



SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Rd., Suite F200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

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

SOAR Transitional Center – 2020 Final Report





SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Rd., Suite F200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

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

Creation and Management

George S. Yacoubian, Jr. and Erica Yacoubian began their adoption process in Armenia 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 Liliana's 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 arrived in the United States on April 23, 2006.

Dr. Yacoubian 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. He 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



SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Rd., Suite F200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

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

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 is the primary mechanism through which micro-level children's needs are addressed. Since 2005, SOAR's work has impacted thousands of children, 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 established its Services to Children in their Own Home (SCOH) Fund. The SCOH Fund works with residential institutions to deinstitutionalize and reunify children with biological families and provides home-based services after reunification to reduce the economic, social, emotional, and professional barriers within the family dynamic that may trigger reinstitutionalization.

Represented by 145 Chapters, 5 Junior groups, and more than 600 volunteers worldwide, SOAR supports 36 orphanages, special boarding schools, day centers, summer camps, and transitional centers in Armenia, Artsakh, Javakh, Lebanon, and Syria. SOAR prides itself on collaboration, creativity, cross-cultural respect, fiscal responsibility,



SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Rd., Suite F200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

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

loyalty, and transparency. During the past 15 years, SOAR's work has grown considerably. 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.

When SOAR was founded in 2005, we dreamed of opening our own Center. Our dream became reality in December 2019. SOAR's Transitional Center is the first of its kind in Gyumri, Armenia – a residential setting for older teenage girls who have outgrown the traditional orphanage but who are not yet ready for independent living. At the Center, these young women attend college; cultivate business opportunities; 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.

There are currently five young women and a house mother living at the Center. Through CY2020, the residents enjoyed gardening activities; engaged in virtual learning during the COVID lockdown; assisted the Sisters of Our lady of Armenia Center with food



SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Rd., Suite F200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

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

distributions to needy families; made camouflage nets and distributed hygiene supplies as part of SOAR's Artsakh relief efforts; started their own knitting business; and continued to improve their digital literacy skills. Operating expenses for CY2020, including staffing, food, utilities, miscellaneous living expenses, and tuition, were approximately \$50,000.00.

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



SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Rd., Suite F200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

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



Transitional Center Mission

SOAR's Transitional Center is the first of its kind in Gyumri, Armenia – a residential setting for older teenage girls who have outgrown the traditional orphanage but who are not yet ready for independent living. At the Center, these young women attend college; cultivate business opportunities; 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.



SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Rd., Suite F200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

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

FOUNDING CEREMONY OF SOAR TRANSITIONAL CENTER

The Center opened December 10, 2019. The dedication was attended by SOAR Executive Vice-President Raffi Jehanian and representatives of various state and public institutions.

On that day, Father Pavstos blessed the Center, the beneficiary girls performed a concert, and the Center's friends said beautiful words and offered best wishes for the future.





SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Rd., Suite F200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

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

CENTER GUESTS

The Center is open for cooperation and welcomes visitors with pleasure. Below is the inaugural dinner with the Center girls and SOAR Founder and Executive Board Chairman, Dr. George S. Yacoubian, Jr.





SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Rd., Suite F200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

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

Gayane Margaryan with SOAR Budapest teaches English to the girls of the Center. She shared with the girls her own experience about the importance of obtaining a profession and different skills.



Rita Mikaelyan with SOAR Rotterdam conducts cultural courses with the girls. Rita and the girls visited several historical and sightseeing places in Gyumri. Rita donated various educational books and entertaining games to the Center.





SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Rd., Suite F200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

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

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Growing up in an orphanage sometimes means a forgotten birthday. At the Center, birthdays are always celebrated with decorations, cake, gifts and good wishes!





SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Rd., Suite F200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

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





SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

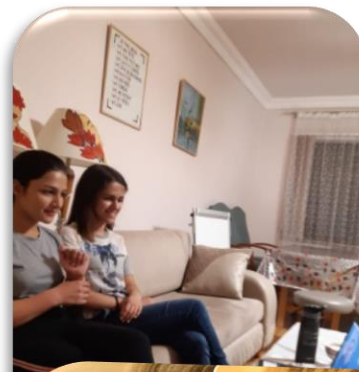
150 N. Radnor Chester Rd., Suite F200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

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

EDUCATION

The Center emphasizes education, both formal in a university setting, and informally through SOAR's Programs.



