

GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC.
NATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT
2018-2020



AID TO GREECE & CYPRUS

Chair: Joanne Stavrakas

Members: Elaine Cladis, Vicki Demos, Christina Hiotis, Frances Levas, Thea Martin,
Aspasia Melis, Helen Psaras, Vicki Scaljon, Eleni Stamboulidis, Kalli Tsitsipas

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The **Aid to Greece and Cyprus Committee (AGCC)** was established by the National Philoptochos Society in response to the dire economic conditions and consequent human suffering in Greece.

The ironic and heartbreaking misfortune is that while economic conditions were improving and stabilizing and the suffering of the people was alleviating, the COVID-19 pandemic struck and caused the situation to regress. Tourism that had improved significantly in 2019 was now halted with isolation rules and travel restrictions from various countries that include the United States. Once again, we are witnessing lines at the churches and soup kitchens with increasing numbers of Greek Nationals in the cities who have lost their homes, their jobs, and are suffering forced wage cuts.

Apostoli, the charitable organization of the Archdiocese of Greece provides relief efforts with soup kitchens, preparing and delivering food to shut-ins, as well as providing shelter and clothing to the needy. The National Philoptochos Society's AGCC campaign has helped to raise funds in support of these efforts by Apostoli and enables them to prepare packages with enough food to feed a family for a week.

One way that the Aid to Greece & Cyprus Committee has recommended to bring awareness and to provide help is by hosting ***Heart-to-Heart Kaffe-Popups*** in a person's home, church, or establishment of choice. Their purpose is to build a grass roots campaign that mobilizes the community at almost no cost to raise funds and provide aid for the people of Greece and Cyprus.

The ***Heart to Heart*** Campaign revolves around two significant dates in Greek history: Greek Independence Day, March 25th, and OXI Day, October 28th. These two noteworthy dates are examples of the Greek and Cypriot ethos and character, striving for freedom and liberty when facing extreme adversity. They proclaimed NO to foreign rule and domination 79 years ago, and today we say NO to a different form of oppression: NO to poverty, NO to sickness, NO to hunger, and NO to homelessness.

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the suggested observance of March 25th and the Kaffe-Popups could not be held throughout our parishes and homes. The National Committee has suggested

Chapters and hosts of the Kaffe-Popups to try doing them virtually, until we again resume socializing and gathering. Any funds raised will be appreciated.

The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society is dedicated to making a difference in the world, to serve the sick, the hungry, the weary and the disenfranchised. We can take pride in knowing that we have made significant progress in helping our brothers and sisters in Greece & Cyprus in their hour of need. We are grateful to the Philoptochos Chapters across our Archdiocese, along with their communities, without whose support the work of the National Philoptochos would not be possible. Working together, with the love and blessings of our Lord, we will continue our work to lessen the pain, loss, and suffering of the most fragile in our society.