



METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO 2022 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

EMERGING GROWTH THROUGH PRAYERFUL CULTIVATION

“The vine will yield its fruit, the land will yield its produce and the heavens will give their dew.”

Zechariah 8:12

2022 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

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A little kindness
can change someone's
LIFE.



CHICAGO
BIKE
PROJECT

Learn more about this
exciting new ministry on

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GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO

Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to present you with our latest Annual Impact Report. With wholehearted gratitude to our loving God for the abundance of blessings during this past year, I would like to first and foremost thank all of you for all that we accomplished together in 2022.

Over the past few years, our Metropolis has come together and grown in a way that I could not have imagined. When I first arrived in Chicago, it was clear that the Midwest was filled with many devout and talented individuals, and since then, I have greatly appreciated getting to know so many of you and your families on a personal level. What has impressed me more than anything else has been the way in which we have united and collaborated over the years. We are building something incredibly special, and the greatest of our achievements has been the culture of love and solidarity that permeates throughout our Metropolis at every level.

What ultimately drives the culture of our people is deep faith and hope in the steadfast love of the Lord. That is why, even amidst the unprecedented number of challenges that we faced together in the past few years, among which COVID-19 was perhaps the most daunting, I am proud to say that we, as a Metropolis, remained both patient and persistent in our fidelity to Christ-centered growth. And it is this growth mindset that has allowed us to achieve all our goals thus far, even when confronted with serious challenges. By approaching the life and work of the Church in this manner, we strengthen our bond of love in Christ and, by extension, our unity with one another. We can only build up the Church in love if we, her members, build each other up in solidarity.

In the pages that follow, you will learn about new initiatives as well as existing efforts we built upon to help us enhance the religious literacy of our communities. One of our proudest moments last year came with the launch of an entirely new media production platform, entitled: Living Water. Through this program, we have started to create religious education content, allowing us to engage all audiences, with the hope of meeting people where they are on their faith journeys. We view faith formation as a lifelong process, and we acknowledge that people actively search for greater meaning, purpose, and a sense of belonging. Therefore, it is our responsibility to share the timeless truth of Christ's teachings to serve as the foundation of this journey.

In that same spirit, the formation of our leaders, both among the clergy and laity, is another area where progress has been achieved in 2022. We have released several innovative resources in this area, including our new podcast-style educational series: Called to Lead. Our basic goal is for the leadership in our Metropolis—on every level—to be rooted in Orthodox Christian ideals and values as well as oriented toward the reciprocal nourishment and enhancement of one another. After all, the success of any leader is predicated on the success of the mutual stakeholders with whom they work.

Together with our religious literacy and leadership initiatives, the philanthropic work of our Metropolis continues to be a top priority. Project HOPE realized its greatest success in 2022. We are fortunate to have an amazing group of people involved with supporting this important ministry, and we will keep working hard to expand our impact, both in terms of services offered as well as geographic reach. His All-Holiness, our Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, perfectly captured our overall vision of philanthropy in a recent address. To paraphrase his words: Our hands, which we raise toward heaven in prayer, are also the same hands that we are called to extend to our brothers and sisters in need of help and compassion. (Thessaloniki, February 2023)

Essentially, our 2022 Annual Impact Report is a testament to many of our achievements, none of which would have been possible without your help. I am deeply inspired by the prospects of what the future holds, and I am confident that together we can build upon this resilient foundation. May we continue to grow in love and solidarity in 2023 and beyond.

With paternal love in Christ,

+NATHANAEL

Metropolitan of Chicago

Dear Friends,

2022 was a year of hard-won achievement for the Metropolis as an organization and for the support we provide to our parishes and neighboring communities. The Metropolis awarded our first Mustard Seed grants and witnessed the creation of several new parish ministries, including an Orthodox Christian men's group, a bicycle repair service for the homeless, and a Byzantine youth choir. Our Metropolis Strategic Plan teams pushed forward with the development of a series of lay leadership training podcasts, a parish welcoming program, and a youth religious education curriculum for our parishes. Our Buildings Projects and Architecture Committee evaluated a record 20 parish project requests, ranging from HVAC and roof replacements to hearing-loop and solar panel installation projects. To cap off the year, during Advent, the Metropolis launched a media platform entitled "Living Water Productions," a creative hub that will produce innovative religious education content for the edification of those seeking to learn about and grow in faith.

Our Metropolis ministries also took it to the next level in 2022. Our nascent Project HOPE food ministry expanded its operations and served close to half a million meals! The Metropolis Youth and Young Adult Ministries celebrated 50 years of youth religious camping and hosted a record number of participants at its Young Adult League events, a tangible sign that we are directly engaging this critical demographic. In May, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago Foundation—one of the first endowments of its kind in the Archdiocese—was formed as a separate 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation and obtained its tax-exempt status. The Foundation has the critical mission of investing for the long-term support of the Metropolis, its parishes, and the perpetuation of our faith throughout the Midwest.

Back at the office, the Metropolis continued to press its modernization and productivity plans. We fully automated our accounts payable, thereby improving efficiencies and reducing manual labor costs. Our continued commitment to fiscal responsibility, accountability and transparency resulted in solid financial results and a third consecutive clean audit of our financial statements. The Metropolis debuted a modern, aesthetically beautiful website with improved functionality, which will be optimized with a Clergy-Parish Portal as well as a fully automated registry process in 2023. The automated registry process has been in the works for the past year and received the approval of the Archdiocese. As of this writing, the automated registry is being beta tested and will be piloted by five parishes before it is rolled out to the rest of the Metropolis. Our system will be a model for the rest of the Metropolises throughout the country.

As many of you know, I will be retiring this year. I am proud of the work we have accomplished over the past four years, and am confident that our Metropolis will continue to flourish on the path that His Eminence has charted. I cherish the friendships I have made, and will miss working with our clergy, colleagues, and volunteers. I want to give special thanks and recognition to those who donate their time, talent, and treasure, for without them, the Metropolis could not fulfill its mission. I am awed and inspired by their selfless commitment to the Church, their unwavering love of the faith, and their true servant leadership.

