

Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR)



2024
Annual Report



SOAR



**SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED
ARMENIAN RELIEF**

SOAR

2024 Annual Report

Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR)

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Greetings from the Executive Board Chairman

To Our SOAR Family:

Thank you for an extraordinary 2024, our 20th year of providing humanitarian support to orphaned Armenian child and adults with disabilities! We continued our commitment to child protection on several fronts. We opened our SOLENA Center in Gyumri, a non-residential, day center that provides services to families with special needs children: employment/professional, substance abuse counseling, and job training for parents/caregivers and academic tutoring, nutritious meals, and psychological counseling for the children. SOLENA offers a continuum of care and integration within the community to empower families and avert institutionalization. In addition, our Maternal and Newborn Health Fund, which provides prenatal and newborn assistance to vulnerable, first-time expectant mothers, expanded to various regions across Armenia. 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 Snavely; 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.

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 for two decades!

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 2024 – orphanages, boarding schools, day centers, and orphan summer camps – in Armenia, Javakh, and Lebanon.



Creation and Management (Continued)

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.

SOAR prides itself on collaboration, creativity, cross-cultural respect, fiscal responsibility, loyalty, and transparency. During the past 19 years, SOAR's work has transcended all reasonable expectations. In 2006, distributions totaled approximately \$60,000. Since 2014, 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.



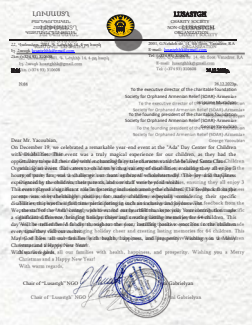


Quality Control

SOAR imposes a strict quality control protocol to assure that all goods and services reach their intended recipients.

This protocol has ten 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 receipt, 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.
10. IRS Form 990s are filed annually, with Annual Reports dating back to 2005 available on our website.





Institutions We Support

In 2024 SOAR supported 36 institutions in three countries: 33 orphanages, special boarding schools, day centers, transitional centers, and summer camps in Armenia; 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** is in Ainjar, Lebanon, and is home to 82 healthy social orphans between the ages of 4 and 18. Nanor Kelenjian Akbasharian is the director.
- **Birds' Nest Orphanage** in Jbeil, Lebanon, has been home to thousands of Armenian children in the Middle East region for more than 100 years. Today, Birds' Nest houses healthy children between 6 months and 17 years old.
- **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.
- **Kharberd Orphanage** in Yerevan, Armenia, houses children and young adults with severe disabilities.
- **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 Hoops)** 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.



Institutions (Continued)

- ***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 (Tsaghadzor, 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.
- ***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.



Institutions (Continued)

- **SOLENA Day Care Center** located in Gyumri, Armenia, is a non-residential, day center that provides services to families with special needs children: employment/professional, substance abuse counseling, and job training for parents/caregivers and academic tutoring, nutritious meals, and psychological counseling for the children. SOLENA offers a continuum of care and integration within the community to empower families for the ultimate goal of avoiding institutionalization.
- **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.
- **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.



2024 Distributions

Regular bread and food stipends for Prkutyun.



New leather sofa for the SOAR Transitional Center for Young Men.



Completion of the Garden Project at Sisters of Charity, Bethlehem. The project was funded by SOAR Wisconsin, The Harold and Josephine Gulamerian Armenian Orphan Fund, and The Albert Tamberchi Foundation.



New shelving for the store at Our Lady of Armenia Center, Gyumri.



3-in-1 Printer for Prkutyun.

New furnishings and appliances for the Warm hearth facilities to accommodate the new displaced Artsakh residents.





2024 Distributions (Continued)



Easter celebrations for SOAR supported facilities and families.

New shoes for the children of Our Lady of Armenia Educational Center, Tashir

The displaced children from the Artsakh Boarding School are still living together at Kapan Orphanage. They received seasonal shoes and clothing and Easter food and treats thanks to SOAR Jacksonville.



A new refrigerator and laptop for Our Lady of Armenia Annie Bezikian Center.

Stomach tubes and tracheostomy for Children's Home of Gyumri.



2024 Distributions (Continued)

Birthday Fund sponsored celebrations throughout the year.

SOAR's Yerevan and Gyumri staff visited "Nakashian's Children's Support Center" to participate in a training course led by the center director Nune Geghamyan.

A meeting with 37 families in the AFIF and FFSRF programs was held at the Gyumri Transitional Center. Armine Yeghiazaryan, a specialist in the social work and employment department of the Gyumri Territorial Center of the United Social Service presented the available programs, courses, vacancies, and the application procedure offered by the State to the participants. At the end of the meeting, the participants received electrical equipment as a gift for Mother's Day.



2024 Distributions (Continued)



Six children from the AFIF and FFSRF sponsorship families attended camp in Lori region. The camp program was organized by "Lusastghikner"

Graduation celebration for the students at Vardashen.

Graduation for Our Lady of Armenia Annie Bezikian Center, Kanaker residents.



June 1st, National Children's Day celebration!

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





2024 Distributions (Continued)

Funds were sent to both Lebanon facilities that SOAR supports to help them with food, medical supplies, and counseling for the children due to anxieties created by the war/bombing. SOAR's Associate Director in Armenia, Hasmik Diaryan, made a visit to both of these facilities.



SOAR Transitional Center Gyumri residents' annual trip to Trchkan Falls before they leave for their volunteer work at Our Lady of Armenia Summer Camp.

Annual summer retreat for the residents of Nakashian Children's Support Center.

Wheelchairs for Sisters of Charity, Bethlehem.



Summer camp for children of displaced Artsakh families held by the SOAR Transitional Center, Gyumri.





2024 Distributions (Continued)



Summer retreat for residents of Mari Izmirlyan Orphanage

Side by Side Inclusive Educational and Cultural NGO music performance in cooperation with the SOAR Music Therapy Fund.

Summer retreat at OLA Summer Camp in Tsaghgadzor for the beneficiaries of Prkutyun.

New dental chair and renovations at the SOAR Dental Clinic, Gyumri.

