

**GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC.
NATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT
NOVEMBER 10, 2023**



Homeless and Hungry Committee Report
National Board Meeting, Friday, November 10, 2023
Houston, TX

Maria Logus, Chair

Marian Catechis

Kathy Connell

Lekita Essa

Irene Fotos

Valine Georgeson

Despina Kartson

Lily Katos

Cindy Kezos

Katherine Kotsis

Sophie Mastor

Effie Moraitakis

Helen Primbas

Helen Psaras

Georgia Skeadas

Maria Skiadas

Kathy Staten

Joanne Stavrakas

Irene Stefanakos

Stephanie Storgion-Poplos

Kalli Tsitsipas

Barbara Vittas

Georgia Vlitas

Sharon Whitman

Following the last meeting of the National Philoptochos Board, the Homeless and Hungry Committee offered a number of proposals to National President Arlene Siavelis Kehl, and we are pleased to advise the Board of our progress:

1. After the appointment of the 2022-2024 Committee, National President Arlene Siavelis Kehl shared her direction that the Committee expand its efforts to address issues relating to homelessness. Accordingly, the Committee sought approval to rename the former Feed the Hungry Committee as the Homeless and Hungry Committee. That request was approved, and the committee has now assumed a new name, allowing us to expand our efforts to include awareness of and assistance to the homeless, or the “unhoused,” a term some experts in the field suggest more appropriately describes the condition.

The Committee will shortly complete the drafting of a mission statement that will reflect our expanded scope of services.

2. The Hungry and Homeless Committee understands that countless school children across the United States rely on their schools for meals throughout the week and into the weekends. While the Federal Free Lunch Program and the Department of Agriculture’s Summer Food Service offer major advances in assisting hungry children, only 5 states (California, Colorado, Maine, Nevada, and Vermont) have enacted similar legislation; another 21 states are currently drafting, considering, or negotiating similar legislation to address this issue. It also appears that recent complications, most significantly the COVID-19 crisis, impacted the ability of schools to participate in meal programs fully.

To assist in delivering nourishing meals and snacks to needy children in underserved and underfunded schools, the Homeless and Hungry and the Operation Classroom Committees are examining ways to work together to address the food insecurity that affects an alarming number of school children.

3. The Homeless and Hungry Committee's proposal that a page dedicated to chapter efforts to address these issues be added to the Society's website has also been approved. While we are still in the earliest stages of implementing this proposal, (and are eager to identify people who might be able to assist in the design and implementation), we hope to provide:
 - a. News and information about hunger and homelessness in the United States and throughout the world, including links to news articles and informational studies;
 - b. A monthly focus on a specific chapter and the services provided;
 - c. Information on nationwide programs to assist the homeless and hungry; and
 - d. A question-and-answer forum for chapters and members seeking information, guidance, and inspiration from others already involved in the program.

The Homeless and Hungry Committee members are dedicated, enthusiastic, creative, and eager to address the continuing crisis of homelessness and hunger. We are encouraged by the support of our National President and by the recent publication by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America of the Homelessness Guide for Orthodox Parishes and will seek out ways to work with our communities.

The Homeless and Hungry Committee welcomes your suggestions and looks forward to helping our brothers and sisters in need.