In Christ,



VICKI PAPPAS KARL
Executive Director

METROPOLIS ADMINISTRATION



His Eminence Nathanael
Metropolitan of Chicago



His Grace Bishop Timothy
Chancellor



Vicki Pappas Karl
Executive Director



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Director, Youth & Young Adult Ministries



Dn. Antonios Calash
Registrar and Secretary of the Spiritual Court



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Deacon to His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael

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Metropolis Launches Living Water Productions and “The Person of Christ” Video Series

HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN NATHANAEL



Highlighting 2022 was the launch of Living Water Productions, a creative hub through which the Metropolis will deliver innovative religious education to our faith community and to those who may wish to join our faith. My vision for Living Water is to produce religious education in a format that is more attractive to the modern viewer. Learning about our faith in our present day and age needs to be more engaging than traditional methods of the past. And the resources created by Living Water will be designed for all educational levels in order to meet the needs of all people, wherever they are on their faith journeys. Currently, we have a broad range of high-quality, high-touch productions envisioned under the Living Water Productions umbrella, including short videos, podcasts, animated films, and documentaries.

Living Water’s debut was accompanied by its first production, “The Person of Christ,”

a 12-episode short video series filmed in an innovative and visually-engaging style. Created and delivered by world-renowned theologian, Fr. Alexis Torrance, the Archbishop Demetrios Associate Professor of Byzantine Theology at the University of Notre Dame and Protopresbyter of the Ecumenical Throne in Constantinople, the video series offers a deeper, spiritual, and intellectual understanding of Christ. “The Person of Christ” video series can be accessed through the Metropolis’ YouTube Channel and is designed to be used in group settings, such as Bible Study groups, religious education classes and youth groups. The series can also be viewed on an individual level by Orthodox and non-Orthodox Christians alike—or even those considering converting to the faith or deepening their understanding of Christianity on the whole.

A great amount of care went into the design and release of this inaugural series, both

to raise awareness among the public, and to maximize the series’ educational impact. Prior to the video release, I held two Zoom calls with clergy and parish council presidents to introduce the video series and to discuss the ways in which the videos may be used. The Metropolis provided each parish with materials, including an instructional manual, a study guide with worksheets and discussion questions prepared by Fr. Alexis, and a series overview and episode guide. These materials were designed to enhance the educational experience and allow for a deeper understanding of the concepts presented in each episode.

I am confident that the creative and talented personalities showcased by Living Water Productions will make for engaging and enriching experiences, and I personally invite every one of you to embark on your own journey of faith, beginning with “The Person of Christ” video series.

“I am confident about the possibilities of Living Water
and believe strongly that the timeless truth of Christ’s teachings
will quench the thirst for greater meaning, purpose,
and hope in people’s lives.”

—HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN NATHANAEL



THE PERSON OF CHRIST

chicago.goarch.org/PersonofChrist



Watch Episodes

EPISODE 1

Introduction; Who do you say that I am?

EPISODE 2

The Power of the Name: Jesus

EPISODE 3

Jesus THE Christ

EPISODE 4

The Stone the Builders Rejected: The Cornerstone

EPISODE 5

Temple: Jesus Christ, the Church, Your Body

EPISODE 6

Priest: Jesus Christ, Clergy, Every Believer

EPISODE 7

Whose Son? Son of Man or Son of God?

EPISODE 8

Peace: Not as the World Gives

EPISODE 9

Truth: Who is it? What is it?

EPISODE 10

Light

EPISODE 11

I AM that I AM: the Existing One

EPISODE 12

Love: God Himself



The Metropolis' Strategic Plan Continues to Produce Results

HIS GRACE BISHOP TIMOTHY, Chancellor

One of the most impactful decisions the Metropolis has made is to adopt a Strategic Plan to address our parishes' most pressing challenges in thoughtful and innovative ways. Over the past three years, the plan has been faithfully carried out by teams of volunteers, each devoted to developing and implementing one of its 16 goals. This year, I would like to recognize the Youth Religious Education Team and the Welcoming Team, which completed their programs and are ready to implement them at parishes throughout the Metropolis.

Youth Religious Education

In 2022, the Metropolis' Youth Religious Education Strategic Plan team unveiled its plan to better educate our youth. The team, led by Kathy Michalarias and Alexandra Smirniotis, is comprised of experienced educators who share a passion for teaching and for religious education. The team spent two years researching curricula offered by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese and other Orthodox Christian Churches, gathering input from Sunday School Directors, and utilizing their own experience to develop a better way to deliver religious education. The resulting plan consists of a new Scope and Sequence Curriculum Matrix by grade level (preschool through 8th grade) and a curated collection of resources to be used with the Matrix.

In November, the team presented their work to nearly fifty Sunday Church School Directors and teachers throughout the Metropolis. Attendees were eager to learn about the new curriculum and welcomed the opportunity to share resources, ideas and teaching practices. Participants also expressed the need for continuing education to allow them to improve their substantive knowledge, to stay current with best practices, and to improve their teaching skills through innovative ways of delivering the curriculum.

The next steps for this dynamic team are to host Sunday School teacher workshops, commence work on a high school curriculum, and liaise with the Metropolis' Religious Education Department to bring future improvements.

**"A first-time visitor
to our parishes is
only new once.
That means we have
but one opportunity to
welcome and
be supportive."**

—HIS EMINENCE
METROPOLITAN NATHANAEL

Welcoming Team

The health and growth of our churches is directly connected to our ability to welcome newcomers and visitors. Successful welcoming leads to enhanced outreach and evangelism, stewardship, and worship engagement. Three years ago, the Metropolis Welcoming Strategic Plan Team, chaired by Eleni Lanzourakis, Greg Gerontes and Angela Mejdrich, began its work by defining a vision

for welcoming people into our communities. Team members spent hundreds of hours visiting churches and other faith-based organizations to learn from their successes. The team has developed a step-by-step process, along with ready-to-use educational materials.

The Welcoming Program can be adapted to the individual demographics, needs, and concerns of each parish. The program provides guidance on website communications, signage and live-stream services, on-site greeting of visitors, visitor information, creating a Welcome Center, and communications with visitors.

