



Philoptochos Society of Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church

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Metropolis: Denver

Chapter Name: Philoptochos Society of Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church
Austin, Texas
Chapter No. 8055

Project Title: Philoptochos and the Austin Community present an Evening of Music and Information Benefiting Children with Special Needs.

Project Summary: We have several children with special needs in our Parish Community. As a part of our ongoing community outreach efforts and after meeting with our Parish priest, Father Vasileios, we made the decision to work with organizations in the Austin area that support children with special needs. The following groups participated in our project:

- 1) Any Baby Can (Provides assistance to hearing impaired Children.)
- 2) The Capitol School of Austin (Offers programs for children with speech and language difficulties, as well as, Autism.)
- 3) Growing Roots (Empowers and Educates low income Spanish and English speaking children with disabilities.)
- 4) Antidefamation League (Addresses "bullying," as it relates to children with disabilities.)
- 5) Texas Trail Rides - Hippo-therapy (Provides a form of physical and/or occupational therapy using horses to improve neurological function and sensory processing.)

The focal point of this project was a fund raising event held in our Parish Hall hosting 160 guests, including Platinum, Gold and Silver sponsor levels. The event started at 5:30 and the ticket to the event entitled the ticket holder to Greek hors d'oeuvres, champagne, wine and/or coffee, and sweets. In addition, we held a silent auction of 10 FABULOUS items! The five groups listed above each had individual tables and shared information with the guest regarding their organization and how they assist families of children with special needs. The highlight of the evening was the musical operatic debut of Lainie Horwedel and Susan Holland, members of our Transfiguration Philoptochos Chapter.

We engaged the assistance of a film director and sound technician to visually capture the message of our project, and to film a welcome segment from Father and our Philoptochos President. The welcome segment also included references to one of our new additions, the dome iconography.

Monies from this event were divided among the five participating organizations and Transfiguration, for the benefit of children with disabilities.