

Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society

Biennial Convention: July 6 - 9, 2014
Philadelphia, PA

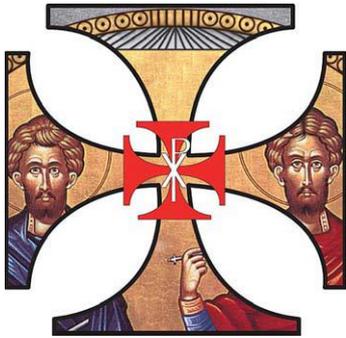
Chapter Challenge

Metropolis: DAD

Chapter Name: St. Sophia Church in Albany, NY

Project Title: Career Training Center

Project Summary: St. Sophia Church in Albany, NY is part of the DAD metropolis. We were assigned the awesome task of the Chapter Challenge when I attended the 2012 Clergy/Laity Convention in Phoenix, AZ. I had just become President of our Albany Chapter plus this was my first time attending this type of conference. Reflecting on this experience gave me the excitement to return home and share this rewarding time with fellow Philoptochos friends.



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It didn't take long for our challenge to become two-fold. There are three Greek Orthodox Churches in our local area with separate Philoptochos Chapters in close proximity. My goal was to reach out to St. George Church in Schenectady and St. Basil Church in Troy to work together with Albany on this project. St. Sophia has a knitting group that meets on a weekly basis with all products donated to local charities. We invited St. George and St. Basil Philoptochos friends to join us. The outcome was a wonderful group of women working together towards a common goal – the **Chapter Challenge**. We then created the “Capital Area Philoptochos Society”.

After searching out several suggestions for a project, it was obvious a new endeavor at the City Mission of Schenectady, the Career Training Center, was a perfect choice. This organization epitomizes the mission of Philoptochos as “Friend of the Poor”. The City Mission exists to meet the needs of the hungry and homeless of our community not only by providing emergency food and shelter, but by working to help people get out of poverty and give back to the community. Their goal for this center is to equip clients with marketable skills for today's work force and establish a healthy work ethic. Many staff members are former clients who have bettered themselves as a result of going to the City Mission. This Training Center in a refurbished thrift store houses classrooms, offices, a training room with computer stations, a reception area, a small chapel and a clothing room to help outfit clients with appropriate work attire. We set out to raise enough money to purchase equipment for this center. We recently learned contributions to the Career Training Center provided additional benefits to the City Mission.

Today we continue our commitment to this Chapter Challenge by working on projects at the City Mission. This will be an on-going mission of the “Capital Area Philoptochos Society”. We wouldn't have molded our three Philoptochos Chapters to work together, we wouldn't have been aware of the good deeds of the City Mission and most of all we wouldn't have “Made a Difference” in the Capital District Area of New York State had we not come together to meet this “Challenge”.