

NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS • DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

SOCIAL SERVICES REPORT: JANUARY 1, 2016 to DECEMBER 16, 2016

2016 – 2018 Social Services Committee: Co-Chairs: *Efthalia (Lily) Katos and Stella Pantelidis*
 Services are delivered by: *Paulette Geanacopoulos, LMSW, Director of Social Work Services*

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|--|----------------------|
| UNDUPLICATED COUNT OF CLIENTS SERVED: | 171 |
| AMOUNT FINANCIAL GRANTS AWARDED: | \$ 189,724.28 |

| <u>CASES BY METROPOLIS (01.01 – 12.16.2016)</u> | 171 |
|--|------------|
| ATLANTA..... | 17 |
| BOSTON..... | 05 |
| CHICAGO..... | 09 |
| DENVER..... | 04 |
| DETROIT..... | 02 |
| DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT..... | 78 |
| NEW JERSEY..... | 30 |
| PITTSBURGH..... | 06 |
| SAN FRANCISCO..... | 11 |
| OTHER (<i>Greece, Syria, Cyprus, Germany, Uganda</i>)..... | 09 |

| <u>AGE OF CLIENTS:</u> | 171 |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| 2 days – 10 y.o..... | 12 |
| 11 – 20..... | 05 |
| 21 – 30..... | 07 |
| 31 – 40..... | 21 |
| 41 – 50..... | 22 |
| 51 – 60..... | 23 |
| 61 – 70..... | 33 |
| 71 – 80..... | 20 |
| 81 – 90..... | 14 |
| 91 – 99..... | 03 |
| N/A..... | 13 |

PRESENTING PROBLEMS / STATED NEED FOR SOCIAL SERVICES ASSISTANCE (171)

- 33..... HOUSING / HOMELESSNESS (*Eviction, mortgage default, utility arrears, street homeless, in shelter, doubled/ tripled up*)
- 33..... INADEQUATE INCOME / EMPLOYMENT-UNDEREMPLOYMENT (*out-of-pocket medical costs, food insecurity*)
- 31..... CANCER / OTHER MAJOR MEDICAL / MEDICAL
MS, Heart disease, Kidney transplant, Blindness, disability, diabetes, paraplegic, quadriplegic, CP, Seizure disorder,
- 23..... FUNERAL
- 19..... MENTAL ILLNESS (*Schizophrenia, Major Depression, Bereavement, Dementia, Bipolar, Borderline Personality Disorder, etc.*)
- 14..... DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (*Intimate partner abuse, elder abuse, child abuse*)
- 11..... DISASTER (*Floods*)
- 04..... SUBSTANCE ABUSE (*Alcohol use/abuse; legal & illegal substances, OTC, rehab/treatment*)
- 03..... ADOPTION

FINANCIAL GRANTS ANALYSIS:

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED | \$189,724.28 |
| TOTAL # GRANTS AWARDED | 72 |
| UNDUPLICATED COUNT OF CLIENTS AWARDED GRANT | 54 |

MONETARY RANGE OF INDIVIDUAL GRANTS: \$4.00 - \$7,500.00

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 05..... \$ 4.00 - 50.00 | 13..... \$2,000 - \$2,999 | 02..... \$5,000 |
| 13..... \$ 100.00 - 1,000.00 | 09..... \$3,000 - \$3,900 | 05..... \$6,000 - \$6,999 |
| 17..... \$1,001.00 - 1,999.00 | 03..... \$4,000 - \$4,500 | 05..... \$7,500 |

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS BY METROPOLIS: **\$ 189,724.28**

| | |
|---|------------------|
| ATLANTA (<i>11 GRANTS: 08 HOUSING/FLOOD DAMAGE; 03 MEDICAL</i>) | 34,027.55 |
| BOSTON (<i>03 GRANTS: 02 HOUSING; 01 TRANSPORTATION</i>)..... | 11,621.38 |
| CHICAGO (<i>06 GRANTS: 02 HOUSING; 02 UTILITY; 02 MEDICAL – 2 GREEK NATIONALS AT MAYO CLNIC...</i>)..... | 26,148.70 |
| DENVER (<i>03 GRANTS: 02 HOUSING; 01 EMERGENCY RELIEF – FOOD</i>) | 9,580.00 |
| DETROIT | -0- |
| DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT (DAD) | 80,314.93 |
| <i>(34 GRANTS: 12 HOUSING, 11 FUNERAL, 06 EMERGENCY RELIEF/FOOD, 05 MEDICAL EXPENSES)</i> | |
| NEW JERSEY (<i>08 GRANTS: 04 HOUSING, 02 FUNERAL, 02 EMERGENCY RELIEF</i>)..... | 15,651.40 |
| PITTSBURGH (<i>02 GRANTS: 01 HOUSING; 01 FUNERAL</i>) | 3,200.00 |
| SAN FRANCISCO (<i>04 GRANTS: 02 MEDICAL; 01 FUNERAL; 01 HOUSING</i>) | 9,180.32 |

Following case evaluations and submission of documentation, financial assistance is awarded on behalf of Orthodox Christians, regardless of their immigration status, with payments made directly to vendors for services rendered (medical care, housing, etc.) in the United States.

