

**GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC.**  
**NATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT**  
**MAY 23, 2023**



**Saint Basil's Academy Committee**

*Chair: Eleni Constantinides*

*Members: Kathy Connell, Vickie Demos, Bessie Drogaris, Irene Fotos, Elaine Kevgas  
Aspasia Melis, Irene Politis, Evan Scurtis, Joanne Stavrakas, Evellyn Tsiadis,  
Kalli Tsitsipas*

*May 23, 2023*

Your Grace Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzos,  
Esteemed National Philoptochos President, Mrs. Arlene Siavelis Kehl,  
Beloved sisters in Christ.  
Christ Is Risen!

The members of Saint Basil's Committee and I greet you with love in the name of our Resurrected Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

During our meeting the committee shared personal experiences and praised Father Costas Sitaras for the amazing work that he has been doing with the children in his care over the past several years.

- We discussed how we must educate our chapters on the Mission of Saint Basil's Academy and ask them to refer children who may come to their attention through their Social Services program and who may need a safe environment to live in.
- Establish an "Adopt a Child Program" and connect with the children by sending a Christmas gift, a card for their birthday or placing them with a family who would host them in their home over the holidays or at summer break was another suggestion made by the committee.
- It was also suggested that we invite Saint Basil's Executive Director and/or President of the Board of Trustees to make a presentation at one of our National Board meetings and provide an update on the Academy and its residents.

We all understand that there are issues about confidentiality and the protection of children so we will first need to discuss this idea with the Philoptochos Executive Board and the Executive Director and the Board of Trustees of the Academy.

National Philoptochos purchases Christmas gifts for all the children at the Academy and personally delivers them to each child at the Annual Christmas Pageant. We receive some beautiful Thank You correspondence from them.

The date of the 2023 Graduation is June 17, 2023. I will be attending and representing our National President, Mrs. Arlene Siavelis Kehl whose other philanthropic and personal and family commitments will not permit her to travel to New York. Gifts will be purchased and will be given, not only to the graduates but also to all the children.

I would also like to also state that National Philoptochos, before the 15th of every month, sends a check for \$30,000.00 to Saint Basil's Academy for the operating expenses of the school. This money comes out of the Vasilopita Fund to which all our chapters so generously donate.

Philoptochos always cares and provides for the needs of the children, and we will continue to do so because:

*He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Mark: 10:14*