



THE NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society is the philanthropic arm of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and for over eighty years, has undertaken myriad philanthropic programs to aid the poor, the sick, the elderly and those who need assistance.

National Philoptochos has grown to a major philanthropic organization supporting the following important ministries: Saint Basil Academy, Hellenic College Holy Cross School of Theology, The Philanthropies of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Orthodox Christian Mission Center, Orthodox Christian Fellowship, Retired Clergy, National Sisterhood of Presbyteres, Saint Photios Shrine and the International Orthodox Christian Charities.

National Philoptochos Chapters and members, serve as first responders who offer assistance to victims of global disasters; address the HIV crisis in Ethiopia by partnering with IOCC to establish a clinic and school; provide special programs to meet the medical needs of children and their families nationwide and abroad through the Children's Medical Fund and meet current needs with special programs for Literacy, Autism Assistance, Alzheimer's Awareness and more.

National Philoptochos is a major benefactor which donated over \$15 million to its various philanthropic ministries, programs, projects and special appeals during the period of January 1, 2002 through December 31, 2012.

Philoptochos Chapters and its members responded to the need to assist the people of Greece and Cyprus through a major campaign to raise funds for families and children affected by the current economic crisis. National Philoptochos has donated \$230,000 in aid to the people of Greece and in October 2013 provided its first donation of \$20,000 to aid the children of Cyprus.

National Philoptochos, with the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, purchased in 2012 a permanent home, the Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy in New York, where Philoptochos will expand its social services and programs to serve the worthy and noble mission of this important philanthropic organization.

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN OF CYPRUS

Your Support

Makes

a Difference

in the Life

of a Child



Cyprus Children's Fund, Inc.

**2013
Annual Testimonial Dinner**

Honoring
The National Philoptochos Society

With
The Humanitarian and Philanthropic Award



Saturday, December 7, 2013
6:00 p.m.

Terrace on The Park
Flushing Meadows Park, NY 11368

Cyprus Children's Fund, Inc.

We care for the children of Cyprus

Origins and Evolution

In the aftermath of the brutal Turkish invasion and occupation of Cyprus in the summer of 1974, Greeks around the world rallied to the aid of the Cypriot people. The Cyprus Children's Fund, Inc., was established then as a one-on-one sponsorship program. Its primary scope was to provide relief and aid to the thousands of refugee children and their families. Over the years, this program has evolved into one that seeks to assist refugee and non-refugee children alike.

The trauma of war in Cyprus did not spare children. As in any conflict, the highest percentage of victims was among civilians. The war resulted in a refugee population of 200,000 displaced persons, 1,619 missing and hundreds of casualties. Having lost its cohesion, the traditional family unit in Cyprus, operating as the basic social institution, has been irrevocably altered by war and conflict. During and after the hostilities, the secure environment offering protection and safety was no longer there, especially for children who became vulnerable and had sustained severe psychological effects, aggravated by the declining social and economic conditions.

In farming and rural communities, such as Kyrenia, the peninsula of Karpasia, the plain of Mesaoria and the orchards of Morphou, the village traditions, structures and institutions, that were the foundations of daily life for centuries, had ceased. Farming communities were uprooted; their population fled to safety living in makeshift tents for months, to be relocated later in larger communities where they felt like strangers. When the sustaining organic roots which provided a sense of belonging were destroyed, the manifestations of significant trauma surfaced.

The outbreak of war brought on increased vulnerability, especially in children. Contributing factors were stress and anxiety resulting from war violence and displacement. The affected population experienced depression, anxiety for the future and the stark realization of having to face losses of loved ones and property. In effect, post-traumatic stress disorders emerged as seriously threatening the fabric of society. Absence of members of the family due to death, or disappearance, injury or displacement, created gaps in the functioning of the family unit.

Manifestations of the trauma in Cyprus could be seen through generations. Intergenerational stress and anxiety created a trying environment (displacement, human and material losses, loss of self-reliance and motivation, high unemployment rates). Another psychosocial effect was the breakdown in social ethics and morals, manifesting in the abandonment of families, resulting in the increase of single parent households, illegitimate births, etc.

Rebuilding the family and social structures warranted the build-up of awareness and reeducation of a large segment of the population.

These children are helpless human beings, unable to affect changes in their lives, living under circumstances beyond their control. The Department of Social Welfare in Cyprus refers these children to the Cyprus Children's Fund, through the Ministry of Labor and Social Insurance. Selection is made after compilation of information and examination of each case; determination of the status is based on strict criteria of need. Many children need emotional support through foster parent contact, as well as financial support, which they receive through the Cyprus Children's Fund sponsorship of \$20 per month (minimum).

Currently, 40% of the children receiving aid, originate from displaced families. They represent problems of abandonment, single parenthood, substance abuse, neglect and other ills. Other cases include children of parents who battle mental illness; enclaved children (living in the Turkish occupied parts of Cyprus), as well as children whose parents continue to live in the occupied parts of Cyprus, are also aided through this program.

Societal Offerings To These Children

The cost of the Cyprus Children's Fund sponsorship is only 66 cents a day, \$20 per month. Your donation reaches a child in its totality. For this small amount you can make a difference to a youngster's life – share your kindness with one of the many children who need the caring of a stranger to help them in their lives. You provide support and security to orphaned, abandoned, underprivileged and enclaved children who continue to live in the Turkish occupied village of Rizokarpaso. For many families, the disintegration of life continues. Many are still caught in the grip of helplessness and dysfunction. A donation is a practical way to provide financial and moral assistance.

Rewards

You will find fulfillment and gratification through the sponsorship of a child in Cyprus. Frequent correspondence and communication lead to the blossoming of integral relationships over the years. Donors have visited their sponsored children in Cyprus to attend important celebrations such as graduations and weddings. Longstanding and nurturing relationships have been created through this program.

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