ACADEMY OF SAINT BASIL

Chair: Kalliope Tsitsipas and Evangeline Scurtis:
Members: Elaine Cladis, Eleni Constantinides, Bessie Drogaris,
Joanne Kakoyiannis, Georgia Kaloidis, Aspasia Melis,
Joanne Mitchell, Joanne Stavrakas, Maria Stavropoulos, Evellyn Tsiadis

This year the Academy celebrates its 75th Anniversary. The love and dedication of our Orthodox faithful for this beloved institution of the Archdiocese, especially by the Philoptochos women throughout the Archdiocese, keep Saint Basil Academy dear to their hearts, generating funds from the Philoptochos Vasilopita and Sisterhood commitments to provide for the maintenance of the entire facility, salaries and most importantly the care of precious lives.

Currently there are 25 children ranging in age from 1 year to 17 years and 2 in the Bridge Program, 17 to 20 years of age. All participates in extracurricular activities including baseball, soccer, basketball and chorus and some have part-time jobs. The Bridge Program provides an extended home for those children who continue to live at the Academy and continue their education after high school graduation. The Family Program provides a home for mothers and their children.

Executive Director, Fr. Costa Sitaras and the staff of the Academy continue to provide a loving, safe and nurturing environment for Orthodox children from families in difficulty.

The National Philoptochos Board held their spring meeting at the Academy on March 29th to the 31st. It was heartwarming to pray, share a meal and get to know the children. Together we packed 5,000 meals for Starving Children throughout the world.

On April 14, 2019, the children with Fr. Sitaras, Saint Basil Board, staff and Philoptochos Board members marched in the Greek Parade in New York City.

Due to the different spring break schedules at the schools, for Pascha some of the children were with host families to celebrate and some remained at the academy.

Graduation was held on Saturday, June 1, 2019 with 5 graduates. Guests included National Philoptochos Board Advisor, His Grace Bishop Apostolos, National Philoptochos Board members, AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope representatives and well-wishers from the nearby parishes.

Over the summer children attended Ionian Village, various camps in the area and everyone went to Ocean City, MD in August.

On September 21, 2019 the Annual Walk-a-thon was held on the grounds of the Academy with participation from many of the surrounding Philoptochos members and their families.
On October 19, 2019, Amy Kalogeropoulos, Development & Information Officer of the National Philoptochos Office along with a professional videographer and his staff were at the Academy to record “Braking Stereotypes.” Philoptochos members from all the Metropolises and the DAD were represented.

The 75th Anniversary Celebration will be celebrated with Graduation on June 6, 2020 at the Academy. All are welcome to attend the festivities of the day and tour the grounds.

Our committee makes the following suggestions:

- Inform your parishes/communities about SBA
- Refer children
- Encourage chapter, Metropolis and National Board visits

“If we save one child, then it is all worth it.”