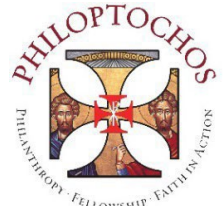




**GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC.**  
GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**19th Biennial Philoptochos Children's Medical Fund Luncheon Celebrates Unprecedented Success in Philanthropy for Children's Health**

*Metropolis of Denver Philoptochos Hosts Extraordinary Event on November 11, 2023*

Houston, TX — November 13, 2023 — The National Philoptochos Society is delighted to announce the exceptional triumph of the 19th Biennial Children's Medical Fund Luncheon, a gathering of impassioned individuals and organizations dedicated to profoundly impacting children's health and well-being. Chaired by Stella Piches, with tri-chairs Marian Catechis, Martha Stefanidakis, and Barbara Vittas, this remarkable event showcased the power of collective commitment, bringing together esteemed guests, generous donors, and organizations devoted to the betterment of children's lives. In the esteemed company of Hierarchs, the event was graced by the presence of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, His Grace Bishop Constantine of Sassima, Chancellor of the Metropolis of Denver, and His Grace Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzos, National Philoptochos Spiritual Advisor. The Honorable Lambros Kakissis, Consul General of Greece in Houston, also attended this distinguished gathering.

Demonstrating remarkable generosity, over \$348,738 in grants were distributed during this year's luncheon, offering vital resources for various organizations working tirelessly to improve the lives of children. Additionally, the event witnessed an impressive fundraising achievement, with a total of over \$550K raised, underscoring the incredible impact that can be achieved when a community comes together with a shared commitment to making a positive difference.

The 19th Children's Medical Fund Luncheon was attended by grant recipients whose impactful work directly influences the lives of children and their families. Notably, only 7 out of the 18 grant recipients could be present at the event due to distance, including Carmen Villalobos (Children's Cancer Fund CCFNM), Dr. Bessie Katsilometes and Sandy Kyriakos (Full Circle), Makensie Dawson (Shriners Hospital), Dr. Reber and Mr. Darry Hearon (Texas Children's Hospital Houston), Claudia Maniatis (The WillStrong Cancer Foundation), Ann Thomas (The Children's Place), and Julie Aronstein (Heroes for Children).

As His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America stated, "Philoptochos knows that every human being in need is their neighbor. Every child who lacks proper medical care, nourishment, clothing, and the basics of life – that child is their neighbor."

Special acknowledgment is given to Joni and John Zavitsanos for their outstanding contribution as emcees, bringing energy and enthusiasm to the event. Additionally, appreciation is extended to the keynote speaker, Dr. Lara Shekerdeman, MD. Special recognition goes out to Theone Dickos, the 2023 honoree, for her invaluable contributions to the 2021 Children's Medical Fund Luncheon.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to these remarkable individuals and organizations for their unwavering dedication to improving the lives of children in need. Their presence and impactful work continue to inspire us all.

The success of the 19th Children's Medical Fund Luncheon reflects the collective commitment and generosity of a community devoted to the well-being of children.

The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society Inc. is the philanthropic arm of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. With over 90 years of experience, they have helped people in need through fundraising and charitable programs. They have more than 400 active chapters nationwide. Learn more at [www.philoptochos.org](http://www.philoptochos.org).

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