ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT PHILOPTOCHOS REPORT
2022-2024

Irene Hotzoglou
March 2024

The last few months as President of the Archdiocesan District Board have been a blessing. The ladies of the A.D. Board work tirelessly with love, kindness, and dedication for our mission. We are an army of wonderful and strong women who work together with a common goal of making a difference and strive to continue the beautiful work of Philanthropy,

**Feed the Hungry** – Our Program continues to be very successful. Every last Tuesday of each month, a chapter volunteers, sometimes in conjunction with their parish or another philoptochos chapter, to come and distribute food, clothing, toiletries, hand-knitted hats and sweaters, new undergarments, and socks to the underserved and homeless of New York City. We have moved to another location on 35th Street and Broadway. Those served are very grateful for everything we provide, and it is truly a humbling experience for all those who volunteer.

**Social Services** This fall, we offered our chapters to participate in having their own “Domestic Violence Drive” to support our Domestic Violence Initiative. The Drive was held November 1st – December 15th. Our chapters were encouraged to participate and distribute to local women’s shelters and safe houses. Together, we collected over 6,500 items, including diapers/baby wipes, personal hygiene products, toiletries, pajamas, blankets, and clothing. We also collected $1,875.00 in gift cards as well as monetary donations. The local chapters delivered the items to places such as Safe Center LI, My Sister’s Place in No. White Plains, NY, Interval House in Hartford Ct., Bridge to Life in Queens, NY, and Douglaston Transitional Residence on Long Island. Our next district-wide drive will take place during Great Lent. We will be collecting gently used handbags. These drives bring the faithful together with a common goal of doing good work and helping the destitute. We continue to assist various cases as the need is great. Aiding the impoverished is the heart of Philoptochos.

**Saint Michael’s Home** Construction is moving forward on the Uniondale site in Long Island, NY. This new magnificent state-of-the-art facility will be able to accommodate more residents and offer additional services and additional spaces for the enjoyment of all. Still, most importantly, it will provide higher levels of care to the ever-increasing needs of our elderly. The Archdiocesan District Philoptochos chapters are devoted to supporting this ministry. We plan to organize a tour for our chapters so they may see the progress and learn more about the future expanded St. Michael’s Home.

**Beacons of Hope Seminarian Scholarship Fund** We are pleased to continue to support our seminarians in their journey to the priesthood. With the blessing of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, The Beacons of Hope Seminarian Scholarship Fund was created to bring financial relief to the seminarians from the Archdiocesan District who attend Holy Cross Seminary studying for the Master of Divinity after choosing to dedicate their lives to the priesthood. Beacons of Hope is so incredibly important because it will help ensure the future of our Church. These funds are distributed twice a year at the start of the Fall semester and Spring semester. We had five district seminarians we helped in the Fall semester, and we are proud to say that one of those students graduated in December, was ordained a Deacon, and placed at St. Sophia Cathedral in Washington, DC. We currently have four seminarians enlisted in the Spring semester and continue supporting them. Our chapters support this fund by holding fundraising events and reaching out to individuals within their parishes.
**Sisterhood of the Traveling Philoptochos Part 2** Since these gatherings were so successful last year, we continue having them. We have these events once or twice a month, which Chapters within our district host, and the Philoptochos sisters enjoy attending. They are free and purely social for some brainstorming and sharing ideas. We started incorporating workshops at these events, which have been very successful and informative.

**Project Review Grants**. On Thursday, December 28, 2023, Philoptochos National Board and Archdiocesan District Board ladies visited the New York Presbyterian Morgan Stanley's Children's Hospital in Manhattan. A $11,129 check was presented to the neonatal unit staff at the hospital. The grant, submitted by the New York Presbyterian Fund, was approved by the Project Review Committee and the National Philoptochos Executive Board to support the project, “providing comfort to mothers and babies born with neonatal abstinence syndrome.” The funds from this project will be used to purchase items and tools for the families to make their stay at the hospital more comfortable and to help shorten the time that they need to be there.

The Archdiocesan District Philoptochos Board continues to promote its beautiful Philanthropic endeavors by working together harmoniously and diligently with love. We are excited to announce the reinstatement of St. George Philoptochos Chapter No. 46. In NYC. Their Oath of office was held on Sunday, January 20, 2024. Also, we are helping the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church & National Shrine form their Philoptochos chapter No. 49, where they will soon have their Oath of Office.

The Archdiocesan District Philoptochos is constantly having events and workshops that help guide our chapters to continue the good works and the mission of the Philoptochos. Below are some of our upcoming events and accomplishments:

- We will join the Archdiocesan District at their Clergy Laity Biennial Conference on Saturday, April 6th, 2024, at the Holy Resurrection Church in Brookville, NY. There will be a meeting to discuss our part and the logistics of that day.
- Our Lenten Retreat will be on Saturday, April 20, 2024, at Holy Resurrection Greek Orthodox Church in Brookville, NY. The speaker will be Steve Christoforou, Director of Operations & Community Engagement of Focus. The topic TBA.
- Our Biennial Agape Luncheon will be on Saturday, April 26, 2025. More information will follow.
- Reaching out to our chapters and keeping them informed is very important. We have joined the ranks of Constant Contact for email communication and continue to update our new website. Please reach out to us for anything you may need, and we welcome you to share your ideas and suggestions.
  
  [www.archdistrictphiloptochos.org](http://www.archdistrictphiloptochos.org) * philoptochos@archdistrictphiloptochos.org
The Archdiocesan District Philoptochos is grateful for the blessings and guidance of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, our District Chancellor Father Elias Villas, National Philoptochos Spiritual Advisor Bishop Athenagoras and District Archdiocesan Philoptochos Advisor Father Chrysostom Gilbert.

“TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH”

In His Service,

Irene Hotzoglou
Archdiocesan District Philoptochos President