

METROPOLIS OF DENVER
Philoptochos Monthly News Tips

September 1, 2008

Dear Philoptochos Chapter Presidents and Vice Presidents:

September is here, our vacations have ended and our children are back in school. For our holy Orthodox Church the first day in September is the beginning of the Ecclesiastical New Year. The annual cycle of feasts and fasts begins anew. May we mark the beginning of this Ecclesiastical New Year with a renewed dedication to philanthropy through the good works of Philoptochos.

We encourage each chapter to contribute information about your special events, fund raisers, projects etc. Please e-mail me your chapters information by the 15th of each month.

Please make copies of the Philoptochos News Tips for your members at your next general meeting. Each month we will also e-mail the News Tips to your parish priest and to the Metropolis of Denver Philoptochos board members.

With you in His service,
Valerie Ranahosseini
Metropolis Board Member
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NATIONAL AND METROPOLIS COMMITMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER

National: Hellenic College Holy Cross School of Theology
Retired Clergy Association's Benevolent Fund

Metropolis: Religious Education

NATIONAL PRESIDENT GEORGIA SKEADAS

On behalf of the National Philoptochos board, I extend my warmest greetings and best wishes to you, as I welcome you to the 2008 National Philoptochos biennial convention.

I greet you with great anticipation and excitement, as you have traveled across our Greek Orthodox archdiocese of America, to gather together in fellowship and love here in our Nation's capital of Washington, DC. Our convention represents the next step in our journey, as we **Look forward**, to the future Philoptochos *a new vision –a new spirit –a new day- a new opportunity*. With zeal and enthusiasm, in a positive spirit, we will create a blueprint for the future of Philoptochos and our Philanthropic ministry, always remembering that **“The future is something we create not something we enter”**.

It is your love and steadfast commitment to the philanthropic mission of our Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society that brings us together. Let us enjoy, let us learn, let us share our experiences, and let us gain strength, inspiration enthusiasm and energy, as we move forward together to the future Philoptochos. Remember always that *“I can do all things through Christ”*.
Philippians 4:13

*With love in Christ,
Georgia Skeadas*

The women of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society across the United States of America excel in their commitment to assist those in need. It is with great honor I report that through your efforts your organization has distributed to its beneficiaries, during the two year period from January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2007, the grand sum of \$2,768,721. During the Convention your organization distributed over \$715,000 to the following beneficiaries.

Children's Tumor Foundation - Cancer Fund	\$30,000
Drug Discovery Initiative program New York, NY	

Hope Center - Social Services	\$10,000
St. John's Riverside Hospital Yonkers NY	
HIV Clinic serving the needs of the Yonkers indigent And surrounding areas	

Pajama Program - Social Services Provides new pajamas and books to children in Need in U.S. and around the world New York, NY	\$25.000
University of Illinois Medical Center/ Rush University Medical Center JH Stroger Hospital Cook County, Chicago, IL	\$50.000
Metropolis of Chicago National Emergency Fund Iowa Floods	\$15.000
Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital Children's Medical Fund Cleveland Ohio Metropolis of Pittsburgh	\$30.000
Boston's Children's Hospital - Cardiac Hellenic Cardiac Fund Boston, Massachusetts/ Metropolis of Boston	\$15.000
Texas Children's Hospital Cardiac Houston, TX Metropolis of Denver Equipment for Cardiac Catheterization unit of the Heart Center.	\$35.000
Sacred Heart Children's Hospital - Cardiac Pensacola, Florida Metropolis of Atlanta Vein Viewer for pediatric patients in the Neonatal ICU.	\$15.000
Lebonheur Children's Medical Center Cardiac Memphis, Tennessee Metropolis of Detroit Family Centered Care program-pediatric ICU & Transitional Care Unit	\$15.000
Children's Hospital Orange County	\$15.000

Children's Medical Fund
 Orange, California Metropolis of San Francisco
 Pediatric Hematology/Oncology program-
 Adolescent & young Adult General operating support

Children's Hospital of the King's Daughter \$15.000
 Norfolk, Virginia Metropolis of New Jersey
 Child Abuse Program.

