

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



OPERATION CLASSROOM

Chair: Irene Arsoniadis

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

August 22, 2020

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

Goals:

- Every Metropolis identifies an Operation Classroom Chairman
- Every Philoptochos chapter identifies an Operation classroom Chairman and Committee
- Every Chapter identifies a school, educational institution or program to assist.
- Initiatives and planning for 2020-2021 school year continue

As the newest outreach initiative of National Philoptochos, Operation Classroom came to fruition in 2018 shortly after the National Philoptochos Biennial Convention. Widespread recognition and awareness toward the increasing need of school funding and decreased government support, often leaving teachers to their own resources and devices, indicated a surfacing need. Eager to demonstrate support toward teachers and the education of the youth of their communities, Philoptochos instated Operation Classroom.

With its enthusiastic embrace from chapters across the nation, Operation Classroom drives creativity and boasts the idea that one size does not fit all. Designed to be flexible with each chapter catering their outreach to schools and teachers as needed, each chapter is encouraged to select a project that would parallel the needs of their community. Driving a focus on community impact, Operation Classroom does just that by integrating and encouraging participation from entire communities and parishes, regardless of age, race, social status, or gender. Operation Classroom outreach encourages community inclusion and promotes awareness for helping those in need through donations and delivering resources to educational facilities.

Operation Classroom 2020-2021:

Without a doubt, the world was dramatically impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic which struck our nation earlier this year. Each and every one of our communities was hit hard, both financially and emotionally. It is no surprise that education and learning were among the sectors largely impacted. Forced into reactionary mode, many schools transitioned into a virtual learning environment almost overnight, forcing creativity, critical thinking, and quick reflexes in order to minimize the impact to students and families alike. Similarly, our chapters' ability to

contribute to Operation Classroom outreach was equally impacted. It goes without saying that with the 2020-2021 school year approaching, the need exists now more than ever. Chapters are encouraged to continue to support teachers, schools and children. The classroom setting we all enjoyed and appreciated through our own eyes, the eyes of our children, and our grandchildren will forever be impacted. The new normal is yet to be developed, but some immediate changes are imminent: supplies can no longer be shared, virtual learning will always exist in some capacity, and teachers will be expected to wear superhero capes even more than in times prior to the pandemic. In turn, this will force chapters to increase creativity and flexibility in their outreach. The Operation Classroom Committee challenges Philoptochos Chapters to continue contacting local school district offices, schools and teachers to see how they can assist. The education of the youth of our communities is vital to the success of our future---let's unite and make the initiatives and efforts of Operation Classroom a significant contributor to that success.

Some of the Operation Classroom Projects:

- Backpack drives
- Providing clothes for uniforms
- Monetary support for learning
- Grocery Gifts Cards
- Weekend snack bags
- Weekend meals
- Sanitizer, disinfectant, and wipe drive
- Hat, glove, scarf drive
- Art supplies
- Comfort Closets
- Books
- Playground equipment and toys
- Sanitizer, disinfectant, and wipes
- New and used coats
- Holiday treats
- Subscriptions to virtual sights