

GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC.
METROPOLIS PRESIDENT'S REPORT
2022 – 2024



Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos

Jeannie Ranglas, President

Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and
He will give you everything you need. ~ Matthew 6:33

Your Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, Your Grace Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzos, National President Arlene Siavelis Kehl, Philoptochos Sisters and Brothers in Christ, It is my honor to greet you on behalf of the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos Board today as we gather for the 2024 National Philoptochos Biennial Convention. May we draw strength for the timeless teachings of our faith and the boundless reservoirs of love that dwell within our hearts. As may our endeavors serve as a beacon of hope, faith and love, illuminating the path towards a brighter, more compassionate world for all as we serve those in need. Your Eminence, we are truly grateful for your continued blessing and spiritual guidance through our many endeavors to make a difference in the lives of others.

For over 40 years, Camp Agape has been a signature ministry for the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos and is dedicated to providing support for children afflicted with cancer and their families. During the summer of 2022, the Metropolis Philoptochos resumed our traditional Camp Agape program with three summer camps: Phoenix, AZ, Portland, OR and Ramona, CA.

On November 19, 2022, we hosted Light the Path, a ministry to support the Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Student Endowment Fund at St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church in Irvine, California. Seminarians and students participated in a panel discussion with our guests. We raised over \$145,000 to support the seminarians and students of the Metropolis of San Francisco attending Hellenic College and Holy Cross School of Theology.

The 46th Annual Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Folk Dance and Choral Festival was held February 2023 in Phoenix, Arizona. FDF and the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos Diakonia Project supported the Sojourner Center, a safe haven from domestic violence for both women and children in Arizona, which provides shelter and support services. Also, the Metropolis Philoptochos hosted a clergy family luncheon in honor of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros where he was presented with an Omophorion vestment set and a \$5,000 check to support the Archdiocesan Clergy Pension Fund.

In February 2023, the National Philoptochos Society unanimously approved an emergency disbursement to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Earthquake Relief Fund. The Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos Board on behalf of its chapters immediately responded and made a significant donation to the Fund.

Our Women's Wellness and Awareness Ministry sponsored a Zoom seminar on April 29, 2023. The program offered an engaging keynote presentation addressing digital media use and early childhood learning.

In May 2023, as part of a decade's long tradition, members of the Metropolis Philoptochos Board traveled to Brookline, Massachusetts to participate in the Hellenic College Holy Cross School of Theology commencement. We presented to the Administration a check for over \$160,000 in grant money to offset tuition and school related expenditures in support of the seminarians and students from our Metropolis.

Our Kids 'n' Cancer ministry offers a compassionate and caring environment, exemplary of Christ's unconditional love, along with an opportunity to shape meaningful friendships and create precious memories. We raised over \$380,000 in support of this ministry at our Agape Celebration held in May 2023. This beloved ministry oversees our Camp Agape program. During the summer of 2023, we hosted four camps: one each in Phoenix, AZ, Portland, OR, Dunlap, CA and Ramona, CA.

On August 8, 2023, the Island of Maui suffered catastrophic fires, where our Greek Orthodox Mission Parish has been established, as part of the Metropolis of San Francisco. Our Metropolis Philoptochos Board immediately donated \$10,000 to fire relief efforts.

In September 2023, the Metropolis Philoptochos partnered with the YAL Conference to underwrite the annual Diakonia project. Philoptochos and young adults assembled 700 care packages for the "Illumination Foundation" whose mission is to disrupt the cycle of homelessness in Southern California by providing a comprehensive safety net of client-centered services for the most vulnerable individuals, families, and children.

The Metropolis Philoptochos hosted its bi-annual Conference virtually on October 10, 2023. The opportunity was used to celebrate Philoptochos ministries, share information, and spend time in fellowship. We also conducted Metropolis Board elections and other annual organizational business matters.

The Metropolis of San Francisco celebrated our ministries and honored the extraordinary leadership of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos on Saturday, October 28, 2023. We celebrated 100 years of ministry on the West Coast. The Metropolis Philoptochos played an active role in the celebration.

The Metropolis Philoptochos was honored to donate \$5,000 to the National Philoptochos Children's Medical Luncheon which was held on Saturday, November 11th hosted by the Metropolis of Denver. I was pleased to see so many from our Metropolis attend the CMF.

On November 19, 2023 we hosted our Light the Path Luncheon in support of the Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Student Endowment Fund at the Olympic Club in San Francisco. We

raised over \$175,000 to support the seminarians and students of the Metropolis of San Francisco at Hellenic College and Holy Cross School of Theology.

Our Camp Agape ministry hosted 2 events over the holidays. On December 18, Saint Spyridon Philoptochos of San Diego and the Metropolis Philoptochos hosted a Christmas party for our Camp Agape children and their families. A delicious dinner was served, we sang Christmas Carols and there was a visit from Santa. In January 2024 the Arizona chapters hosted a Camp Agape Reunion celebration. Over 18 families along with Camp Agape volunteers and donors attended. Our theme was Giddy Up for Camp Agape; of course, we had line dancing, enjoyed a fabulous dinner and had a surprise visit from all the Disney Princesses.

In January 2024 the Metropolis Philoptochos Board members gathered at the Annunciation Cathedral in San Francisco. His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos attended our meeting and administered the Oath of Office. We conducted Metropolis Board elections and discussed organizational business matters.

The 47th Annual Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Folk Dance and Choral Festival (FDF) was held February 15-18, 2024 in Anaheim, CA. The Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos and FDF hosted a Diakonia Project supporting the Boys and Girls Club in the local area by building and decorating children's bikes and helmets for underprivileged children. In honor of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros we presented a donation of \$5,000 to support the Archdiocesan Youth Summer Camp Scholarship Fund. We also hosted the Clergy family Brunch on Sunday following the Divine Liturgy.

Our 2024 Kids 'n' Cancer, Agape 'A Celebration of Life' luncheon was held on April 14th in Newport Beach Country Club. This beloved ministry offers a compassionate and caring environment, exemplary of Christ's unconditional love, along with an opportunity to shape meaningful friendships and create precious memories. . We raised over \$345,000 in support of this ministry that will oversee four Camp Agape programs this summer – one each in Phoenix, AZ, Portland, OR, Dunlap, CA and Ramona, CA.

In May 2024, the Metropolis Philoptochos Board once again traveled to Brookline, Massachusetts to participate in the commencement at Hellenic College Holy Cross School of Theology. We presented to the Administration a check for over \$140,000 in grant money to offset tuition and school related expenditures in support of the seminarians and students from our Metropolis.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve this beloved Metropolis of San Francisco. I, and the thousands of women represented through our Philoptochos Chapters are thankful for your support and love, and most of all, your prayers as we continue our good works in Christ.

With Love in Christ,

Jeannie Ranglas, President
Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos