OPERATION CLASSROOM
Chair:  Irene Arsoniadis
Members:  Maria Kantalis, Elaine Kevgas, Georgia Sarlas, Ourania Soumas,
         Evanthia Valassiades, Athanasia Ward, Lisa Xanthos
         and Margaret Yates

The mission of the Operation Classroom Initiative is to assist and offer support to teachers and students in
derseed or underfunded schools and provide resources that would not have been available
through the local school district.

Operation Classroom has been accepted enthusiastically by chapters. One of the best features of this initiative is
the approach that one size does not fit all. Operation Classroom program is designed to be flexible with each
chapter designing their outreach to schools and teachers as needed. Each chapter should choose how they can best
help. Many of our Philoptochos chapters have done just this. Following are examples of how chapters recently
implemented Operation Classroom:

- Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in NYC identified a public school in Harlem to assist. The
chapter will be purchasing books for students. Their goal is to provide each child with a book to call their
own. The chapter will continue to concentrate on purchasing books at all reading levels with the goal of
creating a library.
- In Danbury, CT the Philoptochos’ main fundraiser is a Festival of Tables. The chapter voted to have this
year’s proceeds befitting the Operation Classroom Initiative. The chapter hopes to raise enough funds to
provide subscriptions to the elementary schools for learning sites that help children not only in school but
also at home. The chapter is also exploring providing various supplies to schools, and getting their youth
involved in preparing backpacks for weekend food.
- St. Anargyroi Philoptochos Chapter in Hamilton New Jersey helped transform a school’s concrete
playground into a place where children had options to play and rest. The Philoptochos purchased
playground toys, balls, hoops, picnic tables, benches and donated over $1,000 in additional funds to spend
in 2020.
- The Detroit Metropolis held its Clergy Laity and Philoptochos Conference in September. Each
Philoptochos delegate was asked to bring school supplies and gift cards for two schools in underserved
districts. The teachers receiving these supplies were overwhelmed by the amount of materials they
received.

Operation Classroom Committee goals continue:

- Every Metropolis is to have an Operation Classroom Chairman who will work with an Operation
   Classroom committee liaison.
- Every chapter is to have an Operation Classroom Chairman in place.
- Chapters are to share how they are implementing Operation Classroom in their Community and
  Metropolis.
- Every chapter is to identify a school, educational institution or program to assist.
- Initiatives and planning for the 2020-2021 School year should be underway.

Respectfully Submitted,
Irene Arsoniadis