

METROPOLIS OF DENVER  
Philoptochos Monthly News Tips

November 1, 2008

Dear Philoptochos Chapter Presidents and Vice Presidents:  
Please make copies and share our Monthly News Tips with your members at your next general meeting.

I encourage you to send me your chapter's news and events by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Wishing you and yours a very Happy Thanksgiving!

With you in His service,  
Valerie Ranahosseini  
Metropolis of Denver Philoptochos Board Member  
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**METROPOLITAN MINUTE**

As we begin the Christmas fast and, in the process, honor the Entrance of the Holy Theotokos into the temple, we use her example of developing her life close to God. In imitation of her, let us live our everyday lives as much as we can, in harmony with God's will, so that our days will be blessed upon the earth. And let us offer profound thanks to God, especially on Thanksgiving Day.

**NATIONAL AND METROPOLIS COMMITMENTS FOR NOVEMBER**

National:	Ecumenical Patriarchate \$275
	National Sisterhood of Presbyteres Benevolent Fund \$275
Metropolis:	Missions \$250

**NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS - PRESIDENT GEORGIA SKEADAS**

The images of the aftermath of Hurricane Ike are heart-rending. Trauma, fear, despair and uncertainty prevail, as a result of the devastating blow from one of the most significant natural disasters in the state of Texas.

Each day the media and the newspapers brought us the tragic news and images of the massive devastation and the terrible and unhealthy living conditions. As dedicated members of one of the largest women's Christian Philanthropic organizations, we have an overwhelming compassion and love for all human-kind that inspires us to do as much as possible to aid, comfort and help the victims who

are suffering greatly as the result of the catastrophe. We once again reach out to you, our Philoptochos Chapters for assistance during the victims' greatest hour of need.

The IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) is offering special assistance to the disaster areas with health kits and emergency clean-up buckets. Enclosed is detailed information about both packages and how to prepare them. The need for these emergency aid packages is great and can make a tremendous difference to victims in times of disaster.

It is my fervent hope that all of the Philoptochos Chapters will participate in this worthwhile endeavor. The women of Philoptochos are always in the forefront of providing assistance by demonstrating their love, their compassion and their strong belief in our philanthropic ministry.

Knowing your love of human-kind and your boundless generosity, we know that we will be most successful in this philanthropic effort, as it is our wish to be able to bring a small measure of comfort and hope to our brothers and sisters in dire need.

Please keep the victims of this destruction in your prayers and may God always bless you for your abiding love for mankind.

With love in Christ,  
Georgia Skeadas

Our next National meeting will be on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Our new National President will be seated at this time.

## **METROPOLIS**

We missed those of you who could not come to the Retreat at Saint Basil the weekend of October 17<sup>th</sup>. It was a wonderful experience. Eleven of us from throughout the Metropolis attended. First time visitors to the Academy were so taken with the facility, the children, Fr. Costas and his staff and the beauty of the area.

Fr. Costa led the retreat in the Chapel and explained Icons of the Children Saints that adorn the walls. When he spoke about St. Sophia, and her daughters, Faith, Hope and Charity, we all thought it symbolizes the mission of Philoptochos. So we

decided to donate the \$2,000 raised from the Retreat to go toward the \$3,200 needed to purchase the Icon.

The Fashion Show and Luncheon on Saturday was a lot of fun. It was wonderful to see the children laugh and truly enjoy modeling the fashions. Fr. Costas also walked down the runway holding the hands of the young Children who were a little afraid to walk alone. It's amazing the love and support these children receive from Fr. Costas and the Staff.

**I am asking for 100% participation in The Prevention of Child Abuse and The Homeless Outreach projects.**

I hope that you will take the time to appoint a chairperson and find an organization to support in February 2009, for Child Abuse.

I thank all of you who have sent in your reports. If you have not yet adopted these projects, please do so **ASAP**.

All reports will be forwarded to His Eminence Metropolitan Isaiah, Deacon Paul Zaharas and Valerie for placement in the "NEWS TIPS".

I thank you for your immediate attention to this matter. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Love, Barbara

Greenwood Village, Colorado – Chapter President Barbara Latsonas

Our chapter will support the KEMPE Foundation who for more than 40 years has spoken for these victims who have no voice. Headquartered in Denver, Colorado, the KEMPE Center for the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect has been recognized as the world leader in child abuse treatment programs (from birth to 18). KEMPE gives children and families hope for the future.

