



# GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

## GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, Inc.

For immediate release: November 17, 2015

### NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS DISTRIBUTES \$682,027 AT

#### CHILDREN'S MEDICAL FUND LUNCHEON AND NATIONAL BOARD MEETING

**Boston, MA:** In the final days of October, National Philoptochos distributed \$682,027 to worthy causes and programs. At the Children's Medical Fund Luncheon, \$167,000 was awarded in grants and at an earlier National Board meeting, the Board voted to distribute \$515,027, which included the notable sum of \$400,000 for the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine.

The Philoptochos events began on October 29 with participation in the inauguration of Reverend Christopher T. Metropulos as the 21<sup>st</sup> President of Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. Women of Philoptochos shared in the celebration by attending the inaugural ceremony, where National Philoptochos President Maria Logus offered warm greetings on behalf of the Society.

Under the high patronage of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America and with the spiritual blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston, the Fifteenth National Philoptochos Children's Medical Fund Luncheon was held Saturday, October 31 at the Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel in Boston, MA with almost 650 attendees from throughout the United States. The event, entitled "Let Us Rejoice and Embrace the Children," was organized by the National Philoptochos and the Metropolis of Boston.

At the Luncheon, President Logus and Metropolis of Boston Philoptochos President and Luncheon Chair Frances Levas presented donations totaling \$167,000 to ten organizations including hospitals, universities and programs that will benefit children throughout the Metropolis of Boston.

#### 2015 Children's Medical Fund Recipients

Baystate Pediatric Endocrinology - Springfield, MA Improving Access to Pediatric Diabetes Care through Video Communication	\$12,000
Camp Sunshine at Sebago Lake, Inc. - Casco, ME Family Sponsorship Program for those affected by life threatening childhood illness	\$10,000
Cooley Dickinson Hospital - Northampton, MA Cooley Dickinson Emergency Department Pediatric Rooms	\$20,000
Hasbro Children's Hospital - Providence, RI Pediatric Intensive Care Family Room	\$20,000
Health Imperatives, Inc. - Brockton, MA Violence Intervention and Prevention Programs for crisis counseling and therapeutic support	\$10,000
Julia's Wings Foundation - Sherman, CT Financial Assistance for Families of children at Boston Children's Hospital and Dana Farber Cancer Institute for daily living expenses and non-covered medical costs	\$10,000
Matthew Hearts of Hope Organization - Sherman, CT Congenital Heart Defect Research Grants including 3D imagery screenings not covered by Insurance at Boston Children's Hospital	\$25,000



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Mount Auburn Hospital - Cambridge, MA \$20,000  
Phototherapy for the Treatment of Neonatal Hyperbilirubinemia (Newborn Jaundice)

New England Disabled Sports (NEDS) - Lincoln, NH \$25,000  
General Support of Adaptive Sports Programs for Children Living with Disabilities

UMass Memorial Children's Medical Center: Palliative Care Program - Worcester, MA \$15,000  
Advancing Palliative Care for Children Facing Life Limiting Conditions

Boston news anchor Maria Stephanos presided as a warm and enthusiastic Master of Ceremonies and musical works were offered by 'Romanos the Melodist' Byzantine Choir from Hellenic College Holy Cross.

The true purpose of the Luncheon was given full meaning as the audience listened to Keynote Speaker Jeanette G. Clough, President and CEO of Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Expounding on the vast physical and emotional problems faced by so many children in our society, she quoted Frederick Douglass, who said, "It is easier to build strong children, than to mend broken men".

Beck Shutte, a visually impaired young athlete representing New England Disabled Sports, gave a moving account of his journey, affirming the necessity of organizations that support children's health.

In a gracious offering, author Nick Katsoris donated 300 books from his Loukoumi series, which raised \$3,900 for the Children's Medical Fund. The books will be sent to local organizations that benefit children.

A tribute was given to 2013 Children's Medical Fund Luncheon chair Rosemary Nikas for her inspiring leadership at the previous edition of the event. Special gratitude went to 2015 Chair Levas and Co-Chairs Christine Karavites, Elaine Kevgas and Georgia Lagadinos as well as the entire Luncheon Committee from the Metropolis of Boston and across the country.

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios delivered inspiring reflections and a benediction to conclude the Luncheon, capping off an event focused on good will and love for children.

The fall meeting of the National Philoptochos Board was held prior to the Children's Medical Fund Luncheon, on the campus of Hellenic College Holy Cross.

At the meeting, the National Board voted upon and approved disbursements totaling \$515,027, resulting from the good works of Philoptochos chapters nationwide. Most notably, a \$400,000 check was presented to His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios for St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine. The other recipients were: International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) for aid to Greece, Retired Clergy and Widowed Presvyteres Benevolent Fund (RCA), Support a Mission Priest (SAMP), International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) for Nepal Disaster Relief, Hellenicare for Aid to Armenia & Georgia and Shepherd's Centers of America (SCA) for Meals on Wheels (MOW).

On Sunday morning, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios celebrated the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston and His Grace Bishop Sevastianos of Zela, at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral of New England, uplifting everyone's spirits in the final hours of several successful and blessed days for the community and the women of Philoptochos.

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