



Women's Giving Circle

Women's Giving Circle Invitation-Only Grant Application

Thank you for accepting our invitation to apply for a grant from the Women's Giving Circle (WGC), an initiative of the Catholic Community Foundation of the Diocese of Cleveland. Please respond clearly and concisely and adhere to the word limits below.

Organization Name: [COAR Peace Mission \(Community of Oscar A. Romero\)](#)

Address of Organization: 28700 Euclid Ave., Wickliffe, OH 44092

Organization Snapshot (75 words max)

Briefly describe your organization's mission, whom you serve, and where you serve.

COAR, Comunidad Óscar A. Romero, strives to be the tangible and real expression of the Gospel by serving the vulnerable children of post-war El Salvador. COAR was founded in 1980 by a Cleveland Diocese mission priest to serve refugee children and has adapted over the years to serve the needs of the population. It is now a residential foster care facility. COAR is administered directly by the Archdiocese of San Salvador.

Project Summary (100 words max)

Describe the specific project or program for which you are requesting Women's Giving Circle support.

We are requesting support for the renovation of the guesthouse on COAR's campus based in El Salvador. The space will be restored to safely host donors, board members, and partners visiting COAR Children's Village and school. The guesthouse will also serve as a meeting space for COAR staff year-round. By creating a welcoming yet functional space, the project will strengthen relationships, foster community, and allow supporters to better understand COAR's mission and the community it serves.

Community Need (100 words max)

What need does this project address, and why is it important at this time?

We are currently lacking safe and functional spaces to host donors and board members visiting El Salvador. Opportunities for in-person connections are critical to sustaining existing programs, which are made possible due to long-term donor support that makes up most of our funding. We are overdue to repair the long-neglected guesthouse, especially as we prepare to welcome new board members and plan on creating more opportunities for on-site visits. Renovation will not only strengthen donor engagement, it will help build solidarity and provide much-needed space to local staff, which will ensure continued growth of COAR's programs.

Impact & Outcomes (100 words max)

What impact do you expect this project to have? Include one or two measurable outcomes.

Renovating the guesthouse will not only deepen donor and board engagement, but also strengthen long-term financial sustainability for programs serving the 20 to 30 girls residing at COAR Children's Village and about 1,000 students receiving educational support at the school. In building a multipurpose room within the guesthouse, we can provide a dedicated area to support staff collaboration as they work towards improving program coordination and effectiveness. We will also increase donor retention through deeper understanding of COAR's mission by hosting at least two donor or board site visits within the first year. During these visits, the new guesthouse will provide a space for visitors to foster deeper connections with the COAR residents.

Use of Women's Giving Circle Funds (75 words max)

How will Women's Giving Circle funds be used?

Women's Giving Circle funds would be used to hire local contractors to renovate the existing guesthouse structure and to purchase construction materials. By funding qualified labor and purchasing construction materials in country, we will stimulate the local economy and support local families. The WGC funds will supplement a memorial grant from a long-time donor and will be rolled into general project costs.

Alignment with Catholic Values (75 words max)

How does this project align with Catholic values or Catholic Social Teaching?

This project aligns with Catholic Social Teaching by emphasizing solidarity, human dignity, and community building. The guesthouse will serve as a way to welcome donors into the COAR community by fostering meaningful relationships that prioritize respect and shared responsibility. Visitors will witness the resilience of the children we serve, reinforcing a commitment to justice and care for the most vulnerable.

Partnerships (50 words max, if applicable)

Briefly describe any project partnerships.

The project will be implemented in collaboration with COAR Children’s Village, where our Salvadoran-based counterparts will coordinate on-site logistics to ensure the space meets programmatic needs. We have also received a grant from St. Mary Seminary to furnish the space once it is completed.

Funding Request:

Amount Requested: \$ 15,000

Total Project Budget: \$ 100,000

Signature: 

Name: Susan Dinehart

Title:
Programs Director

May 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

Expense	Projected Budget	Actual Expenses	Difference to Budget
Blueprints and design	\$3,500		
Project execution (materials and labor) (estimate)	\$150,000		
Furnishings	\$7,500		
Other Funding Sources			
Memorial Grant from donor	\$50,000		
St. Mary Seminary	\$7,500		

Explanation of budget:

The project is currently in the hands of Figueroa Gallardo Construction, who are designing and implementing both an improved drinking water and waste water system and the “Solidarity House” projects. The team of engineers has just finalized the initial phase of the water project and will be moving on to the design and schematics for the Solidarity House in the coming weeks. At this point, since the Figueroa Gallardo team has not yet submitted the plans for the house, which would include the construction budget, the COAR staff in Cleveland has estimated construction costs based on similar projects with which we are familiar. We are happy to provide the firm quote and plans for the house once they are completed.

Attached is the translation of the initial offer from Figueroa Gallardo, which covers the design of the water project and the Solidarity House.