

GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC.
NATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT
JUNE 30TH - JULY 4TH – SAN DIEGO, CA
NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS CONVENTION



Operation Classroom Committee

Co-Chairs: Pam Argyris, Joyce Spanakis

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July 2024

The Operation Classroom program is designed to be flexible with each chapter designing their outreach to schools and teachers as needed. As part of the goals, the following was put into place:

- Each Metropolis assigned an Operation Classroom Chairman who became a Liaison to the Operation Classroom Committee to pass information on to their respective chapters.
- Each Chapter was asked to assign an Operation Classroom Chair and Committee.
- Each chapter designed its own program to fit the needs of their community.
- Templates were created and spreadsheets were provided for quarterly reporting.
- Every chapter recorded the following data: project, how many children were serviced, and the amount of money spent on the project.
- Chapters and Metropolises were encouraged to promote their projects on Facebook, Instagram as well as in the National Philoptochos' Perspective.
- Chapters were encouraged to embrace all ministries of the church (Parish Council, Sunday Church School, Youth programs, Seniors group, etc.) when working on projects to be inclusive.

We know that many chapters have participated in this initiative; however, many have not reported on their activities. Of the chapters that did respond with reports, we can report the following:

- **95** chapters from all nine Metropolises actively reported their findings (**22%**).
- More than **46,462** students were impacted.
- Money spent: This was difficult to determine because the information was not always provided. We understand that there were also **thousands of dollars in donations**, and the total amount of money reported spent for the students was in **excess of \$147,625**.

There were so many worthwhile projects in which our chapters were involved. The following are examples of how some chapters have implemented their Operation Classroom activities:

- Annunciation Chapter in Kalamazoo, MI (Detroit) had a total of ten projects throughout the year including providing playground equipment for six K-12 classrooms with social-emotional and behavioral deficits. The chapter also provided Back-to-School shoes for students in need, Bi-Lingual Readers for a summer migrant program to also be used during the school year, as well as purchasing books and healthy snacks for a Battle of the Books tournament. The total number of students impacted by the various projects is 13,343.
- St. Katherine's Chapter in Falls Church, VA (New Jersey) had a total of six projects to assist children in need through their Operation Clean Clothes, Operation Backpack, donations to a Food pantry, etc., impacting 1840 children.
- St. George Chapter in Albuquerque NM (Denver) held an annual Giving Tree for homeless/unhoused/near homeless students from across the city through the Albuquerque Public Schools, which included clothing, school supplies, art supplies, sporting equipment, toys and gift cards for food. A total of 96 individuals were helped this year, including a Christian home for pregnant women in need, a domestic violence shelter and a halfway house.
- Church of Our Saviour in Rye, NY (DAD) held an arts and crafts supply drive. An Amazon wish list was created as per the teachers' lists for a school in Mt. Vernon, NY. After several weeks of collections, the requested items were delivered, impacting 80 children.
- The Annunciation Chapter in Akron, Ohio (Pittsburgh) held a SOCKtober, MITvember/GLOVEember and HATSemember drive for two schools. In October socks (503) and backpacks (with supplies) were collected and donated. In November was MITvember/GLOVEember where mittens and gloves were donated (156). HATSemember was December's project with 64 hats collected and donated.
- Saints Peter & Paul chapter in Glenview, IL (Chicago) partnered with three targeted low income/high poverty schools in Chicago to provide the Wilson Reading Systems program to specific students who have been diagnosed with Dyslexia, a learning disability that affects reading and writing. Seven of the most highly qualified and dedicated teachers were selected to receive these materials, impacting 140 students.
- Ascension Chapter in Oakland, CA (San Francisco) partnered with the Sunday School to create a Lenten Operation Classroom almsgiving campaign to benefit the Oakland Unified School District McKinney-Vento program. This program serves unhoused students and families. For five weeks in Lent, various items requested by the program were collected, including socks and underwear, toiletries, food, laundry supplies and gift cards. The giving campaign culminated on Palm Sunday, with delivery after Pascha.
- St. John the Divine Chapter in Jacksonville, FL (Atlanta) provided school supplies (\$4,000 plus actual supplies) to three low-income elementary schools, impacting over 300 students.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Argyris and Joyce Spanakis

