

National Philoptochos Society 2016-2018 Committee Report



Philanthropic Initiatives

Co-Chairs: Katherine Siavelis and Peggy Vranas
Liaison: Barbara Pasalis
Members: Maria Antonakas Crystal Thomas
Marian Catechis Evellyn Tsiadis
Marilynn Jemas Evanthia Valassiades
Anita Kartalopoulos Eleni Zaferes
Stella Pantelidis

The mission of the Philanthropic Initiatives Committee is to: research and evaluate current trends and public concerns that require the Society's understanding, promotion and involvement in order to better our local, national and global communities; to develop opportunities to become involved and contribute to these worthy causes, projects and events; and to review past projects for relevancy.

The committee has continued to meet, via conference calls, to discuss and recommend worthy programs which our Philoptochos Chapters throughout the United States could implement in their own communities. The focus and work of our Committee this past year includes:

- Investigating and providing important information on Technology Safety Methods and Programs / Be Smart Be Safe on the Internet. This information was presented in a Philoptochos Witness article and on our Philoptochos Website under Ministry Outreach – Philanthropic Projects.
- Recommending programs for our Armed Services Persons and Veterans which was presented in our Philoptochos Witness entitled “Remember Our Veterans” and on our Website. Programs included: Wreaths Across America; Homecoming Heroes Grant Program – Modest Needs Organization; Fisher House Foundation; United Services Organization (USO); and the Veterans Administration Agency / VA Medical Centers.
- Given extensive research on educational programs and materials, our committee has focused our efforts in collecting and organizing all of this information regarding awareness, understanding, care and support for Individuals with Alzheimer's Disease and their families. This information is being finalized in a Power Point Presentation to be offered on our Philoptochos Website.
- Prison Ministry has also been a concern of our committee. Marilyn Jemas, who has worked extensively in the prison system, has compiled and provided various ways in which our Chapters can support this forgotten outreach ministry to help incarcerated adults, youth and their families. Our Philoptochos Witness and Website will highlight the recommendations of Fr. Stephen Powley, Director of the Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM) as well as other programs and projects
- Helping victims of Human Trafficking continues to be a concern of this committee. By utilizing our Website, Philoptochos Members can obtain information regarding specific agencies that assist these victims. We are continually updating our Website.