The team is piloting its program before rolling it out to the rest of the Metropolis. Team members will use the data they collect from the pilot parishes to improve the program and develop criteria and metrics for measuring success. The following eight parishes have agreed to participate: All Saints, Peoria, IL; Holy Trinity, Sioux City, IA; St. Andrew, Chicago, IL; St. Anthony, Springfield, IL; St. Basil, Chicago, IL; St. Demetrios, Chicago, IL; St. Sophia, Elgin, IL; and SS Peter and Paul, Glenview, IL. The program will be available to all parishes in 2023.



Project HOPE Reaches Critical Milestone

YANNI SIANIS, Member of the Metropolis Council and Chair, Project Hope



The Metropolis' Project HOPE ministry had its most successful year yet, gaining traction in new geographic areas, attracting more partners and volunteers, and gaining visibility and credibility in the humanitarian community. The ministry served over 450,000 meals in 2022 – more meals than it served in 2020 and 2021 combined! Since its inception in 2020, Project HOPE has served 675,000 meals, helped secure 3,000 nights of shelter for the homeless, and packaged and distributed 12,500 COVID-19 Care Kits. The ministry also saw a sharp increase in the number of volunteers, with over 500 volunteers participating.

Throughout the year, HOPE ministry leaders met with dedicated parish liaisons to organize food drives and distributions. Going forward, Project HOPE plans to expand its outreach by installing kiosks and pop-up sections in most of our Chicagoland parishes, and eventually at all of the parishes within our Metropolis. HOPE's mission also includes engaging our parishioners, especially our youth. To that end, in February 2023, HOPE led a service project for 600 young adults at the YAL Chicago Conference to package and prepare approximately 100,000 meals to feed those in need.

HOPE's success is a testament to the

soundness of its business model, the passionate work of its volunteers, the generosity of its donors, and its ability to operate with no overhead expense. That means that 100% of every dollar donated goes to the purchase and distribution of food and shelter nights for those in need. With the continued support of our parishioners, parish organizations, clergy, local networks and strategic collaborative partners, Project HOPE seeks to cross the "One Million Meals" milestone in 2023. Ultimately, the ministry seeks to become the vehicle through which future generations of Orthodox Christians can help feed and provide shelter to God's children for years to come.





“Love Thy Neighbor”: Another Year of Significant Impact

VICKI PAPPAS KARL, Executive Director

In 2022, the parishes of the Metropolis of Chicago continued to witness Christ’s love in their communities. Collectively, 53 parishes donated over 125,000 necessities, 260,000 pounds of food or groceries, and nearly 285,000 meals to those in need. Parishioners’ participation in outreach activities increased by 32%, volunteering 63,036 hours of their time. In addition, almost \$900,000 was invested in charity work, both locally and internationally.*

The Metropolis Philoptochos also continued to fulfill its humanitarian mission. With a 69% increase in volunteers, the women of the Philoptochos logged 20,000 volunteer

“I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.”

—MATTHEW 25:35-36

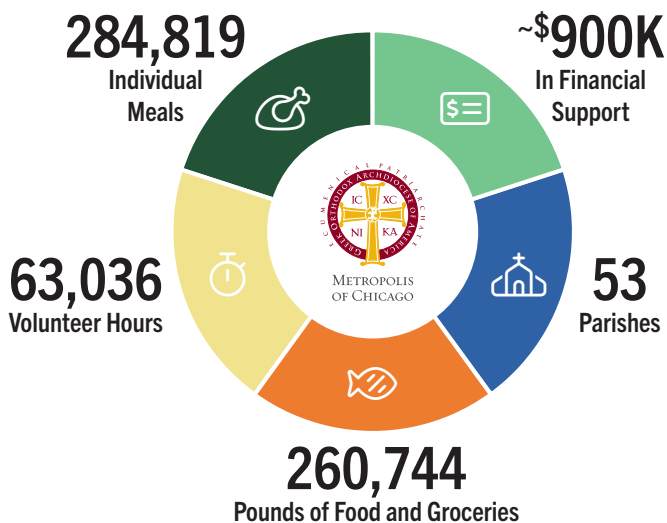
hours, donated or served 5,388 meals, donated 3,699 items of clothing, bedding and personal necessities, and invested an amazing \$144,037 locally and internationally in charities and/or charity work.

The Metropolis of Chicago is grateful to its parishes and the Philoptochos for their hard work and commitment to serving our communities. Significant increases show that you are taking action where it matters most – volunteer hours, meals served, and clothing donations. We look forward to continuing this trend in the future!

PARISH IMPACT

126,707

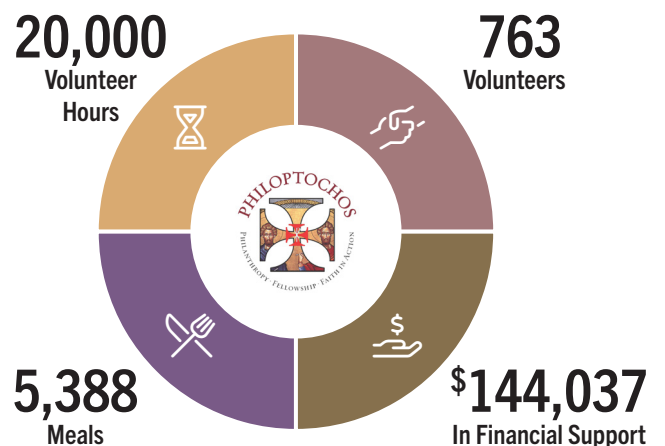
Items of Necessity



PHILOPTOCHOS IMPACT

3,699

Items of Necessity





A Sacramental Snapshot of the Metropolis 2009-2022

DN. ANTONIOS CALASH, Metropolis Registrar

The sacramental life of our Church continues to be negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022, the number of sacraments performed at our parishes* declined across the board as compared to 2021. Some of this decline was expected, since the 2021 numbers were artificially high, as they also included sacraments postponed from 2020. As such, rather than compare 2022 with 2021, it tells a more accurate picture to look at the simple moving averages (“SMA”) over the past three- and five-year periods in each sacrament category. As shown in the graphs below, those SMA’s show one to two percent

decreases in all the sacraments over those time periods.