Autism Speaks/ Cure Autism Now CMF \$25.000
 Alzheimer's Association Social Services \$50.000
 Medic Alert+Safe Return General Medical Fund
 Saint Basil Academy Vasilopita Fund \$75.000
 Saint Basil Academy Sisterhood of SBA \$55,258

National Sisterhood of Presbyteres \$30.000
 Saint Photios Shrine \$30.000
 Orthodox Christian Mission Center OCMC \$35.000
 International Orthodox Christian Charities IOCC \$50.000
 Support a mission Priest SAMP \$65.000
 UNICEF \$30.000
 Total-----\$715.258

\$2,768,721.00 Total for 2007

715,258.00

\$3,483,989.00 Total to date: January 1, 2006---July 31, 2008

METROPOLIS PRESIDENT BARBARA LATSONAS

I hope you are enjoying a healthy and fun summer and are in anticipation of much success with our two new outreach projects. Bags for the Homeless and the Prevention of Child Abuse. Together we can accomplish many things.

Since the future of Philoptochos is something we create not something we enter, we need to **Stress** the importance of being a Philoptochos member. We are the **Philanthropic Right hand of the Church**, we **Represent** our **Church**. Ladies 18 and older, it is our responsibility to be a Philoptochos member. It is truly a

blessing to be part of this **National Organization** with over **500 Chapters** and **28.000 Members**. Ladies this is who we are, we are **Philoptochos**. (*we need your time and talents*)

During the 2008 National Philoptochos Convention our Metropolis was instrumental in passing a resolution implementing OCF (**Orthodox Christian Fellowship**) as a national commitment. It will appear in the new commitment book for 2008—2010.

Our Metropolis also spearheaded the campaign for the National HIV/AIDS WALKATHON. We had the kick-off for the Walkathon during one of the sessions at the Convention. Monies raised will benefit AIDS ORPHANS in Ethiopia through IOCC, and the NATIONAL AIDS FUND in the United States.

Exciting News! Our Jewelry is ready for sale; we would like to thank Stacia Leeders for designing the Jewelry for us. The pieces are lovely. Each Chapter will receive a set for display only, at no cost to the Chapter. Order forms will be included. Please do your very best to support this project. Funds raised will be used for emergency appeals, to help administer to our Chapters, and to augment the operating budget of the Metropolis Philoptochos.

Congratulations to the winners of the National Philoptochos 2008 Awards program.

Best Outreach Project - Chapters under 20 members

1st. Place Community Commitments

St. Nicholas Philoptochos, St. Nicholas Church Chapter #8032
Corpus Christi, TX –Metropolis of Denver

Best Outreach Project - Chapters with 21-49 members

1st Place Jackson School

St. John the Baptist Philoptochos, Chapter #8030
Omaha, NE Metropolis of Denver

Best Practices - Chapters with fewer than 20 members

3rd Place. GO RED SUNDAY

John the Baptist Philoptochos, Chapter# 8030

St. John the Baptist, Omaha NE Metropolis of Denver

Best Outreach Project - Chapters with 100—199

1st Place Teddy Bear Project

Annunciation Philoptochos, Chapter# 8010

Assumption of the Theotokos, Denver, CO Metropolis of Denver

Largest Increase In Membership

August 1, 2006—July 11,--2009

Greek Orthodox Church of Greater Omaha - Omaha, NE Metropolis of Denver
Chapter#8062

Increase of 36 new members.

100% Participation In National Obligations

Annunciation Philoptochos # 8013 Kansas City, MO

St. Catherine Philoptochos # 8018 Greenwood Village, CO

ST. George Philoptochos # 8022 Albuquerque, NM

Holy Trinity Philoptochos # 3825 Dallas, TX

St. John the Baptist Philoptochos # 8030 Omaha NE

St. Sophia Philoptochos # 8039 San Antonio, TX

Sts Constantine and Helen Philoptochos # 8045 Cheyenne, WY

Holy Trinity Philoptochos # 8049 Salt Lake City UT

Prophet Elias Philoptochos # 8050 Holladay, UT

St. Basil The Great Philoptochos # 8056 Houston, TX

Annunciation Cathedral Philoptochos #8036 Houston, TX

Annunciation Philoptochos # 8010 Denver, CO

ST. George Philoptochos # 8054 Shreveport Louisiana

St. Nicholas Philoptochos # 8032 Corpus Christi, TX

Thank you ladies for your continued support!!!