New washing machine for Our Lady of Armenia Annie Bezikian Center, Kanaker.



Hay Ler summer camp in Bulgaria for four residents of Nakashian Children's Support Center and the SOAR Transitional Centers.





2024 Distributions (Continued)

The Women's Empowerment retreat, organized by Inessa Shahinyan, SOAR Las Vegas board member, took place from September 14-15 at Aghveran Park Resort and brought together girls from Yerevan & Gyumri TCs, and Kanaker.



Team building at Aghveran for the SOAR staff in Armenia.



Children at Children's Home of Gyumri are taking classes in mathematics and Armenian language with tutors hired by SOAR. This program is important for them to work toward a future independent life.



A leisure space created for the disabled children of Children's Home of Gyumri.





2024 Distributions (Continued)



Thanksgiving celebration at Our Lady of Armenia Educational Center, Tashir funded by the Harold and Josephine Gulamerian Armenian Orphan Fund.

First Aid classes for SOAR Staff and residents of the SOAR Transitional Centers

Grand opening of the SOAR SOLENA Day Center and 5th Anniversary of the SOAR Transitional Center, Gyumri.



A Thanksgiving celebration for residents of all three Transitional Centers was held at the Transitional Center for Young Men.





2024 Distributions (Continued)

Thanksgiving celebration at Our Lady of Armenia Center with the seniors.



A Thanksgiving celebration for the residents of Our Lady of Armenia Annie Bezikian Center in Kanaker.

Christmas celebrations and gifts for every facility/child and family that SOAR supports





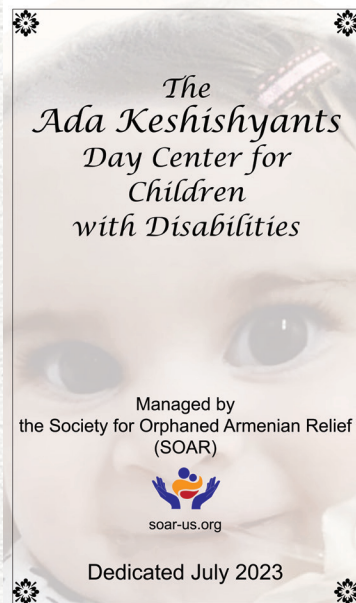
Major Projects

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.

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 2024, **126** special needs children were enrolled in the Center. As of December 31, 2024, **253** children with disabilities from the Gugark, Spitak, Stepanavan, Tashir and Tumanyan communities of Lori region were registered at the "Ada" Day Care Center. 33 of these children are from families displaced from Artsakh.





Ada Keshishyants Center for Children With Disabilities (continued)

Services provided:

Speech Therapy - 82 Children

Behavioral Therapeutic Work - 53 children with behavioral problems and 11 children with multiple disabilities.

Psychological Work - 27 disadvantaged and autistic children and 24 displaced from Artsakh.

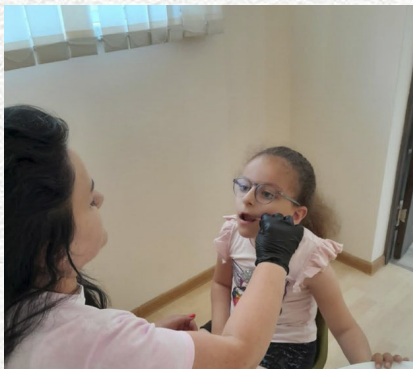
Occupational Therapist Services - 56 children, 49 of them are in constant need of the service.

Kinesiotherapy - 33 children with orthopedic problems, 12 children with respiratory problems, and 46 children with neurological problems.

Service of a special educator - Almost all children receiving services.

Art Therapy Service - Including painting, pottery, and batik: 56 children participated in group sessions and 45 children participated in individual sessions.

Social Work - In social work, everyone receives an individual approach, and an individual plan is developed for each beneficiary.





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's mobile puppet theater. 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.



Major Projects (Continued)

Art Therapy - Continued

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.

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. The puppetry workshop course took place on Tuesdays and Fridays for 2.5 hours.

Approximately 40-50 children from each Village participate in the Art Therapy project every quarter.





Major Projects (Continued)

Dental Clinic

Cavities are the most prevalent chronic disease among children in Armenia.

Empirical studies have documented that:

1. The average 5-year old child in Armenia has eight decayed, missing or filled primary teeth;
2. Between the ages of 14 and 17 years old, the average child continues to experience dental decay at the rate of one permanent tooth per year;
3. Almost 90% of all 12-year-old children in Armenia have cavities; and,
4. Only 20% of Armenian 18-year-olds still have all of their teeth.

Unquestionably, dental hygiene problems are more problematic among institutionalized children.

To address these dental issues, SOAR's Dental Fund was created in September 2015 coinciding with the grand opening of the SOAR Dental Clinic in Gyumri.

The clinic is overseen by a team of dental experts.

During 2024, the dental clinic served **294** patients.

Female - 184

Male - 110

Number of patients by centers:

