

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



Social Services Committee

Eleni Constantinides, Chair

Committee Members: Jennifer Constantin

Lekita Essis

Irene Hotzoglou

Despina Kartson

Aspasia Melis

Niki Mott

Deborah Pries

Katherine Siavelis

Irene Steffas

Evanthia Valassiades

Lisa Xanthos

June 2026

Your Grace Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzos,
Esteemed National Philoptochos President, Mrs. Debbie George,

The Social Services Committee and all its members greet you with love in the name of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The Committee met over the last few months to discuss how we can move forward and implement plans which were discussed at the start of the ecclesiastical year. Below are some of the items which were accomplished since the 2024 Convention.

1. Social Services Informational / Tutorial – Nationwide

The webinar took place on March 31, 2026. With the assistance of National Social Services Director, Paulette Geanacopoulos, the Committee put together and presented to more than two hundred Philoptochos sisters a series of well-detailed and easy to follow instructions on how our chapters can improve the way they handle social services cases when they come to their attention. Following the webinar, a document was created, placed on the Philoptochos website and shared with all Philoptochos members. The document includes helpful guidelines and answers to questions often asked by our chapters.

2. A six-session caregiver support group took place on February 19 – March 26, 2026.

- The session had 28 participants from coast to coast.
- We are planning a nationwide webinar on caregiving and caregiver support to provide information and to encourage chapters to start support groups – either on their own or in collaboration with a local organization.

3. We are exploring resources and the need to initiate additional support groups addressing other issues impacting our communities, such as:

- Support for cancer patients
 - Homelessness / Housing
 - Mental Health
 - Domestic Violence
4. We began a collaboration with the Agape Wellness Collective, a pan-Orthodox ministry that was started by a licensed therapist and her husband, both Orthodox Christians, to help people connect with Orthodox Christian providers nationwide.

We all recognize that there is great need to help people around us who, due to circumstances, often beyond their control, find themselves in difficult situations. Our assistance is not only financial. Since our assistance can only be temporary, and limited, we provide people with information and we refer them to other government and/or local agencies where they can apply for additional assistance.

We because our clients often need spiritual support, we recommend that we assist our clergy in better understanding what Philoptochos is and what we do.

We have a very eager group of women who recognize the need for social change and we are looking forward to their support and cooperation.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleni Constantinides, Chair
Social Services Committee