

December, 2018

Dear National Board Members, Chapter Presidents and Members of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society,

For over eighty five years, the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, the philanthropic arm of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, has undertaken a multitude of philanthropic programs to aid the poor, the sick, and the elderly.

As stewards of the Philoptochos Society, we are committed to helping those in need. Our mission is to promote charitable, benevolent and philanthropic outreach, to preserve the sanctity of life and family, and to perpetuate and promote the Orthodox Faith and traditions. We strive to honor our relationship with God by using our gifts, abilities, compassion, empathy, faith and love to make a better world for our family and society. With your wholehearted support, we will continue to be a dynamic force for philanthropy and charity.

Enclosed for your review is a description of the ministry commitments supported by each chapter. These commitments were adopted by the National Philoptochos Biennial Conventions, where the ministries were discussed, reviewed and adopted by the vote of the chapter's representatives. As these ministries are National Commitments, they should be included in your chapter's annual budget and should be automatically forwarded to the National Office in the appropriate month, without motions or vote of the chapter membership.

Also enclosed is the 2019 Ministry Commitment Payment Book. Please use the payment coupons to assist your chapter in sending in your commitment payments in a timely way. The coupon book is also available on our web site www.philoptochos.org.

While the intention of the National Philoptochos will be to fully utilize the proceeds raised and contributed for each of the programs outlined in the monthly coupon transmittals, the National Philoptochos may generally utilize the funds transferred for any programs described on the enclosures or any unanticipated needs at its discretion. If you wish to discuss these commitments or have additional questions, I urge you to contact the National Office or your Metropolis President.

Thank you for your continuous and generous support of the National Philoptochos Ministry Commitments and Programs. The impact of your support is immeasurable and through your faithful and dedicated service, the lives of so many have been, and will be, greatly improved.

I wish you and your loved ones a Happy, Healthy, Peaceful and Productive New Year.

Sincerely,



Maria Logus
National President

Enclosures

NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

PROGRAMS AND MINISTRY COMMITMENTS

Academy of Saint Basil

In March 1944, Archbishop Athenagoras recommended that the Philoptochos Society purchase the 250 acre Rupert Estate in Garrison, New York, located on the shores of the Hudson River, directly across from the United States Military Academy at West Point. With that purchase, Philoptochos undertook the daunting task of completely renovating the property. Today, Philoptochos remains a major financial supporter of the Academy through two ministry commitments:

- Vasilopita: Held in January by every chapter in the United States, this event provides a major source of funding for the Academy's operating expenses.
- Sisterhood: The Sisterhood fund provides for the ongoing needs of the children of the Academy, such as clothing, furnishings, equipment and other essentials for the dormitories and kitchens, as well as support for the Graduation ceremonies and special awards for students.

Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology

Archbishop Athenagoras established the Holy Cross School of Theology in June 1937, in Pomfret, Connecticut. The Archbishop addressed a special appeal to the Philoptochos to devote themselves to the School, "where your sons will be educated as priests and teachers." Over seventy-five years later, Philoptochos continues its strong commitment to and financial support of Hellenic College/Holy Cross through the following programs:

- Scholarships: Scholarships are awarded to worthy and dedicated students, both men and women at Hellenic College and seminarians at Holy Cross to assist with tuition expenses.
- Lenten Event: On the Third Sunday of Lent, observing the Veneration of the Holy Cross, Philoptochos chapters sponsor a Lenten Event, following the Divine Liturgy, with proceeds dedicated to operating expenses of the School.

Saint Photios Shrine

In 1965, the Archdiocese purchased the Avero House in historic Saint Augustine, Florida, to commemorate the arrival of the first Greek settlers in the New World in 1768. Philoptochos continues its commitment to provide financial assistance towards the preservation of the National Shrine.

Orthodox Christian missions and Support a Mission Priest

The Society offers financial assistance to Orthodox Christian mission organizations, strengthening their ability to carry the message of the Orthodox Church through media and missions, throughout the world. In addition, the Support a Mission Priest ministry enables Orthodox bishops and priests in mission areas to build and restore churches, community centers, schools and medical facilities, and to participate in training, teaching and field management.

International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)

The IOCC is the humanitarian aid agency of Orthodox Christians, providing food, shelter, economic self-sufficiency and hope to those in need around the world. Philoptochos partners with IOCC to serve as first responders to major world disasters through and for education, health and major necessities.

Ecumenical Patriarchate

The philanthropies of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, such as Balukli Hospital and nursing home, schools, shrines and parishes, are supported through this commitment.

United National International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

In 1979, to commemorate the United Nation's "International Year of the Child." Philoptochos was designated a Non-Governmental Organization, working with the United Nations and UNICEF. Philoptochos' donations help this global-organization protect the rights, health and well-being of children worldwide.

Social Services Fund and Cancer/Other Major Illness Fund

Following the recommendations of Archbishop Iakovos, Philoptochos has, since the late 1950s, focused on the implementation of important programs to benefit the Greek Orthodox Community, including but not limited to the institutions of the church, but also programs assisting Orthodox families. Emerging social and moral issues motivated the establishment of several committees to address topics such as child abuse prevention, domestic violence, homelessness, substance abuse disorders and mental illness, aging and family services.

Since 1987, the National Philoptochos Office has employed a licensed Social Worker to assist the Greek Orthodox community in the United States, as well as Greek and Cypriot nationals. The Department of Social Services is a critical and vital component of the Society. The mission of the Department is to improve the quality of life of those in need, in a way that maintains the dignity and self-respect of the individual. Through confidential and professional services, the office provides outreach, education, information, support, motivation, advocacy, financial assistance and referrals to local and broader resources.

As uncovered medical costs continue to be a key concern in the United States, the Philoptochos cancer and other major illness' fund provides some relief to members of our community, regardless of immigration status, so that they can focus on their health and health care needs rather than their financial challenges

Autism Fund

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention has called Autism a "national public health crisis" more common than pediatric cancer, diabetes and AIDS combined. This fund provides assistance and support to persons within the Autism spectrum and promotes education to heighten Autism awareness.

General Medical Fund

Philoptochos receives numerous requests for financial assistance for adults afflicted with medical conditions which are outside the scope of restricted funds now established by the Society. The Society utilizes this fund to provide assistance in those cases where appropriate funding is not otherwise available.

National Emergency Fund

This fund enables the Philoptochos Society to immediately respond to those in need in times of national or international crisis.

National Sisterhood of Presvyteres Benevolent Fund (APC-NSP)

The National Sisterhood of Presvyteres was established in 1982 and is comprised of all Presvyteres of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Philoptochos funds provide short-term support for clergy and/or their families in times of crisis.

Orthodox Christian Fellowship Fund (OCF)

The OCF mission is to support fellowships on college campuses, whose members experience and witness the Orthodox Church through community life, prayer, service to others and study of faith. The fund provides support to more than 240 local OCF chapters throughout the country.

Retired Clergy and Widowed Presvyteres Benevolent Fund (RCA)

The Retired Clergy Association (RCA) of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America was established in 1988 to provide support for retired clergy who face financial challenges.

75th Anniversary Founders Fund

Celebrating the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Philoptochos Society, this fund provides financial support to Greek Orthodox older adults and their families to assist with housing, utilities, unreimbursed or uncovered medical expenses, home health care, hospice, funerals and safety equipment, special approved projects and also provides support to existing continuing care facilities serving the aging Greek Orthodox population in the United States, and may support the establishment of similar facilities.