## GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC. NATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT JUNE 30<sup>th</sup> - July 4<sup>th</sup> – San Diego, CA NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS CONVENTION



## **Social Services**

Co-Chairs: Eleni Constantinides and Lisa Xanthos

Members: Stephanie Cha Vasilianna Fakiris Aspasia Melis Evan Scurtis Julie Vagelos Margaret Yates

Lekita Essa Irene Hotzoglou Matina Pappas Katherine Siavelis Anna Vedouras

July 2024

Your Grace Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzos, Esteemed National Philoptochos President, Mrs. Arlene Siavelis Kehl, Beloved sisters in Christ,

The Co-Chairs of the Social Services Committee, and all its members, greet you with love in the name of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Chris and welcome you to San Diego, CA for another exciting and informative Philoptochos Convention.

It is important to repeat some information, perhaps already mentioned in other reports.

PERIOD	# CASES	GRANTS AWARDED
2022	145	\$122,790.69
2023	160	\$114,643.96
2024 (01.01 - 05.18.2024)	62	\$ 55,430.09
	367	\$292,864.74

These numbers report the social services provided by the National Philoptochos Department of Social Services to Orthodox Christian individuals and families throughout the Archdiocese, irrespective of their immigration status. They do not reflect the substantial numbers of clients served or funds awarded locally to individuals and families by every Philoptochos Chapter and Metropolis. Nor do these numbers reflect the philanthropic efforts of Philoptochos Chapters and Metropolises through their monetary and volunteer support of local nonprofits such as homeless and domestic violence shelters, food banks and pantries, as well as their support of nonprofit service and advocacy organizations focusing on specific issues such as pediatric cancer, women's health, autism, Alzheimer's, hospitals, older adult and family services and more.

The Committee continues to work at finding ways to educate our chapters about how the department of Social Services works, how it is a life saver for a large number of individuals who very frequently find themselves in difficult and often desperate situations. We try to emphasize to our chapters that Social Services is indeed the heart and soul of Philoptochos. We are

fortunate to always have by our side the National Director of Social Services, Mrs. Paulette Geanacopoulos, who is always ready to answer our questions on policy and procedures.

Our National Bereavement Support Group has become very popular and the number of people who are interested in participating is constantly increasing. This led to more sessions being planned.

We continue to research the feasibility of more workshops and seminars on domestic violence, mental health, homelessness, and substance abuse.

We have a very eager and knowledgeable group of women who recognize the need for social change. Many have professional experience in this field, and they are willing to share their knowledge and expertise with us.

We are looking forward to continuing to work with the members of our Social Services Committee, and we are counting on their continuous support and cooperation as we move forward.