

## **NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY PROGRAMS AND MINISTRY COMMITMENTS**

### **Saint Basil Academy** – Vasilopita (January 2021) and Sisterhood (April 2021)

In March 1944, Archbishop Athenagoras recommended that the Philoptochos Society purchase the 250-acre Rupert Estate in Garrison, New York, located on the shores of the Hudson River, directly across from the United States Military Academy at West Point. With that purchase, and with the establishment of the Academy of St. Basil, Philoptochos undertook the lasting commitment to the children who reside there. Today, Philoptochos remains a major financial supporter of the Academy through two ministry commitments:

- **Vasilopita**: Held in January by every chapter in the United States, this event provides a major source of funding for the Academy's operating expenses.
- **Sisterhood**: The Sisterhood Fund provides for the ongoing needs of the children of the Academy, such as clothing, furnishings, equipment and other essentials for the dormitories and kitchens, as well as support for the Graduation ceremonies and special awards for students.

### **Social Services Fund/Cancer and Other Major Illness Fund** – January 2021

Following the recommendations of Archbishop Iakovos, Philoptochos has, since the late 1950s, focused on the implementation of important programs to benefit the Greek Orthodox community, including but not limited to the institutions of the church, but also programs assisting Orthodox families.

Since 1987, the National Philoptochos Office has employed a licensed Social Worker to assist the Greek Orthodox community in the United States, as well as Greek and Cypriot nationals. The Department of Social Services is a critical and vital component of the Society. The mission of the Department is to improve the quality of life of those in need, in a way that maintains the dignity and self-respect of the individual. Through confidential and professional services, the office provides outreach, education, information, support, motivation, advocacy, financial assistance, and referrals to local and broader resources.

As uncovered medical costs continue to be a key concern in the United States, the Philoptochos cancer and other major illness' fund provides relief to members of our community, regardless of immigration status, so that they can focus on their health and health care needs rather than their financial challenges

### **Autism Assistance Fund** – February 2021

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention has called Autism a "national public health crisis" more common than pediatric cancer, diabetes and AIDS combined. This fund provides assistance and support to persons within the Autism spectrum and promotes education to heighten Autism awareness.

### **Saint Photios Shrine** – February 2021

In 1965, the Archdiocese purchased the Avero House in historic Saint Augustine, Florida, to commemorate the arrival of the first Greek settlers in the New World in 1768. Philoptochos continues its commitment to provide financial assistance towards the preservation of the National Shrine.

### **Orthodox Christian Missions and Support a Mission Priest** – March 2021

The Society offers financial assistance to Orthodox Christian Mission organizations, strengthening their ability to carry the message of the Orthodox Church through media and missions, throughout the world. In addition, the Support a Mission Priest ministry enables Orthodox bishops and priests in mission areas to build and restore churches, community centers, schools and medical facilities, and to participate in training, teaching and field management.

### **Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology** – Lenten Event (March 2021) and Scholarship Fund (September 2021)

Archbishop Athenagoras established the Holy Cross School of Theology in June 1937, in Pomfret, Connecticut. The Archbishop addressed a special appeal to the Philoptochos to devote themselves to the School, “where your sons will be educated as priests and teachers.” Over eighty years later, Philoptochos continues its strong commitment to and financial support of Hellenic College/Holy Cross through the following programs:

- **HCHC Lenten Event**: On the Third Sunday of Lent, observing the Veneration of the Holy Cross, Philoptochos chapters sponsor a Lenten Event, following the Divine Liturgy, with proceeds dedicated to operating expenses of the School.
- **HCHC Scholarship Fund**: Scholarships are awarded to worthy and dedicated students, both men and women at Hellenic College and seminarians at Holy Cross to assist with tuition expenses.

### **International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)** – April 2021

The IOCC is the humanitarian aid agency of Orthodox Christians, providing food, shelter, economic self-sufficiency and hope to those in need around the world. Philoptochos partners with IOCC to serve as first responders to major world disasters through and for education, health, and major necessities.

### **75th Anniversary Founders Fund** – May/June 2021

Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Philoptochos Society, this fund provides financial support to Greek Orthodox older adults and their families to assist with housing, utilities, unreimbursed or uncovered medical expenses, home health care, hospice, funerals, safety equipment, and specially approved projects and also provides support to existing continuing care facilities serving the aging Greek Orthodox population in the United States, and may support the establishment of similar facilities.

### **Orthodox Christian Fellowship Fund (OCF)** – May/June 2021

The OCF mission is to support fellowship on college campuses, whose members experience and witness the Orthodox Church through community life, prayer, service to others and study of faith. The fund provides support to more than 240 local OCF chapters throughout the country.

**Retired Clergy/Widowed Presvyteres Benevolent Fund (RCA)** – September 2021

Through this commitment, Philoptochos provides support for the Retired Clergy Association (RCA) of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America which was established in 1988 to provide support for retired clergy who face financial challenges.

**National Philoptochos Emergency Fund** – October 2021

This fund enables the Philoptochos Society to immediately respond to those in need in times of national or international crisis.

**Ecumenical Patriarchate** – November 2021

The philanthropies of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, such as Balikli Hospital and nursing home, schools, shrines, and parishes, are supported through this commitment.

**National Sisterhood of Presvyteres Benevolent Fund** – November 2021

The National Sisterhood of Presvyteres was established in 1982 and is comprised of all Presvyteres of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Philoptochos funds provide short-term support for clergy and/or their families in times of crisis.

**United National International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF)** – December 2021

In 1979, to commemorate the United Nation’s “International Year of the Child.” Philoptochos was designated a Non-Governmental Organization, working with the United Nations and UNICEF. Philoptochos’ donations help this global-organization protect the rights, health and well-being of children worldwide.

**General Medical Fund** – December 2021

Philoptochos receives numerous requests for financial assistance for adults afflicted with medical conditions which are outside the scope of restricted funds established by the Society. The Society utilizes this fund to aid in those cases where appropriate funding is not otherwise available.