



THE GOOD SAMARITAN  
GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY  
OF THE  
CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

REPORT OF CHAPTER CHALLENGE PROJECT - METROPOLIS OF BOSTON

In the spring of 2012, our Philoptochos accepted the Chapter Challenge Project for the Metropolis of Boston. In the fall, we discussed many ideas and decided on a Prayer Shawl Ministry. While this is not a "new idea," it was one with which we felt we would be successful. We developed this project on a regular basis. We began crocheting shawls in September, 2012. We met on Monday mornings, crocheted, and prayed as we crocheted. Our first target date was for the Christmas visitations with our two priests, to homebound and nursing home parishioners (35 shawls).

We continued meeting and crocheting on Monday mornings. We then contacted the Hellenic Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Canton, MA. There were 60 residents (Greek Orthodox), and our crochet group visited and presented each one with a prayer shawl. Next, we contacted Women's and Infants' Hospital in Providence, RI. We were directed to the Chaplain there, and were told there were 2 areas of dire need: women chemo patients, and small blankets/hats for preemie babies. We delivered 60 prayer shawls and 50 preemie blankets (12" square and hats the size of lemons). Both times, we met with the Chaplain and other personnel and prayed for the recipients of these shawls. Our next focus was the Veterans' Hospital in Providence, RI. To include women who do not crochet or knit, we made fleece blankets. These blankets were for end-of-life patients in "Comfort Care." We delivered 30 blankets. Next on our list was the Bristol Veterans' Home. Again, we made 60 prayer shawls and brought them to the Veterans there. We met and chatted with some of the veterans and gave them their shawls. These shawls were red, white, and blue. The veterans were so proud to have their shawls in these national colors. We also met with the Chaplain of Roger Williams Hospital, Providence, RI, delivered 35 prayer shawls, and prayed for the patients receiving them. Over the Christmas holiday we went to Philoxenia House in Brookline, MA and brought prayer shawls, handed out blankets, and delivered Christmas gifts to the residents, and visited with them. Additionally, we have another project in our chapter, 40 Day Baby Blessing Gift Bags, in which we have included crocheted baby blankets. Included also in this Prayer Shawl Ministry Project are hats, scarves, and other prayer shawls which we have donated to homeless shelters in Rhode Island. Before we deliver any of these items, we pray with Father Andrew George, our parish priest, and he blesses the prayer shawls or blankets. We leave icon prayer cards with each shawl for the Greek Orthodox Christians, and sew labels with our parish, city and chapter's name.

Anna Demetrakas, Project Chair    Bessie Papigiotis, Project Co-Chair