



# GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

## GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, Inc.

**SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITMENT: \$350**  
**CANCER COMMITMENT: \$250 / Discretionary**

January 2011

*"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." - Anne Frank*

Dear National Board Members, Chapter Presidents and Philoptochos Members:

We may not say it often enough, and for that, we apologize, but thank you! We hope you know that we recognize and appreciate that it is only through your generosity and support of National's Social Services and Cancer Commitments that we can uphold the meaning of our name – "friend of the poor" and thus, improve the world. So again, thank you!

Because we know how hard you work to fulfill National's obligations while at the same time responding to your many important local philanthropic activities, we report to you the value of your Social Services and Cancer support:

This past year, your contributions enabled us to change many lives for the better. Within the Direct Archdiocesan District and each of our eight Metropolises, we responded to the needs of individuals and families who live in and near poverty, face life-threatening illnesses and debilitating disabilities, and whose lives have been devastated by issues of child abuse, domestic violence, homelessness and more. Our goal, as always, is to improve the quality of life of our faithful in a way that maintains their dignity and self-respect. Referrals came from our Hierarchs and Parish Priests, Metropolis Presidents, Philoptochos Chapters, family members and friends, and local social service agencies.

During Calendar Year 2010, National's Social Services Department awarded a total of \$103,274.60:

- 48% of these grants were to individuals and families severely impacted by the economic recession. We helped prevent evictions and utility shut-offs, we facilitated emergency oil deliveries in the midst of one of the coldest and iciest winters we have experienced, and we ensured that children did not go hungry. In almost all cases, our interventions – financial and social service referrals - successfully leveraged additional funding and services through government and other nonprofit sources.
- 31% of our financial assistance was awarded to persons unable to pay uncovered medical costs for illnesses. For most, cancer was the primary diagnosis. In addition, we assisted with costs related to the care of a quadriplegic and those suffering from Multiple Sclerosis and Alzheimer's disease. Many of these recipients have health insurance, but their treatment either had been denied or only partial amounts were paid – some due to pre-existing conditions, while others fell into the Medicare Part D Prescription "Donut" hole.
- 16% helped cover funeral expenses that could not be paid by family members.
- 3% provided financial relief to a family whose three children - a 12 year old daughter and 10 year old twin sons - suffer from severe autism.
- 2% was awarded to victims of domestic violence. Two of the women were owed significant amounts in child support that would solve their financial problems, but not surprisingly, their spouses refuse to pay even though one had served a four-month jail term for willful non-payment of child support.

Philoptochos provides many essential services to those in need. One notable way we help, especially in these difficult economic times of scarce resources, causes us to stand out among many nonprofit organizations – our capacity to provide direct financial assistance on behalf of those in need. As a result, your support of our work is more important than ever. Many of you already have done so, and for that we thank you, but for those of you who have yet to submit your Social Services and Cancer Commitments, please do so as soon as you can so that we may continue to alleviate the hardships faced by many within our community.

Sincerely,

Eftalia Katos  
Social Services Chairman

Stella Fiorentino  
Social Services Co-Chairman

Aspasia Melis  
Social Services Co-Chairman