

## **Philoptochos News Phlash! HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022!**

Here are some Highlights from our **Zoom** Board Meeting on January 4, 2022. We want you to know what we are working on and where your donations and contributions to Philoptochos go, including some important Quick Links for Donations like: [Care Closet](#).

**Christmas Tea Wrap Up – December 12, 2021** – Thank you, Nina Azar, for your chairing this event. Preliminary figures show that we netted approximately \$5000. The Board voted to send \$3000 to support our Family Sharing Program. The Boutique, Bake Sale, and Raffle were successful because of the participation of our parish. We were so fortunate to be able to meet in person (before Omicron) as we celebrated the Birth of our Lord.

**School Care Closet** – With the New Year and the fact that children are back in school, we would appreciate your donations to our Care Closet program, which is housed at San Mateo Park Elementary School. This program serves 325 children, aged 5-12, and possibly many more family members beyond that. These are all underprivileged students who need our help. Making donations is very easy using our link to Amazon. Your donation of personal care items will go directly to the school. To donate, **please click on the Care Closet link above**. We will also bring back the in-person donation bins where you can place your donations. A list of suggested donations will be out soon. The Board supported sending any unused monetary donations received for our recent shoe drive to benefit the Care Closet.

**Women's Wellness and Awareness Speaker on Zoom** – On February 5, our Philoptochos will present its first speaker who will share information on Alzheimer's, including diagnosis and new medications on the horizon. Stay tuned! An online and hard copy flyer will be out soon where you can register and make a donation.

**Vasilopita, January 23, 2022 (Note date change)** - Due to the presence of the virus and its high transmissibility, our luncheon has been cancelled. Instead, the Philoptochos is planning to have a Vasilopita Coffee Hour. A large vasilopita will be shared and vasilopitas will be available for sale for \$20.

**Coffee Hour 2022** – With the safety of all in mind, we are proposing that coffee hour be a bit more self-service and know that there will still be an opportunity for fellowship!

**Kids'n'Cancer** – February is typically Kids'n'Cancer month in Belmont. We will once again be asking for your support to help these children who are facing life-threatening cancers. We ask that you consider sending a monetary donation to this ministry by mailing a check to our church office or through online giving on the church website: [www.goholycross.org](http://www.goholycross.org). Please make sure that you note "**For Kids'n'Cancer**" on your check or online giving amount. We will make sure that all donations will be collected and sent directly to the San Francisco Metropolis Philoptochos to be used as needed for these children. Even though Camp Agapes have not been held in person due to the pandemic, the ministry is continuing. Wishes are being granted! Online parties are being held with surprise gifts! And, sadly, burial costs and family medical costs are being paid. Please **Give Your Heart to a Child with Cancer**. An amazing silent auction is in the works. More to follow...

We want you to know that we are planning our activities with all of our safety in mind. Events in early and late spring of this year are being discussed as to whether they can be held in person. We continue to thank all of you who have given so much to support those who are in need.

With our love and blessings for a Healthy and Happy New Year,

The Ladies of the Philoptochos