

# National Philoptochos Society 2016-2018 Committee Report



## Aid to Greece and Cyprus

*Chair: Aphrodite Skeadas*

*Liaison: Evan Mekras Scurtis*

*Members: Elaine Cladis                      Aspasia Melis                      Maria Stavropoulos*  
*Vickie Demos                                  Anne Michals                      Eleni Stamboulidis*  
*Christina Hiotis                                Eleni Psaras                        Deana Bahlatsis Thomas*  
*Thea Martin                                      Vicki Scaljon                        Kalli Tsitsipas*

The mission of the Aid to Greece and Cyprus committee, which was adopted by the esteemed National Board on November 10, 2017, aims to assist, support and enhance the quality of life for our struggling brethren in Greece and Cyprus.

The horrific economic crises continue to paralyze a great number of people who live under heartbreaking and impoverished conditions and are deprived of basic necessities. For too many there is a profound loss of dignity and little hope for a bright future. The need for aid continues as the suffering is incalculable. Thank you for taking action.

The Committee has defined three paths of targeted fundraising for the Heart to Heart Campaign: (1) Philoptochos Chapter Events; (2) Pop-Up Kafes; and (3) Individual Solicitations.

- (1) In March, 2018, in celebration of the Feast of the Annunciation and inspired by the spirit of the heroes of the Greek Independence, an appeal letter signed by President Maria Logus and the Aid to Greece and Cyprus Chair was distributed to our Philoptochos Chapters nationally asking our Stewards to renew their commitment by offering a fellowship fundraising event in their community for the benefit of the people of Greece and Cyprus.
- (2) The second ongoing program initiated one year ago was the development of the Heart to Heart Pop-Up Kafes. The concept of the Pop-Ups was to facilitate the expression of love and charity utilizing limited resources, both in time and dollars. This program was designed to offer awareness of the Greek and Cypriot plight while sharing a cup of coffee and a sweet in a light and festive environment – without extensive planning and preparation, at minimal cost to the host, incorporating community spirit, for a brief period of time, at a chosen venue. It is analogous to being with friends for a fun visit – but with a purpose.
- (3) Individual solicitations may be personal appeals made to individuals wishing to donate to this mission.

In complete transparency, proposed charities in Greece and Cyprus are reviewed, evaluated, and vetted carefully by the National President and Executive Board of Philoptochos.

In year 2017, a total of \$110,000 was disbursed from the fundraising efforts made by the faithful Philoptochos women and their friends. The funds provided relief for underprivileged children, families and elderly seniors, and offered housing, shelter, electricity, meals, medicine and emergency supplies. In addition, enhanced after school programs, extracurricular support and educational and social counseling were offered to children.

With the Grace of God, we are hopeful this program may continue to raise funds in order to help heal fractured lives and bring awareness to the ongoing economic misfortune, affliction and suffering in Greece and Cyprus.