Our Lady of Armenia - **47**

Shirak Marz Child and Family Support Center - **95**

Displaced Artsakh Families - **42**

Warm Hearth - **28**

SOAR Transitional Centers - **11**

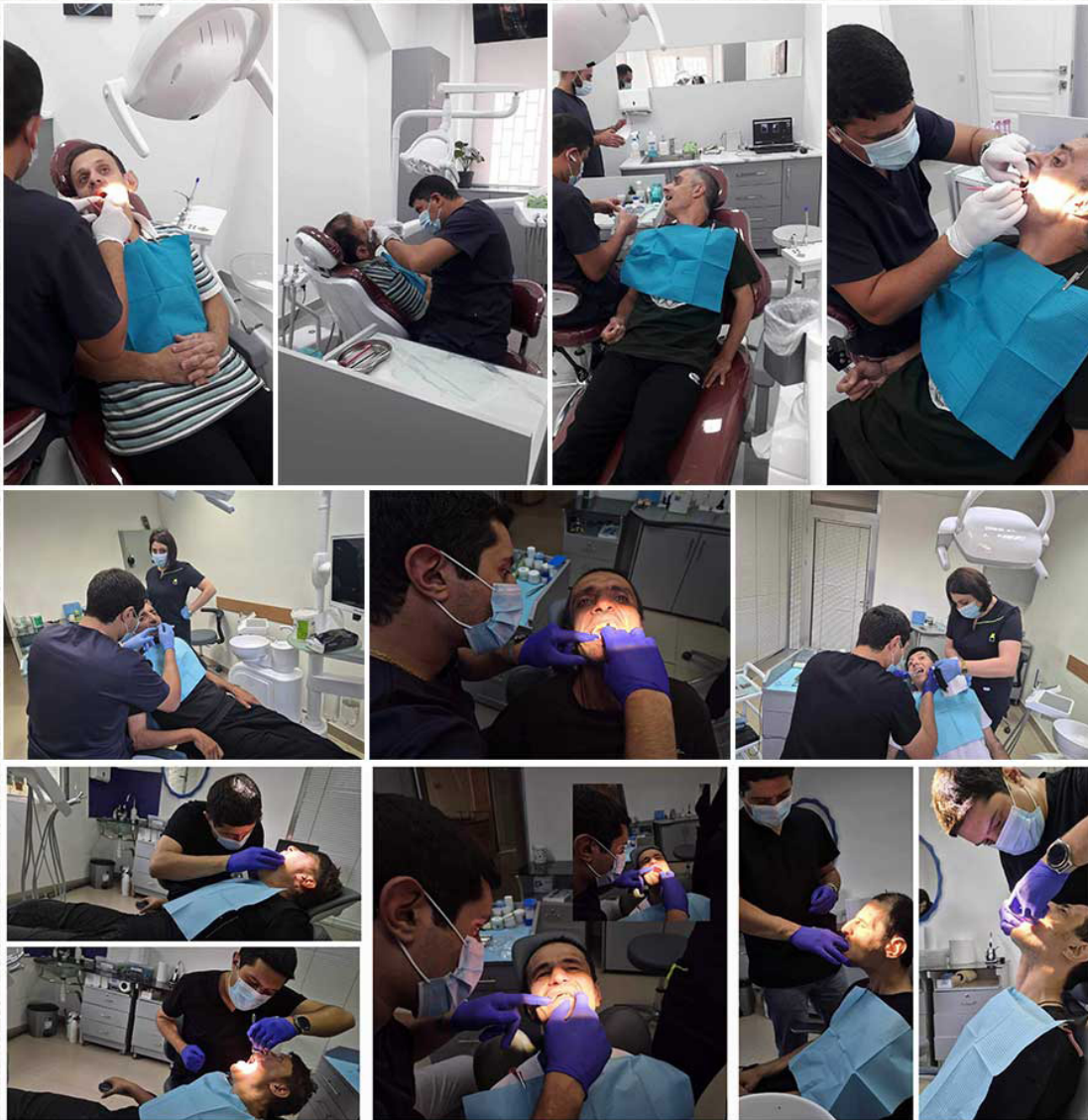
Community - **71**



Major Projects (Continued)

Dental Clinic (Continued)

The dental clinic also emphasizes early diagnosis and treatment of dental problems, as well as dental and oral care literacy. This was done by conducting 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)

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.



The Center has become a place for these families to gather for counseling, celebrations, and to receive all types of assistance and social interaction.



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.

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)

Maternal and Newborn Health (continued)

February – April 2024 (Gyumri)

There were 14 participants:

- Five had been displaced from Artsakh, one from Georgia, and one from Russia;
- Six were expecting their first child; and,
- Eight were expecting their second or next child.

Each expectant mother had different issues that needed to be addressed:

- Deep traumatic stress because of the 9-month blockade in Artsakh and forced displacement;
- Prenatal depression and psychological problems;
- Pregnant women from rural communities with awareness issues (e.g., legal and social); and,
- Pregnant women with health problems.

April-June 2024 (Vanadzor)

There were 15 participants in the early stages of their first pregnancy.

Speakers at the sessions included:

- Psychologists
- Social workers
- Gynecologists
- Family doctors
- Therapists
- Nutritionists



May-July 2024 (Gyumri)

There were 14 participants:

- 3 women from nearby Gyumri villages, including one who has a husband with cancer
- 12 women waiting for their 1st child
- 2 women expecting their second and next child
- 1 mother suffering with epilepsy

Besides the speakers included in previous sessions, a yoga instructor was brought in to guide the expectant mothers with safe exercises, meditation, and breathing techniques.

Major Projects (Continued)

Maternal and Newborn Health (continued)

November-December 2024

There were 13 graduates in this session.

Speakers at the sessions included:

- Psychologists
- Social workers
- Gynecologists
- Pediatrician
- Dentist
- Therapists
- Nutritionists
- Audiologist



The impact of the project was assessed using an evaluation sheet. The final impact of the project was evaluated three months after childbirth. In the assessment 99% of the participants said that the sessions met or exceeded their expectations with 1% stating that it partially met their expectations.

All the participants stated that they gained new knowledge.

Additional areas were suggested for future sessions such as help with breastfeeding. The project is critically necessary for communities like ours, which are very poor. First and foremost, the educational level of our women is very low, and they do not pay attention to their reproductive health. They only visit a doctor in extreme cases, get pregnant one after another without allowing their bodies to rest, and do not realize that they are harming their health.

As a result of the project, pregnant women are given books, which are critically necessary for them. The second group of pregnant women has already received the book, and during feedback sessions, the first thing they mention is how useful and informative the book is.





Major Projects (Continued)

Mobile Eye Care Project

Founded in 2020, SOAR's Mobile Eye Care Project provides traveling vision care for children housed in Armenia's residential childcare institutions (orphanages and special boarding schools), for children and families who receive services through specialized day centers throughout Armenia, and to children and adults in remote villages across Armenia. More serious cases are referred to Yerevan, where consultant Dr. Artashes Zilfyan conducts all subsequent examinations and treatment free of charge. Transportation to Yerevan for all follow-up appointments are provided by SOAR. Our mobile eye care clinic not only remedies basic vision problems onsite, but addresses serious eye care issues at no additional cost or inconvenience to thousands of patients across Armenia.





