

NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY PROGRAMS AND MINISTRY COMMITMENTS

Saint Basil Academy – Vasilopita Fund - January

Saint Basil Academy – Sisterhood of Saint Basil Academy Fund - April

In March 1944, Archbishop Athenagoras recommended that the Philoptochos Society purchase the 250-acre Rupert Estate in Garrison, New York, located on the shores of the Hudson River, directly across from the United States Military Academy at West Point. With that purchase and the establishment of the Academy of St. Basil, Philoptochos undertook a lasting commitment to the children who reside there. Today, Philoptochos remains a significant financial supporter of the Academy through two ministry commitments:

- **Vasilopita**: Held in January by every chapter in the United States, this event provides major funding for Saint Basil Academy as well as for youth and young adult programs throughout the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
- **Sisterhood**: The Sisterhood Fund provides for the ongoing needs of the children of the Academy, such as clothing, furnishings, equipment, and other essentials for the dormitories and kitchens, as well as support for the graduation ceremonies and special awards for students.

Social Services Fund – January

Cancer and Other Major Illnesses Fund – January

Following the recommendations of Archbishop Iakovos, Philoptochos has, since the late 1950s, focused on implementing important programs to benefit the Greek Orthodox community, including but not limited to the institutions of the church and programs assisting Orthodox families.

Since 1987, the National Philoptochos Office has employed a licensed Social Worker to assist the Greek Orthodox community in the United States and Greek and Cypriot nationals. The Department of Social Services is a critical and vital component of the Society. The mission of the Department is to improve the quality of life of those in need in a way that maintains the dignity and self-respect of the individual. The office provides outreach, education, information, support, motivation, advocacy, financial assistance, and referrals to local and broader resources through confidential and professional services.

As uncovered medical costs continue to be a key concern in the United States, the Philoptochos Cancer, and Other Major Illnesses Fund provides relief to members of our community, regardless of immigration status, so that they can focus on their health and healthcare needs rather than their financial challenges.

Saint Photios Shrine Fund – February

In 1965, the Archdiocese purchased the Averro House in historic Saint Augustine, Florida, to commemorate the arrival of the first Greek settlers in the New World in 1768. Philoptochos continues its commitment to providing financial assistance for the preservation of the Saint Photios National Shrine.

Orthodox Christian Missions Fund – March

Support a Mission Priest Fund – March

The Society offers financial assistance to Orthodox Christian Mission organizations, strengthening their ability to carry the message of the Orthodox Church through media and missions worldwide. In addition, the Support a Mission Priest ministry also enables Orthodox bishops and priests in mission areas to build and restore churches, community centers, schools, and medical facilities and participate in training, teaching, and field management.

Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology Lenten Event Fund – March
Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology Scholarship Fund – September

Archbishop Athenagoras established the Holy Cross School of Theology in June 1937 in Pomfret, Connecticut. The Archbishop addressed a special appeal to the Philoptochos to devote themselves to the school, “where your sons will be educated as priests and teachers.” Over eighty-six years later, Philoptochos continues its strong commitment to and financial support of Hellenic College/Holy Cross through the following programs:

- **HCHC Lenten Event Fund**: On the Third Sunday of Lent, observing the Veneration of the Holy Cross, Philoptochos chapters sponsor a Lenten Event following the Divine Liturgy, with proceeds dedicated to the school's operating expenses.
- **HCHC Scholarship Fund**: Scholarships are awarded to worthy and dedicated students, both men and women, at Hellenic College and seminarians at Holy Cross to assist with tuition expenses.

International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) Fund – April

The IOCC is the humanitarian aid agency of Orthodox Christians, providing food, shelter, economic self-sufficiency, and hope to those in need worldwide. Philoptochos partners with IOCC to serve as first responders to significant world disasters through education, health, and primary necessities.

Eldercare Fund – May/June

In July 2024, at the National Philoptochos Biennial Convention, a resolution was passed to rename the 75th Anniversary Fund to the Eldercare Fund. In honor of the 75th Anniversary of the Philoptochos Society, this fund provides financial support to Greek Orthodox older adults and their families to assist with housing, utilities, unreimbursed or uncovered medical expenses, home health care, hospice, funerals, safety equipment, and specially approved projects. It also supports existing continuing care facilities serving the aging Greek Orthodox population in the United

In July 2024, at the National Philoptochos Biennial Convention, a resolution was passed to add the Orthodox Prison Ministry Fund. This fund supports the work of Orthodox Prison Ministry (OPM), the official prison ministry of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States. OPM brings the light of Christ to those living in darkness by providing spiritual care, resources, and sacramental ministry to Orthodox Christians and others in prisons nationwide. Contributions to this fund help supply Orthodox literature, icons, and prayer books to inmates, train and support clergy and volunteers for prison ministry, and assist with reentry efforts to help former inmates reintegrate into society with faith and dignity.

Retired Clergy/Widowed Presvyteres Benevolent Fund – September

Through this commitment, Philoptochos supports the Retired Clergy and Widowed Presvyteres of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, established in 1988 to support retired clergy who face financial challenges.

National Philoptochos Emergency Fund – October

This fund enables the Philoptochos Society to immediately respond to those in need in times of national or international crisis.

Ecumenical Patriarchate Fund – November

This commitment supports the philanthropies of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, such as Balukli Hospital and nursing homes, schools, shrines, and parishes.

APC-NSP Benevolent Fund– November

The National Sisterhood of Presvyteres was established in 1982 and comprises all Presvyteres of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Philoptochos funds provide short-term support for clergy and/or their families in times of crisis.

United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) – December

In 1979, to commemorate the United Nations' “International Year of the Child,” Philoptochos was designated a Non-Governmental Organization, working with the United Nations and UNICEF. Philoptochos’ donations help this global organization protect children's rights, health, and well-being worldwide.

General Medical Fund – December

Philoptochos receives numerous requests for financial assistance for adults afflicted with medical conditions outside the scope of restricted funds established by the Society. The Society utilizes this fund to aid in cases where appropriate funding is not otherwise available.