

## We are there when they need us most



For many congregations of women or men religious, the income generated at a retreat center, a gift shop, or other ministry provides for the daily needs of the residents. Can you imagine what happened when the pandemic required those ministries to close? Some closed temporarily; others are closed for the long-term.

**To quickly provide funds to address the needs of those suffering from the virus, their caretakers, and aging religious impacted by social isolation, SOAR! initiated the *COVID-19 Rapid Response Grant Program*.**

Thanks to your support of these rapid response grants, communities were able to purchase PPE, sanitation supplies, and medical equipment; fund staffing costs; and make up revenue losses due to the ministry closures. The grants also supported technology updates to keep aging Sisters, Brothers, and Priests connected to their communities, families, and ministries.

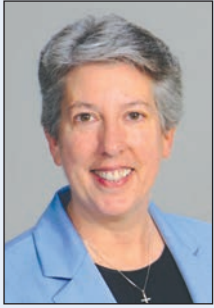
**In all, the Rapid Response grants assisted 2,817 aging religious through \$451,245 in grants to 44 congregations! And that's on top of the 80 grants awarded earlier this year as part of the regular grants cycle.**



In meeting the immediate needs of aging religious, the SOAR! board of directors approved a second grant cycle at its September meeting.

Two grant cycles each year, in the spring and fall, will provide more flexibility to religious congregations and allow SOAR! to thoughtfully respond to the needs of aging religious as they arise.

**The Sisters, Brothers, and Priests you assist remember you in their daily prayers.** The SOAR! board of directors joins them in their deep gratitude for your continuing kindness. Thank you!



## Dear Friend of SOAR!

What has changed in your life due to living in the pandemic? We can all name a few negative results of these difficult days, but can you name any positive impacts of this very unusual time? Since travel is still restricted and somewhat unsafe, I've had to find new and intentional ways to connect with my family and my religious Sisters rather than seeing them in person. I've found that scheduling frequent virtual connections has deepened relationships with even my closest friends. And, seeing my nieces and nephews regularly on Zoom has helped me to be a consistent part of their lives in a new way.

Another positive outcome of this pandemic is having extra time to read. And it seems that many of you, our dear friends of SOAR!, are finding more time to write! I am enjoying reading your letters, your intentions, and your stories of Sisters who have impacted your life.

Thank you to all of you who have sent me your email address or updated the one we were using for you. It is important to me that we can stay in touch with you, even when the SOAR! office is temporarily closed.

Thank you for your support. Let us continue to pray for one another.

Blessings,

*S. Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM*

Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM

P.S. If you haven't sent me your email address, please send it to [info@soar-usa.org](mailto:info@soar-usa.org).

## NOTES OF THANKS

SOAR! couldn't do any of our work without you! We want to share just some of the many notes of thanks we've recently received.

*“Thank you very much for approving our grant for chairs for our elder Sisters! They will be very happy! This is such an important work that SOAR does. You help us love our Sisters in very practical and needed ways.”*

**Sister Susan M. Blaschke, SDSH**

Society Devoted to the Sacred Heart, Northridge, California

*“A big thank you for being so thoughtful in thinking of us older folks and getting us connected to family and friends in such a MODERN way. To tell the truth, to learn how to operate this at my age is amazing, but it can be done!”*

**Sister Mary Hartmann, OSF**

Sisters of St. Francis, Tiffin, Ohio

*“Please accept our greatest gratitude for your support through grant giving and also for your deeply important personal support of our mission and of the life we have been called to. It makes a big, big difference to us, for which we are filled with gratitude to you and to your donors who support your sensitive and urgently needed mission.”*

**Mother Angele Arbib, OSB**

Abbey of Regina Laudis, Bethlehem, CT

*“The support of SOAR! has been a gift to us and helped our Sisters to be safe, involved and comfortable. You and your donors are such great advocates for us.”*

**Sister Helen Kearney, CSJ**

President, Sisters of St. Joseph in Brentwood, NY

*“You have helped us address our greatest needs and you have positively impacted the lives of our Sisters, especially our oldest and least physically able Sisters.”*

