houses approximately 16 teenage girls in the Arapkir district of Yerevan. The girls receive language and job skills training, computer instruction, college preparation and education, religious foundational teaching, life skills training, psychological support, and hope, confidence and love.

Nork Orphanage is a state orphanage in Yerevan housing approximately 80 children (both healthy and with special needs) ages 6 years and under.

Nubarashen is a state boarding school in Yerevan housing approximately 83 children with special needs, ages 7 to 18.

Orphanage of Fridtjof Nansen is a state orphanage in Gyumri housing approximately 83 children between the ages of 4 and 18.

Our Lady of Armenia Center is a private orphanage in Gyumri housing approximately 45 girls between the ages of 6 and 18. The Center is operated by the Armenian Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, a religious order of nuns established in 1847.

Our Lady of Armenia Center Summer Camp hosts approximately 800 children ages 8 to 15 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 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.



SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Road, F-200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

Email: gyacoubian@soar-us.org Web: www.soar-us.org

Saint Theresa's Little Flower Orphanage (Azizie and Meydan) 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” (Nakhaknamootian Doon) was founded in the Syrian region of Azizie and was a haven for 300 orphaned children. Before March 2011, the orphanage housed up to 35 girls who lived in an environment of peace and who attended regular school. Because of the war and the unrest in Aleppo, many of the Armenian orphans could no longer stay at The Providence Orphanage. Some live in Meydan, a very poor Armenian section in Aleppo, and attend Zvartnotz School, while other orphans live in Azizie and attend Zanabek, the other Armenian school run by the Armenian Sisters of the Immaculate Conception.

Shengavit Kindergarten is the only one of its kind in Armenia. The students, who stay overnight Monday through Friday, are children whose families live in extreme poverty or which have histories of abuse, domestic violence or alcohol or drug addiction. Although some of the children return home on the weekends, approximately 150 stay at the school full-time.

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. In March 2012, the children moved to a beautiful new facility in the Sis Hamaliren region. Unfortunately, due to civil unrest, the children moved to the Aram Manoogian Community Center in September 2012. The children are cared for by a couple who live with them full-time. There are currently 14 boys and girls living in S.O. Khach Orphanage, ranging in age from 8 to 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.



SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Road, F-200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

Email: gyacoubian@soar-us.org Web: www.soar-us.org

Terchoonian Home is a private orphanage in Gyumri housing approximately 75 intellectually gifted children between the ages of 3 and 12.

Vanadzor Orphanage is a private orphanage in Vanadzor housing approximately 90 children 18 years of age and under.

Vardashen is a state boarding school in Yerevan housing approximately 82 children who “exhibit socially dangerous behavior” between the ages of 6 and 18.

The Voice of the Armenian Church Summer Day Camp, operating under the auspices of the Eastern Prelacy and its Executive Council, is held in the summer retreat of Tsaghgadzor and hosts 50 orphaned boys and girls 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, located outside of Yerevan in 3rd Village, is a private group home housing 13 adults with disabilities and mental illnesses who have outgrown the state-funded orphanages. It provides each resident with an alternative to psychiatric institutions and offers holistic care in a family-like setting.

Zadik Orphanage is a state orphanage in Yerevan housing approximately 138 children between the ages of 6 and 18. After the age of 18, the children move to either Rainbow House or a farming village in Arzni.



SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Road, F-200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

Email: gyacoubian@soar-us.org Web: www.soar-us.org

Reunification

Child reunification refers to the process of returning children in temporary out-of-home care to their families of origin. Reunification is not a one-time event, but a process involving the healthy integration of the child into their original family with a goal of permanency. Often when families require temporary out-of-home care of their children, or have been erroneously told by doctors they cannot or should not parent their children, families are left powerless in their choices of what is best for their child. Families that stay in contact with their children and have the opportunity to learn are fully capable of parenting their child and can do so with the proper encouragement and support.

Every child deserves to be raised in their original family, when it is possible and in when it is in the child's best interest. To that end, SOAR created the Child Reunification and Family Training (CRAFT) Program in February 2015. The Program has four components:

1. Construction of "family suites" at full residential facilities so families can visit their children in a clean and quiet environment. To date, family suites have been renovated at Kharberd and Mari Izmirlyan Orphanages. Both facilities report increased visits by parents and other family members.



SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Road, F-200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

Email: gyacoubian@soar-us.org Web: www.soar-us.org



Family Suite Mari Izmirlyan



Family Suite Kharberd



SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Road, F-200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

Email: gyacoubian@soar-us.org Web: www.soar-us.org

2. The Gyumri Social Childcare Center (GSSC) and Community Development and Social Support Center (CDSSC) Sponsorship Programs. Part of our larger Sponsorship Program, the funds are used for *both* child- and family-specific needs that are intended to reduce the prevalence of institutionalization and reinstitutionalization for children at high risk.





SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Road, F-200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

Email: gyacoubian@soar-us.org Web: www.soar-us.org

3. Reunification Days. Reunification Days bring together birth families and their children to spend time together in a neutral, casual venue. Families are educated about their child's needs, progress, challenges and what resources are available to support the child's return to the family.
4. SCOH (Service to Children in their Own Homes) Sponsorship Program. Funds for children at serious risk for re-institutionalization are used to provide home-based services to children who have previously been institutionalized with the ultimate goal of maintaining reunification and preventing reinstitutionalization.

The Carol Fananjian Foundation Grant

In 2014, SOAR received a generous \$6,000 grant from The Carol Fananjian Foundation. The funds were used to host two (2) Reunification Days in Armenia, as part of SOAR's CRAFT Program. Both Reunification Days were held with the children from Mer Hooys (MH) Orphanage. The first Reunification Day was held with the younger MH girls on October 30, 2015; the second with the older girls from MH on December 5, 2015.



SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Road, F-200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

Email: gyacoubian@soar-us.org Web: www.soar-us.org

Reunification Day #1 – October 20, 2015

The first Reunification Day was held at Hotel Kecharis in Tsaghgadzor, a mountain retreat in Armenia, with the seven (7) girls at Mer Hooys between the ages of 8 and 12. Of the 7 girls, there were three pairs of sisters and a child with no siblings. The Day was attended by four (4) parents – one (1) parent for the child with no siblings and one (1) parent for each of the sister pairs. Thus, each of these 7 children had at least one present. The Day was led by Gayana Saribekyan and Narine Abrahamyan, respectively the MH social worker and psychologist.



The girls and parents were transported together from MH to Tsaghgadzor at 10:00AM, arriving to the hotel at approximately 10:45AM. Breakfast was served from 11:00-11:45AM, after which the Director of MH and the MH social workers introduced the families to the staff and discussed the purpose of the Day – to bring families together and inform the parents about the needs of the children and the progress each was making since arriving to MH.



SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Road, F-200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

Email: gyacoubian@soar-us.org Web: www.soar-us.org



From 12:00-1:00PM, the social workers split into teams and assigned the responsibilities to various groups, and from 1:00-2:00PM, the groups provided their materials to the Director for the purposes of the presentation. The primary goal of the morning/early afternoon session was for MH staff to observe how the parents interacted with their children. Because the children during this Reunification Day were younger, they had been at MH for only a few months (since September 2015). This Reunification Day was thus the first opportunity to observe how the parents and children interacted with each other and determine what expectations the children and parents each had.

Lunch was served from 2:00-2:40PM. Following lunch, a PowerPoint presentation was conducted, to provide information to the parents about successful parenting, behavioral models, and patience in child-rearing. From 3:00-4:30PM, there was role playing with the families and family discussions. From 4:30-6:00PM, the families watched movies





SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Road, F-200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

Email: gyacoubian@soar-us.org Web: www.soar-us.org



1st Reunification Day

and discussed what the children and parents wanted to pursue as both short- and long-term strategies to attain the ultimate goal of reunification. The primary goal of the mid- to late-afternoon sessions was to highlight the strengths of the

children and to demonstrate to the parents that their integration into the children's lives was critical, for both the child's emotional development and to facilitate the ultimate goal of reunification.

Dinner was held at 6:00PM, and at 6:30PM, everyone returned to Yerevan.



SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Road, F-200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

Email: gyacoubian@soar-us.org Web: www.soar-us.org

Reunification Day #2 – October 20, 2015

The second Reunification Day was held at Hotel Arturs in Aghveran, Armenia, with eight (8) girls between the ages of 16 and 18, several of which were siblings. Of these girls, two (2) parents attended. There was one child in



this group of 8 girls whose parents did not attend because of a work commitment. The consensus of the staff was that all of the children should attend the first Reunification Day, even if the parent(s) were unable to attend. Minimally, MH staff wanted the children to experience the day through the eyes of the other children. The Day was led by Gayana Saribekyan and Narine Abrahamyan.

As the girls for the second Reunification Day were older, the theme was “The Future Is in My Hands.” The primary focus was to help the children and parents identify what career goals the children wanted to pursue. Seven professionals provided career advice in fields that had previously been identified as of interest to the children.

The girls and parents were transported together from MH to Aghveran at



SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Road, F-200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

Email: gyacoubian@soar-us.org Web: www.soar-us.org

10:00AM, arriving to the hotel at approximately 10:45AM. Breakfast was served from 11:00-11:45AM, after which the Director of MH and the MH social worker and psychologist discussed the purpose of the Day – to bring families together to discuss not just reunification, which for this older group would almost certainly take place after graduation from MH, but to discuss how the parents could be involved in the career aspirations for the children.



From 12:00-1:00PM, the social workers split into teams and assigned responsibilities to various groups. From 1:00-2:00PM, the groups provided their materials to the Director for the purposes

of the presentation. The presentations were done by each of the girls in their respective future “occupations.” One group created a budget for a family of six. Another group created a budget for a new family and a budget for a couple for a year. The third group was a photography project, while the fourth group was a cooking demonstration, with one of the girls making Caesar Salad with her father. The fifth group had one of the



SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Road, F-200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

Email: gyacoubian@soar-us.org Web: www.soar-us.org

girls painting a picture of her dream house. The sixth group was a summary of the Day itself, showing the parents what the child wanted to achieve from her family. The seventh group was a performance on how to create and maintain friendships and develop and maintain proper social behavior, while the 8th child, together with an architect, created a layout of a house. Taken collectively, the groups aimed at creating one component for the “whole family”: the blueprint, budget, food, and behavioral models.

