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Support Our Aging Religious, Inc.

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### **Support Our Aging Religious, Inc. receives \$250,000 grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation**

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation has awarded Support Our Aging Religious, Inc. (SOAR!) a \$250,000 grant to assist SOAR! in educating and engaging the national public about the serious crisis facing retired religious sisters, brothers, and priests across the United States.

Founded in 1986 by a group of committed lay people, SOAR! augments the efforts of the institutional Catholic Church by providing grants to orders of religious men and women to help them care for their elderly and infirm members by meeting immediate needs. Through the generosity of its donors and benefactors, SOAR! helps congregations assure their members live their advancing years in safety and with dignity, comfort and grace.

“The next ten years are especially critical for aging religious. SOAR! is committed to providing assistance to congregations facing financial hardships in caring for their retired members,” noted Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM, president of SOAR! “The grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation will allow us to grow the base of support and expand the SOAR! mission by incorporating technology and emerging media channels in our strategic approach to fundraising.”

In its almost thirty years, SOAR! has provided more than 1000 grants totaling over \$14 million to religious congregations of men and women across the United States and Puerto Rico. Approximately 95% of grant requests each year come from women’s religious orders.

Rosemarie Nassiff, SSND, program director of the Catholic Sisters Initiative of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation said, “The profound contribution of women and men religious is felt throughout the world. Increasing national awareness of the very real need of assisting retired religiousis directly connected with the Hilton Foundation's Catholic Sisters Strategic Initiative.”

SOAR! will spend the next three years incorporating and building systems and structures to increase the efficacy of its mission and increase its capacity to award grants to congregations demonstrating need.

### **About the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation**

The [Conrad N. Hilton Foundation](#) was created in 1944 by international business pioneer Conrad N. Hilton, who founded Hilton Hotels and left his fortune to help the world's disadvantaged and vulnerable people. The Foundation currently conducts strategic initiatives in six priority areas: providing safe water, ending chronic homelessness, preventing substance abuse, helping children affected by HIV and

AIDS, supporting transition-age youth in foster care, and extending Conrad Hilton's support for the work of Catholic Sisters. Following selection by an independent international jury, the Foundation annually awards the \$1.5 million Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize to a nonprofit organization doing extraordinary work to reduce human suffering. From its inception, the Foundation has awarded more than \$1 billion in grants, distributing \$83 million in the U.S. and around the world in 2012. The Foundation's current assets exceed \$2.2 billion.

For more information, please contact Sister Kathleen Lunsmann at 202.529.7627 or [klunsmann@soar-usa.org](mailto:klunsmann@soar-usa.org). SOAR!'s website is [www.soar-usa.org](http://www.soar-usa.org).

*SOAR! is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to assuring the safety, security, and well-being of elderly and frail members of Catholic religious congregations in the United States, augmenting the efforts of the institutional Church. The organization is separate from the annual national religious retirement collection coordinated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.*

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