Major Projects (Continued)

Mobile Eye Care Project (continued)

In 2024 **1,165** general eye examinations and diagnoses were performed:

<u>NAME OF ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>NUMBER OF SERVED</u>
CHILDREN'S HOME OF GYUMRI	26
CHILD AND FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER OF SHIRAK MARZ	23
LITTLE PRINCE DAY CARE SOCIAL CENTER	13
OUR LADY OF ARMENIA CENTER	8
NADINE BASMAJIAN ELDERLY CARE CENTER	33
"SYMBOL OF KINDNESS" NGO	3
SOAR AFIF PROGRAM FAMILIES	6
"EMILY AREGAK" CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH MULTIPLE DISABILITIES	29
GYUMRI COMMUNITY	22
VANADZOR COMMUNITY	
\2 shifts of visits during April and December months \	92
OUR LADY OF ARMENIA CAMP	800
SPITAK, MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY ARM.BRANCH	35
PRKUTYUN SALVATION NGO	75
TOTAL	1165





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.

Participants of the Music Therapy Project performed at the June 1st celebration SOAR held in Gyumri and many also took part in the Side By Side Music Festival.





Major Projects (Continued)

SOLENA Day Center



Opened in December 2024, SOAR's SOLENA Center (Gyumri, Armenia) is a non-residential center that provides services to families with special needs children: employment/professional, substance abuse counseling, and job training for parents/caregivers and academic tutoring, nutritious meals, and psychological counseling for the children. SOLENA offers a continuum of care and integration within the community to empower families and avert institutionalization.





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 **five-year anniversary** 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 in 2023.



SOAR Transitional Center, Gyumri



SOAR Papken and Anahid Megerian Transitional Center, Yerevan



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



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.

The website for the Gyumri So-Art store was launched in early 2022. .
Some of the store products are below:





Major Projects (Continued)

SOAR Transitional Centers - activity

- The residents and volunteers of all three Centers took first aid classes.
- The residents and volunteers of all three Centers celebrated Thanksgiving together.
- Online courses through SOAR Chapter members continue for the residents of all three Centers
- Every resident has a birthday celebration!
- The Center in Gyumri had the honor of hosting Lusine Sanoyan, the First Deputy Head of Gyumri at the Transitional Center. The purpose of this meeting was to present an overview of all ongoing projects and activities at the center, highlighting our initiatives, achievements and future plans.
- Personal and professional development training for the residents of the SOAR Transitional Center, Gyumri and Healthy Lifestyle Classes continue.
- Summer camp for children of displaced Artsakh families held by the SOAR Transitional Center, Gyumri.
- 5th Anniversary of the SOAR Transitional Center, Gyumri and the grand opening of the SOAR SOLENA Day Center located in the newly renovated second building on the Transitional Center's property.
- The residents and volunteers of the Center in Gyumri celebrated International Volunteer Day. The staff held classes on the process of holding an event and the residents then worked through the process planning their event "The Bridge to the Future". They invited friends and showcased the Center and the volunteer work they had participated in during the year.
- The SOAR staff organized an event to take beneficiaries from both centers in Yerevan to a café and present them with books in honor of March 8th.
- Valentine's Day Celebration for the residents of the SOAR Transitional Centers in Yerevan
- Artur Aleksanyan at the Transitional Center for Young Men participated in the SMM Architecture: From Tools to Strategy course at the Business Development Group Educational Center. He learned their approach to media management and social media strategies.
- Six chairs for the living room, living room furniture, and a sofa were purchased for the Center for young men.



Major Projects (Continued)

SOAR Transitional Centers - activity





Sponsorship Funds

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.

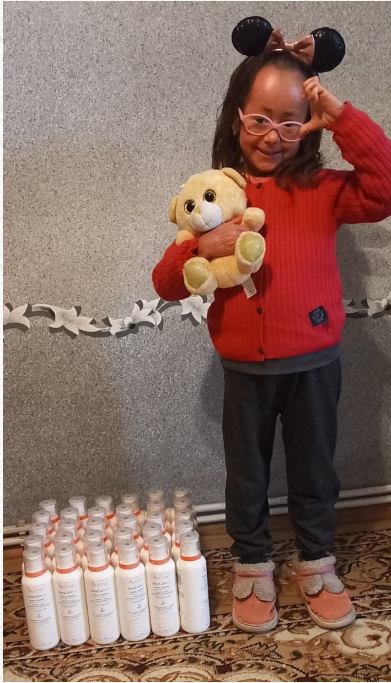
SOAR has **5** sponsorship types:

- Child Sponsorship
- Families of Fallen Soldiers Relief
- Services to Children in their Own Homes (SCOH)
- Artsakh Family Integration
- SOS Village

***In 2024, more than 250 children/families/
disabled adults were assisted through
these sponsorships.***



Sponsorship Fund (Continued)





Other Funds

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.

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 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 facilities in need.

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 13 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.

Language Tutoring: enhancing the foreign language skills of orphaned Armenians through tutoring in English, French, German, 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.

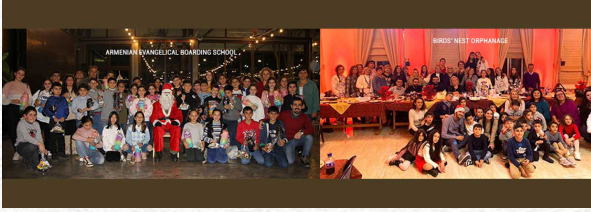
The collage features three main educational components:

- Quizlet Interface:** A screenshot of a Quizlet study tool for 'Deutsch A2 Wortschatz'. It shows a flashcard for the verb 'abholen' with a 'Flashcards' button and a 'Learn' button.
- French Lesson Slide (22 MON SAC, MA VALISE, MES BAGAGES):** A slide from a French lesson. It includes:
 - Grammar rules: 'MON + s, TON + s, SON + s' and 'L'adjectif possessif indique l'appartenance'.
 - Tableau des adjectifs possessifs:

Je	Tu	SEIN	vous
MON	TON	SON	VOTRE
MA	TA	SA	VOTRE
MES	TES	SES	VOTRES
 - Exercises: 'Continuez, selon le modèle' and 'Faites des phrases, selon le modèle' with images of a bag, glasses, a lightbulb, a portable device, and a key.
- Zoom Meeting:** A screenshot of a Zoom meeting titled 'Soar German class'. It shows three participants: Hayss Aziz, Gay Gay, and Ruzanna Harutyunyan.