Lunch was served from 2:00-2:40PM. Following lunch, a PowerPoint presentation was conducted until 3:00PM, to provide information to the parents about how children and parents needed to work together to create the “whole family.” From 3:00-4:30PM, there was role playing with the families and family discussions. From 4:30-6:00PM, the families discussed the possibility of reunification after the children graduated from MH. The primary goal of the mid- to late-afternoon sessions was to highlight the strengths of the children and how these strengths could result in successful reunification post-graduation.



Dinner was held at 6:00PM, and at 6:30PM, everyone returned to Yerevan.



SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Road, F-200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

Email: gyacoubian@soar-us.org Web: www.soar-us.org



2nd Reunification Day

Summary of Reunification Days

Both Reunification Days were extremely successful. At least one parent attended for all of the children, except one child whose parent could not miss work. For the parents who did attend, and particularly for the children, the Reunification Days were not only opportunities to spend time with each other, but opportunities to learn about the best ways to develop and re-establish familial relationships. The parents informed the MH staff that they learned many things that they had not previously known and identified problems



SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Road, F-200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

Email: gyacoubian@soar-us.org Web: www.soar-us.org

among themselves that needed to be addressed before reunification (and stronger familial relationships) could be possible. Most importantly, the parents represented that they were prepared to address all of their parental shortcomings. The Reunification Days, however, were only the first step in the deinstitutionalization process. Going forward, the hope is that MH staff will work with the children and families to identify the most pressing obstacles to reunification and then strategize to address them.

Because MH only houses 15 girls, splitting the Reunification Days into two age groups was a reasonable approach, particularly given that the needs of the two sets of girls are diverse. That said, two issues must be addressed at subsequent reunification days. First, the MH staff must assure that at least one parent for each child is present going forward, perhaps offering a financial incentive to affirm participation. These financial incentives are critical especially if the reason for non-attendance is because of a necessary work commitment. Second, MH staff should consider increasing the reunification days to an overnight or weekend experience. Because both Reunification Days were organized in group format exclusively, the children could not interact privately with their parents. By expanding the current model, there can be more intimate interaction between the parents and children, mediated by a social worker.



SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Road, F-200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

Email: gyacoubian@soar-us.org Web: www.soar-us.org

Budget

The total grant from The Carol Fananjian Foundation was \$6,000. In total, was \$5,026.84 was utilized for both Reunification Days. The breakdown of expenses follows below.

Expense	RD1	RD2	Total
Hotel (including food)	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00	\$2,200.00
Shopping for children	\$894.74	\$783.16	\$1,677.90
Transportation to/from MH	\$263.16	\$263.16	\$526.32
Transportation at hotels	\$75.79	\$75.79	\$151.58
Games at the hotel	\$105.26	\$105.26	\$210.52
Photography of events	\$105.26	\$105.26	\$210.52
Final Report (Susan Burdette)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
	\$2,544.21	\$2,432.63	\$5,026.84
		\$6,000.00	Grant
		\$973.16	Balance

The \$973.16 balance will be applied to a “transitional” seminar for three recent MH graduates who are struggling to adapt to life at home with their families. An intimate training Program will be scheduled for January 2016.



SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Road, F-200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

Email: gyacoubian@soar-us.org Web: www.soar-us.org

Conclusion

The Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR) was established in the fall of 2005 to provide humanitarian relief to orphaned Armenian children. SOAR's long-term goal is to provide orphaned Armenian children throughout the world with the resources fundamental to their physical, emotional, and intellectual development. Over time, we aim to provide underprivileged youth with the tools necessary to become accomplished, educated, and self-supporting Armenian adults.

A \$6,000 grant from The Carol Fananjian Foundation was used to support two (2) Reunification Days with the girls from Mer Hooys Orphanage. The first Reunification Day was held with children between the ages of 8 and 12; the second with children between the ages of 16 and 18. The Days were age focused, with the emphasis for the younger girls being communication and parenting skills, while the older girls focused on career aspirations and reunification post-graduation. Feedback from the children, parents, and staff was positive, with all parties believing the Reunification Days were extremely successful and hoping that similar events could be held at least twice annually.



SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Road, F-200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

Email: gyacoubian@soar-us.org Web: www.soar-us.org

SOAR is extremely grateful to the Foundation for its support of our work, and we hope that additional funding will be available to support bi-annual Reunification Programs with MH in 2016. The desire to improve the lives of orphaned Armenian children is the bonding element among our supporters, and our CRAFT Program offers the particularly enlightening goal of reunifying children with their biological families. If you have any questions about SOAR, the population we serve, or this report, please contact George S. Yacoubian, Jr., at (610) 213-3452 or gyacoubian@soar-us.org.