

**GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC.
NATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT
2026 NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS CONVENTION
CLEVELAND, OHIO, JUNE 29 – JULY 2, 2026**



Operation Classroom Committee

Chair: Joyce Spanakis

Committee Members: Stella Baker
Stephanie Cha
Rita Howell
Marilynn Jemas
Stephanie Ocker
Irene Sellas
Kathy Staten
Julie Vagelos
Sharon Whitman

June 2026

Your Grace Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzos,
National President Debbie George,
Members of the National Board and fellow Philoptochos Sisters,

*“But when adults speak up for the vulnerable and the weak, working and demanding that safety and respect prevail, God’s little lambs are protected and nourished. They know they are not abandoned; they are loved. And the world becomes a little more like heaven as a result.” —
Wess Stafford*

The mission of Operation Classroom is **to assist and offer support and resources to teachers and students in underserved educational settings.**

Members of the Operation Classroom committee met over Zoom to strengthen the Metropolis Liaison structure and streamline reporting processes. Key items included:

- Ensuring that each Metropolis is represented by a designated Operation Classroom Liaison
- Transitioning reporting from a fillable Word document to a Google Form with automated spreadsheet tracking
- Reintroducing the Liaison procedures to Metropolis presidents to centralize chapter reports and photographs for consistent submission to the National Level
- National Liaisons for each Metropolis are:

Archdiocesan District.....Kathy Staten
Metropolis of Atlanta.....Julie Vagelos
Metropolis of Boston.....Sharon Whitman
Metropolis of Chicago.....Marilynn Jemas
Metropolis of Denver.....Rita Howell, assisted by Stephanie Cha

Metropolis of Detroit.....Stephanie Ocker
 Metropolis of New Jersey..... Stella Baker
 Metropolis of Pittsburgh.....Irene Sellas
 Metropolis of San Francisco.... Stephanie Cha

Over the past 18 months, data has been collected regarding the number of students and teachers served in each Metropolis and the dollar amount, if any, spent by each chapter to fund the project. The committee recognizes that there are chapters throughout our Archdiocese that are doing Operation Classroom activities, but for whatever reason, are not reporting. We also understand that not every project undertaken by a chapter requires the chapter to spend money. Many projects are funded through the generosity of members, parishioners or by corporate donations. The figures below are a **representation** of what Philoptochos chapters across the Archdiocese are doing to assist underserved students and teachers.

Recorded totals per Metropolis are as follows:

	Students/teachers served	Amount spent by chapters
Archdiocesan District	1,985	\$ 7,592
Metropolis of Atlanta	4,348	\$ 23,266
Metropolis of Boston	200	NA
Metropolis of Chicago	3,176	\$ 5,169
Metropolis of Detroit	957	\$ 6,119
Metropolis of New Jersey	7,385	\$ 35,272
Metropolis of Pittsburgh	10,708	\$ 38,652
Metropolis of San Francisco	1,476	\$ 3,620
TOTALS:	30,235	\$119,690

As is evident in this report, Philoptochos members across the country continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of students and teachers. Whether providing school supplies, books, materials, clothing, coats, hats, hygiene items, weekend food bags, technology tools, money for school fees and graduation expenses, teacher materials and treats, the women of Philoptochos are ensuring that “*God’s little lambs are protected and nourished*” and that “*the world becomes a little more like heaven as a result.*” The National Operation Classroom Initiative continues to make a positive, supportive, and lasting impact on students and teachers across our country. Going forward, may we continue to broaden our reach and touch even more lives through our philanthropy and agape.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Spanakis
 Operation Classroom Chair