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NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK
Paulette Geanacopoulos, LMSW - Social Services Director
January 1 - December 16, 2016

2016 - 2018 NATIONAL SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE:

Co-Chairs: Eftalia (Lily) Katos and Stella Pantelidis
Liaison: Evan Scurtis

METROPOLIS PHILOPTOCHOS PRESIDENTS & SOCIAL SERVICES LIAISONS:

| | | | |
|----------|--|----------------|----------------------------|
| Atlanta: | Dee Nicolaou, President | Detroit: | Margaret Yates, President |
| | Marty Driscoll Presvytera Evi Kaplanis | New Jersey: | Anne Michals, President |
| Boston: | Fran Levas, President | | Eleni Constantinides |
| | Georgia Lagadinou | Pittsburgh: | Crystal Thomas, President |
| Chicago: | Pam Argyris, President | San Francisco: | Jeannie Ranglas, President |
| | Helen Theodosakis | | Lisa Xanthos |
| DAD: | Jennifer Constantin, President | | |
| | Georgeann Papadakis, Esq. | | |
| Denver: | Barbara Vittas, President | | |

PROGRAM FACTS-AT-A GLANCE:

- More than half of our clients live in poverty or near poverty. Many are women in single-parent headed households. In many situations, the "father" refuses to support his own children.
 - *As needed, we refer clients for debt management, credit counseling or budget management to the nonprofit National Foundation for Credit Counseling (NFCC) whose member agencies, nationwide, provide free and affordable services.*
- We address about one domestic violence case per month.
 - *We provide direct services including supportive counseling, housing relocation and financial assistance, as well as referrals for other social services; however, we cannot assist with or make referrals for their legal services needs.*
 - *We have conducted several educational programs and developed literature and fact sheets to educate members of our community about how we can assist victims and survivors in helpful, not hurtful ways.*
- Requests for contributions towards funeral and burial arrangements come to us from all over the United States with referrals from local chapters, family members, hospital social workers, medical examiners, funeral homes and more.
 - *During this reporting period, we helped arrange funerals and burials for fifteen indigent members of our community, four of whom were children under the age of 11 - one was two days old, and another four months old.*
 - *While our policies prohibit us from paying to transport remains back to Greece or another country of origin, we can and do contribute towards the preparation expenses required by law and airline regulations.*
- About 40% of our cases suffer from mental illness.
- Uncovered medical expenses continue to place serious financial burdens on members of our community - sometimes to the point of bankruptcy, eviction or mortgage foreclosure - whether or not they have health insurance coverage.
 - *Whenever possible, we negotiate reductions and/or discounts in bills - sometimes successfully, other times not.*
- An increasing number of persons seeking our help are homeless people who are living on the street, in subways or other public transportation hubs, or are in government or nonprofit shelters.
 - *Some of our clients are doubled- and tripled-up with family members. Because those in this category are 'indoors', they no longer are considered "homeless"; thus they do not qualify for many services and benefit programs.*
 - *A large number of women (with or without children) are homeless because of past domestic abuse relationships.*
 - *Many homeless people, including those that we see at Philoptochos, are employed, some full-time, others part-time; however, their incomes are insufficient to enable them to rent an apartment.*
 - *The bottom line to homelessness is there is an insufficient supply of affordable housing.*
 - *The longer a person is homeless, the harder it is for them to "relearn" how to live indoors.*
- We receive a significant number of requests for employment referrals - many from undocumented immigrants.
- We receive requests for referrals to subsidized housing from low- and moderate-income persons, many of whom are senior citizens. Because housing options are few and waiting lists are long, we are hard-pressed to assist.
 - *A significant number comprises undocumented older men who have been in the US for 25+ years. Being without 'papers', they do not qualify for benefits, and it is unrealistic for them to return to Greece as they have nothing and no one to return to.*
- Most of our clients thought they did everything right to prepare for the future, but because of a quirk of fate, a life-threatening illness, a disaster, or another situation that either catapults or slides them into difficulties, they face many financial and emotional challenges requiring interventions and assistance.
 - *It is very difficult for many of our clients to ask for help from anyone - let alone us.*
- While some of our clients may be perceived as having 'caused' their predicament because of poor judgment, we recognize that the path to good judgment frequently is paved by a series of poor ones.

We thank National Board members, Metropolis Presidents and local chapters for their support. While the recommended commitment to Social Services is \$350/year, we respectfully request those who can give more to do so. Social Services monies are well-spent, save lives, and give members of our community the breathing space they need to be able to develop the skills to manage on their own.

For more information please contact Paulette Geanacopoulos, LMSW at 212.977.7782 or by email at PauletteG@philoptochos.org