

GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC.
METROPOLIS PRESIDENT'S REPORT
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2023 – HOUSTON, TX
NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS BOARD MEETING



Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos
Jeannie Ranglas, President

46th Annual Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Folk Dance and Choral Festival – FDF 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.

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

Women's Wellness and Awareness Ministry – Sponsored by the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos on April 29, 2023, the program offered an engaging keynote presentation by guest speaker Jamie Nunez, the Western Regional Manager at Common Sense Media, addressing digital media use and early childhood learning.

Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology Commencement - In May 2023, as part of a decade's long tradition, seven members of the Metropolis Philoptochos Board traveled to Brookline, Massachusetts to participate in the 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. It is always edifying to share in fellowship with the students, encouraging them as they pursue service to our Church.

Kids 'n' Cancer Ministry - Camp Agape. The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos Kids 'n' Cancer – Camp Agape Ministry is dedicated to providing support for children afflicted with cancer and their families. 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. The Metropolis Philoptochos oversees four Camp Agape programs throughout the Metropolis – one each in San Diego, Dunlap (Ranch), Arizona, and Portland. Each of our camps met with enthusiasm by attendees. We raised over \$325,000 in support of this ministry at our recent Agape Celebration held at the Newport Beach Country Club on May 7, 2023.

Maui Fire Relief Efforts – 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. At least four parishioners suffered the loss of their livelihoods or businesses. The Mission Parish collected relief funds and distributed them to families in need, and as such our Philoptochos donated \$10,000 to fire relief efforts.

Young Adult Conference (YAL) - For the fourth consecutive in-person conference, the Metropolis Philoptochos partnered with the YAL Conference to underwrite the annual Diakonia project over Labor Day weekend 2023. This year the ladies of Philoptochos and young adults assembled 700 care packages through 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.

Fall Spiritual Conference & Board Elections- The Metropolis Philoptochos hosted its 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.

2024 Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress and National Philoptochos Convention - We are delighted and honored to host the CLC and National Philoptochos Convention in San Diego, CA from June 30 – July 4, 2024. We look forward to sharing our West Coast hospitality and are eager for your enthusiastic participation.

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