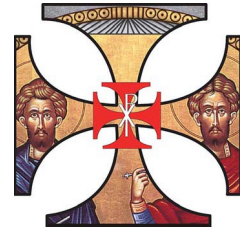


## National Philoptochos Society 2014-2016 Committee Report



### Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center Philoptochos Fundraising Initiative

*Co-Chairs: Jennifer Constantin, Arlene Siavelis Kehl, Anastasia Michals*

Throughout its existence, the National Philoptochos has faithfully supported the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese in raising funds for groundbreaking initiatives and historical projects. Once again as part of its mission, National Philoptochos embraced the opportunity to continue this tradition, when in a letter dated May 9, 2014, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America, asked for our beneficent "army" to unite in a special campaign of altruistic love and to assist in the extraordinary creation and resurrection of the *Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center*.

His Eminence appealed to every Philoptochos Steward in each of our chapters to prayerfully consider an offering equivalent to \$100 per Philoptochos steward toward this campaign, which could be accomplished through a group effort or as individuals.

To this end, under the leadership of then National Philoptochos President Aphrodite Skeadas, and continuing under the leadership of current National Philoptochos President Maria Logus, a Philoptochos fundraising initiative to help rebuild the *Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center* was launched throughout the country.

Under the guidance of National Philoptochos Board Members Direct Archdiocesan District President Jennifer Constantin, National Philoptochos First Vice President Arlene Siavelis Kehl and Metropolis of New Jersey President Anastasia Michals, who were named as the Saint Nicholas Fundraising Initiative Chairs, all Philoptochos chapters throughout the country became engaged in the effort and were assisted by their own Metropolis Presidents in reaching a financial goal that was determined by the size of the Philoptochos membership in the Direct Archdiocesan District and each of the eight Metropolises.

The following captures the progression of the initiative:

- Engagement of chapters through a letter, sent by the National Philoptochos President, in September 2014
- Mailing of Special Appeal Materials to be distributed by chapters to all Philoptochos Members throughout the country (St. Nicholas Icon Card, Genesis of a Resurrection Tri-Fold Pamphlet - *Upon this rock I will rebuild my church. Matthew 16:18* showing the elevation drawings and design of Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine)
- A Saint Nicholas Poster was created and emailed to the Direct Archdiocesan District and Metropolis Presidents for distribution to chapters
- Original quarterly fundraising Collection Periods and a procedure for handling the funds were established and the procedure was communicated to chapters
- Fundraising Collection Periods were extended so that the Direct Archdiocesan District and all Metropolises could meet their established fundraising goals
- Articles highlighting events and chapter fundraising activities throughout the country appeared in every edition of the Orthodox Observer and/or Philanthropy Witness

- Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine became a large part of the National Philoptochos website, being updated with materials every month. Visit *our website* for materials you might have missed including the following:
  - *Personal Reflections* by National Philoptochos President Maria Logus
  - *Genesis of a Resurrection Pamphlet*
  - *Genesis of a Resurrection Poster*
  - *Saint Nicholas Icon Card*
  - *Saint Nicholas Webcam, Videos and Presentations*
  - *News and Progress* from the Direct Archdiocesan District and Metropolises of Chicago, Boston, Denver, Atlanta, Detroit, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, New Jersey
  - *Frequently Asked Questions*

To date, National Philoptochos has collected, through participation of chapters nationwide, a total of \$1,304,646. A total of \$1,228,400 has been given from National Philoptochos to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America towards the rebuilding effort. We will continue to support this commitment until our goals are met.

As of June 2, 2016, the following funds have been received by National Philoptochos from chapters nationwide.

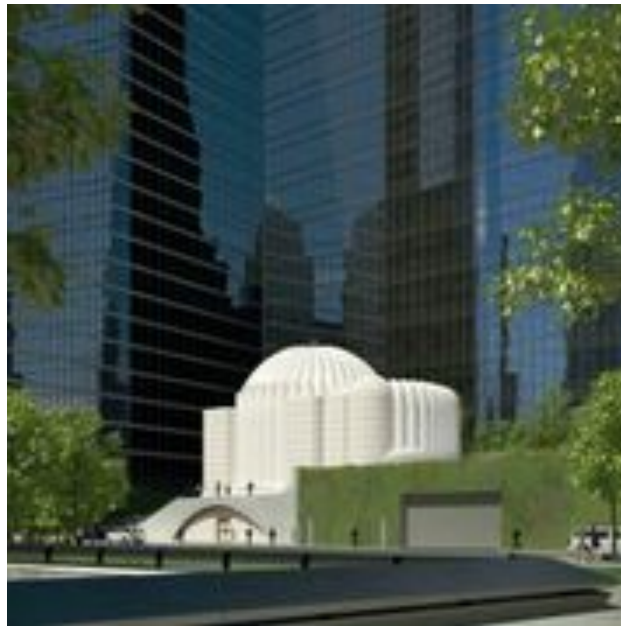
Metropolis of Atlanta	\$106,941
Metropolis of Boston	\$ 30,540
Metropolis of Chicago	\$249,180
Direct Archdiocesan District	\$181,909
Metropolis of Denver	\$ 68,148
Metropolis of Detroit	\$108,852
Metropolis of New Jersey	\$310,016
Metropolis of Pittsburgh	\$ 63,149
Metropolis of San Francisco	\$185,911

List of Important Articles that have been published about Saint Nicholas Project:

- ✓ National Shrine - Our Dwelling in Christ
- ✓ Our American Parthenon
- ✓ A Tale of Three Churches Part I and II
- ✓ The City Set on a Hill Cannot Be Hidden
- ✓ The Philoptochos Initiative - Metropolis of New Jersey Shines a Light
- ✓ Philoptochos Donations Exceed \$1,000,000
- ✓ Play Your Part to Rebuild Saint Nicholas
- ✓ Chapters Use New Approaches to Raise Funds for Saint Nicholas Initiative
- ✓ Philoptochos Chapters Fulfill the Mission - Promoting the Project
- ✓ Reflections from the Pope's Visit by National Philoptochos President
- ✓ Philoptochos Chapters Remember the Fallen on 9/11
- ✓ Marking an Historic Commitment
- ✓ Philoptochos Finds New Ways to Raise Funds for Saint Nicholas Initiative
- ✓ Philoptochos Committed to Rebuilding of Saint Nicholas
- ✓ Metropolis of New Jersey Philoptochos Chapter Reaches \$22,000 Goal in Under Four Months
- ✓ National Philoptochos Embraces Saint Nicholas Fundraising Initiative
- ✓ Facts to Know About Saint Nicholas
- ✓ The Philoptochos Fundraising Initiative

With the Lord's blessing, the goal of rebuilding, furnishing and endowing our new Church and National Shrine will be reached, and the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, the backbone of our parishes, will have played a vital role in this sacred mission. **Chairs have always emphasized the importance of having every chapter throughout the country work together to rebuild Saint Nicholas for all future generations, and for the many millions of people who every year will visit the new World Trade Center, which includes the National September 11 Memorial Museum and our Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine, the only house of worship at Ground Zero.**

For information and resources, visit [www.philoptochos.org/news/saintnicholas](http://www.philoptochos.org/news/saintnicholas). To be part of the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center Philoptochos Fundraising Initiative, please donate directly to your local Philoptochos chapter or your Metropolis Philoptochos.



*"Glory instead of ashes"*

**Isaiah: 61:3**