Chapter Highlights

SOAR National held multiple initiatives:



Lebanon Children Campaign



Christmas and Easter Campaigns



June 1st Celebration, Gyumri



George S. Yacoubian, Jr. will be running in the 2024 Philadelphia Marathon Weekend Rothman Orthopaedics 8K

NOVEMBER 23, 2024

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 Displaced Artsakh Families

2024 #GIVING TUESDAY

Giving Tuesday Campaign

What is your Legacy?

Planned giving webinar – Partnering with SOAR – Vision for 2025 and Beyond



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

JOIN THE FUN!

SOAR Annual NFL Pool

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

The tournament starts on March 16, 2024. Tipoff is at noon. Entries and payment (check or CC) MUST be received by 5pm or you will be eliminated before the tournament begins. GOOD LUCK!

To register:

- Go to www.tourngym.com
- Click "Register Free" or use your login information from last year
- After registering, click "Join NCAA Pool"
- Enter the pool name: soar
- Select the SOAR pool
- Enter the pool password: soar-ncaa
- Click "Join SOAR Now"
- Make your pick
- 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

Annual March Madness



Chapter Highlights (Continued)

FUNDRAISING

SOAR Anchorage held a Christmas Campaign for facility celebrations and held a campaign for Artsakh Relief.

SOAR Atlanta held “Ginny Fest” in honor of the chapter president's (Ginny) retirement.

SOAR Baltimore held a 50/50 Raffle for Artsakh Relief and hosted a “Holiday Gift Sale & Donation Drive”.

SOAR Boston hosted a Soiree & Fashion Show for Artsakh Relief.

SOAR Brussels held a comedy show with Sergey Danielyan, hosted a Charity Concert with Tmbata, and a a Stand-Up Comedy event.

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 Charlotte held an Outreach Picnic and held a bake sale with Armenian sweets.

SOAR Chicago held a very successful Armenian Wine Tasting Event at Oscar Isberian Rugs for tuitions for the residents of Our Lady of Armenia Annie Bezikian Center. They also hosted a table at the Evanston picnic.

SOAR Cleveland held a coffee hour to raise awareness of SOAR at the local Armenian Church.

SOAR Dallas held a Dine to Donate/Holiday Campaign for facility Christmas celebrations and gifts, held their 7th consecutive School Supply Drive for Orphans in Armenia, held their 4th Annual Father's Day Fundraiser and Raffle, and held an Easter Campaign for Children's Home of Gyumri.



Chapter Highlights (Continued)

SOAR Detroit participated in Armenia Fest at the Royal Oak Farmers Market and held their 2nd Annual Armenian Heritage Night with the Detroit Pistons.

SOAR Fresno hosted a Trivia Night Fundraiser for SOAR.

SOAR Hartford board member held a birthday fundraiser for SOAR and the chapter held a Mother's Day Campaign for Displaced Artsakh mothers.

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

SOAR Las Vegas board member Inessa held a campaign to raise funds to send the young ladies participating in the Female Empowerment Program on a special retreat at Aghveran Park Resort.

SOAR London held a campaign to raise funds for Christmas for the patients of the Ada Keshishyants Center.

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.

SOAR Montreal hosted their annual "Grand Benefit Concert" raising funds for fallen soldier families and displaced Artsakh families.

SOAR Moscow hosted a Theater Presentation to raise funds for Family of Fallen Soldier Aram Israyelyan.

SOAR Naples held their annual "Winter Event" to raise funds for Families of Fallen Soldiers.



Chapter Highlights (Continued)

SOAR New Jersey held a Paint and Sip for the new SOAR Day Center, SOLENA.

SOAR New York held a Christmas Raffle for Christmas celebrations and gifts for the SOAR Transitional Center residents.

SOAR Orange County hosted a Comedy Night Fundraiser for the Ada Keshiyants Social Rehabilitation Center for Children with Developmental Disabilities.

SOAR Perth board member visited the SOAR Transitional Center, Gyumri, touring it and learning about their business, Gyumri So-Art. They chapter also made Armenian Gata and sold it to the community at Easter.

SOAR Philadelphia hosted a Sip and Savor fundraiser.

SOAR Phoenix hosted a table at Armenia Fest, and sponsored children and Christmas celebrations thanks to the special Cocoa Bomb Fundraiser held by board member Margaret Ehamjian's daughter Ani.

SOAR Portland, (OR) held an online "Holiday Raffle" and hosted a "Holiday Wine and Painting Fundraiser" for Children's Home of Gyumri.

SOAR Providence raised funds for eye surgery for Mariam Asoyan, a resident of the SOAR Transitional Center in Yerevan and her surgery was successfully completed.

SOAR Rocky Mountains a "Holly Jolly Christmas Campaign" for Children's Home of Gyumri.

SOAR St. Louis held an art showing of the products made by the residents of the SOAR Transitional Center, Gyumri through their gymrisoart.com business. The art was shown at local businesses.



Chapter Highlights (Continued)

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 Antonio/Austin held an online raffle for Father's Day for Children's Home of Gyumri and contributed to the new furnishings for the new SOAR Day Center, SOLENA.

SOAR San Francisco Bay Area hosted a table at the Artisan Pop Up Event at San Francisco Saint John Apostolic Church.

SOAR Syracuse held a Christmas Raffle for Christmas celebrations and gifts for the SOAR Transitional Center residents.