In our last two Annual Impact Reports, we used the differential of baptisms over funerals as a rudimentary way of estimating parish growth. Up through 2019, the number of baptisms exceeded the number of funerals, demonstrating healthy growth in sacramental life. In 2020, the differential flipped, and the number of funerals exceeded the number of baptisms. That negative differential continued in 2021, and now again in 2022. The rate of this decline was greatest in 2021, and while the differential narrowed in 2022,

this sustained negative differential over the past three years is concerning.

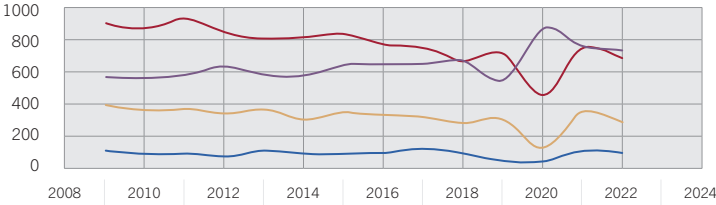
To reverse these declines, we must redouble our efforts to re-engage those whose participation in the life of the Church has lapsed, and to welcome new people to our faith. The Metropolis has sought creative ways to do this through the Mustard Seed Fund, Living Water Productions, and the Strategic Plan Welcoming Program. Early signs are encouraging, but we cannot stop there. Each of us must take up the challenge of bringing people back to Church and making our faith resonate with them.

*The sacraments performed at the parishes of Annunciation, Decatur, IL, Holy Trinity, Fon du Lac, WI and St. Demetrios, Libertyville, IL are not included in these figures.

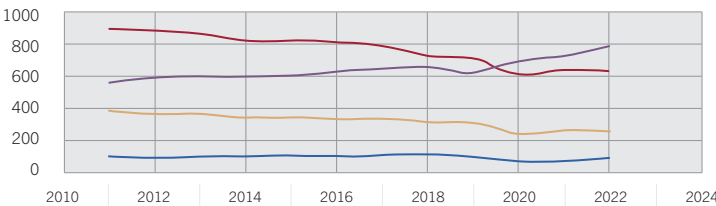
METROPOLIS DATA
2009 - 2022

Year	Baptisms	Chrismations	Weddings	Funerals
2009	901	105	387	558
2010	864	81	361	557
2011	928	89	365	572
2012	843	74	339	630
2013	811	109	361	576
2014	811	91	304	581
2015	836	86	344	640
2016	771	97	328	643
2017	748	123	315	644
2018	667	91	281	663
2019	711	47	301	548
2020	455	44	123	863
2021	744	105	340	759
2022	689	97	284	728

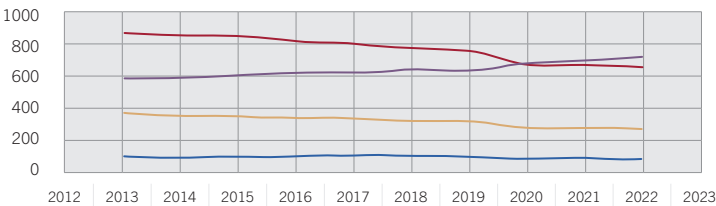
SACRAMENTS
2009 - 2022



3-Year Simple Moving Average
2009 - 2022



5-Year Simple Moving Average
2009 - 2022



—Baptisms —Chrismations —Weddings —Funerals



2022 Financial Snapshot

EFFIE PANOS and TOM SIKORAL, Metropolis Co-Treasurers

The Metropolis of Chicago had another year of solid financial results in 2022, which it achieved through financial discipline, strong internal controls and continuous oversight of transactions. The implementation of a third party accounts payable system and a new donor management system resulted in significant office efficiencies and administrative time savings. In 2022, the Metropolis received \$138,000 in unrestricted donations and \$55,000 in donations to fund our strategic initiatives of clergy and lay leadership, religious literacy and humanitarian outreach. For a fifth straight year, through expense control and support from individual donors, the Metropolis was able to generate an unrestricted operating surplus. The increase of unrestricted cash and investments in 2022 has put the Metropolis in a strong financial position to fund programs and ministries in the future.

The successful sale of the Metropolis' former building on Burton Place in 2022 resulted in \$3,008,000 in net restricted cash to be applied to the purchase of a new Metropolis Center. Those

funds have been invested in short term insured certificates of deposit to generate interest during the real estate search, with the exception of a small amount needed to fund due diligence expenses.

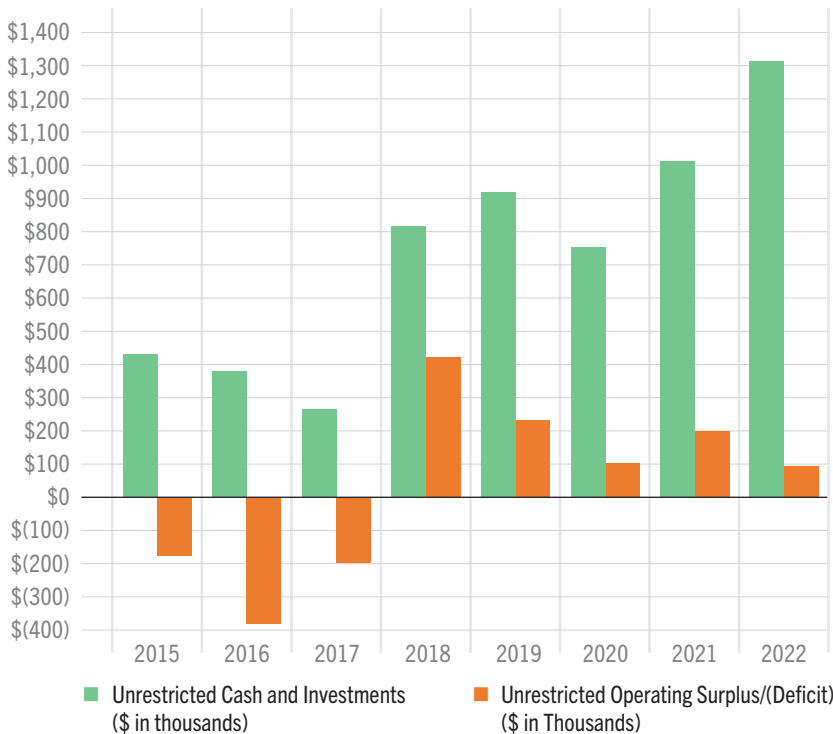
In 2022, the Metropolis began using the funds it raised to support its strategic initiatives by investing in a program to enhance clergy development and by producing a religious education video series entitled, "The Person of Christ." The Metropolis also distributed over \$35,000 in micro grants to parishes from the Mustard Seed Fund to finance the development of new and innovative ministries in the areas of outreach, welcoming and evangelism. Investments in our youth and young adult ministries continued to be a priority in 2022, including Fanari Camp Ministries, Lighthouse Camp for high school seniors, the Young Adult League Conference, and youth athletics.

