



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, Inc.

For immediate release: November 18th, 2019

PHILOPTOCHOS HOSTS CHILDREN'S MEDICAL FUND LUNCHEON IN CHICAGO TO BENEFIT AREA HOSPITALS AND CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Under the High Patronage of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church in America and His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago, the Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos hosted the Seventeenth National Philoptochos Children's Medical Fund Luncheon, "Let Us Rejoice and Embrace the Children," on Saturday, November 16th at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile in Chicago, IL.

Established in 1989, the Children's Medical Fund (CMF) has made a positive difference in the lives of children in the United States and throughout the world by donating close to \$3 million to medical programs and facilities that offer care, treatment, innovative research and cures.

National Philoptochos President, Maria Logus and Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos President and Luncheon Chair, Pamela Agyris disbursed nearly \$300,000 and announce the following 2019 Children's Medical Fund Grant recipients:

1. Anchored in Hope, Lake Forest, IL
2. Child's Voice, Wood Dale, IL
3. Elyssa's Mission, Northbrook, IL
4. Hadley School for the Blind, Winnetka, IL
5. Mercy Home for Boys and Girls, Chicago, IL
6. Special Education District of Lake County (SEDOL) Foundation Gages Lake, IL
7. John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County, Chicago, IL
8. University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine, Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary (IEEI), Chicago, IL
9. Beacon Children's Hospital, South Bend, IN
10. Mental Health America of Northwest Indiana, Hammond, IN
11. Unity Point Health, St. Luke's Foundation, Sioux City, IA
12. Fairview Foundation, St. Paul, MN
13. Hennepin Health Foundation, Minneapolis, MN
14. Family Forward, Brentwood, Children's Home, St. Louis, MO
15. University of Missouri Health Care, Columbia, MO
16. Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI
17. Rogers Behavioral Health Foundation, Oconomowoc, WI

Highlighting the Luncheon as the keynote speaker is Fr. Mark Munoz, Proistamenos at Holy Anargyroi SS. Cosmas & Damianos Church in Rochester, MN. A special honor will be presented to Anastasia Michals of Blessed Memory, Chair of the Sixteenth Children's Medical Fund Luncheon. Serving as Emcee for the afternoon, Andrea Darlas, Senior Director for Constituent Engagement at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

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The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society is the philanthropic arm of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America with over 25,000 members nationwide. Philoptochos responds immediately to needs and crises and its philanthropic outreach extends to each area of the country and throughout the world. In 2018, National Philoptochos distributed \$1.373 million in philanthropic aid. Website: www.philoptochos.org

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Seventeenth National Philoptochos Children's Medical Fund Luncheon

2019 CHILDREN'S MEDICAL FUND GRANT RECIPIENTS

Anchored in Hope **Lake Forest, Illinois**

\$16,198.50

Project: Licensed Nursing Staff and Medical Supplies for Camp Hope for Children with Special Needs

Their campers are their main constituents and consist of adolescents and young adults with developmental disabilities, including Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, Autism, Williams Syndrome, Epilepsy. This grant will provide funding for 2020 and 2021.

“Camp Hope is a true definition of love and life, and we’ve discovered over time that the greatest gift is gift we received in our service to these children.” -*Cynthia Passalino, Board Member, Committee Chair Growth & Development.*

Child's Voice **Wood Dale, Illinois**

\$25,000

Project: Child's Voice Early Intervention (EI) Program

Their mission is to empower children with and at-risk for hearing loss to be successful in all educational and social settings by optimizing their listening, speaking, and academic skills. Funding will support this important programming for 15 to 25 children.

“Child's Voice erases the barriers that once kept children who were deaf or hard of hearing from being successful and a part of a working and social community.” -*Kate Bousum, Director of Advancement*

Elyssa's Mission **Northbrook, Illinois**

\$11,520

Project: Elyssa's Mission Evidence-Based Signs of Suicide (SOS) Program in New Middle and/or High Schools in Plainfield School District 202

Elyssa's Mission provides the resources to support at-risk teens and prevent suicide via the SOS Program: education to raise awareness and related issues, and brief screening for depression and other risk factors associated with suicidal behavior. This grant will fund the program in 5 New Schools in the District.

