

PHILO STRONG

January Newsletter | The Ladies Philoptochos Society of Saint George Church

Philoptochos Board Meeting, Jan. 11th

We will be holding our monthly Board Meeting via Zoom on Monday, January 11th, at 11:30 AM.

Philoptochos General Members Meeting, Jan. 18th

Our monthly General Members Meeting will be held on Monday, January 18th, at 11:30 AM via the ZOOM format. Meeting password information and agenda will be emailed out by Jan. 13th.

Vasilopita Sunday January 10th

We will be starting our 2021 cycle of commitments on Sunday, January 10th with our Vasilopita offering. A limited number of Vasilopita Breads will be available for sale for a \$15.00 donation. The funds raised from this sale are donated to National. Contact Tina Veroulis with your bread pre-order at (406) 431-9516 or tveroulis@aim.com



Welcome 2021!

After the many challenges of this past year, most of us are relieved that a new year has finally begun, one that we hope will bring us good health and a return to our “normal” life. In spite of everything, we have been blessed to be in a position to help those in need in our local community and beyond. This was possible thanks to the support and generosity of our many Philoptochos members, friends, and Saint George families. **THANK YOU!**

Our philanthropic efforts over the past year have helped many. Beginning in January/February of 2020 we provided cooked meals for 150 homeless. Then the pandemic began and we no longer were able to volunteer at the local shelters or prepare meals. Our efforts to continue the “Feed the Hungry” Initiative pivoted to providing non-perishable food for the local food banks, once we had learned of the great need for food for families in our valley who had lost their jobs due to the pandemic. From April through December we delivered 3434 pounds of food providing 12,000 meals to families in need! (cont. pg.2)



Kindness Counts Initiative for 2021

Our Chapter got a head start on the new 2021 Philoptochos initiative "Kindness Counts" thanks to 1st Vice-President & Sunday School Teacher, Athena Snarskis.

Athena instructed the Sunday School children along with their parents, & provided the materials needed for the children to draw a picture of what kindness means to them.

The results were spectacular!

They were so great, we decided to have the children's art made into blank notecards and are offering them for sale. The funds raised will be used to feed the hungry in our local area, something the children elected to do.

- Each note set consists of 12 different notecards with envelopes.
- We are asking for a donation of \$20.00 per set of 12.
- This is the first of several "Kindness Counts" projects planned for 2021.

(cont. from pg. 1) Additional efforts this past year include providing toiletry kits for the Disabled American Veteran's group in Palm Springs; donating Christmas toys to children housed at CVRM, Martha's Village, and 29 Palms Marine Base; providing gift cards for victims of human trafficking at Safe House of the Desert; providing COVID Social Services financial relief for a family; preparing and delivering 25 Christmas baskets for our parish shut-ins; and all the financial support we have provided to our Metropolis and National Philoptochos charities.

Our fundraising efforts had to be altered in the year of COVID and thanks to a great team of women on the cookbook committee and their creative ideas, we were able to develop and publish a wonderful Greek Cookbook with recipes from our parish members. If you have not yet purchased a cookbook, you are encouraged to do so. It is well worth the \$20.00 donation price.

2021 promises to be an exciting year, and the board and I are looking forward to working with all of you to carry out our mission as we overcome any challenges we will face as an organization. Our members have great faith and never accept the word "no". There will continue to be needs, and we will do our best to fulfill those needs in our community in 2021.

On behalf of my fellow dedicated Board Members, I wish you and your family a safe, healthy, and blessed New Year! -Rhonda



The Year In Review



The Year In Review Continued



