

SOAR! Donors Help Sisters Get Around

Being able to get in and out of a car, opening a heavy door, or walking down a long corridor are some things that may become more difficult as we age. Through the generosity of its donors, SOAR! provides grants to aging Catholic religious so that they can safely get around their Motherhouses, visit the doctor and continue to be as active as possible. When a Sister is more engaged with her community, both she and her community benefit!

Here are just a few ways 2018 grants helped Catholic Sisters get around:

The *Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles* received a \$25,000 grant for an accessible van. Accessible vans provide more than safety. They offer dignity without sacrificing the health of the Sister being transported or that of the Sister helping her. Vans mean aging religious can get to needed doctor's appointments, and even join the community on an occasional outing. As 87-year-old Sister Beatriz, O.C.D. says, "I can speak for all the elder Sisters when I say that the new mini-van we have drives so smoothly...and most importantly, we don't have to worry about breaking down on the freeway!"



Navigating the long corridors of the Motherhouse is now easier for some of the *Dominican Sisters of Peace* in Great Bend, Kansas. A \$8,238 grant from SOAR! helped the Sisters purchase two scooters and three lift chairs. The scooters make navigating the hallways a breeze and mean that Sisters can remain active and continue their work. The lift chairs bring stability and safety to Sisters as they sit or stand, and mean they are not putting undue stress on their arms or shoulders.



The *Daughters of Our Lady of the Garden* in Middletown, CT minister to 3- and 4-years-olds at a Montessori Center. A \$14,175 grant from SOAR! for a walk-in whirlpool tub helps the Sisters with diabetes and back issues to relax and

relieve their aching joints. Most importantly, this keeps them at the ready for all the activity and joy that comes with caring for and educating young children.

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Dear Friends of SOAR!



Dear Friends,

The flowering trees are all in bloom here in Washington, DC. The artistic

mastery of our Creator God is evident all around us. The SOAR! office is located just a block away from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception with its paths of brightly colored tulips and cherry blossom trees in full bloom. How nice it is to be outside and see these beautiful flowers on a warm spring day!

The Sisters, Priests and Brothers who are supported by your generosity now have the time to "stop and smell the roses" and to take in all of God's glory and creation in their midst. Thanks to you, SOAR! is providing help like the installation of automatic doors leading out to a convent courtyard. Can you imagine how nice is it for a Sister using a walker or cane to be able to access the garden on her own?

Sometimes it's nice to take a walk outside on an early spring day – thanks to you, there is an aging Sister or Brother who is doing that TODAY! God bless you.

In gratitude,

Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM

Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM
President

Sharing Our Stories

Many of you may have gotten a thank you call for your gifts from either Sister Carol Loughney, IHM or Sister Joan Rychalsky, IHM. In this edition of *SOAR! Notes*, we wanted to share reflections on the joy their ministry of gratitude brings them.

"Since I started to work in ministry with SOAR! almost five years ago I have found it to be a blessing to call and talk with our donors. Each week I receive my list of names, and I am amazed that there are so many that I now know. Many at this point have become friends and are a cause of joy. Happy voices lift my spirits and encourage me to continue in this fulfilling ministry.

When I tell people that we hold them in prayer their response is awe-inspiring. It makes me want to be more prayerful and a better person. It is a humbling experience to hear of their great need and their sincere gratitude. I am grateful for their hospitality in welcoming SOAR!'S message and welcoming us into their lives. God bless you, friends."

~Sister Carol Loughney, IHM, is a member of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Scranton. This year, Sister celebrates 60 years as a religious.



Sister Carol Loughney, IHM

"What an honor and joy it is to have the beautiful ministry of making gratitude calls to SOAR! donors to thank them for their generosity and kindness to our retired religious. So many of the donors often express delight in receiving my calls of thankfulness.

In some cases, the donors immediately name the religious community who educated them; many share stories of religious women or men who influenced their lives. It is a privilege for me to listen to them and hear them share why it's important to give back to those religious who supported their successes in life and encouraged their faith journey.

I also have the pleasure of meeting some of these wonderful people when I attend SOAR! events. These face-to-face encounters help me to see the Lord's goodness shining through these loving people. I am blessed to be a part of the enthusiastic, dedicated SOAR! team.

~Sister Joan Rychalsky, IHM, is a member of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Philadelphia and has been professed for 53 years.



Sister Joan Rychalsky, IHM

If you would like to share a story about how religious have nurtured you and why you support SOAR!, call (202) 529-7627 and speak with Elizabeth Góral-Makowski or drop us a note at info@soar-usa.org.



RECOMMEND A GIFT TO SOAR! THROUGH YOUR DONOR-ADVISED FUND.

Donor Advised Funds are one of the fastest growing charitable giving programs. A DAF is an easy way to make the most of tax benefits and recommend gifts to SOAR! and other favorite charities.

YOU CAN VISIT

www.soar-usa.org/giving
to make a donation through
DAF Direct or call
Elizabeth Góral-Makowski
at (202) 529-7627
to learn more.

SOAR! FALL AWARDS DINNERS



NEW YORK

Wednesday
September 18, 2019
New York Athletic Club



Honoring

Father Edwin Leahy, OSB and
The Notre Dame Clubs of the
Archdiocese of New York



WASHINGTON, DC

Friday
November 1, 2019
The Embassy of Italy

Honoring

Dr. Carolyn Y. Woo

FOR INFORMATION,

contact Annika Paquette
at events@soar-usa.org or (202) 529-7627

FAITHFUL FRIENDS

Make sure aging religious can count on you — become a Faithful Friend monthly donor! It's an easy way for you to help support aging religious, and means they can count on your faithful support to help them live in safety and with dignity.



To learn more, visit www.soar-usa.org.

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As Sister Juana Olmeda, FMH says, "We are so grateful because staying as healthy as we can and being able to be as active as we can will allow us to enjoy more years of apostolic service to the Church."

A \$25,000 grant from SOAR! meant that the *Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth* in Convent Station, NJ, could install nine automated door openers on heavy fire doors that separate the wings of residential floors in the Motherhouse. The openers allow the Sisters to open the doors with the push of a button. The doors stay open long enough to provide ample time for the elderly and infirm Sisters to proceed through the doorway before they close automatically.

It is now much easier for elderly and infirm Sisters to move through the building for meals, worship, volunteer activities, and other events. Sisters who might otherwise limit their activity and interactions may now more fully contribute to the life of the community. The Sisters also now have peace of mind knowing that the fire doors will be closed to protect them in the event of an emergency.



*Thanks to your continued generosity, SOAR! hopes to award more grants like these in the future.
Your goodness today can make that happen.*



SOAR! Trivia Night



SOAR! kicked off National Catholic Sisters Week on March 7 with a Trivia Night for young adult professionals in Arlington, VA. 75 people came to see if "they were smarter" than the Sister's Team. The team pictured here proved they could tackle that mighty challenge!

A CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION SERVING ELDERLY SISTERS, BROTHERS AND PRIESTS SINCE 1986.

SOAR!
Support Our Aging Religious

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: Elizabeth Góral-Makowski
Co-Editor: Eleanor La Prade



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