“Elyssa's mission never turns a school away, we've seen an increase in the need for help, but a decrease of suicide attempts, which means the program is working. We've learned it's okay to talk about teen suicide.” -*Palma Lacey, SOS Program Assistant*



**Hadley School for the Blind
Winnetka, Illinois**

\$16,298

Project: Hadley Distance Learning for Visually Impaired Youth

This project uses instructional videos to teach 14–18-year-old blind and visually impaired youth how to use the low-vision/voice-enabled features built into Smart Phones and iPads, as well as to learn braille or adaptive techniques. This grant will fund one of two low-vision workshops for 40 youth.

“These resourceless developed by Hadley are game changers for individuals who are blind and visually impaired, erasing so many of the barriers” -*Brooke Voss, Chief Development Officer*

**Mercy Home for Boys and Girls
Chicago, Illinois**

\$20,000

Project: Health and Safety Programming

This project serves young lives in crisis by providing a safe, nurturing residential treatment home, after care support, and mentoring. Support is being provided for the organization’s substance use disorders treatment programming by funding the individual and group counseling sessions and comprehensive drug testing services.

“I am deeply grateful to those who continue to make this work possible by sharing their gifts with us to enhance the lives of the children entrusted to our care. The support we receive for our Substance Use Disorders Treatment program will enhance the health and wellbeing of so many of our young people and clear a pathway to success and independence in life.” -*Father Scott Donahue, President & CEO of Mercy Home for Boys & Girls*

“When joining the Mercy Home, you are in the family for life.” -*Elizabeth Norden, Director of Foundation Relations*

**Special Education District of Lake County (SEDOL) Foundation
Gages Lake, Illinois**

\$15,000

Project: Weekend Backpack Program

SEDOL’s mission is to provide resources that enrich educational, vocational, and social opportunities for special needs children ages 3–22 in Lake County who are physically, mentally and emotionally disabled. This grant will expand the Weekend Backpack Program providing enough nutritious food for additional 112 special needs children plus two siblings for 35 weeks of school year.

“Through your generosity the Weekend Backpack Program will help to eliminate food insecurity for special needs children and their families in Lake County.” -*Ann Subry, Executive Director*

**John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County
Chicago, Illinois**

\$21,600

Project: Car Seats Save Lives

The hospital’s constituencies are 92% minority patients who primarily live below the poverty line. Most of their patients are underserved and come from disadvantaged, lower socio-economic status families, with limited access to health care. This project will provide funding for 600 infant car seats.



University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine, Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary **\$22,45**
Chicago, Illinois

Project: Identification of Demographic and Family Related Factors That Impede Successful Implementation of Amblyopia Treatment in Chicago-Area Children

Amblyopia, also known as lazy eye, is a vision development disorder in which an eye fails to achieve normal vision acuity, even with prescription eyeglasses or contact lenses. It is the most common form of visual impairment. This grant will fund important research that will impact amblyopia therapy for the pediatric population across the U.S. for decades to come.

“The response rate to treatment is 90% with a cost-effective treatment that has lifelong implications.”

-Dr. M. Cem Mocan, Professor Pediatric Ophthalmology

Beacon Children’s Hospital **\$13,071.30**
South Bend, Indiana

Project: Improving Care for Critically Ill Children and Premature Babies

The goal of this project is to improve patient care and outcomes in the areas of respiratory management, sedation, and IV starts by reducing the complications associated with these procedures. This grant will provide the necessary funding for the purchase of 10 Neopuff Infant Resuscitators and 1 Vein Finder.

“Regional Children’s Hospitals are vitally important for communities providing local critical access to families in need.” -Ryann DeMoss, Senior Major Gift Officer

Mental Health America of Northwest Indiana **\$10,000**
Hammond, Indiana

Project: Parents as Teachers (PAT)/Empowering Teens as Parents (ETAP)

PAT is an early childhood home-visiting model, including personal visits, group meetings, behavioral screenings, and resource networking to help children grow up healthy and safe. Funding will expand services to include more families, as well as providing program materials and direct service staff.