The Metropolis received an unmodified (clean) opinion on its 2021 financial statements from its independent audit firm, marking the third

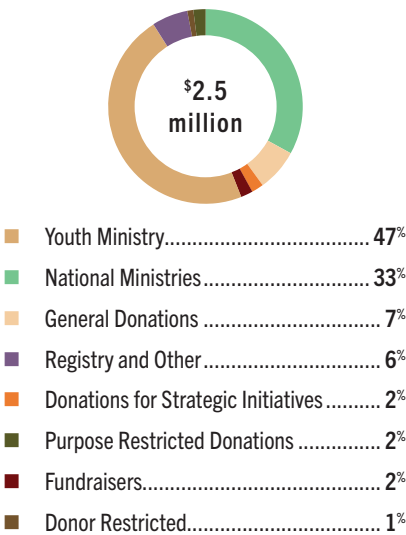
year in a row that the Metropolis has earned an unmodified opinion of its financial statements. We also successfully transitioned to a Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP") basis of accounting in 2021, as required by the Archdiocese.

Through its commitment to fiscal responsibility, accountability and transparency, the Metropolis is in a solid financial position as of December 31, 2022, and is well-positioned to support future growth.

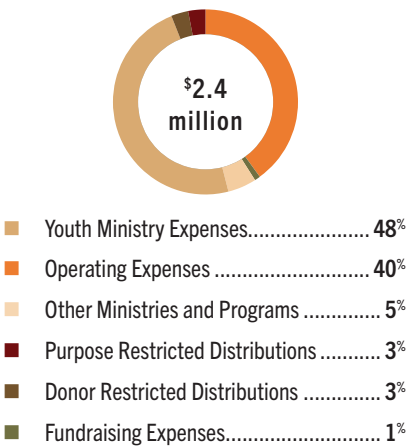
UNRESTRICTED CASH AND INVESTMENTS AND OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) 2015-2022



2022 REVENUES BY SOURCE



2022 EXPENSES BY FUNCTION





Metropolitan Bestows Gold Crosses upon Legal Advisors

VICKI PAPPAS KARL, Executive Director

In recognition of their extraordinary service to the Metropolis, His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael bestowed one of the Metropolis' highest honors – the Metropolis Gold Cross – upon each of its legal advisors: Joan Berg, Georgia Demeros, Harry Secaras and Perry Siatis. Over the years, these attorneys have provided *pro bono* legal services in the areas of corporate, real estate, tax, and employment law to the Metropolis and the St. Iakovos Retreat Center. Their services are indispensable to the operation of the Metropolis, and are rendered at great personal sacrifice. The award of the Metropolis Gold Cross is a first for the Metropolis and is a way to honor lay persons who have demonstrated exemplary servant leadership by volunteering their God-given talents for the benefit of the Church.





Mustard Seeds Take Root and Sprout New Parish Ministries

ANNE-MARIE ADAMS, PhD, Chair, Mustard Seed Fund and Metropolis Council First Vice President

This year, the Metropolis awarded its first Mustard Seed grants. The Mustard Seed Fund was established in May 2021 to seed ministries and programs designed to drive parish growth through evangelism, welcoming and outreach. The goal is to encourage the development of innovative new ministries that might be scaled for use at other parishes throughout the Metropolis. Of the more than 20 applications received, the Metropolis awarded grants totaling \$37,500 to the following nine Metropolis parishes:

- **Annunciation, Milwaukee, WI:** Outreach program for impoverished areas of Greater Milwaukee
- **Annunciation, Kankakee, IL:** Church-based community theater troupe
- **St. Athanasios, Aurora, IL:** Expansion of men's group ministry
- **St. Basil, Chicago, IL:** Expansion of prison ministry
- **Ss. Constantine and Helen, Swansea, IL:** "Spring Back to Church" outreach program
- **St. George, Chicago, IL:** Bicycle repair ministry for impoverished residents of Humboldt Park
- **St. George, St. Paul, MN:** Inter-Orthodox shared catechism program
- **St. George, Schererville, IN:** Byzantine music youth group for girls and boys
- **St. Luke the Evangelist, Columbia, MO:** Billboard to raise awareness of Orthodox Church

"This is just wonderful to hear how [the Mustard Seed] funds are going to help many non-Orthodox people as well as the underprivileged, and assist in the creation of Orthodox initiatives of promoting and preserving the Holy Tradition of our Orthodox Church."

—ARISTIDES HANTGOS & FAMILY

CHICAGO BIKE PROJECT SUCCESS STORY

One of the ministries—the *Chicago Bike Project*—created by parishioners at St. George in Chicago stands out for its simple but powerful mission, its ability to attract volunteers and financial support, and the spiritual bond it has forged between church members and their neighboring community. The ministry was conceived by parishioner, Fred Frederiksen, who decided to put his bike repair experience to use by repairing the bikes of the church's homeless neighbors, giving them the means of transportation to food pantries, shelters, work opportunities, church services, and other necessities of daily living.

