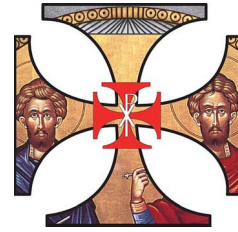


National Philoptochos Society 2014-2016 Committee Report



Social Services

Co-Chairs: Eftalia Katos & Stella Pantelidis

Liaison: Evangeline Scurtis

Members: Eleni Constantinides, Stella Fiorentino, Georgia Lagadinos, Alexis Limberakis, Nellie Logothetides, Aspasia Melis, Haeda Mihaltses, Laura Nixon, Helen Psaras, Jeannie Ranglas, Katherine Siavelis, Maria Skiadis, Joanne Stavrakas, Maria Tamvakologos, Kalli Tsitsipas, Margaret Yates, Billie Zumo

- The mission of Philoptochos Social Services is to improve the quality of life of Orthodox Christians in need in a way that maintains their dignity, self-determination and independence. Confidentiality is paramount.
- The National Philoptochos Department of Social Services provides assistance to Orthodox Christians throughout the United States. Assistance should first be provided through a local Philoptochos Chapter, followed by the regional diocesan Philoptochos, and finally from the National Philoptochos.
- Financial assistance is available to help prevent evictions, foreclosures and utility shut-offs; assist victims of domestic violence to relocate to a safe environment; assist with uncovered medical costs, health insurance premiums and co-payments; assist with costs of daily living, including food and clothing; assist with funeral expenses.
- The procedure for evaluating requests for assistance involves an interview and documentation of income and expenses. The approval process can take from 2-4 weeks. For additional information and to access the **Application for Assistance**, please see:
<http://www.philoptochos.org/socialservices/ifyouneedourhelp>
- Financial assistance is limited to a lifetime maximum of \$7,500 for any one client.
- The Department of Social Services also provides outside resources and referrals.
- The website contains detailed information to assist Metropolises and chapters in developing and operating their local welfare programs. Every Metropolis and every chapter should have a Social Services "point person" and a committee. Additional information can be obtained at:
<http://www.philoptochos.org/socialservices/proceduresforchapmet>
- The Metropolis or chapter must maintain a file for every client, including a complete Application for Assistance, Consent for Release of Information and documentation of assistance provided.
- Other than food and gift cards, Philoptochos never provides cash assistance directly to clients. Rather, bills are paid for clients upon presentation of the proper documentation.
- Chapters support the National Philoptochos Department of Social Services with a minimum \$350 donation in the month of January.
- Between January 1, 2014 and Mary 31, 2016, the kindness and support of our chapters enabled us to help 467 Orthodox Christian individuals and families, regardless of their immigration status, who are in the United States. This translates to an average of 200 cases per year – more than one new case per day.