

# **METROPOLIS OF DENVER**

## **Philoptochos Monthly News Tips**

January 1, 2008

Dear Philoptochos Chapter Presidents and Vice-Presidents:

Wishing you a very happy new year filled with abundant blessings.

Each month you will receive an e-mail with Philoptochos new tips. It will include news, information, ideas, special events and a few fund finds! His Eminence Metropolitan Isaiah will have some inspirational words for us each month titled "Metropolitan Minute".

Please share the Philoptochos New Tips with your members at your next general Philoptochos meeting.

### **METROPOLITAN MINUTE**

As we begin a new year, our hopes and aspirations are positive in that every beginning has new promises. Even though moral principles have been laid by the wayside by many, in order to promote the self, we are confident that our traditional standards and values will continue to prevail. Let us, therefore, go forth with a positive spirit in this new year, preserving our beautiful and god given blessings. May God's blessings abide with you and your loved ones throughout 2008.  
Metropolitan Isaiah.

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS**

Congratulations to His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios, on the occasions of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his elevation to the Episcopacy, as well as receiving the 2007 Athenagoras Human Rights Award, bestowed upon him by the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

## **CHILDREN'S MEDICAL FUND LUNCHEON**

Congratulations to General Chair, Valerie Roumeliotes, with her Co-Chairs, Patty Chacopoulos, Kathy Gavriel, Marina Koolootsedes and Jeannie Ranglas, of Newport Beach California, for a successful 11<sup>th</sup> National Philoptochos Children's Medical Luncheon. "Let us Rejoice and Embrace the Children".

The Children's Medical Fund Luncheon raised nearly \$500,000.

Michael Chiklis was guest speaker at the luncheon. He is an internationally renowned actor, director, producer and philanthropist. Mr. Chiklis supports and devotes his personal time to Autism Speaks/Cure Autism Now and The Children's Lifesaving Foundation.

The National Philoptochos had the privilege of announcing the Kick-Off of the National Philoptochos Autism Program at this Luncheon.

National Philoptochos President Georgia Skeadas, welcomed the New Metropolis President's, Maria Skeadas from the Direct Archdiocesan District, Joanne Stavrakas from Chicago, Barbara Latsonas from Denver, Evan Scurtis from Atlanta and Eleni Zaferes from Detroit, and welcomed the new National Board member, Peggy Vranas, from the Metropolis of Chicago. Sincere thanks to the outgoing Metropolis president's Georgia Vlitas, Lori Voutiritsas, Martha Stefanidakis, Dee Nikolaou and Katherine Lotis, for their devoted efforts in achieving excellence in our philanthropic endeavors.

## **2008 NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS BIENNIAL CONVENTION**

The 2008 National Philoptochos Biennial Convention will take place in Washington, DC, at the Wardman Park Hotel, from July 13<sup>th</sup> through July 17<sup>th</sup>.

To participate in the National Philoptochos Convention it is imperative your chapter is in good standing. National per capita is \$10 (adopted at the 2004 convention). Please make checks payable to National Philoptochos.

## **FOLLOWING DISTRIBUTIONS WERE APPROVED BY THE NATIONAL BOARD**

\$52,500 – Saint Basil Academy Sisterhood Fund for new roofing on girls dormitories #2-4 and 6

\$37,500 – Hellenic College Scholarships Fund for 25 scholarships to students in good academic standing who are members of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese

\$40,000 – Retired Clergy Benevolent Fund

\$150,000 – Children's Medical Fund Distribution for seven Metropolis of San Francisco Hospitals and special children's medical programs.

\$30,000 – IOCC for its work with the Park Town Medical Clinic in the Archdiocese of Zimbabwe to serve children with various ailments.

\$20,000 – Children's Medical Fund for the Autism Speaks/Cure Autism Now Project

\$15,000 – IOCC

\$20,000 – Support A Mission Priest (SAMP)

\$25,000 – National Emergency Fund to assist the victims of the fires in Southern California

\$94,098 – Proceeds for the National Hellenic Fire Relief Fund to be presented to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America for distribution to appropriate agencies.

## **METROPOLIS OF DENVER CHAPTER CHALLENGE**

Metropolis Chapter Challenge General Chair Barbara Vittas and committee, of Saint Irene Philoptochos, Euless, Texas, are producing a documentary which addresses the challenges of developing the spiritual life of an autistic child.

Research indicates that 1 out of every 150 children are born with autism and other developmental disorders. It is estimated the cost of the documentary will be \$5,000. We are asking each chapter to donate to this project. Thank you in advance for your support.

## **RETREAT**

Metropolis Retreat will be held in October 2008, at Saint Basil Academy. All Philoptochos members are invited to attend. More details to follow.

## **LEADERSHIP MEETINGS**

Barbara Latsonas conducted President's Leadership meetings in the following Utah cities: Price, Ogden , Holladay and Salt Lake City. She wishes to thank all the ladies and clergy for their hospitality. She remarked how wonderful it was to see the support given to the Philoptochos Presidents by the Philoptochos members and the parish Priests.

## **PHILOPTOCHOS COMMITMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY**

Vasilopita - Social Services - OCF (Orthodox Christian Fellowship)

Please note if you are planning an event for Vasilopita **ALL PROCEEDS** must be remitted. If you have any questions about this, please contact Barbara, [barblatsonas@comcast.net](mailto:barblatsonas@comcast.net)

## **CHAPTER NEWS**

### **WEBSTER, TEXAS**

Mary Zacharias, Chapter President, Saint John the Theologian is currently working on a cookbook to sell at their annual festival. Keep us posted Mary as to when your chapter's cookbook will be available. Many of our Philoptochos sisters would be interested in purchasing a copy to support your chapter. Good Luck!

### **CHEYENNE, WYOMING**

Amalia Olson, Chapter President, Three Hierarchs Philoptochos, held a turkey drawing in November. A pot-luck luncheon was held for the community in December. Santa made a special for visit for the children. A Christmas food drive was held for needy families.

Please contribute information about your chapter's special events, fund raisers, projects or fun finds, web sites, recipes etc...

In Christ,

Valerie Ranahosseini

Metropolis Board Member

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