



# GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

## GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, Inc.

### National Philoptochos Honors First Lady of Cyprus, Andri Anastasiades

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New York, NY- In honor of Andri Anastasiades, First Lady of the Republic of Cyprus, the Executive Board of the National Philoptochos Society hosted an afternoon tea on September 22 at the Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy. National President Aphrodite Skeadas, together with Direct Archdiocesan District Philoptochos President Jennifer Constantin and Metropolis of New Jersey Philoptochos President Anne Michals, welcomed Anastasiades and the Honorable Consul General of Cyprus, Ambassador Vasilios Philippou and his wife, Ann Philippou.

Anastasiades assumed the role of First Lady in February 2013, when her husband, Nicos Anastasiades was elected President of Cyprus after a long career as a Member of the House of Representatives. President Anastasiades was in New York to attend the 69th UN General Assembly.

During the tea service, the dignitaries and members present discussed current conditions for the people of Cyprus, for whom the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society in 2013 donated a total of \$105,000, including \$20,000 to the Cyprus Autism Association, \$10,000 to the Holy Bishopric of Morfou and \$10,000 to the Metropolis of Kykkos and Tillyria.

A paragon of philanthropic activity, both humanitarian and cultural, Anastasiades told the guests that she had recently started a drive to raise money for children and education, for which 100% of the funds would be used for aid. She also extended an open invitation for tea in Cyprus to the women of Philoptochos.

Members of the Philoptochos Society shared with her the good work done by the army of 27,000 women who make up the organization, including the selection and disbursement of Children's Medical Fund grants and community outreach such as emergency relief after Hurricane Sandy. Social Services Director Paulette Geanacopoulos discussed the programs and services that the organization provides.

Anastasiades was born and raised in Limassol on the southern coast of the island country. She studied civil engineering and worked in civil service in the Public Works Department before turning her focus to major involvement in various charitable foundations and associations, including, to name just a few--Cyprus Association of Cancer Patients and Friends, Cyprus Foundation for Muscular Dystrophy Research, Association of Relatives and Friends of Addicted Persons in Cyprus and Avantgarde Cultural Foundation. President and Mrs. Anastasiades have two daughters and four grandchildren.

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The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society is the philanthropic arm of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America with 27,000 members nationwide. Philoptochos responds immediately to needs and crises and its philanthropic outreach extends to each area of the country and throughout the world. For the two year period of January 2012 through December 2013, National Philoptochos distributed an unprecedented \$3.102 million in philanthropic aid.

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