

## National Philoptochos Society 2014-2016 Committee Report

### Feeding the Hungry

Chair: Georgia Vlitas

Liaison: Arlene Siavelis Kehl

Direct Archdiocesan District: Jennifer Constantin

Metropolis of Chicago: Toula Georgiopoulos, Carol Stamas

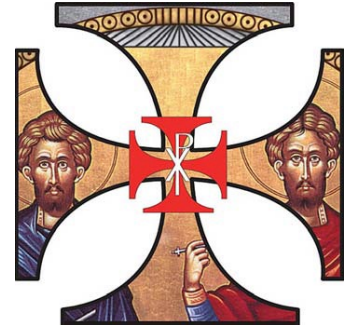
Metropolis of Boston: Georgia Lagadinou, Eleni Stamboulidis

Metropolis of Denver: Marian Catechis

Metropolis of Atlanta: Martha Driscoll, Laura Nixon

Metropolis of Detroit: Florence Stefanou, Margaret Yates

Metropolis of Pittsburgh: Rosemary Nikas, Crystal Thomas



It has been 18 months since National Philoptochos President Maria Logus announced her goal of “getting back to basics” through the *Feeding the Hungry* initiative and the national challenge to provide 250,000 meals to those in need throughout the country. President Logus knew that some Philoptochos chapters across the country already had programs to feed those in need in their area, but she never could have foreseen the path this goal would take! The number of feeding the hungry programs in progress and now beginning is amazing!

If you have visited the National Philoptochos website, you have probably noticed that our goal of providing 250,000 meals was met in February, within 12 months! Who would have anticipated this tremendous response? Now the question remains - how many meals did chapters across the country actually provide? The **grand total** will be revealed at the National Philoptochos Biennial Convention in Nashville this July, along with photos and experiences from our chapters.

Also on our Philoptochos website is information on the *phases* of the program. As the months progressed, we changed from *Phase I* of gathering information to *Phase II* in which we shared the information that chapters sent us.

*Phase I* of our National Philoptochos **Feeding the Hungry** program reached out to our chapters to determine who already had an established program. Each Metropolis President chose 1-2 liaisons to gather information from the Chapters’ experiences, such as:

- How is it accomplished?
- Where?
- When?
- How often?
- For how many people?

*Phase II* of the program was to share the “good works” of our chapters so that others could use this information to start a program or perhaps improve or broaden an existing one. Along with the information, the liaisons also gathered photographs that portray volunteers involved in this most important work. Some of these chapters were featured in the “**IN THE spotlight**” section on our website.

For the presentation at the convention, we reached out to chapters participating in this project to send us information such as:

- A description of their program
- An experience they would like to share
- Recipes used for making the entrée they served because chapters were looking for recipes that feed large numbers of guests
- Important tips to assist others
- Photographs of volunteers participating in this ministry

The information received will be shared with the delegates at the Convention.

An exciting event that will take place in Nashville is the partnering of Philoptochos delegates with the delegates of the Clergy Laity Convention to package meals for *Feeding Children Everywhere*. On Thursday morning, July 7, the Opryland Hotel will be the venue where Philoptochos delegates *together* with the Clergy Laity delegates will package **25,000 healthy meals!** In 2 hours filled with work, fun, music and *competition*, the delegates will measure, bag, seal and box 4 ingredients (lentils, dehydrated vegetables, rice and pink Himalayan salt) for a total of more than 25,000 meals to feed hungry children in the **Nashville area** and in **Greece**. What a wonderful way to give back for all of God's blessings that we have received!

We would love for you to join us in Nashville and participate in packaging the 25,000 healthy meals. Be sure to sign up ahead of time at the Philoptochos Registration booth. Come, work, socialize with fellow delegates, have fun and make a difference!!

If you would like to make a donation towards the meals (25¢ per meal) you can access the *Feeding Children Everywhere* website at *Hunger Projects*, choose *Upcoming Events* and scroll down to July 7<sup>th</sup> National Philoptochos Project and choose *Donate to this Project Without Sponsoring a Team*.

*Please join us in any way you can!*