When St. George applied for a Mustard Seed grant, the mission was to repair bikes for the homeless. But once the word got out, parishioners started donating their old bicycles, allowing the ministry to supply bikes to those in need. From there, the ministry took off in popularity and volunteers stepped up to develop a flyer and logo, raise awareness, solicit donations, and obtain volunteers.



METROPOLIS MINISTRIES



St. George Greek Orthodox Church's first ever BIKE MINISTRY **CHICAGO BIKE PROJECT**

Sponsored by the the Metropolis of Chicago's MUSTARD SEED FUND



OUR MISSION

Provide FREE bicycles and ongoing maintenance to Chicago communities in need. Our hope is to enable greater access to food pantries, shelters, church services, legal obligations, and most importantly the opportunity to travel



GET INVOLVED : WHAT WE NEED

- **MECHANICS**- learn basic skills to help with repairing donated bikes.
- **SOCIAL MEDIA**: collect and create graphics and photos to spread the word.
- **DRIVERS**- help deliver bicycles

DONATE AN OLD BIKE

Have a bike you no longer need?
Know someone who does?

We will take it off your hands, repair it, and put it into the hands of someone in need



FOLLOW - SHARE - TAG
@CHICAGO_BIKE_PROJECT



MESSAGE FRED AT
CHICAGOBIKEPROJECT@GMAIL.COM



DONATE TO THE CAUSE

- **VENMO / PAYPAL / AMAZON WISH LIST** Any amount is appreciated and 100% of proceeds go directly to the cause!

<https://linktr.ee/ChicagoBikeProject>

To date, the *Chicago Bike Project* has received approximately 60 donated bikes, repaired 71 bikes, and helped 45 individuals by providing them with bikes, bike repairs and/or providing accessories, such as locks, lights and helmets. The project has raised \$5,000 dollars and was awarded a \$10,000 matching grant from the *Hellenic Foundation* to further its mission.

The ministry boasts over 60 volunteers, including participants from AHEPA, GOYA, OCF, and YAL. The ministry has also attracted volunteers from the surrounding community and collaborated with outside organizations, including *Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Church* in Humboldt Park and *Feeding People Through Plants* by providing bike repairs, bikes, and accessories to participants in their social service programs.

The Chicago Bike Project's outreach to the neighboring community has raised awareness of the Greek Orthodox Church. Two non-Orthodox volunteers now attend services at St. George and many who have received bike services have asked for prayers. With the help of the Metropolis' Mustard Seed Fund, the Chicago Bike Project has grown from an idea to a full-fledged ministry with promising scalability to other parishes in our Metropolis. It exemplifies the purpose and promise of the Mustard Seed.



"Mechanic Days"





Youth and Young Adult Ministries Has a Landmark Year

FR. KOSMAS KALLIS, Director, Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Excitement, renewal, and celebration. Those are the words that best describe the past year for the Metropolis' Youth and Young Adult Ministries (Y2AM). Whether it's through Fanari Camp, Lighthouse, GOAL Athletics or our Young Adult League (YAL), ministering to our youth and young adults in innovative and impactful ways is a primary focus of our Metropolis.

Fanari Camping Ministries



The cornerstone of the Metropolis' youth programming is Fanari Camp Ministries, a year-round camping and retreat program aimed at cultivating our young people's understanding and love of our faith. This year, as Fanari Camp celebrated its 50th Anniversary, attendance at all of our seasonal camps saw a solid 20% increase over last year. Led by young adult youth workers, our camping programs continue to grow and innovate so as to engage our youth in the modern context.

To commemorate Fanari's milestone year, a committee of 12 Fanari Camp alumni organized a series of "Share the Light" events. Fanari partnered with the Chicago-based ReWrite it Project to organize a service project for Fanari summer campers in which they assembled over 1,500 school kits for Chicago-area students. In October, the committee organized a dazzling Anniversary Dinner Dance for over 450 campers and alumni. The gala brought friends together to reminisce about their Fanari camping experiences and raised over \$75,000 for the development and underwriting of new programming.





Lighthouse Camp

Due to popular demand, the Metropolis was able to host a second annual session of its new Lighthouse Camp for high school seniors. Like the inaugural year, Lighthouse engaged our emerging young adults in a week-long session, preparing them spiritually, emotionally, relationally, and practically, for the next stage in their Orthodox Christian lives.

YAL Chicago



Our Young Adult League ministry grew substantially in 2022. The YAL Chicago Conference (100%), Spring Retreat (20%), and Christmas Party (65%) each had record growth in attendance (percentage increases show in parentheses). Highlights for YAL Chicago included having Chick-fil-A's Tim Tassopoulos serve as keynote speaker at the YAL Conference, adding a Fall Retreat, and hosting a Christmas Party at the Hellenic Museum.

Athletics



Our Greek Orthodox Athletic League ("GOAL") enjoyed a "back to normal" year for our basketball league, basketball tournament, and Annual Junior Olympics. The 41st Annual Junior Olympics saw over 1,100 participants from over 20 parishes compete in individual and team sports. Our GOAL Basketball season took place in a modified version in February and March of 2022, and then kicked off the 2022-23 Season with the Metropolitan Iakovos Memorial Tournament ("MIMT") and GOAL basketball season, which ended in mid-February. GOAL basketball had over 650 participants from the Chicago Metropolitan area.



The Y2AM Office looks forward to 2023, with the goal of continued growth for our current programs, along with the addition of new programs to engage our youth and young adults.





METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO



ORDER of
SAINT ANDREW
THE APOSTLE
Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate



Family Synaxis
METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO



Philoxenia Charities



Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

In 2022, the Metropolis of Chicago Archons had an active year. Regional Commander Gus M. Pablecas was elected National Secretary for the Order; and Regional Commander John G. Manos traveled to Rome, representing the Order at the Second Annual Notre Dame Religious Liberty Initiative. Archons John Koudounis and Robert Buhler were named to Archon National Committees and, together with William Spell, were named to the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation Investment Committee. The Archons made a religious freedom presentation at the YAL Conference in Chicago; held their annual business retreat, where Archon Aristotle Papanikolaou, professor at Fordham University, gave a lecture; co-hosted the annual Fall of Constantinople event at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Schiller Park, IL; and participated in the Hellenic Heritage Day Parade. Archons culminated the year by traveling to New York for the investiture of the 38 Class of 2022 Archons, four of whom are from the Chicago Metropolis; attending Vespers Services for their Patron Saint at St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago; and conducting a presentation during a Holiday Annual Meet and Greet at the National Hellenic Museum. The Archons also continued to work on developing the Archon Music Fest and the Pilgrimage of Discovery, a program in which young adults will receive the opportunity to meet His All Holiness.