SOAR Tampa Bay raised funds to help three families: the Displaced Artsakh Family of Ninel Galstyan, the Family of Severely Wounded Armenian Soldier, Lenrush Khachatryan. and the Family of Fallen Soldier Hayk Abrahamyan.

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

SOAR Toronto hosted “A Festive Gathering” to raise funds for Christmas celebrations and gifts for Armenian orphans.

SOAR Ventura County held a “Thanksgiving Campaign” for food for Warm Hearth, and held and “Easter Celebration Fundraiser” for the children Birds’ Nest Orphanage and Armenian Evangelical Boarding School in Lebanon.

SOAR Washington DC held an online campaign for Artsakh Relief and hosted a table at a local heritage fair.

SOAR Wisconsin held a “Lake County Celebration” to raise funds for the Ada Keshishyants Center and for Families of Fallen Soldiers.

Chapter Highlights (Continued)

STAND UP COMEDY

EUROPE TOUR BELGIUM

MECHELEN
28.11.2024 20:00
 STADSSCHOONBURG, KEIJZERSTRAAT 3, 2800 MECHELEN
 015 29 76 54 +32 497 54 37 73 +32 491 88 94 81

MAX

SOAR Wisconsin is hosting A Lake Country Celebration

To raise funds for Armenian Orphans

- ☑ Cash Bar
- ☑ Light Hors D'oeuvres
- ☑ Armenian Dancing & Lessons
- ☑ Armenian Desserts
- ☑ Silent Auction
- ☑ AND MUCH MORE

Sunday September 22, 4pm-7pm
 The Commodore on Nagawicka Lake

For more information, call: Lucie Skowalski: 262-490-0380 or Chuck Hoptman: 262-352-4140.

Celebrating 15 Years of SOAR Wisconsin

Comedy & magic by Chuck "Garbo" Hoptman

We are raising funds for:
 -The Aids Center for Disabled Children
 -Children of Fallen Soldiers
 -Other related efforts

100% of the proceeds go to the children.

Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR)

Consider becoming an EVENT SPONSOR!

Angel Sponsor	\$10,000
Platinum Sponsor	\$5,000
Gold Sponsor	\$2,500
Silver Sponsor	\$1,000
Bronze Sponsor	\$500

For tickets and event sponsorship scan the QR below
soar-us.org/event/wisconsin

CLICK OR SCAN

Gratefully acknowledged in the event program

ADMISSION \$100 in advance \$125 at the door

Thank you for supporting us.

www.soar-us.org

Paint & Sip

Soar NJ Chapter

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD
5:30 - 8 PM
CRESSART SCHOOL
166 MAIN ST #3F
FORT LEE, NJ 07024

All proceeds will go towards purchasing furnishings/equipment for the new day center, SOLENA in Gyumri

\$65 ENTRY* (BYOB)
SNACKS INCLUDED

*40-PERSON LIMIT, DONATIONS ENCOURAGED

PURCHASE TICKETS: soar-us.org/event/newjersey

See you there!

SOAR Fresno TRIVIA NIGHT

Saturday 09/21

STARTS 7PM

Proceeds to benefit the Society for Orphaned Armenians

Prizes Raffles

Ages 21+

Saint Joaquin
 1755 Broadway St, #106, Fresno, California 93721

TICKETS
 \$49/Single
 \$200/Table of 6

To learn more/purchase tickets scan the QR code or visit soar-us.org/events/fresno-trivia

fresno@soar-us.org

ENTER OUR 2024 SOAR CHRISTMAS RAFFLE!

1 FOR \$20 5 FOR \$75
 3 FOR \$50 10 FOR \$100

All proceeds will support SOAR Christmas gifts and celebration!

prizes include luxury gifts, experiences and more!
 made possible by SOAR Synagogue and NYC Chapters

FOR MORE INFO AND TO PURCHASE TICKETS CLICK HERE!





Chapter Highlights (Continued)

PROGRAMS & ADMINISTRATIVE

SOAR Barcelona gave a presentation to the children at SOS Villages - Idjevan through the Cultural Discovery Program and participates in the Language Tutoring Program giving instruction in Spanish to the SOAR Transitional Center residents.

SOAR Berlin participates in the Female Empowerment Program holding sessions regularly with the residents of the SOAR Transitional Centers and gives regular instruction in English to the children at SOS Villages and in German to the residents of the SOAR Transitional Centers through the Language Tutoring Program.

SOAR Buenos Aires chapter president works hand in hand with fallen soldier families bringing awareness of their plights and obtaining assistance.

SOAR Cadiz participates in the Language Tutoring Program giving regular instruction in Russian to the children at the SOS Villages.

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 residents of the SOAR Transitional Centers through the Cultural Discovery Program.

SOAR Helsinki gave a presentation to the children at SOS Children's Village - Idjevan through the Cultural Discovery Program and participates in the Language Tutoring Program.

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



Chapter Highlights (Continued)

SOAR Kansas City (MO) gave a presentation to the children at SOS Children's Village - Idjevan 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 Lyon gives regular instruction in French to the SOAR Transitional Center residents through the Language Tutoring Program.

SOAR Malta participates in the Global Hosting Program.

SOAR Marseille gave a presentation to the residents of the SOAR Transitional Centers through the Cultural Discovery Program.

SOAR Milan gave a presentation to the residents of the SOAR Transitional Centers through the Cultural Discovery 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. The chapter also gave a presentation to the residents of all three Transitional Centers through the Cultural Discovery Program.

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

SOAR Oxbridge gave a presentation to the SOAR Transitional Center residents through the Cultural Discovery Program.

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



Chapter Highlights (Continued)

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 Slovenia gave a presentation to the children at SOS Children's Villages through the Cultural Discovery Program.

