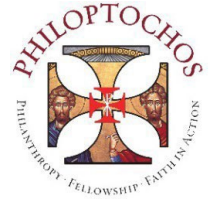




GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC.
GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE ^{OF} AMERICA



**Philoptochos Contributes \$250K for Turkey Earthquake Relief Efforts
in Collaboration with GOA and IOCC**

For Immediate Release: July 21, 2023

New York, NY – Continuing its highly successful collaboration with the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (GOA) and International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), the National Philoptochos Society Executive Board approved a \$200,000 disbursement to the GOA’s Turkey & Syria Earthquake Relief Fund. The monies are earmarked to support the IOCC’s on-the-ground reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts in communities affected by the February earthquakes. The decision was based on IOCC’s in-the-field due diligence and knowledge of where more assistance is needed at this time.

This is the second disbursement of funds from Philoptochos for the earthquake victims. An initial immediate disbursement of \$50,000 in February brings the total of Philoptochos’ emergency relief to \$250,000. Our donation constitutes a significant portion of the Archdiocese’s overall fundraising goal.

IOCC will use Philoptochos’ and the Archdiocese’s financial support to assist communities in Antakya and nearby areas in Hatay province. These funds will provide shelter for displaced families and empower approximately 540 households of earthquake survivors to access everyday necessities.

In Hatay alone, over 774,000 people are estimated to have lost their homes. The current temporary shelters in place are insufficient to support this displaced population. The funding will enable the IOCC to build transitional housing while the damaged properties are under repair. This housing will give families access to proper electricity, water, and sewage utilities. The earthquake victims will also be near their original homes, now undergoing repairs.

National Philoptochos President Arlene Siavelis Kehl says, “We are blessed to be able to extend our hand to alleviate some of the sufferings abroad. I want to thank everyone who generously opened their hearts to Turkey and Syria. We also thank and pray for the agents in the field as they work to fulfill the needs of those who lost everything.”

The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society has been a pillar in Orthodox Christian philanthropy for over 90 years, and its partnership with IOCC now stretches over three decades.

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The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society Inc. is the philanthropic arm of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America that has offered over 90 years of philanthropy through fundraising and charitable programs. Over 400 active chapters impact the lives of those in need in the United States and worldwide. Website: www.philoptochos.org