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/ News / Community /

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- Local News
- Business
- Community
- Obituaries
- Daily Happenings
- West Virginia News
- Ohio News
- National News
- International News
- SUBMIT News
- Election 2014

## Societies make donations

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Weirton Daily Times

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WHEELING - The Philoptochos Society of the Greek Orthodox Church's Metropolis of Pittsburgh held the annual Daffodil Luncheon March 14 at Oglebay Resort and recently distributed funds to the beneficiary charities, including the Weirton-based Athena's Closet and the North Panhandle Gabriel Project.

The event drew members from across the metropolis, which includes 55 churches in Pennsylvania, with the exclusion of Philadelphia, West Virginia and eastern Ohio. The West Virginia Philoptochos Societies, including All Saints of Weirton, St. John the Divine of Wheeling, St. Spyridon of Clarksburg, Assumption of Morgantown, St. John of Charleston and St. George of Huntington, hosted the event. Each chapter made a donation in covering the cost of different aspects of the luncheon. It is the first time all the West Virginia chapters jointly held a luncheon.

Metropolitan Savas of the Metropolis of Pittsburgh spoke at the luncheon, as did Metropolis Philoptochos Society President Rosemary Nikas, Athena's Closet Director Marie Fazalare and Gabriel Project Chapter Coordinator Faith M. Hicks.

### Article Photos



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Argiro Latousakis of the All Saints Philoptochos was the luncheon chair. The Rev. Demetrios Tsikouris of St. John the Divine gave the invocation, and the Rev. Frank A. Milanese of All Saints gave the benediction.

"Everyone was amazing," Latousakis said. "Within five minutes of (West Virginia) being named the host group, everyone in the parish came together, all saying, 'what can we do?'"

"From Weirton to Huntington is a four-hour drive, but it all came together. Some of the committee members from Weirton and Wheeling knew some of the Morgantown members, and some of those women knew some of the Clarksburg members, but most of those involved were meeting for the first time.

"Everyone did a wonderful job of keeping their chapters in the loop and helping from a distance."

Both Athena's Closet and the Gabriel Project received \$2,000 through the luncheon, and the All Saints Philoptochos Society donated an additional \$1,000 to each charity.

The luncheon also raised funds for the Metropolis Social Services, which helps improve quality of life for those in need while preserving dignity and independence. The luncheon raised approximately \$15,000.

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