

GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC.
METROPOLIS PRESIDENT'S REPORT
2021-2023



Metropolis of Boston Philoptochos
Athena Kalyvas, President
November 2023

Your Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, Your Grace Bishop Athenagoras, National Philoptochos President Arlene Siavelis Kehl, and Sisters of the National Philoptochos Board,

With great pleasure, I bring you greetings from the Metropolis of Boston Philoptochos Board. The Metropolis of Boston Philoptochos is comprised of 42 Chapters in the Parishes spanning six New England states, including Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.

Serving on this Board over the past four years has been an honor. I believe we truly have established a spirit of collaboration among the local Chapters in our beloved Metropolis, especially with the support received from the Philoptochos ministries. Our Chapters have responded so generously to the Philoxenia House, the Saint Methodios Faith and Heritage Retreat Center, the Metropolis Social Services Fund, which provided over \$25,000.00 in financial assistance to 11 individuals/families over the past two years, and the VA Operation Housewarming Program assisting over 3,000 veterans and their families with over \$8,000.00 in household items through the donations from the Chapters and Parishes. A signature effort over the past four years has been our donations of over \$25,000.00 to food pantries throughout the New England area, including working with the Metropolis for the Home for Little Wanderers at Thanksgiving and also the support of Operation Classroom, a program that provides assistance to local area schools in need of supplies. Additionally, our Metropolis Philoptochos supports Hellenic College/Holy Cross, the Hellenic Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center, and Holy Trinity Nursing & Rehab Center-Worcester.

We have created a working rapport with the Chapters by scheduling regular Chapter Presidents' calls to discuss topics such as procedural matters and how to increase membership. Recently, over 30 Chapters responded to the Sock Outreach Drive by ordering 3,000 pairs of socks to be distributed to their local communities. Last year, we hosted a fundraiser with author Yvette Manassis Corporan, who discussed her latest book, **Where the Wandering Ends**, and we raised over \$22,000.00. As a result of these successes, we were able to present His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios with over \$40,000 at the Laity Dinner in June 2023.

Other Fundraising Highlights

St. Nicholas Church and Shrine - \$39,000.00 to fulfill the National Philoptochos Commitment through the Chapter Members and Friends of Philoptochos.

Ukraine – The Metropolis of Boston Philoptochos Chapters contributed over \$25,000.00 which was sent to the National Philoptochos and distributed through IOCC for relief to the refugees.

Virtual Events During the Pandemic

Mother's Day Card – May 2022

Wine Tasting – November 2021

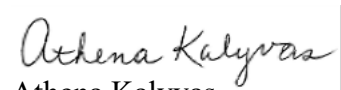
Flower Arranging Event – May 2021

Dream Gala – November 2020

On Saturday, October 28, 2023, the Metropolis Board hosted the Biennial Philoptochos Conference to review finances, ministry programs, the election of a new Board, and an open forum discussion on what is on the minds of our Chapter members. The conference was well attended, and sixteen (16) new Board members were elected. His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios will appoint four members so that an election of officers may be held.

From the bottom of my heart, I would like to thank His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios and Chancellor Father Ted Barbas for their genuine support and guidance to me personally over the past four years. Thank you to the many Philoptochos members in our Metropolis, especially the Metropolis Board members. We are very blessed to have so many compassionate and caring Philoptochos members who continue to respond to the mission of Philoptochos and more importantly, our Orthodox faith and traditions. God Bless our Metropolis!

With love in the Lord,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Athena Kalyvas". The signature is written in black ink and is contained within a thin black rectangular border.

Athena Kalyvas
Metropolis of Boston Philoptochos
President