



PHILOPTOCHOS

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco

Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos Ministries and Projects

Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Student Aid Endowment Fund

The Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Student Aid Endowment Fund (BAPSAEF) was established over 40 years ago, through the spiritual vision and foresight of His Eminence Metropolitan Anthony, of blessed memory, and the support of the Metropolis of San Francisco Ladies Philoptochos Society. This vision and hope that was created continues under the spiritual leadership of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos. Our primary mission is to provide financial scholarships for seminarians and students from the Metropolis of San Francisco attending Hellenic College /Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, in Brookline, Massachusetts. Each Philoptochos Chapter throughout our Metropolis supports BAPSAEF through annual commitments. Our **Light the Path – A Christmas Luncheon** is a special gathering that brings together supporters united in their commitment to serving our seminarians and students.



In addition, the mission of **Adopt-a-Student** Program is to enhance and build bonds between seminarians and students and Philoptochos Chapters to connect them to our communities. The Philoptochos Chapters will assist them through their stay at Hellenic College/Holy Cross and give them creative and varied support until they graduate.

Kids 'n' Cancer / 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. *Camp Agape* is a special place where families have the opportunity to enjoy four carefree, all-expense paid summer days, away from the sights and sounds of doctors, laboratories, and hospitals, where they spend so much of their lives. This Philoptochos ministry that began and continues at the Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center in Dunlap, California and has expanded to camps in: Portland, Oregon; Ramona, California; and Phoenix, Arizona. We expanded our love and support to Camp Agape families by hosting joyful Christmas and reunion celebrations across the Metropolis, spreading the holiday spirit, friendship, and love. Philoptochos also stands beside our families throughout the year in their times of greatest need—offering support for medical care, assistance with housing, and, when necessary, help with funeral expenses.



Our Agape—A Celebration of Love is an annual reception that brings together supporters to learn about the Kids 'n' Cancer ministry and to offer love, care, and support to children and their families facing serious medical challenges.

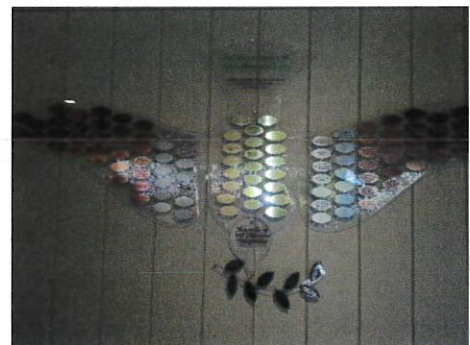
Social Services

The Social Services ministry embodies the spirit of Philoptochos by assisting those in need of caring, kindness, and compassion. Social Services is truly the heart of Philoptochos. In these uncertain financial times, the need for such a ministry is paramount to our mission as Philoptochos women, touching others both financially and spiritually. Our mission extends to supporting individuals and families during times of emergency, medical crises, and other critical hardships, making the continuation of this ministry essential to achieving our goal.

Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center

Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center provides for spiritual nourishment and renewal for those who seek it. Nestled in the beautiful valley of the Sierra Nevada mountains, the Ranch stands at the foothills of this serene location. The Metropolis Philoptochos has been one of its privileged caretakers since its inception.

Adorning the renovated Philoptochos Lodge patio, the Recognition Dove inspires the newly arrived guests to reflect on the spirituality of Philoptochos. A legacy contribution can be donated to honor a loved one, or in memory of a loved one. This contribution would support the works of the Philoptochos ministries of the Metropolis of San Francisco.



Diakonia

In Greek, *diakonia* (διακονία) means service, ministry, or help. Nine years ago, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos partnered with the Greek Folk Dance Festival (FDF) to host a *diakonia* project to feed the hungry—an overwhelming success. Since then, Philoptochos has continued working alongside FDF on meaningful projects such as feeding the hungry, packing and supplying school backpacks, and building children's bicycles.



We have since expanded our *diakonia* by partnering with our Metropolis Young Adults League (YAL), supporting their annual conference service project. Through these efforts, our *diakonia* projects have highlighted the mission of Philoptochos to our youth and strengthened our commitment to helping those in need.

