

Newsletter Summer 2019



See the World... See the World Better! SOAR's Mobile Eye Care Project

SOAR has launched a Mobile Eye Care Project that will provide a mobile vision clinic to children in orphanages and special boarding schools, as well as will serve families in remote regions of Armenia. SOAR is hoping to impact over 2,000 children and adults annually. The travelling clinic will refer more serious cases to Yerevan, and SOAR will provide funds for families' travel to Yerevan for vision exams and care. Dr. Artashes Zifyan has offered to conduct examinations and treatments free of charge.



Children in Armenia, who constitute 25% of the population, are among the most economically disadvantaged groups in the society. High rates of child poverty contribute to inadequate education, healthcare, and nutrition, with special needs children among the most affected. Children rarely have routine health screening, let alone corrective surgeries or medical attention. Many children are diagnosed as "mentally retarded" or "developmentally slow" even when they have easily diagnosed and correctable conditions. Because of perceived mental incapacity, children are institutionalized, abandoned, and socially isolated. They develop poor self-esteem and feel rejected and stigmatized. Medical examinations carried out in a rural area of Armenia showed that 60% of school children had at least one chronic health complaint such as dental caries, vision or hearing problems, and neurologic disorders. Moreover, the prevalence of vision problems among 7-year-olds is 28% and in 14-year-olds is 45%. The most common childhood vision conditions include amblyopia (lazy eye), diabetes-related complications, refractive error (myopia, hyperopia, and astigmatism), and retinitis pigmentosa. SOAR is building on the success of its Eye Care Project, started in 2015, and has provided vision diagnosis and treatment to orphaned Armenian children and orphaned Armenian adults with disabilities. There is much more to be done!!!



We are hoping to launch this fall, but more funds are needed! **You** have the opportunity to give someone vision, to help someone see the bright red poppy flowers in the high mountains of Armenia, to be able to read Vahan Teryan's poems, to better see the smiles on the faces of loved ones. Let's make it a better, kinder, and brighter world for them!

Visit <https://www.soar-us.org/#campaigns> to learn more and to donate

SOAR Launches New Website!

SOAR's original website was created in 2006, and had periodic design updates, but was in need of modernization.. With daily additions for distributions, sponsorship highlights, chapter activities, new chapters, programs, and funds, the website had grown to over 250 pages! The need for presenting SOAR's mission in a modern, clean, and easily navigable site, as well as being mobile friendly, was paramount as the organization continued to grow and expand to now six of the seven continents.

Show SOAR to the world!

<https://soar-us.org>

A New Home for Milena Grigoryan



SOAR sent out a plea for Milena Grigoryan after her "domik" was destroyed by fire.

Since December 2016, SOAR has helped Milena Grigoryan and her family through our SCOH (Services to Children in their Own Home) Fund. Upon visiting the family after the fire, George S. Yacoubian Jr., SOAR's Founder and Executive Board Chairman, found piles of ash and rubble remaining, a few feet from the stone "shelter" where Milena, her mother, and her brothers were eating, sleeping, and shielding themselves from the winter weather.

Because of contributions from our generous supporters, SOAR staff in Armenia found everything the family needed, including land to plant a garden AND indoor plumbing, which they had never had before!

The family has moved into their new home! A dedication ceremony with local officials took place on a symbolic day, May 15, when Family Day is celebrated in Armenia.

Learn more here

<https://www.soar-us.org/sponsorship-highlights/>



SOAR Welcomes 7 New Chapters!

Aarhus
Ankara
Cincinnati
Las Cruces

Perth
Slovakia
Tbilisi



WELCOME!!