



Philanthropy Witness



The Official Newsletter of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society

CHILDREN'S MEDICAL FUND LUNCHEON

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 4

SPECIAL EDITION AUGUST 2013

President's Message

Aphrodite Skeadas, National President



Beloved Philoptochos Sisters,

"Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God."
Luke 18:16

With the Paternal Blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, it is with great delight and anticipation that I look forward to greeting you at the upcoming 2013 National Philoptochos Society Children's Medical Fund Luncheon in the Holy Metropolis of Pittsburgh, under the Spiritual Leadership of His Eminence Metropolitan Savas.

The Children's Medical Fund Luncheon is an expression of love offered by the entire Philoptochos Sisterhood throughout the country. This year's grants will serve the medical needs of critically ill children in hospitals and programs in

the Metropolis of Pittsburgh, as well as fund the National Philoptochos Children's Medical Fund that will benefit children with life threatening illnesses, children's programs and research throughout the country.

Please plan to attend the 14th Children's Medical Fund Luncheon in Pittsburgh on Saturday, October 12, 2013. The Chairs of the biennial event, led by the capable Metropolis of Pittsburgh Philoptochos President Rosemary Nikas, assure a spectacular affair with Mike Emanuel serving as Master of Ceremonies. The Children's Medical Fund offers hope for a better life to medically fragile children. Please support the CMF Luncheon by your presence on October 12 and through your generous sponsorship. Let us be together in the spectacular city of Pittsburgh so we may experience the joy and camaraderie of our magnificent Sisterhood that will benefit our Orthodox family and the community at large.

With love in Christ,

Aphrodite Skeadas

Aphrodite Skeadas



Welcome Message
Rosemary Nikas, President
Metropolis of Pittsburgh Philoptochos



Dear Philoptochos Sisters and Honored Guests,

The Metropolis of Pittsburgh Philoptochos is honored to host the 14th Biennial Children's Medical Fund Luncheon on behalf of the National Philoptochos Society with the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and His Eminence Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh.

Have you made your reservations and purchased your raffle tickets yet? We at the Metropolis of Pittsburgh are eagerly awaiting your arrival at the Children's Medical Fund Luncheon, on Saturday, October 12th at the Fairmont Pittsburgh

This is the first time that we have the honor of hosting this momentous event and we have been hard at work planning an enjoyable outing. Mike Emanuel of Fox News will be our Master of Ceremonies and you're sure to enjoy him as he presides over the event.

Our guest speaker will be Georgette M. Constantinou, Ph.D, Administrative Director of Pediatric Psychiatry and Psychology, Behavioral Health Cluster in the Department of Pediatrics at Akron Children's Hospital. In addition to her many accolades Dr. Constantinou is a dynamic speaker and has been an invited guest on the Oprah Winfrey show, the Morning Exchange and on radio talk shows.

Over the years, the Children's Medical Fund has contributed more than \$2.7 million to support children's health care organizations at the forefront of innovative programs and services.

It has also provided financial assistance for the medical care of critically ill children whose families are either uninsured or under-insured. The Children's Medical Fund has also provided funding for hospital equipment, programs and research which benefit all children with serious medical or surgical diagnoses. At our last CMF Luncheon hosted by the Direct Archdiocesan District in Old Greenwich, Connecticut, over \$204 thousand was given out as Grants to 17 different organizations and research centers that deal specifically with the illnesses of our children.

We also want you to take in the sites of our beautiful city with its museums, science center, National Aviary and historic inclines to name a few. Our venue at the Fairmont is a green building, newly constructed just two years ago at Market Square in the heart of the downtown area. You are only two blocks away from our Cultural District and also Point State Park where you can walk to the confluence of our three rivers, the Monongahela and Allegheny where they join to form the Ohio. Also, at this point there is a 30 foot high fountain which is fed by our fourth river, an underground one at that.

But enough said about the venue. We need the support of all of our Philoptochos Chapters and stewards in order to make this year's event a success. Please join us by attending our luncheon and by supporting us monetarily so that we can achieve our goal.

With Sisterly Love,

Rosemary Nikas , President
Metropolis of Pittsburgh Philoptochos Society





2013 CHILDREN'S MEDICAL FUND LUNCHEON

The Metropolis of Pittsburgh Philoptochos invites you to the

2013 Children's Medical Fund Luncheon

on Saturday, October 12th

at the Fairmont Hotel in Pittsburgh, PA

The luncheon donation is \$125 per person

To reserve or purchase tickets for the Luncheon, please contact:

MICHELLE KOTSAGRELOS

412.680.1416

email: mmk8317@hotmail.com

2013 CMF GRAND DRAWING

You can show your support for the 2013 Children's Medical Fund by purchasing tickets for the Grand Drawing. The Drawing will be held at the CMF Luncheon on Saturday, October 12th and winners need not be present to win.

