



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF BOSTON PHILOPTOCHOS

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Your Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, Your Grace Bishop Apostolos of Medeia, National Philoptochos President Maria Logus and Sisters of the National Philoptochos Executive Board,

Happy New Year!

It is with great pleasure that I bring you greetings from the Metropolis of Boston Philoptochos Board. It has been a very busy fall/winter as we transition with a new Metropolis Board. The Board has met monthly since September to plan events, continue outreach to area chapters and revamp the social media program.

Feed the Hungry Program

Eleni Stamboulidis and Georgia Lagadinos report that the Metropolis has fed 41,164 to date, thanks to a major effort of the Saint Demetrios Philoptochos/Weston that recently sponsored a *Rise to Hunger Event* (feeding 15,100). This event brought together over 80 participants including the Clergy, Philoptochos, Parishioners and GOYA from the Parish.

Veterans Operation Housewarming

In anticipation of the Christmas season, once again the Boston Metropolis provided the New England VA Healthcare System with the needed household items from the Veterans Wish List to assist the homeless veterans in their transition to independent living. Additionally, Christmas gifts were presented for 50+ children of the homeless families. Chapters either dropped items off at the Metropolis or arranged for pick-up at their respective churches. For example, the Saint Demetrios Philoptochos collected \$5000 and household items from Parishioners. The funds collected were used to purchase additional household items for approximately 50 families and 80 turkey dinners for Veterans.

Opioid Crisis

Savina Prokopios-Davos continues to gather data as directed by the National Board committee addressing this issue.

Human Trafficking Event

The Saint Gregory Philoptochos/Mansfield is sponsoring a human trafficking event on Saturday, March 14, 2020. Dr. Kyriaki Karidoyanes Fitzgerald and Presbytera Maria Drossos will speak on this very difficult topic. In lieu of a fee, attendees are asked for donations to the Covenant House www.covenanthouse.org.

Spring Fundraiser

We are currently in the planning stages of a Women's Health Panel, scheduled on Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at the Saint Demetrios Church. Mallika Marshall, MD/WBZ-TV Journalist will moderate the event with a panel of doctors focusing on breast cancer, mental health, GI, ob-gyn and cardiac issues. All Board members are engaged in preparing for this event.

Other Events in the Metropolis

The following are just a few highlights of events that took place in the Metropolis over the past few months.

Philoxenia House

The Philoxenia House, founded in 1986, is the centerpiece of the Philanthropic Ministry of the Metropolis of Boston. The Philoxenia House opens its embrace to people who find themselves in Boston for medical reasons. The Resident Guests travel from throughout the world to this "home away from home."

The Philoxenia House, a ministry of the Metropolis of Boston Philoptochos, which provides housing for travelers to Boston requiring medical assistance, requested donations through the Amazon Wishlist program. This program ran through social media on Facebook and the Metropolis was very appreciative by the response, receiving a room full of packages from the area Parishes and Chapters.

Transfiguration Philoptochos/Lowell 66th Annual Christmas Tea

I was honored to attend the 66th Annual Christmas Tea sponsored by the Transfiguration Church of Lowell Philoptochos. The Downton Abbey Luncheon/Tea featured fashions from the era and each guest was asked to bring an age appropriate book for children in grades K-4. A very well attended event!

Operation Warm Blankets

Over the past two years, the Annunciation Cathedral of Boston Philoptochos collected new blankets from Parishioners. This winter, the Philoptochos dropped off 40 blankets to a women's shelter that provides breakfast, lunch, and health services to homeless women. Blankets are usually dropped off the first day that temperatures drop.

In addition, the Cathedral ladies also granted 85 wishes to the Dimock Center, which is a comprehensive, health and community care center in Roxbury, Massachusetts.

The Cathedral Philoptochos also provided 25-\$100 gift cards to all of the residents of St. Basil's Academy and purchased socks for all of the residents at the Hellenic Nursing Home in Canton, Massachusetts.

I greatly appreciate the support and guidance of His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios and Chancellor Father Ted Barbas. I am extremely proud to serve on the Metropolis of Boston Philoptochos Board and look forward to working with the dedicated members in this Metropolis and the National Executive Board to carry forward the existing and future ministries of our organization. May 2020 be a healthy and prosperous year for all.

Respectfully submitted,



Athena Kalyvas
Metropolis of Boston Philoptochos
President