Kansas City, Missouri – Chapter President Staci Elliott

Our chapter will support Operation Breakthrough. It is a local organization in Kansas City that provides multiple services for underprivileged children, including abuse counseling, shelter, etc. I will let you know specifically what they would like us to provide.

Price Utah – Chapter President Lisa Critchlow

For our Prevention of Child Abuse we have chosen to make donations to our local

Children's Justice Center who helps abused and neglected children in our area. We have also made a donation to our local Masonic Lodge who transports children with illness to Salt Lake City for medical treatment to help defray their cost of gas and expenses. This is a worthwhile cause and our members were more than willing to help out!

San Antonio, Texas – Chapter President Vita Mayo

Our chapter is supporting CASA. This organization really makes a difference in the lives of abused and neglected children. We also are supporting Shoes For The Orphans Souls.

Eules, Texas – Chapter President Bertha Gianulis

Our Child Abuse Advocate/Designated Representative is Connie Rafealedes. She is on my executive board and is extremely knowledgeable in this field. She holds a Masters in Child Development with an emphasis in social work. Below is a brief outline of the charity that we contribute to on a monthly basis. Our Philoptochos is blessed to have dedicated women who see to it that a delivery of supplies is made on a monthly basis to the Tarrant County Women's Shelter. The shelter provides assistance to those children that have been either removed from their homes due to unfortunate circumstances or children (and usually their mothers as well) who have fled from abusive households.

Our recommendation to the community is that when you go the grocery store, as we all have to do, please pick-up an extra tube of tooth paste, shampoo, soap, vitamins or any other personal hygiene product that is needed on a daily basis. These women and children most commonly flee from their homes in the middle of the night with as little as the shirt on their backs. Without the support of not only our Philoptochos but our community in general, these distressed children would have no where to go

Boulder, Colorado - President Liz Troicky

Is holding a gift wrap, candy and gift items fund raiser for the month of October where all proceeds will go to Denver's Tennyson Center for Children, "Operation Santa 2008" program. The Tennyson Center is a treatment center which helps children in grades-K-12 who suffer from abuse, neglect or come from unstable home environments.

### Albuquerque New Mexico - President Lindsay Patterson

We are going to expand our support of the local safe S.A.F.E. House. This is a shelter to protect women and children from domestic violence. Their statement of purpose read, Our purpose is to provide temporary shelter, services, and education for women and their children who are in a state of crisis as a result of physical, sexual, emotional or economic abuse, and to assist in developing other services to meet related needs of women as the Association may see fit in the future.(we already provide meals and food left over from parties,(1) we are asking the public school system to donate the DVDS They are planning to discard.(2) Donate our clothing to the thrift store run by the safe house.

### Tulsa, Oklahoma - President Athena Caplanis

The Tulsa OK chapter has decided to support the Emergency Infant Services. Emergency Infant Services is a non-profit organization meeting the basic human needs of infants and children under the age of five, whose families are in crises or emergency situations. They provide formula, milk, food, diapers, medicine, clothing and furniture.

Emergency Infant Services provides for approximately 8,000 babies and young children per year. Family emergencies may arise for different circumstances such as the loss of a job, illness, or the delay of federal or other assistance. The goal of this organization is to assure that the babies and young children of these families do not endure hunger and suffering during such difficult times.

For these reasons, in August, our chapter donated \$500.00 to this organization. The Director of EIS is also willing to come and speak to us. We plan to do more for them in February, 2009.

### Dallas, Texas - President Dimitra Spiliotis

St. Barbara's chapter voted, and we have officially taken on Jonathan's Place, a residential crisis facility for abused children ages 6 month to 17 years of age. We will provide them with financial support as well as volunteers, and donations of items. We will have a speaker from the facility in October and all members are to bring either a book or a pair of pajamas to donate to the children at the shelter.

Cheyenne, Wyoming – President Amalia Olson

Our chapter is currently helping out a family in Cheyenne whose daughter is now disabled due to Shaken Baby.

More Chapter News.....

On Saturday, October 11, the St. John's Philoptochos of Omaha, Nebraska, served 155 meals of meat balls and pasta for the new project of the Park Avenue Community. A hot meal is provided to those in the area who have limited income. Our guests varied in age and nationality. Many of the meals were "seconds" either to eat then or take home for the next day. Another area Church is the host kitchen and another organization coordinates the program. A second meal is scheduled later in the year by different group in the St. John's Community. We expect to serve two or more other meals during the 2009.