

2018 Philoptochos Convention
Small Group Breakout Sessions – July 4, 2018

Discussion Topic: International Orthodox Christian Charities, IOCC

Facilitators: Dean Triantafilou, Executive Director, IOCC
Stacey Mason, Director of Operations, IOCC
Elaine Cladis, National Board Member
Marian Catechis, National Board Member

Dean gave an overview and history of IOCC to each of the 8 groups.

- To date, IOCC has given/assisted Aid to 60 Countries.
 - Since 1992, \$600,061,000 has been disbursed in aid.
 - In 2017, 1.9 Million individuals received IOCC aid.
- IOCC has partnered with Philoptochos for 26 years.
'We speak with one voice'.
- IOCC gives aid in the same spirit that the Charitable work of the Society is disbursed:
 - With discretion, courtesy and kindness.
- The Homefront Program, focuses on the US.
 - It's objective: Preparedness, response and recovery.
 - IOCC identifies Churches that can be used for shelters in case of a disaster.
 - They determine what resources the church has on hand to become a shelter/center.
 - Front Liners serve when disasters occur. Those involved need certain credentials.
 - There are 14 Clergy and 4 laymen serving as Front liners.
 - 3 Hurricanes devastated the US, Front Liners served 150 families, mucked out 69 homes in 8 parishes.

Stacey Mason spoke on some of the programs of IOCC

Stacey stated that ¼ of humanity are in need.

Most are in the 10 – 24 age group.

- IOCC offers aid, without discrimination, to the world with their on - going programs. They respond immediately to disasters, disbursing disaster aid.
 - Some programs offer long term sustainability.
 - Working with Apostoli in Greece, (the IOCC of Greece) a creamery is supported that offers jobs to 1000 neighboring people.
 - IOCC also works with Ecumenical Churches regarding some programs, and receive leverage resources.
 - At risk Youths are given training in computer coding skills.
 - Low Income students are tutored to assist with their Entrance Exams.
 - In Uganda, Africa, IOCC partnered with the Saint Nektarios Fund to build 3 schools.

- Some programs offer immediate assistance:
 - Fresh fruits and vegetables are disbursed, soup kitchens are supplied, and various kits are disbursed.

Questions that were asked:

1. How does IOCC make assessments as to where and what to aid?
 - There is a formal matrix that IOCC follows.
 - Internationally, leverage partners differ with each location.
 - We deal with the local Orthodox church in the region.
 - In the US, we work with the church and local ministries.
 - We meet as a group to decide how best to use resources, who navigates, who manages, accountability.
 - The Church capacity is assessed, IOCC capacity, partner's monetary (Leverage) involvement.
2. Matching Funds (Leverage) comes from different partners with the same intent.
 - Donor intent very important as leverage is a key aspect.
 - Matching the needs of donors to the location/cause.
 - Show work that will be done, put in IOCC money first to show good faith and the money comes in.
3. Risk to workers in the field.
 - IOCC assesses the security present in the area, if high risk, we are very careful, if we are not comfortable, we pull back.
 - Government regulations in hostel areas includes a monitoring system, we must document process of where funds are spent.
 - Eyes and ears on the ground.
4. How many paid employees?
 - There are 28 paid employees in Baltimore.
 - There are 110 paid in the field.
 - Partner (Donor) paid staff is handled differently.
5. Return Investment?
 - Historically it hovers around .92 cents on a dollar. There are regulations, and compliance issues that need to be followed.
6. Where does IOCC rank nationally?
 - This tends to change year to year depending on the programs;
 - Historically, we rank 7th.
7. How can we help?
 - Support IOCC Sunday, which occurs the Sunday before Thanksgiving.
 - Donate, become a monthly donor.
 - Local Philoptochos Chapters most helpful. They assemble Health Kits, Emergency Kits, School Kits and Hygiene Kits.
 - Engage the entire parish, the Youth of the parish.
 - All Kits are stored in a warehouse that includes kits from other denominations.

8. How to volunteer to assist?
 - We can sign up on line, for domestic programs only.
 - Domestic programs involve, time, labor and commitment to typically, build homes.
9. Annual Budget:
 - Yearly, an operational plan is formed. This consists of what countries IOCC will assist for the year.
 - IOCC Has a reserve fund set aside to assist when disasters occur.

In conclusion:

- Relief work isn't just about assistance and distribution, it is also about preserving the dignity of an individual.
- IOCC is an extension of the Church, Ambassadors of the faith.
- There is a 6 - day program 'How to Serve God' on IOCC's website.

All 8 Breakout meetings were very successful.

Elaine Cladis