



GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY
GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA



Operation Classroom Chair

Joyce Spanakis

July 1, 2025

Dear Metropolis and Chapter Presidents,

Launched by the National Philoptochos in 2019, *Operation Classroom* supports underserved students and teachers nationwide. Over the past six years, chapters across the Archdiocese have widely adopted the initiative.

The 2024–2026 Operation Classroom Committee is reimagining how to better serve today’s students and teachers. In our society, learning often happens beyond classrooms—in detention centers, shelters, or homes impacted by incarceration. Many students face hunger, homelessness, and lack of basic clothing or hygiene. Providing essentials like clothes and hygiene kits is vital. Given unstable school funding and changing family dynamics, it’s time to explore additional options to go along with school supplies and backpack donations.

Teachers in underfunded schools face growing mental health challenges among students and mounting pressure from test-based evaluations. Supporting teachers with small gestures—like morning coffee or snacks—can boost morale and may be included as part of Operation Classroom efforts.

The updated mission statement of Operation Classroom is meant to broaden the scope of those students and teachers eligible for assistance in any type of educational setting. It is as follows:

Operation Classroom Mission: *To assist and offer support and resources to teachers and students in underserved or underfunded educational settings.*

To implement Operation Classroom in your Chapter, we suggest the following:

- Form a chapter committee and appoint a Chairperson.
- The Chairperson collects project data (e.g., number served, funds spent), submits forms to the Metropolis Chairperson, and includes photos if possible.
- Report data twice yearly: July–Dec 2025 and Jan–Apr 2026 (earlier due to convention).
- Contact not only teachers but also nurses, counselors, and secretaries to identify student/staff needs.
- Prioritize ongoing support over one-time donations.
- Involve other church ministries (Sunday School, GOYA, Seniors, etc.) in projects.

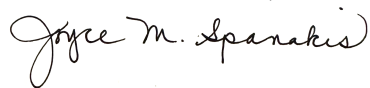
To implement Operation Classroom in your Metropolis, we suggest the following:

- The Metropolis President should appoint a Chairperson to serve as liaison between chapters and the President.
- The Chairperson collects chapter data (students/teachers served, funds spent) and reports to the President.
- The President submits a report to the assigned National Committee member.
- The Chairperson stays in contact with the National Committee and updates chapters on changes.

The reporting form for the July-December 2025 period, as well as the contact information for the National Operation Classroom Committee member assigned to work with each Metropolis will be emailed separately to all Metropolis Presidents.

Thank you for supporting this extremely worthwhile initiative and striving to make a difference in the lives of students and teachers across our country. By working together, we will ensure that essential needs are met and lives enriched. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me at jspanakis@me.com.

Your Sister in Christ,



Joyce Spanakis
Operation Classroom Chairperson
Metropolis of Pittsburgh Philoptochos President