

SOAR! NOTES

Newsletter of Support Our Aging Religious, Inc.

SOAR! Awards Nearly \$1 Million in Grants

At the February meeting of the SOAR! board of directors, members approved grants for a total of almost \$1 million to religious congregations of women and men in 20 states. These grants will benefit over 3,500 women and men religious with a median age of 77. The SOAR! grants will assist religious congregations in need of very basic help—the purchase of therapeutic equipment, the renovation of space for handicapped accessibility and structural safety, and the installation of fire alarm and wander guard systems. Through this fundamental assistance many more women and men religious live out the last years of their lives in dignity, safety, and with modest care.

The severity of need among religious congregations cannot be overstated. More than 60% of all religious women and men are over the age of 70 and 32% are older than 80. According to recent studies, the total under-funded retirement liability for religious congregations is more than \$11.6 billion. In addition to this shortfall, many religious congregations have limited capacity to build up resources to care for their elderly and infirm members. The current average annual Social security benefit for religious is \$4,670 compared to almost \$14,000 for lay recipients.

The SOAR! board of directors and the grant recipients are deeply grateful to all SOAR! contributors for making the grants possible. Members of SOAR!'s board of directors delivered grant checks to many congregations around the country. 🇺🇸

See Page 3 for a full listing of congregations that received grants in 2012.

Michael Castellano visited the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters in Reading, PA.



Mary Pat Cooper visited the Sisters of Notre Dame of Los Angeles in Thousand Oaks, CA



SOAR! President, Sister Kathleen Lunsman, IHM delivers a check to the Order of Minor Conventuals at St. Catharine's in Seaside Park, NJ



William Smith presented a check to the Dominican Sisters of Amityville in New York



Mary Beth Carozza visited the Benedictine Sisters in Ridgely, MD



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



*SOAR! President
Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM*

*D*ear Friends,

The Franciscan maxim “it is in giving that we receive” proved true for me this spring when SOAR! awarded nearly \$1 million in grants to congregations of men or women religious. In giving away money to the congregations, I received phone calls of appreciation and letters filled with gratefulness. SOAR! distributed these financial awards on behalf of you, our generous benefactors. And so, I hope this issue of *SOAR! Notes* communicates the sincere gratitude and joy of the Sisters and Brothers who were beneficiaries of these awards. It is only because of YOU that these congregations received the financial support so desperately needed.

I hope that in giving to SOAR! and all of your favorite Catholic charities, that you receive peace in knowing that you are helping others as Jesus commanded.

As you will be receiving this issue as summer season begins, I wish you a safe and happy summer, one that will provide you with time for relaxing and enjoying family and friends. Thank you for your partnership with us in supporting aging Catholic Sisters and Brothers.

All of the men and women religious who benefit from your donations to SOAR! join me in appreciation for your generosity. You are remembered in the prayers and good works of so many Sisters, Priests and Brothers across the United States. We pray God’s blessing on each of you and those you love.❤️

S. Kathleen Lunsmann IHM

SOAR! BENEFACTOR HAS COMPASSION FOR ELDERLY

*W*anda Grzymala was a faithful supporter of SOAR! for many years. So great was her desire to help aging religious that her support of the mission of SOAR! did not stop when she died in 2007. Wanda made a provision at her bank for her savings account to be transferred to SOAR! upon her death. Wanda took care of all the details except one – she did not put the mailing address for SOAR! on her bank account.

By the grace of God, one of the bank tellers who knew Wanda from her years of banking at that branch noticed the account was still dormant three years after Wanda’s passing.

She took it upon herself to find out if Support Our Aging Religious was indeed the organization named by Wanda as the beneficiary of her account. Luckily, the teller was able to confirm that SOAR! was indeed Support Our Aging Religious only three days before Wanda’s account was to be turned over to the state.

Wanda has a special love for the elderly and a desire to help those who live alone. In addition to helping aging Sisters through her gift to SOAR!, Wanda also made a provision in her will to support Meals on Wheels in her hometown. May she rest in everlasting peace.❤️

Please consider remembering SOAR! in your will.

