

2012 PHILOPTOCHOS HISTORICAL REFLECTIONS

Philoptochos leaders, members and Chapters nationwide reflect with humility, sadness and joy upon the important philanthropic works collectively offered in 2012, a year marked with historic achievements as well as many challenges here and in Greece. The year's highlights are noted below:

January – June 2012 Philoptochos honors its leaders with monthly feature articles in the Orthodox Observer paying tribute to the Past National Philoptochos Presidents: Beatrice Marks, Dina Skouras Oldknow, Mimi Skandalakis, Eve Condakes and Georgia Skeadas.

February 2012 – National Philoptochos responds immediately to provide Aid for the People of Greece with a \$25K donation from the National Philoptochos Emergency Fund expedited through IOCC.

March 2012 – National Philoptochos welcomes His Grace Bishop Sevastianos of Zela as National Philoptochos Spiritual Advisor after his appointment by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios.

June 2012 – National Philoptochos distributes \$160K raised from its Aid to the People of Greece Appeal to five organizations in Greece for the relief of our brethren suffering due to the economic crisis.

July 1 – 4, 2012 - The memorable 2012 National Philoptochos Biennial Convention held in Phoenix, AZ convenes a record number of delegates to celebrate 80 Years of Philanthropy and to plan for future expansion. National Philoptochos and the San Francisco Metropolis Philoptochos present a spiritual, cultural and educational program inspiring members to action.

2012 Convention Highlights

- The Premier 80th Anniversary Celebration hosted by the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos at the Musical Instrument Museum recognizes the service of nine AGAPE Award recipients representing each Metropolis and unveils the memorable Faces of Philoptochos
- National Philoptochos offers gratitude to His Grace Bishop Andonios for his years of service as its Spiritual Advisor
- Delegates raise over \$205K for the purchase of a new National home
- The Giving Tree Campaign is presented providing Chapters the opportunity to donate \$1,000 each to place the Chapter name on a leaf of the Giving Tree
- Chapters and Metropolises are recognized for their important philanthropic work and their commitment to the National Philoptochos Ministries (see www.philoptochos.org)
- His Grace Bishop Sevastianos offers new Philoptochos Prayer
- Design 80th Anniversary Logo, Pin and Limited Edition Scarf
- New Philoptochos Blog and Facebook are launched
- Delegates donate gift cards valued at over \$8,000 for the non-profit United Methodist Outreach Mission New Day Center in support of the homeless and hungry in this local community
- Donations of \$2,853,158 for the period from 1/1/2010- 12/31/2011 and Disbursements of \$13,956,459 from 1/1/2002 – 12/31/2011 are announced

2012 – Sadly, the year was marked with the passing of the Past National Philoptochos Director Terry Kokas on January 15, 2012 and the untimely passing of Past National President Mimi Skandalakis during the National Convention in July 2012.

October 2012 –

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios convenes the 2012-2014 National Philoptochos Board (Council) and appoints Aphrodite Skeadas to a third term as National Philoptochos President.

The Mary Jaharis Foundation generously pledges to match each \$1,000 leaf on the Chapter Giving Tree with \$1,000 up to \$500,000 generating the necessary funds to purchase the Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy

November 2012 – National Philoptochos responds immediately with \$15K donations each to the Direct Archdiocesan District and the Metropolis of New Jersey from the National Emergency Fund following the Hurricane Sandy devastation in New York and New Jersey. National Philoptochos establishes the National Philoptochos Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund to further assist the storm victims.

November 27, 2012 – With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, National Philoptochos culminates its 80th Anniversary Celebration with the purchase of its permanent Philoptochos home in Manhattan, the Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy. This historic milestone is achieved through the great generosity of Philoptochos members, Chapters, parishes and friends nationwide who respond to the outreach and events in each Metropolis, to videos on You Tube, to on line donations and to the ‘Open the Doors’ media campaign.

December 2012 - National Philoptochos joins several hundred friends of Saint Basil Academy for the children’s glorious Christmas Pageant and prays with His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios to remember the twenty children and six adult leaders who died tragically at Sandy Hook School in Newtown, CT.

National Philoptochos distributes \$25,600 in \$200 “Christmas Blessings” gift cards to individuals and families in the Direct Archdiocesan District and the Metropolis of New Jersey affected by the Hurricane Sandy devastation with an additional \$12K also being sent to both areas for direct aid.

Philoptochos Looking Forward – 2013

At the Clergy Laity Grand Banquet on July 4, 2012, National Philoptochos President Aphrodite Skeadas stated that, “The women of Philoptochos for 80 plus years have woven a tapestry of healing and compassion, peace and love and hope and prayer in each parish, in each city, in our country and globally.”

As National Philoptochos looks forward to 2013, we extend sincere gratitude for the tremendous nationwide support that allows the Philoptochos women to continue their philanthropic mission, to further expand our reach and to create the Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy as the home for all Chapters and members nationwide.

Christine Karavites, Chairman
National Philoptochos Archives and History
December 2012