The Grand Drawing includes over 20 fabulous prizes! Fine jewelry from designers Konstantino, David Yurman and Tiffany's Gorgeous handbags from Louis Vuitton and Dooney & Burke. Glittering Waterford Crystal. Gift Cards in generous amounts from American Express, Visa, Macy's and Nordstrom's. Plus more!

Tickets are \$10 each or 3 tickets for \$25

For tickets and information please contact:

DESPINA DENNE: 610.678.8006

email: desdenne@comcast.net

THANA WARD: 717.249.8892

email: wardet123@embarqmail.com

CMF COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM CONTRIBUTIONS

The deadline for sending your personal or Chapter donation for the CMF Commemorative Program is fast approaching!

Donors will be listed by Contribution Level in the Commemorative Program which will be distributed at the CMF Luncheon on October 12, 2013

LEVELS OF CONTRIBUTION

Platinum.....	\$20,000 or more
Gold.....	\$10,000
Silver.....	\$5,000
Bronze.....	\$2,500
Patron.....	\$1,000
Sponsor.....	\$500
Donor.....	\$250
Supporter.....	\$100
Friend.....	\$_____

**All checks should be made payable to:
National Philoptochos Society
Children's Medical Fund**

**All checks & forms should be sent by
August 30, 2013 to:**

**VASSO PALIOURAS
114 Hoodridge Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15228**

Highlights of September, 2013 issue of the Philanthropy Witness

- * Philoptochos Constantinople Pilgrimage
 - * "Aid to Greece & Cyprus"
- National Philoptochos Fellowship Sunday
September 22, 2013
- * "Alpha-Omega Achievement Award" presented to Philoptochos
- * Update on move to the Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy
 - * Monthly Commitments
 - * Philoptochos Metropolis Elections

National Philoptochos Promotes Its Mission Through Children's Medical Fund



The Children's Medical Fund Luncheon began as the Cancer Fund Luncheon in 1989 in New York with a second Cancer Fund Luncheon held in 1990. These successful events provided funds for Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital for the Greek Children's Cancer Fund and for the Kids-n-Cancer

program. In 1991 this event was officially named the Children's Medical Fund Luncheon.

National Philoptochos expanded its Cardiac program to include all life-threatening illnesses, including AIDS, Cancer, kidney and liver ailments, juvenile diabetes, etc. A major luncheon is sponsored by a different Metropolis biennially to support this program. More than one million dollars has been contributed:

- To children's hospitals in the United States at the forefront of innovative programs to assist in the medical care of Orthodox children and non - Orthodox
- To provide financial assistance to pay for the medical care of critically ill children including children from Greece who have come to America seeking medical care
- To provide hospitals funding for research programs, which benefit all children with serious medical problems

In addition to direct grants, the remaining balances in the Children's Medical Fund are used by the National Philoptochos Social Services Department for assistance to individuals and for grants to hospitals and various organizations.

The Children's Medical Fund affords National Philoptochos the unique opportunity to achieve its mission, "to promote charitable, benevolent and philanthropic outreach, to preserve the sanctity of life and family, and to perpetuate and promote our Orthodox faith and traditions."

A Caring Hand The Billy Esposito Foundation Vivian Siempos, Communications Manager



Georgia Skeadas, Past National Philoptochos President and Maria Skiadas, Direct Archdiocesan District Philoptochos President presented Robin F.

Goodman, Ph. D., A.T.R.-BC, Executive Director and Jennifer Nye, Board Member, of A Caring Hand – The Billy Esposito Foundation with a \$10,000 check from the 2011 National Philoptochos Children's Medical Fund Luncheon to expand and continue to offer services to children and their care takers dealing with grief.

The Foundation was started by Susan Esposito-Lombardo in memory of her father who died in the World Trade Center on September 11, 2011. "Out of the pain of her own grief she created an organization to bring healing and hope to other bereaved families," said Dr. Goodman.

According to Dr. Goodman, "There weren't any bereavement services in the entire city of New York!" That realization prompted the organization to start offering them. The Foundation, in its inception, provided scholarships to bereaved children and helped bereavement programs throughout the world but when the realization hit that there weren't any non-profit organizations in all of New York City dealing with child bereavement, they began offering direct services in 2008.

Since 2008, A Caring Hand has worked with over 400 bereaved children and their caregivers. Their mission is to meet bereaved children and families wherever they are in their grief and fulfill their needs in a caring and knowledgeable environment through services to help them with their emotional journey and financial assistance to aid their future education.

To learn more about A Caring Hand or to volunteer, visit website <http://acaringhand.org/>.

Dr. Goodman said, "It takes many caring hands to do our work. We need all kinds of expertise – you never know when a special hobby or skill can be put to good use."

