



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

**2021-2022 SOAR Transitional Center – Final Report
and Proposal to the Norman K. Miller Charitable Trust**





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Creation and Management

George S. Yacoubian, Jr. and Erica Yacoubian began the 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, they saw Liliana for the first time. George 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.

George 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 inception and oversees 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



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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 is the primary mechanism through which individual children’s needs are supported. In 2016, SOAR expanded its mission, recognizing that, after a decade of helping children in residential settings, it was necessary to attempt 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.

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. Represented by 140 Chapters, 5 Junior groups, 2 College 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, and Lebanon. SOAR prides itself on collaboration, creativity, cross-cultural respect, fiscal



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responsibility, and transparency. During the past 16 years, SOAR's impact has increased considerably. In 2006, distributions totaled \$60,000. Since 2015, SOAR has exceeded \$1M in distributions annually. SOAR's efforts not only address the major humanitarian constructs of education, emotional support, nutrition, health and hygiene, dental and vision care, and fundamental human rights, but our Programs offer educational curricula on a multitude of topics that stimulate intellectual curiosity and empowerment.

When SOAR was founded in 2005, we dreamed of opening our own Center. Our hope became reality in December 2019. SOAR's Transitional Center (TC) 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. 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.



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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. Center activities between October 2020 and September 2021 follow below.



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ASSISTANCE WITH ARTSAKH RELIEF

The girls at the Transitional Center assisted with Artsakh relief. From distributing hygiene supplies to making camouflage nets, they were an inspiration to us all!





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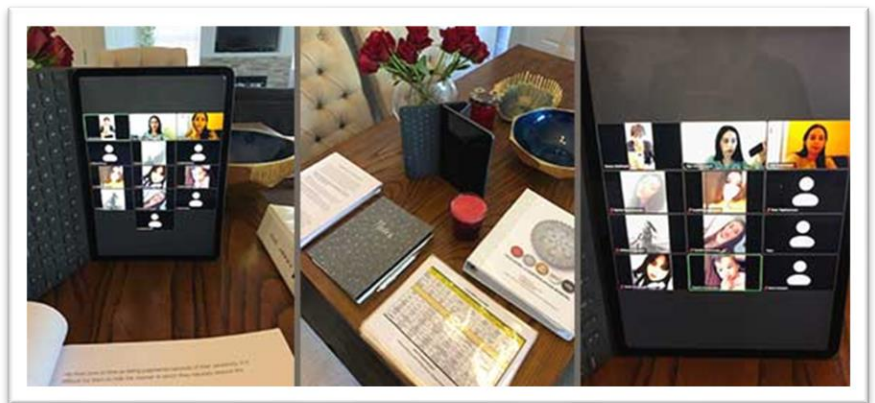
COMPUTER CLASSES



Considering the great involvement of the social sphere in the current conditions and modern trends, SOAR Transitional Center emphasizes the mastery of computer skills for the young ladies at the Center.

ONLINE INSTRUCTION WITH SOAR CHAPTERS

SOAR Chapter board members held online instruction with the Language Tutoring, Cultural Discovery, and Mentoring Programs.





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***OUR FIRST
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION!***

The one-year
celebration of the
opening of the SOAR
Transitional Center!



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***PROFESSIONAL
SEWING CLASSES***

Professional sewing classes needed for the
Transitional Center business venture.





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A TRIP TO CAFESJIAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The girls enjoyed a trip to Cafesjian Center for the Arts, followed by dinner! Inspired by the vision of its founder, Gerard L. Cafesjian, the museum offers a wide variety of exhibitions derived from his collection of contemporary art.





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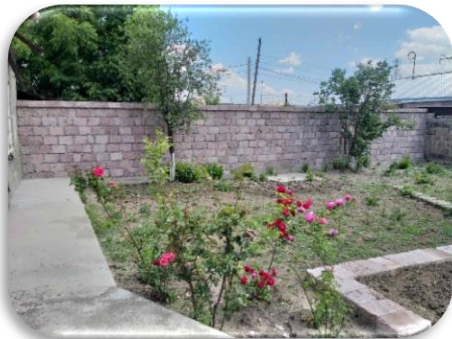
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THERAPY SESSIONS

The girls met with a psychologist to discuss how current situations can cause stress. Below they discussed the Artsakh war and its impact on Armenian citizens.



RENOVATIONS OF THE TRANSITIONAL CENTER GARDEN





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COMPUTER COURSE CERTIFICATES





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INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION

The young ladies hosted a June 1st celebration for the local Gyumri community.