Buildings, Projects & Architecture Committee

The Buildings, Projects & Architecture Committee of our Metropolis (“BPA”) serves our parishes through consultation and review of parish improvement projects. Projects involving the BPA include ecclesial furnishings, such as iconography and liturgical furnishings, and improvement projects involving campus improvements. Sample projects are repairs and replacements of roofing, HVAC, parking lot, lighting, audio-visual installations, construction, environmental matters, zoning and land use and real estate transactions. The monetary threshold was increased to \$20,000 effective December 1, 2022. This past year, the BPA completed review and provided 20 project approval recommendations to His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael and received 19 new project review requests. Projects ranged in scope from HVAC and roof replacements to hearing-loop and solar panel installation projects.

Current members of the BPA are: Bishop Timothy of Hexamilion; Fr. Ciprian Sas (ecclesial and parish perspective); John Mercuris (Chairman, commercial real estate development); Richard Andron (architect); Joan Tolios Berg (legal matters); Nick T. Boosalis (commercial real estate development); Peter Karonis, (property management); Dean Kutrumanes (property and asset management); John G. Manos (architecture and lending); Gus M. Pablecas (property and asset management); Steven Savas, (property inspection and construction); and John Vranas, (property management).

Choir Federation

The Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians (“FGOCM”) had an extremely active year as they emerged from the pandemic and re-entered their choir lofts. In January, representatives of our Metropolis Choirs traveled to Florida to join the Epiphany Choir of St. Nicholas in Tarpon Springs to sing in the Hierarchical Liturgy led by Archbishop Elpidophoros. Federation President, Ruth E. Faklis, visited ten choirs/lofts this year from St. Paul, MN to Joliet, IL to personally thank members for their dedicated and loving service. The Chicago Metropolis’ FGOCM Annual Conference was hosted by the Federation Board and held at St. Nicholas in Oak Lawn, IL. Christopher Kypros was the Director and Mark Macres (St. Mary’s, Minneapolis, MN) served as the organist.

Flash-choirs were held at Holy Cross Church in Justice, IL, Assumption Church in Chicago and Assumption Church in Madison. In October, the choir directors, organists, and chanters were invited to an appreciation luncheon hosted by the Federation Board. Church Musicians’ Institutes were conducted via Zoom this year for the edification of their members. FGOCM also participated in the annual Oratorical and National Clergy Laity/National Forum events. The Federation is proud to announce that two members of the Metropolis, Georgia S. Mitchell and V. Rev. Dr. Anton Vrame, were each awarded the Archdiocesan/National Forum’s Romanos Medal. The Romanos Medallion is offered to worthy church musicians of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America who have made exemplary contributions nationally.

Clergy Syndesmos

The Metropolis’ Clergy Syndesmos continued to meet monthly this past year, holding continuing education seminars designed to enrich and strengthen the ministry of the priests. The culmination of these seminars was a spiritual retreat with Metropolitan Nathanael in May of 2022. The Syndesmos has two representatives on the Archdiocesan Presbyters Council (APC) and met its 2022 financial obligations to support the biennial national clergy retreat, to assist clergy families in need throughout the country, and to address matters related to clergy. The Clergy Syndesmos works closely with the Chancellor and Metropolis Vicars to locally address clergy matters, including assisting clergy families in need within the Metropolis. The Metropolis supported several clergy couples who participated in the first ever National Clergy Couple Retreat that was held in Chicago in October.



Family Synaxis

Family Synaxis had a purpose-filled year connecting with Orthodox Christian parents and young married couples. In March, Fr. Sotiri and Presvytera Stefanie Malamis of Ascension Church in Lincolnshire, IL led a Young Married Couples Retreat at the St. Iakovos Retreat Center on the theme of “Cultivating Roots of a Christ-Centered Marriage.” Throughout the year, the ministry held four “Parenting U” presentations with topics designed to help parents raise their children in accordance with Orthodox Christian values. The first presentation entitled “Guiding our Youth Through this Technological Age” was presented by Mr. Kevin Hackert, the Director of Technology at Timothy Christian Schools. The topic of the second presentation, “The Survival of the Church in an Evolving World,” was presented by Fr. John Kalomas of Holy Cross. Later in the year, Fr. Dimitriou led a discussion on “The Orthodox Family in the Changing World” and one of our newest priests, Fr. Theofanis Rauch, offered a presentation on “Prayer in the Family.” Family Synaxis also published content on its Facebook page throughout the year, including pastoral reflections, a lecture series, and live-streaming Lenten services.

Greek Education

The Greek Education ministry continued its work in 2022, assisting the Greek-American parochial schools with their Greek language programs and providing continuing education opportunities for Greek School educators. In cooperation with the Demokriteion University of Thrace, the ministry arranged for educators throughout the Metropolis to attend seminars and professional development courses presented by university professors. The ministry also organized its own seminars for Greek School teachers.

The Greek Education ministry hosted meetings with Greek School educators to discuss the Hellenic Letters celebration program, including the topics that the students were to be taught and the compilation of materials to assist with presentation for the “Agrafon.” Students presented their projects in a History Fair, followed by a short program presented by the hosting school at each church. The ministry distributed awards to students during the annual Hellenic Letters celebration. The Greek Education ministry also served on the organizing committee for the celebration of the International Day of the Greek Language and continued its membership on the Higher Education Council. As it does every year, the ministry distributed the schedule for the Ellinomatheia tests to schools and provided information about Adult Greek Language instruction programs.

