You make a difference...

Last month, Sister Kate Clancy, IHM of SOAR! visited the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk in Blue Point, NY to deliver a grant check for the Sister’s most recent request for two stair lifts. The elderly sisters, whose median age is 82, have difficulty navigating the steep narrow stairs of the convent. Having the lifts will give the sisters a safe way to stay mobile and active in their congregation and ministry.

During the visit, the Ursuline Sisters and staff expressed their gratitude, not only for this current grant, but also for the many other projects that SOAR! has helped to make possible over the years... a handicapped accessible van, a food warming table, a stove and a dishwasher. Through the generosity of our donors SOAR! was able to fulfill these requests as well as many others from congregations across the country who are caring for their elderly members.

In 1535, Saint Angela Merici, a spiritual leader in Brescia, Italy founded the Company of Saint Ursula. Under the guidance of Saint Angela, a group of twelve women worked to raise the standards of society by the example of their lives and the practice of spiritual values. They dedicated themselves to helping the poor, visiting the sick and instructing young women in family values. Today, the Ursuline Sisters are still committed to effecting change by standing with the oppressed and economically poor, especially women and children.

from the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk website
Dear Friends of SOAR!

Easter Blessings!

The cards are piled high in stacks on my desk . . . and I’m reading them one by one. The handwriting on some is beautiful – perfect Palmer method; while the writing on other cards is shaky, perhaps signs of arthritic hands. The messages you write to me are filled with gratitude and concern:

God bless you, Sisters. You taught all 11 of my children from 1st through 12th grades – bless your hearts! You helped my family for years, and now I feel good about helping you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

I’m so grateful for the donations you send so SOAR! can help congregations of men and women religious care for their elderly members. We count on your financial support, and we also count on your prayers.

I do appreciate all the kind notes that you write which I share with the Sisters and Brothers who benefit from your donations to SOAR!

The heartfelt messages you send show me that you really care. You care that some elderly Sisters reside in convents in need of repairs. You care that some congregations need help to install an emergency generator. You care that a four story convent infirmary needs a new motor for their only elevator. I cannot thank you enough for caring.

In this season of Easter and springtime, may the glory of Christ’s Resurrection bring you new life and hope. As the daffodils bloom and trees begin to bud forth, may your heart blossom with gratitude for all your blessings.

Happy Easter! Happy Spring!

Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, I.H.M.
President

Notes of gratitude to Sisters from our donors

Thanks – a grateful student
I cannot thank you enough. Praying for you Sister. God Bless You for your service! You are remembered dear Sisters...
The dear Sisters do so much for us. Thank you for choosing LOVE as your vocation. God bless you all for your wonderful sacrifice. Thanks for sharing your LOVE to others. Raised by Sisters in Pittsburgh, PA. Thank you. Thank you all for praying for me... Thank you for your wonderful guidance & teaching. I will never forget what you all have done when I was growing up. Thank you for being a great worker for our Lord Jesus Christ Thank you for helping to shape my future. Your vocation has helped form our 7 beautiful grandchildren. HUGS!

For 12 years I was taught by the Sisters and I loved them very much. I am now 92 years old so it was a long time ago. I loved them all.

I want to thank you personally because Sisters like you are the reason for my strong faith. God bless you and keep you. You are all wonderful.

