

2013 PHILOPTOCHOS HISTORICAL REFLECTIONS

The year 2013 was filled with philanthropic endeavors while at the same time the National Philoptochos prepared its historic move into the new Philoptochos home, the Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy. The year 2013 was also a banner year of recognition of the Philoptochos philanthropic mission by venerable organizations in the United States and abroad. Most importantly the Philoptochos Chapters, members and stewards nationwide continued to accelerate their commitment to the Philoptochos mission and opened their arms and hearts widely with love and support to those most in need. Philoptochos leaders, members and Chapters nationwide reflect with humility, joy and sadness upon the important philanthropic works collectively offered in 2013.

The Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy –

Opened its doors in August 2013 at 126 E. 37th Street in New York City and recognized the dream of a permanent home for Philoptochos.

The National Philoptochos expresses gratitude to His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, all the Metropolitans, hierarchs, clergy and Philoptochos stewards who inspired and supported the National Philoptochos to purchase a permanent National Philoptochos home that will become a Center for even greater Philanthropic work.

The Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy was purchased in November 27, 2012, and His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios offered the Agiasmos Service on September 9, 2013. On November 1, 2013 the Feast day of the Philoptochos Patron Saints Cosmas and Damianos, His Grace Bishop Sevastianos, Philoptochos Spiritual Advisor, offered the Divine Liturgy at the Archdiocesan Cathedral followed by an Open House at the Center.

With its new home, National Philoptochos will expand social services and offer workshops and webinars to establish the highest quality of leadership for its leaders and members.

National Philoptochos Recognized

- ✘ March 2013 – Hellenic College Holy Cross featured National Philoptochos at its Women Leaders of the Church Lecture Series with National Philoptochos President Aphrodite Skeadas as the keynote speaker.
- ✘ May 2013 – Hellenic College Holy Cross Graduation – National President Aphrodite Skeadas presented scholarships to men and women students pursuing a life in support of the Church
- ✘ June 2013 – Alpha Omega Council in Boston presented the Lifetime Achievement Award for its important philanthropic work to National President Aphrodite Skeadas for National Philoptochos and to Metropolis President Philippa Condakes for the Metropolis of Boston Philoptochos
- ✘ November 2013 – The Cyprus Children’s Organization recognized National Philoptochos with its Humanitarian Award. National President Aphrodite Skeadas offered remarks and accepted the award.

Fourteenth Children’s Medical Fund Luncheon

The Children’s Medical Fund Luncheon held October 12, 2013 in Pittsburgh, PA unites supporters from across the United States every two years to raise funds for critically ill children. National Philoptochos President Aphrodite Skeadas and Luncheon Chairman Rosemary Nikas presented donations totaling \$136,900 to thirteen area hospitals and research programs. The Luncheon program featured the inspiring remarks of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and His Eminence Metropolitan Savas and numerous other speakers. Mr. Mike Emanuel, FOX News Chief Congressional Correspondent delighted the 500 attendees as Master of Ceremonies. Helen Collis received the National Philoptochos Arista Award.

The Philoptochos philanthropic mission

Philoptochos Chapters and members nationwide maintain a strong commitment to the important philanthropic work of this venerable organization.

- ✘ The Direct Archdiocesan District and the New Jersey Philoptochos along with many Chapters and members from throughout the country continued their loving support to families devastated by Hurricane Sandy
- ✘ National Philoptochos and its members launched a new Campaign to Aid the People of Greece and Cyprus and through its combined efforts raised and donated \$190,000 for the people with special emphasis on the children
- ✘ Philoptochos is dedicated to its many programs and projects including Saint Basil Academy, the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Hellenic College Holy Cross, the Children's Medical Fund, International Orthodox Christian Charities, National Sisterhood of Presvyteres, Orthodox Christian Fellowship, Orthodox Christian Mission Center and Support a Mission Priest, Retired Clergy and Widowed Presbyteres, Saint Photios Shrine, Social Services, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund as well as Environmental Responsibility, Autism, Literacy, Veterans, Cancer, Go Red for Women's Heart and more.

Philoptochos Looking Forward – 2014

Members prepare for the upcoming National Philoptochos Biennial Convention July 6-9, 2014 in Philadelphia, PA. where new programs will be offered, Chapters and Metropolises will be recognized for their tireless philanthropic work, AGAPE Awards will be presented to worthy leaders from each area of the country, members will have the opportunity to engage in workshops and discussions to gain skills and ideas to return to their Chapters to continue their important philanthropic work.

As National Philoptochos looks forward to 2014, 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 participate together through the Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy to build sustainable leadership for the future.

Christine Karavites, Chairman
National Philoptochos Archives and History
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