Interactive sessions are held with SOAR Chapters throughout the world, including Chapters in Greece, England, France, Saudi Arabia, Ukraine, Italy, and the United States.



SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Rd., Suite F200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

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

COMPUTER COURSES

The Center, in cooperation with the KASA Swiss Humanitarian Foundation, organized computer courses for the girls to gain knowledge in Microsoft Office and digital literacy.





SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Rd., Suite F200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

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

SEWING AND FASHION COURSES

The Center launched a new program to promote the employment of the girls. With a small grant from HERA (Her Economic Rights and Autonomy), trainings were organized and sewing equipment was purchased. This program greatly contributes to the acquisition of entrepreneurial skills of the young girls and ensures future employment.





SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Rd., Suite F200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

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

“ANI MARASH”

With the help of Center volunteer Ani Arakelyan, the girls learned “Marash” (an ancient Armenian embroidery technique) and created beautiful tablecloths and pillows.





SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Rd., Suite F200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

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



Above are painted lampshades by Tehmine Aslanyan.



SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Rd., Suite F200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

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

HOLIDAYS

Various holidays are celebrated in the Transitional Center. For International Women's Day (March 8), the girls and staff celebrated at Bowling Hall.





SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Rd., Suite F200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

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

SAINT SARGIS



EASTER





SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Rd., Suite F200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

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

CONCERT

Liana Unusyan and Lusya Karapetyan participated in a virtual concert organized to raise funds for the Our Lady of Armenia (Kanakaner) Center. Funds were used to support the higher education of the Kanaker girls.





SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Rd., Suite F200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

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

COOKING

Together with Shushanik Alexandryan, the Center Supervisor, the girls learned to cook delicious soups, pilafs, canned goods, pickles, cakes, and other unique dishes.





SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Rd., Suite F200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

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





SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Rd., Suite F200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

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

EVERYDAY LIFE IN THE CENTER

Various group activities, discussions and meetings are held with the girls to promote cognitive skills.



HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

SOAR Zurich purchased bicycles for the girls, which the girls love to ride!





SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Rd., Suite F200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

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

YARD CLEANING WORKS

The girls collected stones, wood, and dried leaves and planted new trees and flowers.





SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Rd., Suite F200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

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

SUMMER EXCURSION

The girls visited the “Seven Brothers” chapel in Hatsik village and the place of pilgrimage, “Tsak Kar.”





SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Rd., Suite F200, Radnor, PA 19087

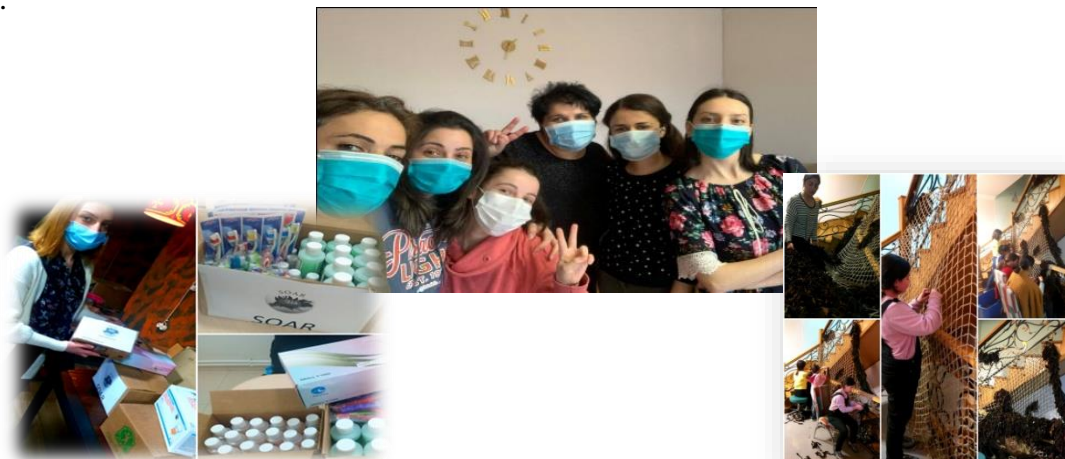
Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

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

COVID-19 AND ARTSAKH WAR



The girls participated in the distribution of food and sanitary items and, on their own initiative, made military defense nets and sent letters to the border soldiers.





SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Rd., Suite F200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

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

CY2020 Accounting

In the summer of 2019, SOAR purchased the property for our Transitional Center for \$120,000.00. We agreed to a down payment of \$60,000.00 and interest-free monthly installments of \$2,500.00 for 24 months. The \$60,000.00 balance was satisfied in advance in December 2020.

As shown in Table 1, operating expenses for CY2020, which exclude repayment of the residential loan, were \$50,349.98. Of this, \$7,680.00 was for staffing; \$7,828.19 was for energy and supplies; \$2,909.47 for tuition; \$31,164.32 for renovations; and \$768.00 for miscellaneous expenses.

Table 1. CY2020 Transitional Center Expenses

	January-20	February-20	March-20	April-20	May-20	June-20	July-20	August-20	September-20	October-20	November-20	December-20	Total
Loan Repayment	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$19,175.00	\$46,675.00
Staff	\$640.00	\$640.00	\$640.00	\$640.00	\$640.00	\$640.00	\$640.00	\$640.00	\$640.00	\$640.00	\$640.00	\$640.00	\$7,680.00
Hripsime	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$2,400.00
Shushan	\$440.00	\$440.00	\$440.00	\$440.00	\$440.00	\$440.00	\$440.00	\$440.00	\$440.00	\$440.00	\$440.00	\$440.00	\$5,280.00
Energy and supplies	\$628.00	\$977.03	\$638.95	\$544.21	\$511.00	\$410.00	\$1,690.00	\$284.00	\$389.00	\$332.00	\$577.00	\$847.00	\$7,828.19
Food	\$300.00	\$225.67	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$200.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$3,425.67
Gas	\$268.00	\$280.00	\$267.37	\$168.42	\$126.00	\$38.00	\$25.00	\$23.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$1,620.79
Electric	\$30.00	\$13.26	\$29.47	\$31.58	\$32.00	\$28.00	\$21.00	\$19.00	\$19.00	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$300.00	\$553.32
Water	\$5.00	\$6.95	\$10.53	\$12.63	\$21.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$10.00	\$13.00	\$0.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$133.10
Telephone/WiFi/Computer	\$25.00	\$41.47	\$31.58	\$31.58	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$385.63
Repairs	\$0.00	\$21.05	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$21.05
Equipment/Supplies	\$0.00	\$388.63	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,688.63
Tuition Sub-Total	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$671.74	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,494.74	\$743.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,909.47
Manik (Nansen)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Tehmine A.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sima M.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$294.74	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$736.84	\$366.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,397.58
Astghik M.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Liana U.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$377.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$757.89	\$377.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,511.89
Renovations	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$900.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30,264.32	\$31,164.32
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$478.00	\$40.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$768.00
TOTAL	\$3,768.00	\$4,117.03	\$4,928.68	\$3,724.21	\$3,651.00	\$3,550.00	\$5,780.00	\$4,918.74	\$4,272.00	\$3,472.00	\$3,917.00	\$50,926.32	\$97,024.98



SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR)

150 N. Radnor Chester Rd., Suite F200, Radnor, PA 19087

Office: 610.213.3452 Fax: 610.229.5168

Email: info@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 and orphaned Armenian adults with disabilities. In December 2019, SOAR's Transitional Center is the first of its kind in Gyumri, Armenia – a residential setting for older teenage girls who have outgrown the traditional orphanage but who are not yet ready for independent living. At the Center, these young women attend college; cultivate business opportunities; 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.

There are currently five young women and a house mother living at the Center. Through CY2020, the residents enjoyed gardening activities on the Center property; engaged in virtual learning during the COVID lockdown; assisted the Sisters of Our lady of Armenia Center with food distributions to needy families; made camouflage nets and distributed hygiene supplies as part of SOAR's Artsakh relief efforts; started their own knitting business; and continued to improve their computer and digital literacy skills. Operating expenses for CY2020, including staffing, food, utilities, miscellaneous living expenses, and tuition, were approximately \$50,000.00