

## National Philoptochos Society 2016-2018 Committee Report



### Saint Basil Academy

*Co-Chairs: Joanne Stavrakas and Kalli Tsitsipas*  
*Liaison: Joanne Stavrakas*  
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*Bessie Drogaris Evellyn Tsiadis*  
*Joanne Kakoyiannis*

Saint Basil Academy is one of the most important and beloved ministries of the National Philoptochos Society, celebrating its 74th Anniversary this year, provides a loving and safe environment, quality education and religious life for all Orthodox children as a licensed residential child-care institution in America. Focusing on the total child, spiritually, emotionally, addressing their needs and nurturing them into adulthood.

The Academy is under the guidance of the Archdiocese, Philoptochos is the land owner of the property and buildings. Chapters throughout the country assist through their commitments from Vasilopita and the Sisterhood for the maintenance of the entire facility, salaries and most importantly the care of precious lives. The Sisterhood Fund provides for the ongoing needs for the children of the Academy and graduation expenses.

The Zoe Cavalaris Fund provides for tutors in the Learning Center for the continued academic success of the children and scholarships for the high school students planning to attend college.

Currently there are 21 children residing in a safe environment, participating in extracurricular activities including baseball, soccer, basketball and chorus. Their smiles will brighten a room, while the family histories and reasons for being at Saint Basil Academy will tear at your heart. Each child is treated as an individual, abilities are examined, and appropriate programs are structured for each child. The children are amazing and astound us with their strong desire to strive for excellence academically and in extracurricular activities.

Children have visited cities during Vasilopita Celebrations in Houston, Denver and surrounding east coast cities, speaking as “ambassadors” at Vasilopita celebrations about their “home” the Saint Basil Academy. Some children return to their families for holidays, spring break and summer, others stay with host families.

The Bridge Program is thriving and provides an extended home for those children who continue to live at the Academy and continue their education after high school graduation. This program provides a healthy and supportive environment that prepares young people to make the transition from adolescence to adulthood. It helps them to develop the skills and self-esteem needed to successfully work and live independently.

## **St. Basil Academy (continued)**

Graduation was held on Saturday, June 2, 2018, a splendid day of heartwarming and touching commentary from the high school graduates down to the pre-school ones. Guests included His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, our President Maria Logus, National Philoptochos Board members, AHEPA family members, families from the surrounding parishes and well-wishers from near and far.

Saturday, September 29, 2018 is the Annual 5K Walk on the grounds of the Academy. All are invited to participate and have an opportunity to meet the children and see our awesome Saint Basil Academy.

We encourage every steward of Philoptochos to visit the Academy to witness and be a part of the lives of the children, seeing firsthand the "Miracles on the Hudson, our children of Saint Basil Academy." The website of the Academy has a plethora of information that includes the SBA Fact Sheet, the SBA Brochure, Referral Brochure and the Student Application, all that can be downloaded and duplicated for use by the Philoptochos chapter and Parish Priest to raise awareness and refer children. As one of our committee members states, "you do not know what an incredible asset Saint Basil Academy is until you visit."

As our beloved Archbishop Demetrios often states ***"if we save one child, then it is all worth it."***