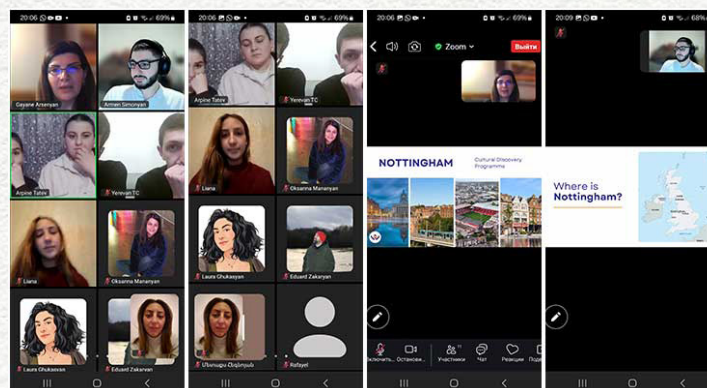
SOAR Sofia participates in the Global Hosting Program regularly hosting those attending the AGBU Camp.

SOAR Tennessee holds regular Bible Study sessions with the residents of the SOAR Transitional Centers.

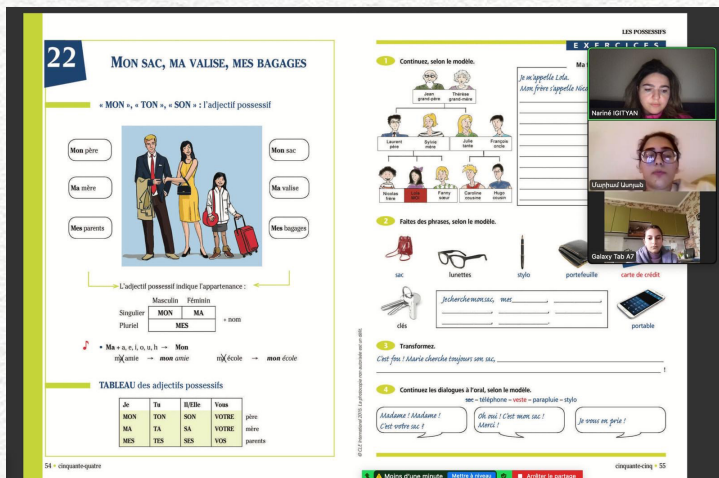
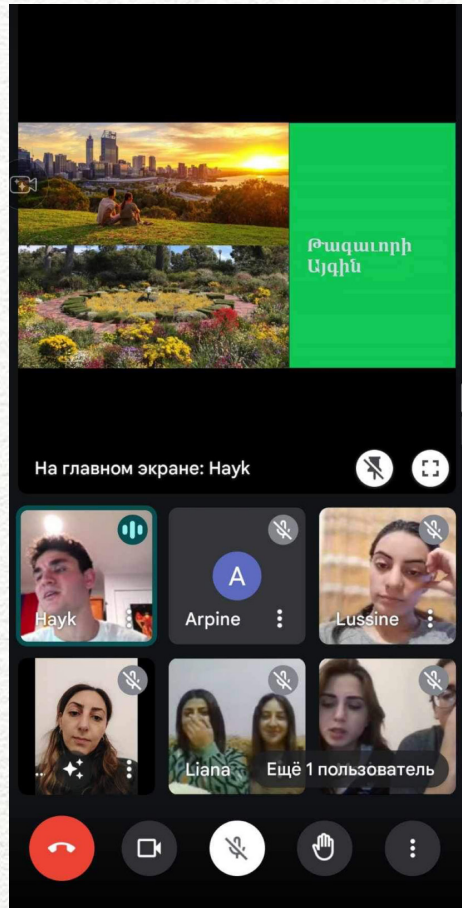
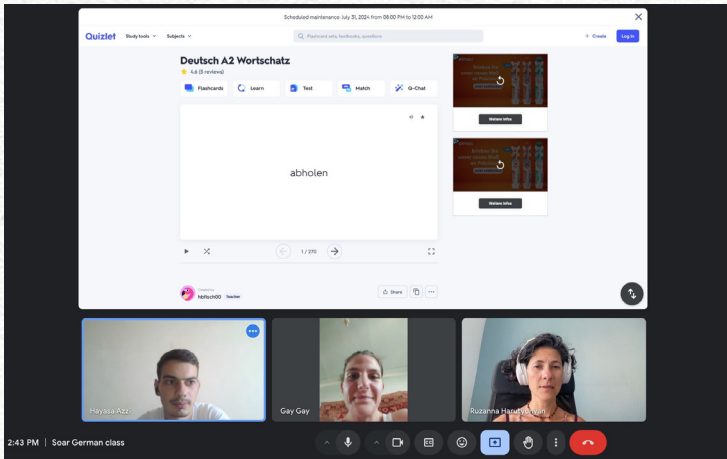
SOAR Vancouver is an Internal Administrative Chapter overseeing medical requests and funding.

SOAR Venice gave a presentation to the children at SOS Children's Villages through the Cultural Discovery Program.

SOAR Zurich gave a presentation to the children at SOS Children's Villages through the Cultural Discovery Program.



Chapter Highlights (Continued)





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 Jeopardy Night to raise funds to provide food for the residents at Prkutyun.

SOAR New York Juniors hosted "Cooking in the Khohanotz"

SOAR Philadelphia Juniors held a Movie Night Fundraiser with a showing of Mrs. Doubtfire.

SOAR Toronto Juniors hosted a table at Carassauga and held a very successful Christmas Fundraising Party.



SOAR JEOPARDY NIGHT
Pop-Culture Trivia
 FORM GROUPS OF 2 AND BATTLE IT OUT!

JOIN TO WIN PRIZES!

AUG 24TH, 5-7 PM

\$5 PER PERSON

Where: Google Meet
 The link will be sent to you prior to the event!

