

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



CHILDREN'S MEDICAL FUND LUNCHEON

Chair: Pam Argyris

Co-Chairs: Irene Arsoniadis, Georgia Sarlas, Marilyn Tzakis

August 22, 2020

The **Children's Medical Fund Luncheon** was established in 1989 and is the principal fundraising event of the National Philoptochos Society. Since its inception, the biennial luncheon has raised over \$3.7 million for children's hospitals and research programs, as well as special programs that serve the needs of ill and fragile children.

The Metropolis of Chicago was honored to host the 17th Children's Medical Fund Luncheon on November 16, 2019 at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile. Through the leadership of the Luncheon Chair, Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos President Pam Argyris and her exceptional Co-chairs Irene Arsoniadis, Georgia Sarlas and Marilyn Tzakis, as well as the dedicated team of the Metropolis Board and Philoptochos chapter members, the event was an outstanding sold-out success with over 1150 guests gathering to support the Fund. Grants totaling **\$282,035** were awarded to 17 programs located throughout the six states (Illinois, northwest Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota and northeast Missouri and Wisconsin) that comprise the Metropolis of Chicago. The remaining funds raised from the Children's Medical Fund Luncheon will be distributed via grants to fund children's medical programs and projects through the Social Services Department and the Project Review Committee of National Philoptochos.

Our luncheon program began with the invocation and inspiring remarks offered by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America followed by a warm greeting by His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago. Our keynote speaker was Reverend Father Mark Munoz, proistamenos of SS. Kosmas & Damianos (Holy Anargyroi) Greek Orthodox Church in Rochester, Minnesota, where he also serves as Staff Chaplain at the world-renowned Mayo Clinic. Father Mark gave a heartfelt and inspirational address based on his personal experiences and dedicated service to healthcare organizations. At the end of Father Mark's speech, he introduced his daughter, Nina, a childhood leukemia survivor. In Nina's brief emotional address, she thanked Philoptochos for the support she received and thanked all those who prayed for her and her family.

Andrea Darlas, a nationally recognized award-winning Chicago Media personality, served as Mistress of Ceremonies for the luncheon. In addition, a musical interlude was performed by Philoptochos Friends in Music, a group of seven young entertainers from the Metropolis of Chicago. Their energetic performance included both show tunes and traditional Greek music. Mr. Jeff Michals, husband of our honoree, the 2017 Children's Medical Fund Luncheon Chair and Metropolis of New Jersey Philoptochos President Anne Michals of blessed memory, gave an

emotional speech about Anne and how Philoptochos impacted her life. May Anne's memory be eternal.

"Kids Helping Kids", a new project developed by the 2019 CMF Committee that involved and engaged our Metropolis youth, was introduced complete with a video that highlighted the children's efforts. Youth throughout the Metropolis participated in this project by providing lemonade stands, hot chocolate, hot apple cider, candy, making bracelets and other activities to raise funds. All proceeds, which amounted to more than **\$22,000**, went towards the sponsorships of the Children's Medical Fund Luncheon.

National Philoptochos President Maria Logus thanked the extraordinary women of the Chicago Metropolis Philoptochos for their tireless dedication in making this year's Luncheon a success. We are deeply grateful to Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago for his continued love and support of Philoptochos and to all our clergy for their support of our endeavors.

We thank the many Metropolis of Chicago committee members and volunteers for their dedicated help and for sharing their time, talent, and treasures to ensure that the event was an outstanding success. We also thank the National Board for its support and all our sponsors for their continued support and generosity for our fundraising efforts. It is through the generosity of everyone that the 2019 National Philoptochos Children's Medical Fund Luncheon net proceeds exceeded **\$542,717**.

We are most appreciative and thankful for all our chapters across the country for their commitment to the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society in helping us provide much needed support to benefit the children, our most precious resource, and for helping us to "Rejoice and Embrace the Children".