Our legal title is:

Support Our Aging Religious, Inc. (SOAR!).

If you would like additional information about planned giving please contact the SOAR! office at 202.529.7627.



2012 Grants

ARKANSAS

Subiaco Abbey, Subiaco
New equipment for wellness center

CALIFORNIA

Sisters of Notre Dame of Los Angeles, Thousand Oaks

Recliner lift chairs

CONNECTICUT

Daughters of the Holy Spirit, Putnam

Replace elevator

FLORIDA

Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Augustine, St. Augustine

Bathroom renovation and ceiling repairs

GEORGIA

Carmelite Monastery of Savannah, Savannah

Handicapped accessible bathroom renovations

ILLINOIS

Sisters of the Living Word, Arlington Heights

Four chair lift replacements

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Chicago

Installation of handrails and new carpet in Chapel

The Cenacle Sisters, Chicago

Installation of railings on new handicapped ramp

INDIANA

Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, Donaldson

Lift chairs and scooters for elderly members

Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand, Ferdinand

Wireless emergency call system

KANSAS

Sisters of St. Joseph, Concordia

Used car for medical appointments

KENTUCKY

Sisters of Notre Dame, Covington

Reclining lift chairs and bariatric bed

LOUISIANA

Congregation of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, New Orleans

New ceilings for the Sister's residence

MASSACHUSETTS

Daughters of St. Paul, Boston

Handicapped accessible bathroom renovations

Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston, Brighton

Adjustable beds and therapeutic mattresses

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield, Holyoke

Mandated fire sprinkler installation

Sisters of St. Anne, Marlborough

Whirlpool replacement

Sisters of Charity - Halifax, Wellesley Hills

Installation of new whirlpool tubs

Religious Venerini Sisters, Worcester

Electric chairlift

Cistercians of the Strict Observance, Wrentham

Hospital beds and dental sterilizer

MARYLAND

Atlantic Midwest Province of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Baltimore

