

Metropolis: Detroit

Chapter Name: Dayton, Ohio Philoptochos Society, Soteria Chapter

Chapter Challenge Project Title: ***American Heroes***

Presenters: Sandy Alex, Cindy Keilholz, Nikki Burns

## **Project Summary**

The goal of the American Heroes project is to raise awareness of the needs of our Veterans and active service men and women. We involved all our Greek Orthodox Annunciation parish organizations. We developed a strategy that included three key areas:

- Volunteering our time
- Fundraising
- Recognizing and thanking our American Heroes

### Volunteering Our Time at the Dayton VA Medical Center

- YAL sponsored Bingo nights
- Daughters of Penelope handmade blankets for the VA Hospice Unit
- GAPA sponsored a clothing drive for veterans and service personnel in need

### Fundraising: Over \$20,000 was raised for our local VA and area service men and women

- Proceeds from two of our annual spring luncheons were used to purchase 2 wheelchair scales, patient education brochures for the Behavioral Health Unit and make a donation to the Hospice family meal fund
- Proceeds from our Skyline Chili restaurant night were used to purchase 15 iPads and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder books
- GOYA and the Greek School students raised funds with an art event to sponsor children of deployed military to attend Operation Military Kids summer camp
- Philoptochos purchased a golf cart to transport Veterans to and from an onsite garden which is used to supply local food banks
- Philoptochos' monthly Community Care Ministry devoted seven months to raising funds for local military organizations such as Blue Star Mothers and VA Social and Family Services

### Recognizing and Thanking Our American Heroes

- Catechism students and parish adults wrote letters of thanks and appreciation to deployed military men and women
- Daughters of Penelope and Maids of Athena sponsored a Greek Night at the VA with dinner, live music and entertainment provided by our Greek dancers
- Philoptochos sponsored a Veterans Day recognition event honoring our own American Heroes. The event, honored by the attendance of Metropolitan Nicholas, included special recognition for the honorees, a memorial service, a luncheon hosted by GAPA and a beautiful photo display