

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



HUMANITARIAN RELIEF

Chair: Irene Politis Co-Chairs: Cynthia Crosson, Demetria Bakris

Members: Elaine Cladis, Jennifer Constantin, Stacia Counelis, Pat Gerbanas, Athena Kalyvas, Despina Kartson, Georgia Skeadas, Kathy Staten, Joanne Stavrakas, Martha Stefanidakis, Stephanie Storgion-Poplos, Evellyn Tsiadis, Marilyn Tzakis, Anna Vedouras, Pamela Kakos Weinroth, Lisa Xanthos

November 10, 2023

Mission:

The Humanitarian Relief Committee of the National Philoptochos Board is charged with the mission to provide aid, compassion, dignity, and hope to those in need in times of national and international crisis. Our committee can disburse assistance during difficult times through our Chapters' most generous support of our National Commitments.

The Humanitarian Relief Committee meets as needed for disaster relief. The following disbursements were made since our last national board meeting in May.

GOARCH \$200,000 -Earmarked for Turkey and Syria

Restricted for IOCC Turkey Relief. Turkey was designated as the recipient of relief aid, due to in-the-field knowledge of where more help is needed during this crisis, and because Turkey is the country that is the seat of Orthodox Christianity with our Ecumenical Patriarchate.

IOCC \$60,000 -Earmarked for Hurricane Ian Relief

IOCC will rebuild homes for three families (6-8 persons total) in Charlotte and Lee Counties and surrounding areas. With these funds, IOCC will provide 8 weeks of critical home repair and spiritual support for the 3 families. In addition, IOCC will seek to leverage Philoptochos funds by seeking matching donations so that they will be able to continue this work for additional families beyond the initial 8 weeks. IOCC's US Volunteer Coordinator and its Site Supervisor will recruit, engage, and lead 8 teams of 8 volunteers each to complete the repairs. Two of these teams will come from volunteer Philoptochos members.

Ecumenical Federation of Constantinopolitans \$14,211

The Ecumenical Federation of Constantinopolitans (EFC) is a benevolent group in Greece that strives to assist impoverished refugees from Constantinople who were displaced in the 60s and 70s. Many of these individuals are now elderly and have limited benefits from the Greek government. The organization provides housing, food, medical care, and other essentials. Thanks to a 12,600 Euro grant from Philoptochos, the EFC can now provide food for this community for the next four months.

IOCC \$50,000 -Fires and Floods in Greece

In response to the ongoing need in Greece to help the victims of the fires and floods, IOCC developed a project titled “Emergency Response to Floods in Central Greece” to provide hot meals and other food items for about 250 flood affected villagers. This program will provide clean and safely prepared hot meals to Central Greece, Karditsa and Volos regions.

Since January 2023 to date, we have disbursed \$474,211 for emergency services to those in need.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Humanitarian Relief Committee,

Irene Politis. Chair