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago Foundation

On May 20, 2022, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago Foundation (“Foundation”) was formed as an Illinois nonprofit corporation and received its federal tax exempt status under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Board of Directors approved the hiring of Morgan Stanley to serve as the Foundation’s investment advisor. The process of selecting an investment advisor was undertaken by the Foundation’s Investment Committee, which followed a competitive bidding process over several months. The Foundation welcomed its newest Board member, Jeanne Jurasek, CPA, who will serve as the Foundation’s treasurer. The Foundation is currently finalizing its internal corporate policies, preparing donor informational material, and is developing its own website. The Board plans to start fundraising in 2023.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael
Chairman of the Board



John Koudounis
President



Evonne Sepsis
Vice President



Christos Linardakis
Secretary



Jeanne Jurasek
Treasurer



Peter Panton



Bill Spell



Peter S. Stamatis
Legal Advisor

Philoptochos

The Metropolis Philoptochos partners with various organizations and other ministries of the Metropolis to further its philanthropic mission. The Philoptochos' popular *Feed the Hungry* program continued to serve meals at the Annunciation Cathedral in Chicago. This year, the Philoptochos partnered with *Digs for Dignity*, an organization that transitions homeless people into their new housing. The ministry created *Kids for Digs*, a project in which the youth of our Metropolis raised funds for items for *Digs*. Nineteen chapters in our Metropolis participated from all six states. Philoptochos parish chapters in the Chicagoland area gave to Digs, while chapters in other areas donated to similar organizations, such as *Sleep in Heavenly Peace* in Iowa, *Gloria's Place*, *The Bridge* in Minnesota and *Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge* in Wisconsin.

Through its Philoptochos' Quilt-a-Thons, groups met at their homes to make quilts, blankets, pillows, and armrests for those in need. The Metropolis *Dress A Girl* project sent 100 dresses and 400 pairs of socks and underwear to Greece, Florida and India. Special thanks to the Hellenic Foundation for its steadfast support of the Metropolis Philoptochos' Philanthropy Fund.

Philoxenia Charities

Philoxenia Charities continues to provide free, temporary housing to Mayo Clinic patients in need without any precondition requirements. In 2022, one of the three Philoxenia homes remained closed for repairs, while the other two were fully operational. The ministry provided housing to 75 patients and their caregivers, saving them an estimated \$85,000 in lodging expenses. Additionally, two part-time salaried staff were added to the payroll (an Executive Director and an Operations Manager) providing consistent support to the organization that has otherwise been operated by volunteers and contractors since 2004.



For more information, please visit
www.philoxeniacharities.org

METROPOLIS AFFILIATES, COMMITTEES AND MINISTRIES

Religious Education

The Religious Education ministry produced its second webinar designed to enhance adult religious literacy. The webinar, entitled “Modern Orthodox Saints,” was presented by Dr. Helen Theodoropoulos, a well-known expert. The Religious Education ministry coordinated the work of the theologians who served as advisors for the Metropolis’ new *Living Water* Productions. The first production was a video series entitled “The Person of Christ” by Fr. Alexis Torrance. This group of theologians will develop a curriculum and help produce a number of future video series. The Religious Education ministry also has been working with Sunday School teachers throughout the parishes of the Metropolis to develop teacher workshops.

Saint Iakovos Retreat Center

The St. Iakovos Retreat Center hosted approximately 2,400 guests in 2022, nearly 1,500 of which were for Metropolis-related events and 840 of which were for Fanari Summer Camp. Over 20 different events hosted at the Retreat Center related to Metropolis groups, including summer, winter, and fall camps; daytime and overnight events by Metropolis parishes; and other groups, such as Philoptochos, YAL, and the Metropolis Archons. The Retreat Center celebrated its 15-year Anniversary in 2022. Personalized brick pavers are still available for purchase. The Retreat Center invites all parishes to host an event at the Retreat Center in 2023 and experience a little bit of Heaven on Earth! For more information, please visit <http://www.gosirc.org>.

St. John of Damascus League of Chanters

The League of Chanters began 2022 with the election of its new executive board for a two-year term. Throughout the year, the ministry continued practicing in preparation for chanting at liturgical services and special events throughout the Metropolis. The League celebrated its Patron Saint’s Feast Day (St. John of Damascus) on December 3rd/4th and kicked off the year-long celebration of the 40th anniversary of its founding. The ministry also participated in the “Byzantine Christmas” program at the University of Chicago (Center for Hellenic Studies) and visited the Greek American Rehabilitation Center for chanting and caroling for the residents. In 2023, the League of Chanters plans to host a Byzantine Arts Seminar.

TEAM Belong

TEAM Belong is a Metropolis ministry that is part of the Pathways.org initiative that promotes both access and full participation of individuals with impairments and their families in religious settings and schools. This year, the Shirley Ryan Ability Lab at Northwestern University (“SRAL”) featured St. Andrew, Chicago’s TEAM Belong Day at one of SRAL’s conferences. Leah Stepien (nee Tzakis), an occupational therapist at SRAL and member of the Assumption Church in Chicago, was the guest speaker at the parish’s TEAM Belong Day. She noted that while it is vital for religious institutions to provide physically accessible environments to accommodate persons with disabilities, it is equally important to provide an emotional sense of belonging. The Metropolis’ TEAM Belong ministry is dedicated to ensuring that all persons with disabilities feel like they belong in the Greek Orthodox Church.



“HOPE’s success is a testament to the soundness of its business model, the passionate work of its volunteers, the generosity of its donors, and its ability to operate with no overhead expense.”

—VICKI PAPPAS KARL



H♥PE
Humanitarian Outreach & Philanthropic Engagement

Learn more about this ministry on **PAGE 7**



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO

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PURPOSE STATEMENT

To receive and share unconditional love, mercy, healing, and peace, so that life has greater meaning and purpose.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago is a Christ-centered community that loves, guides, engages and serves all people.

CORE VALUES

Christ-centered
Integrity
Service
Humility
Love
Merciful
Spiritual development
Adaptable

VISION STATEMENT

We will grow our Metropolis family through greater:

Fellowship & Welcoming
Accountability
Ministries & Education
Innovation
Leadership
Involved Youth & Emerging Adults
Engagement on Critical Issues
Stewardship



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