Love in Christ,

Barbara Latsonas

CHAPTER NEWS

**HOMELESS PROJECT – SAINT CATHERINE GREENWOOD
VILLAGE, CO - Dawn Callas, Chairperson**

Our Bags for the Homeless Project began in January, of 2007. This project consisted of collecting bottled water, small packaged food items, \$5.00 Gift Cards from fast food restaurants, socks, wash cloths, hand towels, toothpaste and tooth brushes, waterproof ponchos, knit caps, gloves, and scarves. These items are then placed in a denim tote bag. We also collected blankets and sleeping bags as well as coats, sweatshirts, and sweaters for the winter months. Once these bags have been filled, we personally delivered them to those living on the streets of Denver.

To date we have delivered 800 bags. We make deliveries twice a year in the fall and in summer. Our last delivery was in July of 2008. We delivered 200 bags 30 blankets and sleeping bags. After speaking with those who are living on the streets they expressed a need for socks, hand-sanitizer, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

Our next delivery will be on Saturday, October 18, 2008, in conjunction with St. Catherine Greek Orthodox GOYA. Our GOYA will be making 300 sack lunches. The lunches will consist of a peanut butter jelly sandwich, chips, fruit, granola bar, cookies and bottled water. A small prayer card will also be placed into the bags that will be made by our HOPE and JOY group. We are requesting that each family in our parish donate a sleeping bag, blanket (new or used) coats, sweaters, and sweatshirts of various sizes. If each family would just donate one sleeping bag, think of how many homeless we would keep warm during those cold winter days and evenings.

**AID TO HOMELESS PROJECT - ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL,
HOUSTON, TEXAS – Mary Poulos, President**

The Philoptochos chapter of Annunciation Cathedral in Houston, Texas has been participating in local ministries helping the homeless for many years. Our parish priests have been very supportive of our chapter in these endeavors.

This report is in response to the Metropolis Philoptochos Board's recommendation that every chapter be involved in a "Bags for the Homeless" project. Our chapter has included two such local ministries as "Local Commitments". They are:

EAC (Emergency Aid Coalition) was founded in 1983. Annunciation Cathedral is one of 14 area churches that founded this organization. Their mission is to help people who cannot, for reasons of loss of employment, health, mental health or family disruption, meet their basic needs *at the moment*. EAC helps them meet basic needs so that they may work toward self-sufficiency.

The majority of EAC services are provided by volunteers that include many of our Philoptochos ladies. They prepare sandwiches every month, help in the clothing center and in the kitchen. Many of the ladies who make the sandwiches have been volunteering their time for many years.

Our chapter has included EAC as another local commitment, making an annual monetary commitment each year in addition to sponsoring food and clothing drives for this organization. One of our Philoptochos members, Marie Harris, serves on the Executive Board of EAC.

EAC's services include a food pantry providing groceries to families in need, clothing center, limited financial aid to families affected by a temporary emergency that threatens their ability to maintain their home, helps disabled individuals remain independent in their own home and provide books and backpacks for children.

SEARCH (Service of the Emergency and Resource Center for the Homeless). This organization provides food, clothing, training skills and dental services for the homeless. In addition to an annual monetary commitment, volunteers help make sandwiches for the homeless, assist in the kitchen preparing food for the homeless, and help in the distribution of clothing for the homeless.

During the year, Philoptochos sponsors food and clothing drives within the parish. Recently, our Philoptochos SEARCH Representative, Katie Onisiphorou, conducted a very successful Drive for non-perishable food, clothing, baby items (diapers, wipes, etc.). This Drive was held during Lent and parishioners brought their donations to Church each Sunday.

SEARCH was founded in 1989 as a faith-based nonprofit organization by a coalition of ecumenical congregations representing diverse ethnic, social and spiritual backgrounds who believed that homeless individuals need more than a meal and a place to sleep. They need a future. This Council of Congregations

has grown to include 36 congregations across Houston and Harris County. As with E.A.C., Annunciation Cathedral is one of the founding members.

As noted above, Annunciation's Philoptochos chapter has been and continues to be a strong participant in outreach within the Houston community.

AGAPE AWARD – TULSA, OKLAHOMA

AGAPE (All Generations Accomplishing Philanthropic Endeavors) Award is given to an extraordinary member who embodies the true spirit of Philoptochos.

The AGAPE Honorees, nine winners, one from each Metropolis, were officially announced and honored at the National Philoptochos Banquet at the Clergy Laity Convention in Washing D.C. The Tulsa Philoptochos Chapter is pleased to announce that Peggy Belbas was selected to receive the AGAPE award representing the Denver Metropolis. We congratulate Peggy for receiving this award and honor.

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