

Understanding SOAR Finances

We are sometimes asked about contributions to SOAR and how the funds are used. We thought it would be good to clarify just how SOAR operates financially.



SOAR's goal is to facilitate short term missions by working with each team based on their particular needs. We do as little as provide information and documentation or as much as full facilitation services which include travel arrangements, training, documentation; pre and on field coordination with the missionary, financial bookkeeping for the team, and traveling with the team. When teams request full facilitation SOAR prepares a cost estimate that includes a 5% fee that helps offset administrative costs. This fee is added to all teams except our home churches. Any funds raised by the team above and beyond the actual cost of their mission are donated to the mission where the team worked.

The administrative fee does not, nor is it intended to, fully cover SOAR's expenses in facilitating a mission. Five percent is the suggested benchmark for non-profit administrative costs so that donors are assured their contributions are used for the projects they wish to help fund. Fees for many short term mission facilitators not only go above the benchmark, but additional fees and charges are added to support their ministry.

In addition to short term missions, SOAR is also involved in the other mission projects such as Christmas Angel Tree and hurricane relief. One hundred percent of the funds received for these and other special projects goes directly to the designated project. SOAR does not retain any of these project funds for administrative costs.

Then how does SOAR operate financially? Our philosophy is to raise funds specifically for Soar in order to support the ministry. This way, SOAR's expenses are not passed along to the teams and it keeps the cost of the team missions as low as possible.

SOAR receives regular support for the general fund from various churches, Sunday school classes, ladies groups, and individuals. These funds cover our travel expenses, insurance, administrative costs, convention expenses, training and promotional materials, and resource materials for the ministry and for the teams.

As God gives the increase to regular support we hope that we both will be able to further reduce our work hours in our respective jobs and receive compensation from SOAR's general fund. Each of us already spends 20-30 hours a week just maintaining current responsibilities for SOAR. The desire to provide exceptional quality service and new vision for the ministry provides more than enough need for us to be full-time if God leads in that direction.

We continue to seek churches, groups, and individuals to partner with us prayerfully and financially to support God's kingdom through the on-going ministry of SOAR. If you would like to hear more, we would be happy to speak with you or your group.