

National Philoptochos Society 2016-2018 Committee Report



UNICEF

Co-Chairs: Ourania Soumas & Irene Steffas
Liaison: Jeannie Ranglas
Members: Elaine Kevgas
Evellyn Tsiadis

Background: UNICEF is an annual commitment that provides humanitarian and developmental assistance to children and mothers. UNICEF works in more than 190 countries to protect the rights of every child and to provide emergency relief, immunizations, clean water and sanitation, nutrition, education, nutrition, health (physical and mental – trauma) care and most importantly, Hope. UNICEF has the greatest resources, including infrastructure and manpower, to make the greatest impact.

AWARD AT FORMAL MEETING in NYC with Caryl M. Stern, President and CEO of UNICEF, where National Philoptochos presented a \$50,000.00 donation to UNICEF. The 2017 UNICEF - USA Annual Report names **National Philoptochos Society**, as an **ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNER..**

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America is an active member of the **United Nations INTERFAITH PROGRAM**. With the blessing of Bishop Sevastianos of Zela, advisor of the National Philoptochos Society, sisters of Philoptochos have attended the day-long seminars led by Program Director Rabbi Diane.

- **Partnerships to End Forced Labor;**
- **Children on the Move--Preventing Child Trafficking; and**
- **Working with the UN Global Plan of Action**

Additionally, sisters attended the following conferences:

“The Blue Campaign” – a day-long conference focused on identifying and combating human trafficking: see their website for greater details and helpful instructions;

“Not On My Watch” – a call-to-action program training against domestic violence; Motto: *Educating, Equipping, & Engaging;*

“Faith In Action” – the focus was dealing with physical, mental, and the often overlooked and/or forgotten ... but destructive... spiritual abuse;

“Safe Horizons” – a collaboration of NYC Police Dept. and the NYC Law Department, which prevents child abuse, aids homeless youth, and combats the exploitation of teen labor;

“Celebrating Survivors” – a joint presentation by a number of supporting agencies and remarks by young survivors of trafficking, now united with their family members; and

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“HAWAR Projects” – the screening of the film, *“A Cry for Help”*, which was followed by a discussion of ongoing genocide, enslavement, and sexual violence (of both sexes) and children by ISIS in Iraq: additional work by HAWAR to rescue and empower women, provide a safe haven for them and their children and support the social integration of displaced refugees.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Chapters should continue to financially support UNICEF;
- Chapters are encouraged to reach out to UNICEF offices, located in many cities; and
- Sisters and chapters participating in UN Programs are encouraged to share their information with this committee.