**Sister Dorothy Ann Busowski, OSBM**

Provincial superior, Order of the Sisters of St. Basil, Jenkintown, PA

*“May the Lord reward your zeal and passion to help our aging religious, especially during these unprecedented times... Your presence in our lives is God's smile and an answer to our prayers to provide the best quality care for our infirm and aging members.”*

**Sister Lilia M. Barba, SJS**

Sister Servants of the Immaculate Conception, Bonita, California

# SOAR! Goes Virtual

This fall, SOAR! held its first ever virtual events. We opened our doors wide and seized the opportunity to share our story with a broader audience, spanning coast to coast.

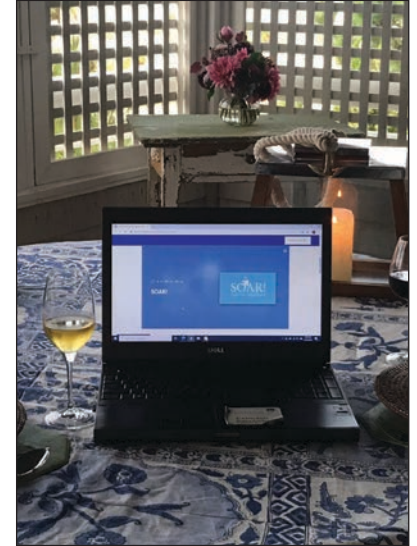
The people who attended our virtual galas learned more about our mission, and most importantly raised much-needed funds earmarked especially for emergency needs and for our COVID-19 Rapid Response program. Thank you so much!

A number of our donors and friends contacted us after the events. Some told us that they celebrated the night of the event by raising a glass of wine while enjoying appetizers. We heard that one religious community broadcast the events via closed-circuit TVs, so the Sisters SOAR! helps could join in the celebration.

Donors most liked hearing directly from congregations that received SOAR! grants and seeing firsthand how their contributions make a positive impact for our beloved aging religious.

Thank you to all who attended! **Even though our events were virtual, there was nothing virtual about the love and support we felt from our friends and benefactors.**

**If you didn't have a chance to attend or view the galas, visit [www.soar-usa.org/events](http://www.soar-usa.org/events) where you'll find links to our New York and DC National virtual events.**



## Leave a Lasting Legacy

To learn more about planned giving,  
visit [www.soar-usa.org](http://www.soar-usa.org) or call SOAR! at (202) 529-7627.

Every gift  
**COUNTS.**

Every gift makes a  
**DIFFERENCE.**

Every gift expands  
your legacy of  
**LOVE.**







*I wish I had known...*

*A few years ago, I received a note inviting me to a memorial Mass honoring a person who had been a regular donor to SOAR!.*

*It was a beautiful Mass attended by family and friends. As I listened to the eulogy, I learned about someone who was strong in faith, valued friendship, and always put others first. After Mass, the family presented me with a \$10,000 bequest to SOAR!. Paul (not his real name) left SOAR! in his estate plans. And I didn't know. I wish I had known so I could personally say "thank you" to Paul during his lifetime. I wish I had known about his plans to leave a lasting legacy and his desire to help aging religious even after he was gone.*

*If you are considering including SOAR! in your estate plans, please let me know. Your membership in the Legacy Society will ensure our beloved religious can receive the care they need in the years to come.*

*I'd love to say "thank you" to you.*

*S. Kathleen Lunsman, IHM*

## In Grateful Memory

We remember in prayer our dear Legacy Society members who rest in God's eternal peace.

Kathleen M. Cawley

Agnes Enochs

Mary Elsie Hedberg

Dolores Ann Koch

John J. O'Hagen

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Say "thank you" to our aging religious all year long. Become a FAITHFUL FRIEND monthly donor! To learn more, visit [www.soar-usa.org/faithful-friends](http://www.soar-usa.org/faithful-friends).



**A CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION SERVING AGING 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.

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