



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, Inc.

NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY ACHIEVES HISTORIC MILESTONE A PERMANENT HOME AT 126 EAST 37th STREET

For immediate release

November 30, 2012

New York, NY – With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, the support of the members of the Holy Eparchial Synod, National Philoptochos Board, Philoptochos Chapters, and individuals nationwide, the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society purchased its permanent home, the Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy at 126 East 37th Street in New York City on Tuesday, November 27, 2012. This historic event culminates three years of planning and fundraising to ensure that Philoptochos, the philanthropic arm of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, secures its legacy for future generations, and allows Philoptochos to continue and expand efforts to help those in need. National Philoptochos President Aphrodite Skeadas stated, “This is a significant day in the history of our venerable 81 year old Society because the charge of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios ‘to see National Philoptochos in its own home, ready and available to serve the community for generations to come’ has come to fruition.”

The five story townhouse originally constructed in 1898 is located in the Murray Hill Historic District between Park and Lexington Avenues and consists of both professional space and residential units. The Murray Hill area is easily accessible through Grand Central station. The United Nations, several non-profit organizations, universities and medical centers are within walking distance of the building.

Present at the signing was His Grace Bishop Sevastianos, National Philoptochos Spiritual Advisor. Representing National Philoptochos were Aphrodite Skeadas, National President; Arlene Siavelis, First Vice President; Maria Stavropoulos, Second Vice President; Elaine Cladis, Secretary; Joanne Kakoyiannis, Treasurer; Anita Kartalopoulos, Legal Advisor; Maria Skiadas, President Direct Archdiocesan District and Anastasia Michals, President of the Metropolis of New Jersey Philoptochos; Helen Lavorata, Director, Vivian Siempos, Communications Manager, Mona Lao, Attorney, as well as the previous property owners.

In 2009 His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios gave his blessing to Philoptochos to purchase a permanent residence in NYC, home of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. The campaign to raise funds for the purchase of the building began at the 2010 National Philoptochos Convention when delegates endorsed the project. Major fundraising events were held in the Metropolises in support of the Center of Philanthropy. At the 2012 Convention the delegates endorsed the Chapter Giving Tree Campaign where all 485 Chapters nationwide would be memorialized on the walls of the Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy by donating \$1000 for each Leaf on the Tree. Shortly after the Chapter Giving Tree Campaign was presented, President Skeadas announced the munificent *Mary Jaharis Challenge Gift* that would match every \$1,000 Chapter Leaf with another \$1,000 up to a total of \$500,000. Philoptochos Chapters nationwide have responded to the challenge in unity and with great love for their Sisterhood, and many Chapters are assisting small Chapters so that all Chapters are represented.

President Aphrodite Skeadas among her many remarks on this historic day said, “Even though our esteemed National Board, hardworking stewards and very capable staff have been planning for this day, the real work lies ahead. It is what we will do in the months ahead that will define our efforts in order to expand our loving mission.”

To donate to the Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy and for more information contact National Philoptochos at 212.977.7770 or visit www.philoptochos.org.