

National Philoptochos Society 2016-2018 Committee Report



Disaster and Humanitarian Relief

Chair: Martha Stefanidakis

Members: National Executive Board

The years 2016 and 2017 brought many disasters to our country and neighbors. The National Philoptochos responded to these crises with compassion, love and expediency.

In August of 2016, Louisiana suffered catastrophic flooding from New Orleans to Baton Rouge and points west. The Metropolis of Atlanta disaster team and IOCC responded quickly and determinately to assist those impacted, including the small Greek Orthodox Church in Baton Rouge. Through the efforts of National Philoptochos, \$35,000 was sent to the Metropolis of Atlanta Disaster Relief Fund.

On August 25, 2017, Hurricane Harvey reached the Texas Gulf Shore and over 50 inches of rain fell in two days. First responders from Philoptochos' partner IOCC arrived in Houston and ministered to the thousands that were displaced in shelters. National Philoptochos immediately sent \$15,000 from the Emergency Fund and President Maria Logus sent out an appeal to our members who responded with profound love and donations over \$109,000. In Houston, the Annunciation Cathedral and Saint Basil the Great Church activated a response team and located over 70 families that were displaced by the storm. Saint Basil's opened their facility as an IOCC staging area. In addition to the aid received by IOCC, over \$58,000 was given directly by Philoptochos to the families to assist with their losses.

Just one month after Harvey, Hurricane Irma hit Puerto Rico, followed just another month later with Hurricane Maria. Through the many donations from our members across the country, National Philoptochos sent \$16,075 to IOCC to help with the first responses there.

In addition, over the two year period, \$140,000 in disaster and humanitarian relief was distributed for relief to Hurricane Matthew, Ionian Village, West Virginia floods, and the Mytilene earthquakes.

Our continued partnership with International Orthodox Christian Charities enables us to make a significant impact on these disasters. Their "boots on the ground" together with our contributions enriches the lives of those in need.