I am so grateful for the Sisters who taught me (over 60 years ago!). I’m not Roman Catholic but the Sisters loved and prayed for me. Thank you for your Ministry and your love.
Arkansas
Subiaco Abbey, Subiaco
Nurse call and exterior door locks for infirmary
California
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, Belmont
Hearing aids
Sisters of Notre Dame of Los Angeles, Thousand Oaks
Automated push-button activated doors
Connecticut
Sisters of Charity of Our Lady Mother of the Church, Baltic
Boiler replacement
Daughters of the Holy Spirit, US Province, Putnam
Addressable smoke detector
School Sisters of Notre Dame, Wilton
Electric Lift Chairs, Mattresses, Vital Signs Monitors, Oxygen Concentrator
Illinois
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Chicago
Infirmary mattresses, recliner lift chairs, and digital handrail scale
Indiana
Our Lady of Grace Monastery, Beech Grove
Automatic door openers
Sisters of the 3rd Order of St. Francis of Oldenburg, Oldenburg
Replacement windows
Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods
Lift for wheelchairs
Massachusetts
Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston, Framingham
Mattress and adjustable-height electric beds
Glastonbury Abbey, Hingham
Asbestos removal and new floor
Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield, Holyoke
New mattresses for retirement center
Daughters of St. Paul, Jamaica Plain
Call system
Sisters of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, Petersham
Medical equipment
Cistercians of the Strict Observance, Wrentham
Security system for Alzheimer patients
Minnesota
Order of St. Benedict, Collegeville
Mechanical patient lifts
Franciscan Sisters, Little Falls
Patient lifts and security system for Memory Care Center
North Dakota
Benedictine Sisters of Richardton, Richardton
Senior friendly exercise equipment
Nevada
Sisters of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Reno
Roof replacement
New York
Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk, Blue Point
Residential Stairway Lift
Sisters of St. Joseph, Brentwood
HC accessible bathroom renovations
Medical Missionaries of Mary, City Island
Boiler replacement
Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, Maryknoll
Elevator upgrade and ADA security phones
Sisters of Charity of Halifax, Rego Park
Modernization of passenger elevator
Dominican Convent of Our Lady of the Rosary, Sparkill
Backup generator
Sisters of St. John the Baptist, Staten Island
Roof venting system
Ohio
Sisters of Notre Dame, Christ the King Province, Chardon
Mattresses for nursing center and medical equipment
Dominican Sisters of Peace, Columbus
Install phase II of wander management system
Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland, Pepper Pike
Fire alarm system
Sisters of St. Francis of the Congregation of Our Lady of Lourdes, Sylvania
Lift chairs
Sisters of St. Francis, Tiffin
HC accessible automatic doors
Oregon
Benedictine Sisters, Mt. Angel
Walk-in bath tub
Pennsylvania
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, Aston
Replacement windows
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Erie
Hearing aids
Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern PA, Erie
Hospital beds
Sisters of St. Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Flourtown
Removal and replacement of underground oil tanks
Sisters of Saint Francis of the Neumann Communities, Pittsburgh
Hydrotherapy tub and mechanical ceiling lift
School Sisters of St. Francis, Pittsburgh
Climate control for chapel and emergency lighting
Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Scranton
Boiler replacement
Texas
Dominican Sisters of Houston, Houston
Sewer pipe replacement
Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, Prayer-town
Elder friendly exercise equipment
Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, San Antonio
Inclined platform lift for wheelchairs
Virginia
Benedictine Sisters, Bristow
HC accessible renovations
Wisconsin
School Sisters of St. Francis, Milwaukee
HC accessible renovations

“We are truly blessed to have SOAR! and its generous benefactors assisting religious communities throughout the country. Your efforts and support for the needs of aging religious truly make a significant difference for so many.”

SOAR! Board member, Jim Lynch, presents the grant award to Sister Peggy Scarano, OP and Sr. Joanne Deas, OP
SOAR! extends our sympathy to the Williams family on the death of Donald H. Williams. Don was among the group of Catholics who convened a working session to respond to the recent news report of the financial crisis facing retired men and women religious. The result of their brain-storming that day in 1986 was the birth of the non-profit organization, Support Our Aging Religious, known as SOAR!. In a letter to the board of directors in 1988, Don said, “The growth and success of SOAR! will always be one of the my highest personal priorities.” Don’s family told of his commitment to helping retired religious, “He said he found out that the Sisters were silently suffering and he knew he had to help.” Twenty-five years later, SOAR! is still responding to the need for which it was founded – to help congregations care for their aging members. So, thank you, Don, and all the other Catholic men and women who were pioneers in responding to a crisis.

Knowing of his support of SOAR!, many of Don Williams’ colleagues and friends made gifts to SOAR! in his name. May his soul rest in peace.

Reasons to Update Your Will

When was the last time you thought about having a will that reflects your current situation? Have any of these experiences happened to you?

- Changes in your marital status
- Birth of a child or grandchild
- You purchased or sold a home
- You moved to a different state
- You recently inherited assets
- A beneficiary named in your will has died
- Your executor or trustee died, moved or became disabled
- You decide to make a new or additional bequest to a charity such as SOAR!

If you have experienced any of the life changes listed here, then it is time to update your will. To leave a bequest to help aging religious, please remember SOAR! in your estate plans. Our legal title is Support Our Aging Religious, Inc. (SOAR!) Contact your financial advisor for information regarding your specific situation.

"Again, thank you for your loving support of our retired Sisters. Your partnership has made possible so many wonderful updates that ensure their safety and comfort. Please know that you and everyone at SOAR! are remembered daily in the prayers of our Sisters around the world.”