



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF BOSTON PHILOPTOCHOS

162 GODDARD AVENUE, BROOKLINE, MA 02445 • TEL (617) 277-4742 • FAX (617) 739-9229

OPERATION HOUSEWARMING

Project with the Veterans Administration

September 20, 2013

Dear Chapter Presidents,

As the philanthropic arm of the church, outreach continues to be a major component of the Philoptochos mission. Under the guidance and counseling of His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios, the Metropolis of Boston Philoptochos together with all the Philoptochos chapters and in collaboration with our clergy, have adopted a new and on-going project to provide support to homeless veterans in the VA New England Healthcare System. The project is called **“Operation Housewarming”** and involves providing housewarming baskets to those veterans transitioning to independent living.

This initiative began Christmas 2012 when His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios and several members of the Metropolis Philoptochos Board visited the Bedford facility and delivered care packages for each of the residents preparing for transition. Subsequently representatives of the Veterans Administration (VA) attended a meeting of the clergy at the Metropolis to introduce the needs of this important population. More recently, VA representatives attended the 2013 Biennial Philoptochos conference to educate the Philoptochos community regarding the veteran’s needs.

Although homeless veterans exist throughout New England, the largest program is based at VA Medical Center, Bedford MA and the second largest is located at VA Medical Center, Brockton MA. In view of the enormity/complexity of the homeless program and in coordination with VA Leadership, we are beginning this project with the veteran population at the Bedford and Brockton locations with a goal to expand the project throughout New England.

Similarly, our parishes are spread throughout New England thus adding to the complexity of this endeavor. We felt it prudent therefore that the implementation process be made incrementally beginning with all the chapters/parishes in Massachusetts followed with New Hampshire; Connecticut; Rhode Island; Vermont and Maine.

In an effort to assist Chapters and facilitate the implementation of this important and on-going project the enclosed tools are provided (*should you need additional copies of these documents please reproduce locally*):

- Operation Housewarming Guidance
- Poster and flyers

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this project you may contact:

- Georgia Lagadinos 617-734-1994 E-mail: gme11@aol.com
- Eleni Stamboulidis 508-807-1828 E-mail: estamboulidis@hotmail.com

In closing I would like to thank you for taking part in this vast undertaking on behalf of our homeless veterans who have served our country so well so we can enjoy the liberties that we have.

Sincerely,

Philippa Condakes
PRESIDENT, METROPOLIS OF BOSTON PHILOPTOCHOS

Enclosures: Poster; Flyers & Operation Housewarming Guidance