**Working to Eradicate the
Stigma of Mental Health Services**
Vivian Siempos, Communications Manager



“Unfortunately, stigma about receiving mental health services, let alone addiction services still presents a major obstacle in access to care for many. Both the integration of health with mental health care and expanding our roots in the community are vital in our future delivery of care.”
-St. Luke’s Roosevelt Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health brochure

A \$10,000 grant from the 2011 National Philoptochos Children’s Medical Fund Luncheon was presented to Saint Luke’s Roosevelt Hospital Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health in New York by Maria Skiadas, Direct Archdiocesan District Philoptochos President and Helen Demos, National Board member. The \$10,000 grant went towards mental health education and outreach for Greek children and families in Manhattan.

The mission of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health is threefold, encompassing excellence in service, teaching, and advancing knowledge of cutting-edge research. Their services are geared to people in the communities where they live, empowering individuals to change their lives.

The Child and Family Institute, a program within the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health, is dedicated to the early detection and treatment of children with mental health issues. Children with undiagnosed and untreated emotional health problems are more likely to

perform poorly in school, drop out of school, get in trouble with the law, have difficulty finding a job, and use drugs. The earlier emotional health problems are detected and treated, the better children will do in the long run. Saint Luke’s Roosevelt is helping more kids survive and thrive by helping them deal with their problems.

The grant given by the National Philoptochos Society will allow for The Child and Family Institute (CFI) to reach out to the greater NYC Greek community. They have already translated the CFI brochure to Greek to facilitate education of their services to parents who may be monolingual Greek speakers and have started their outreach by contacting Greek schools in the five boroughs of the city.

For more information about The Child and Family Institute Outpatient Department which is located at Saint Luke’s and Roosevelt Hospitals or if you know a Greek child or a family who could use their help contact:

Main Phone: 212.523.4885
Intake Coordinator: 212.523.3082
<http://www.childfamilyinstitute.ny.org/>

**Making Kids Better
Today and Healthier Tomorrow**
Vivian Siempos, Communications Manager



Recently we've been hearing a lot about the state of health care in this country. We hear about the cost and options or the lack thereof. Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, more specifically, Hughes Spalding is a place where the emphasis is on ensuring all receive the health care they need regardless of their insurance.

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta's mission is to make kids better today and healthier tomorrow. They provide some of the most vulnerable children with world class medical care, helping uninsured children from low income families. Children's is one of the largest pediatric systems in the country, the system has three hospitals, of which Hughes Spalding is one, and 17 neighborhood locations with a passion for ensuring all children have access to the specialized care they require.

On September 11, 2012 Joanna Snider, Chapter President at the Annunciation Cathedral in Atlanta presented Elesha Mavrommatis, Development Officer for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, and Lovette Russell, Chair of Hughes Spalding Community Board, with a donation of \$4,000 from the 2011 National Philoptochos Children's Medical Fund Luncheon. Helen S. Carlos, a Philoptochos member from Marietta, GA was the initial contact for the proposal and serves on the Hughes Spalding Community Board.

The grant supports the Primary Care clinic at Children's Hughes Spalding, helping to provide

medical care access to Atlanta's neediest children. It is important to note that Hughes Spalding provides medical care to thousands of children each year. They are primarily the children of the working poor; more than 90% are on Medicaid or are uninsured. Approximately 84 percent of Hughes Spalding patients are on Medicaid and Medicaid pays for approximately 82 percent of the costs incurred for care. Children's is the No. 1 Medicaid provider in Georgia, serving eight out of 10 inpatient Medicaid cases in metro Atlanta and almost four out of 10 statewide. Community support is critical to fill the gap that is left with an annual shortfall of eight to nine million dollars due to the high level of unreimbursed care.

"Children's provides care regardless of a family's ability to pay for that care. We are able to do so only with the support of generous individuals and organizations, like Philoptochos. The recent grant from Philoptochos will sponsor Primary Care visits for 16 children! I am grateful for the support of those who invest in our work. I deeply believe that all children should have access to great medical care – whether their families are able to pay for that care or not. If children truly are our future, which I believe they are, then we must invest in their well-being." - Elesha Mavrommatis, Development Officer for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

The Primary Care clinic greatly enhances access and quality of care for many low-income children. The Primary Care clinic is a medical home to 9,500 children. It is a pediatrician's office in a hospital setting. In the past, these children have gone to the Emergency department for everything from check-ups to emergency services. Children's has strived to change this pattern of use. When a family arrives to the Emergency department for a non-emergency visit, they are shown to the Primary Care clinic where they learn to utilize the primary care services.

"Our visit was so enlightening and we were all deeply impressed with both the facilities and the excellence of the physicians and staff. It was truly a wonderful experience. It was a proud day for the Philoptochos sisters who were there and reaffirms why we all work so hard to help others.

Valine Georgeson, National Philoptochos Board Member.