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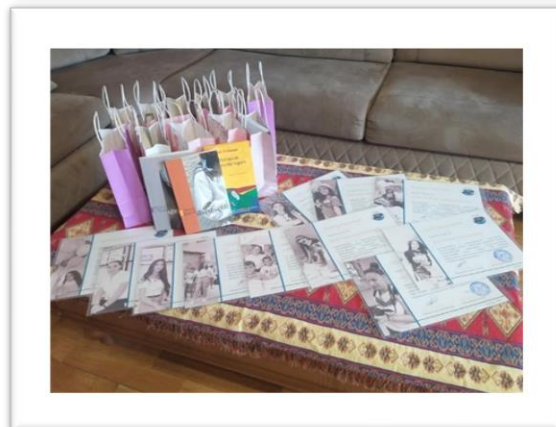
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VOLUNTEER AWARDS

The girls received volunteer awards and thank you gifts for their help with the June 1st Community event.





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BASEMENT RENOVATIONS

A complete renovation of the basement was completed. The area will be used in part for the business venture started by our residents.

Before





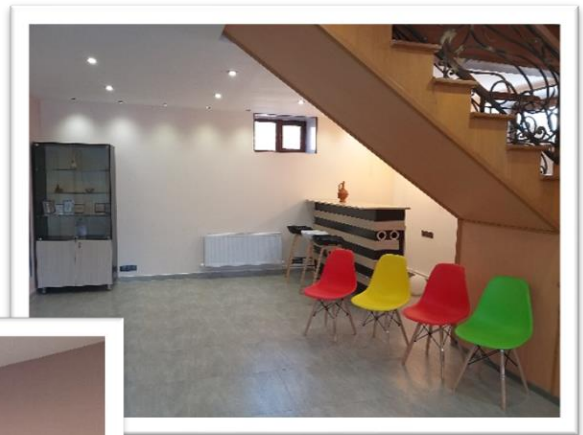
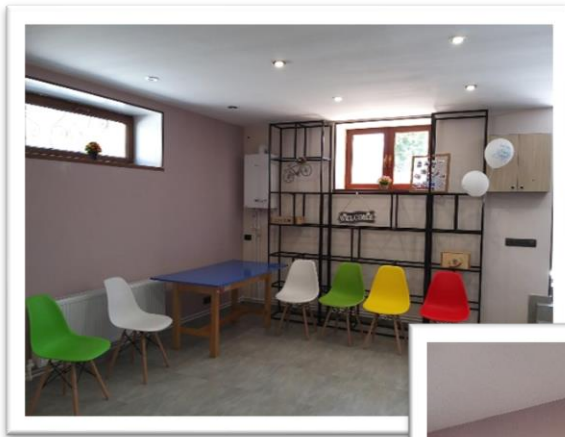
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After





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OFFICE CONSTRUCTION

Construction of an office in the Transitional Center yard.

Demolition of of the old barn, cleaning the area



Construction of a new office location



Completion of the main walls and roof construction





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FY2020 Accounting

Expenses between October 2020 and September 2021 (referred to as FY2020) were \$111,333.88 (see Table 1). Approximately 23% of these expenses were loan repayments for the dwelling. In December 2020, SOAR satisfied the balance of the loan.

Staff costs for this grant period were \$11,550.00. Personnel expenses include SOAR's Executive Director, Hripsime Muradyan, who dedicates one-third of her time to the Center's management. She supervises our full-time house mother/director, Shushan Alexanyan, and the part-time Program Coordinator, Marina Muradyan.

Primary living expenses, which include food, utilities, and supplies, were approximately \$8,100 for the 12-month period. Tuition for the girls was approximately \$2,000.00. We undertook major renovations to the basement and exterior of the Center, totaling \$63,959.52.



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Table 1. Transitional Center Expenses (October 2020-September 2021)

	October-20	November-20	December-20	January-21	February-21	March-21	April-21	May-21	June-21	July-21	August-21	September-21	Total
Staff	\$840.00	\$910.00	\$980.00	\$980.00	\$980.00	\$980.00	\$980.00	\$980.00	\$980.00	\$980.00	\$980.00	\$980.00	\$11,550.00
Hripsime Muradyan (ED)	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$4,800.00
Shushan Alexanyan (TC Director)	\$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
Larina Muradyan (TC Coordinator)	\$0.00	\$70.00	\$140.00	\$140.00	\$140.00	\$140.00	\$140.00	\$140.00	\$140.00	\$140.00	\$140.00	\$140.00	\$1,470.00
Energy and supplies	\$332.00	\$577.00	\$902.00	\$688.00	\$924.00	\$849.52	\$702.00	\$585.00	\$554.00	\$493.00	\$532.00	\$1,016.00	\$8,154.52
Food	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$500.00	\$350.00	\$660.00	\$409.52	\$348.00	\$348.00	\$350.00	\$371.00	\$410.00	\$350.00	\$4,696.52
Gas	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$280.00	\$261.00	\$175.00	\$171.43	\$50.00	\$130.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$15.00	\$1,372.43
Electric	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$70.00	\$34.00	\$47.00	\$226.67	\$262.00	\$60.00	\$30.00	\$45.00	\$40.00	\$21.00	\$865.67
Water	\$0.00	\$15.00	\$20.00	\$11.00	\$10.00	\$9.90	\$10.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$15.00	\$20.00	\$12.00	\$149.90
Telephone/WiFi	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$387.00
Repairs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$583.00	\$583.00
Equipment/Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Tuition	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$342.86	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$750.00	\$865.98	\$1,958.84
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
Astghik M.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$164.95	\$164.95
Liana U.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$342.86	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$750.00	\$680.41	\$1,773.27
Shoghik P.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20.62	\$20.62
Renovations	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$31,475.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$609.52	\$4,205.00	\$1,300.00	\$26,370.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$63,959.52
			Basement			Windows	Garden	Garden	Barn				
Miscellaneous	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$20,457.00	\$0.00	\$254.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25,711.00
	Mortgage	Mortgage	Mortgage; Sima Dental		Cafesjan Trip								
TOTAL	\$3,672.00	\$3,987.00	\$53,814.00	\$1,668.00	\$2,158.00	\$2,781.90	\$5,887.00	\$2,865.00	\$27,904.00	#####	\$2,262.00	\$2,861.98	\$111,333.88