“Being able to transition families from our waitlist to PAT services means more children in our communities will grow up loved, supported, and ready to learn. The first 5 years of a child’s life are critical, and these funds will allow us to impact more lives for good. Not only are the children the beneficiaries, but *their* children will benefit, and *their children’s* children ... our programs support meaningful generational change.” -Andrea Sherwin, President & CEO

Unity Point Health, St. Luke’s Foundation **\$25,000**
Sioux City, Iowa

Project: Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Patient Monitors Project

This grant will allow the organization to complete the needed patient monitors project in 2019 as part of 26 IntelliVue MX550 monitors for NICU rooms, which showcase all their littlest patients’ vitals on one screen.

“Many families whose newborns are monitored with this new equipment are always expressing their gratitude to us for the care they receive. Research shows us that gratitude is a part of healing and you are helping people to heal.” -Susan Unger, President



Fairview Foundation
St. Paul, Minnesota

\$15,136

Project: Diagnosing and Treating Infant Hearing Loss in Rural Minnesota

Early identification and treatment give a child with hearing loss the best chance to develop speech and language like normal-hearing peers. This grant will provide funding toward the purchase of a Vivosonic Integrity System V500 G2 (Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) Testing Equipment).

“Fairview drives a healthier future and provides advanced technology and equipment to improve care for our deaf and hard of hearing pediatric patients who live in rural areas. We express our deepest gratitude for this grant to help assess babies at an early age.” -*Julie Schimelpfenig, Senior Director of Philanthropy*

Hennepin Health Foundation
Minneapolis, Minnesota

\$13,261.50

Project: Promoting Infant Safe Sleep Conditions for Families Experiencing Poverty

Through this program, a Pack ‘n Play crib that includes a Bassinet is provided for each at-risk and high-risk family living in the target service area. The grant will provide for the purchase of 175 Pack ‘n Play Cribs/Bassinets.

“Families are getting access to a basic need for an infant where they otherwise would not be able to. It’s a practical resource that can have a huge impact on the community at large.” -*Anna Mueller, Director of Family Health*

Family Forward, Brentwood Children’s Home
St. Louis, Missouri

\$15,000

Project: Specialized Bathtub for Non-Ambulatory Children

This grant will go toward the purchase of a specialized bathtub and lifter for the Brentwood Children’s Home for residential and respite care to provide for the basic hygiene needs of these fragile children with significant developmental disabilities with medical complications.

“Your investment is making a difference in the future generation for these children and their families.”
-*Jamal Bailey, Fundraising Manager*

University of Missouri Health Care
Columbia, Missouri

\$5,000

Project: Neonatal Outreach Education Program

The goal of this program is to educate the staff at rural hospitals so they can provide the highest quality care to improve the outcome of these infants. This grant will provide funding to purchase equipment as part of the Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP).

“In about 10% of all births, newborns require some type of resuscitation efforts and in 1% of all births, newborns require extensive interventions like intubation, chest compressions and/or medications to help them in this transition process. Using simulation manikins to help healthcare providers maintain their skills has been shown to improve patient outcomes. Since you can’t always predict which babies will require help, it is important to always be prepared.” -*Dr. John Pardalos, Medical Director, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit*



**Children's Hospital of Wisconsin
Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

\$12,500

Project: Child Life Services: Non-Pharmacological Pain Management

For those children in pain, this program promotes effective coping through play, preparation, education, guided imagery, and self-expression activities. Funding is designated to purchase of hospital- approved supplies for approximately one year, for use in children's specialty, primary and urgent care clinics which are not located on the hospital campus or regularly staffed with a child life specialist.

“With this grant, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin will provide wraparound support throughout challenging medical journeys for kids and families. Promoting effective coping through play, preparation, education, guided imagery, and self-expression activities rather than pharmacological interventions eases fears and anxieties, reduces stress, and enhances outcomes.” *-Jennifer Frahm, Associate Development Officer*

**Rogers Behavioral Health Foundation
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin**

\$25,000

Project: Expanding Specialized Mental Health Treatment for Children and Adolescents at Rogers Behavioral Outpatient Clinic in Appleton, Wisconsin

The goal of this project is to help serve 32 children and adolescents per day and provide specialty treatment for obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD) and anxiety, depression recovery, eating disorders, addiction recovery, trauma recovery, and mental health challenges for individuals on the autism spectrum. This grant will provide increased services and innovative equipment for a sensory room.

“Mental Health challenges are real and treatable. 92% of patients after treatment are very improved to very much improved.” *-Stacey Basile, Communication Marketing Manager*