Window replacement and equipment

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, Baltimore

Handicapped accessible bathroom renovations

Benedictine Sisters of Ridgely, Ridgely

Mattresses and lift chairs

Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity, Silver Spring

Replacement of roof on retirement residence

Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart, Towson

Replace sliding glass doors and windows in the Sisters' residence

MISSOURI

Conception Abbey, Conception

Handicapped accessibility to infirmary

Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Louis

Province, St. Louis

Whirlpool tub replacement and equipment

NEW JERSEY

Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth, Convent

Station

Replacement of windows Sisters' residence

Congregation of the Passion (Eastern Province), Union City

Elevator in the Pittsburgh Monastery

NEW YORK

Dominican Sisters of Amityville, Amityville

Security system

Sisters of Good Shepherd, Astoria

New car for licensed rest home

Dominican Sisters of Blauvelt, Blauvelt

Window replacement in infirmary and residential areas

Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk, Blue Point

Chairlift

Sisters of Saint Joseph, Brentwood

Handicapped accessible bathroom renovation

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas NY, PA, Pacific

West Community, Buffalo

Call bell/alarm system for infirmary/assisted living areas

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Clarence

Hearing impaired sound system for Chapel

Redemptoristine Nuns - Esopus

Handicapped accessible safety modifications to new monastery

Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet - Albany

Province, Latham

Electric beds and recliners

Ursuline Sisters, New Rochelle

Handicapped accessible bathroom renovations

Order Minor Conventuals, Rensselaer

Window replacement, St. Catharine's, Seaside Park, NJ

Sisters of St. Joseph, Rochester

Food preparation/distribution equipment

Dominican Sisters, Sparkill

Upgrade sound system in chapel

Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann

Communities, Syracuse

Handicap accessible van conversion

OHIO

Ursuline Sisters of Youngstown, Canfield

Handicapped accessible restrooms

Sisters of Notre Dame, Christ the King Province, Chardon

Electric lift chairs

Dominican Sisters of Peace, Columbus

Replace heating and cooling unit in Chapel

Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland, Pepper Pike

Nurse call system

Sisters of St. Francis of the Congregation of Our

Lady of Lourdes, Sylvania

Electric beds, mattresses

Sisters of St. Francis, Tiffin

Install air conditioning in retired Sisters' wing

PENNSYLVANIA

Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern PA, Erie

Beds, mattresses, bed tables and Broda Peddle

Rocker

Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Haverford

Replacement of flooring in the Sisters' Residence

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Mid-Atlantic

Community, Merion Station

Electronic wander guard system for Sisters' skilled nursing facility

St. Joseph Villa, Bernardine Franciscan Sisters, Reading

Purchase of 8-passenger Van

Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of

Mary, Scranton

Fire detection and alarm system upgrade

TEXAS

Dominican Sisters of Houston, Houston

Replace roof over Sisters' retirement residence

Eucharistic Franciscan Missionary Sisters, San Antonio

Replace floor foundation

VIRGINIA

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia, Bristow

Replacement of long-term infirmary beds

WISCONSIN

School Sisters of St. Francis, Milwaukee

Boiler replacement



FAITHFUL FRIENDS

SOAR! is blessed to have so many *faithful friends!* The *Faithful Friends* of SOAR! are part of a new society of monthly donors whose gifts are automatically charged each month. The regular monthly donations go further to help the mission of SOAR! as these automatic gifts reduce administrative costs, including postage and paper.

Joan, a Faithful Friend from Huntington Beach, California said *"Giving to SOAR! every month is the right thing to do. It is important to me to help the elderly Sisters. And setting it up with my credit card was so simple. I just think it is a sensible thing to do; if it's an automatic donation, then I don't have to think about it."*

Making an automatic, monthly gift to SOAR! is simple, convenient and cost-effective for donors. Once enrolled as a *Faithful Friend*, there are no checks to mail, no stamps to buy.

Please consider joining SOAR!'s *Faithful Friends* monthly giving program. Sign up today on our website: www.soar-usa.org and click on Donate Now. Choose "monthly" in the box for frequency. Or call the SOAR! office at 202.529.7627 and request a *Faithful Friends* brochure.☺



EMERGENCY FUND DRIVE UPDATE

In February SOAR! sent an urgent request to our donors. The Cenacle Sisters in Chicago, Illinois had requested \$25,000 towards the installation of a handicapped accessible ramp to replace the current entrance to the convent which has steps that Sisters and handicapped visitors must climb in order to enter or exit. These steps pose an additional safety concern as they are also the ones that must be used by emergency medical personnel when transporting a Sister who is ill or injured. At the time, SOAR! was only able to partially fund the request. However, the overwhelming response to the Fund Drive and the continued generosity of donors allowed SOAR! to send the additional \$10,000 needed to fulfill the entire grant request. Construction is scheduled to be completed this summer. Sister Kathleen will be visiting the Cenacle Sisters and other grant recipients in the Chicago area at the end of July. Thank you for helping SOAR! to fulfill this request for the Cenacle Sisters.☺



Original steps will be replaced with a handicapped accessible ramp thanks to SOAR! donors



SOAR! has a new website!

Visit us at www.soar-usa.org. You can sign up to receive our newsletters by email, follow us on twitter for updates about Sisters and SOAR! and like us on Facebook.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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| July 30-August 2, 2012 | SOAR! visits congregations and donors in Chicago, IL |
| September 23-26, 2012 | SOAR! attends National Catholic Development Conference Annual Meeting Nashville, TN |
| October 3, 2012 | SOAR! Board Meeting New York, NY |
| October 3, 2012 | SOAR! Annual Gala Dinner New York, NY |
| November 2, 2012 | SOAR! Annual Gala Dinner Washington, DC |

For more information about the Gala Dinners please contact Sister Kate Clancy at 202.529.7627 or by email at kclancy@soar-usa.org

SOAR! Notes is published by Support Our Aging Religious, Inc. (SOAR!), 3025 4th Street NE, Washington, DC 20017.

The purpose of this newsletter is to communicate the mission and needs of SOAR! and to express our gratitude to our donors. President: Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM • Editor: Deborah Hudson Vornbrock

Visit SOAR! online at www.soar-usa.org • Reach us at 202.529.7627 or via email at info@soar-usa.org