All proceeds go to providing food to children in the Prkutyun Mentally Disabled Children and Young People Center in Yerevan, Armenia.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT SOAR-US.ORG OR CALL US AT (201)-965-9995



Հայկական խոհանոց
COOKING IN THE KHOHANOTZ!
 Saturday, March 16, 2024 @1:30PM
 Kalustyan Hall

Register Online: <https://achm.breezechms.com/form/862e9c90763879037>
Register by March 13

The Featured Recipes will be *Vospor About* AND *Namoura!*
 Led by Nayda Voskerijian

Proceeds will be donated to Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR)



For additional information, please email stewardship@holy-martyrs.org
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 ARMENIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY MARTYRS
 209-15 Horace Harding Expressway, Bayside, NY 11364

Junior Highlights (continued)



**YOU ARE INVITED TO
SOAR**
(SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF)
**CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING
TEEN PARTY** Ages 14-19
Raising funds for Armenian Orphans
\$35 Live DJ, Dancing, Food, Drinks
November 16 7:00 - 11:00pm
920 Progress Ave, Scarborough

Tickets  SOAR Website 

[soar_jtc](https://www.instagram.com/soar_jtc) 



Mrs. Doubtfire

15 MAR | 7 PM

**SOAR
MOVIE NIGHT**

\$25 ENTRY FEE
INCLUDES POPCORN,
PIZZA & WATER
CANDY WILL BE FOR
SALE

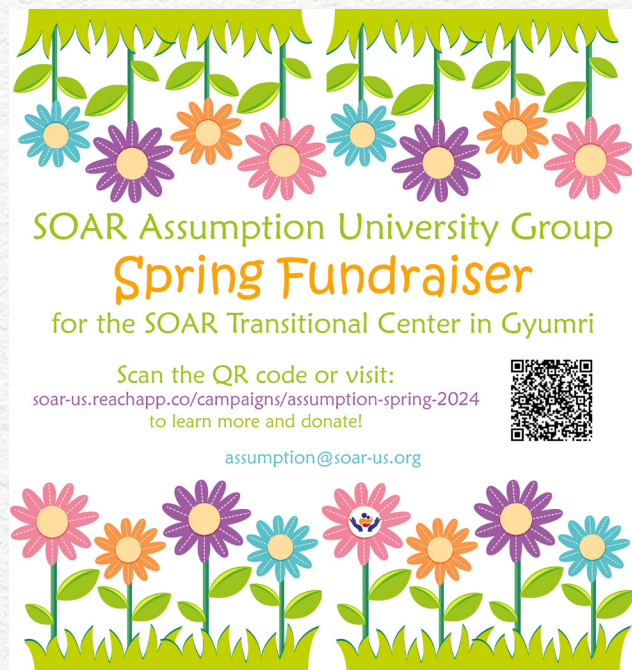
Armenian Sisters Academy
440 Upper Gulph Rd
Richmond VA



PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE AT
[HTTPS://RB.GY/FMKZ9](https://rb.gy/fmkz9) OR QR CODE ABOVE
CONTACT SARAH SELVERIAN WITH QUESTIONS
@ 215.514.0188

College Highlights


**SOAR Assumption University
Group held a Spring Fundraiser
for the
SOAR Transitional Center,
Gyumri.**



**SOAR Assumption University Group
Spring Fundraiser**
for the SOAR Transitional Center in Gyumri

Scan the QR code or visit:
soar-us.reachapp.co/campaigns/assumption-spring-2024
to learn more and donate!

assumption@soar-us.org





Accounting Summary

Distributions

• Ada Keshishyants Center	\$32,238.00
• Armenian Evangelical Boarding School	\$9,000.00
• AFIF/FFSRF	\$17,989.00
• Birds' Nest Orphanage	\$8,500.00
• Community Development and Social Support Center	\$9,140.00
• Children's Home Gyumri	\$11,876.00
• Dental Clinic	\$14,984.00
• Dzorak	\$300.00
• Eye Care Project	\$4,605.00
• House of Dreams	\$5,946.00
• Kharberd Orphanage	\$8,653.00
• Mari Izmirlyan	\$5,406.00
• Nakashian Children's Support Center	\$8,959.00
• Orran	\$7,305.00
• Our Lady of Armenia Center	\$53,436.00
• OLA-Kanaker	\$25,939.00
• OLA-Tashir	\$2,304.00
• Prkutyun	\$8,727.00
• Services to Children in their Own Homes (SCOH)	\$9,001.00
• Shirak Marz Children and Family Social Services	\$730.00
• Sisters of Charity, Bethlehem	\$1,680.00
• Sisters of Charity, Spitak	\$500.00
• SOLENA	\$1,158.00
• SOS-Idjevan	\$25,500.00
• SOS-Kotayk	\$26,026.00
• Transitional Center, Gyumri	\$98,272.00
• Transitional Center, Yerevan	\$7,909.00
• Transitional Center for Young Men, Yerevan	\$2,844.00
• Vardashen	\$300.00
• Warm Hearth	\$16,883.00
• Yerevan Children's Home	\$300.00
• Yerevan Special School Number 11	\$400.00



Accounting Summary (Continued)

• Yerevan State Day Center	\$400.00
• Zadik	\$300.00
• Programs	\$5,600.00
• Cap One	\$216,164.63
• Miscellaneous	\$355,032.97

TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS.....\$954,080.60

Administrative

• Salaries.....	\$58,581.00
• Bank.....	\$8,502.55

TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE.....\$67,083.55

GRAND TOTAL.....\$1,021,164.15





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 35 institutions – day centers, residential childcare facilities, summer camps, and transitional centers – in Armenia, Javakh (Georgia), and Lebanon. We have grown tremendously during the past two decades. In 2006, distributions totaled approximately \$60,000. In CY2024, our distributions exceeded \$1M. Today, we not only address the major humanitarian constructs of education, emotional and 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. In 2024 we opened our SOLENA Center in Gyumri, Armenia, a non-residential, day center that provides services to families with special needs children: employment/professional, substance abuse counseling, and job training for parents/caregivers and academic tutoring, nutritious meals, and psychological counseling for the children. SOLENA offers a continuum of care and integration within the community to empower families to avoid institutionalization.

We continue to be blessed with a dedicated and selfless team of supporters who share our short-term aspirations and long-term vision of supporting the most vulnerable Armenian child populations.

**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 2024 annual report, please contact George S. Yacoubian, Jr., at (610) 213-3452 or gyacoubian@soar-us.org.