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FY2021 Proposal

For October 2021-September 2022 (referred to as FY2021), we are respectfully requesting \$141,850.00 (see Table 2), which includes one major project (described below) that will generate revenue for the Center. For FY2021, staff costs will be \$13,200.00, which includes an English tutor for the girls. We estimate moderate increases for daily living expenses, totaling \$11,400.00 for this grant period, and \$12,250.00 for educational (tuition) expenses for the 12-month grant period. We have included four cultural/social excursions for the girls, totaling \$500.00 each, and a sewing instructor (with supplies) totaling \$3,000.00 for the grant period.

As indicated previously, SOAR undertook several major renovation projects in 2020-2021 to make the TC a home for the girls. That said, we also believe the Center can generate income. To that end, the girls' sewing has yielded sellable products. Indeed, several of the girls' creations have been sold at SOAR Chapter events throughout the world, creating a distinctive connection between the Center and our global volunteers. The girls retain sewing revenue as spending money.

The land on which the TC sits has a secondary house. In lieu of renovating it residentially (we want the girls to live together), we propose to demolish the building and build a community pool which will be used to generate revenue for the Center. There is



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only one public pool in Gyumri, which is neither clean nor safe for the community children.

While we realize the pool component involves a substantial increase to the 2021-2022 budget, it would provide a significant summer benefit to Gyumri generally and to our Center specifically. In the event the full pool portion of this proposal exceeds your interest or capabilities, partial support would be greatly appreciated, which we would accept only if we received matching support elsewhere.



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Table 2. Transitional Center Proposed Budget (October 2021-September 2022)

FY2021-2022 Budget	October-21	November-21	December-21	January-22	February-22	March-22	April-22	May-22	June-22	July-22	August-22	September-22	Total
Staff	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00	\$13,200.00
Hripsime Muradyan (ED)	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$5,400.00
Shushan Alexanyan (TC Director)	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$5,400.00
Marina Muradyan (Program Coordinator)	\$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
Lilit Hovhannisyian (English tutor)	\$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
Energy and supplies	\$950.00	\$950.00	\$950.00	\$950.00	\$950.00	\$950.00	\$950.00	\$950.00	\$950.00	\$950.00	\$950.00	\$950.00	\$11,400.00
Food	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$4,800.00
Gas	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$1,500.00
Electric	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$900.00
Water	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$180.00
Telephone/WiFi	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$420.00
Renovations	\$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
Equipment/Supplies/Repairs	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$1,200.00
Tuition	\$3,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,250.00	\$12,250.00
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
Astghik M.	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Liana U.	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$750.00	\$2,250.00
Manik S.	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Shoghik P.	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Libray Project Volunteers	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00
Excursions	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Sewing Classes (instructor and materials)	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$3,000.00
Pool Project/Renovation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100,000.00
TOTAL	\$5,750.00	\$2,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$8,250.00	\$102,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$5,750.00	\$141,850.00



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Conclusion

SOAR's TC is unique in Gyumri – a residential setting for older teenage girls who have outgrown the traditional orphanage but who are not yet ready for independent living. At the Center, these young women attend college; are enriched by SOAR's academic programs; appreciate volunteerism; learn essential life skills, including home and money management; build self-nurturance and self-confidence; cultivate business opportunities; and prepare themselves for emotional, fiscal, and professional independence.

There are currently five young women and a house mother living at the Center. Through 2020-2021, the residents enjoyed gardening activities; engaged in virtual learning with our international SOAR Chapters; assisted the 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 costs for FY2020 were approximately \$111,000.00.

For 2021-2022, we are respectfully requesting \$141,850.00. Of this total, \$41,850.00 will cover all operating expenses for the Center – staff, living, tuition, excursions, and sewing classes. Included in this budget is \$100,000.00 to demolish a



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secondary building on the property and construct a community-wide pool. If you believe that you may be interested in supporting the pool project, we can provide a more detailed budget/plan for its construction. On behalf of SOAR and the young women at our Transitional Center, thank you in advance for your consideration of our proposal.