

YOUR SUPPORT AT WORK



Dragan Isaric/IOCC

BALKANS: As the floodwaters of an epic flood slowly subside, residents returning to their homes in Serbia and Bosnia face the slow and costly process of starting over. IOCC is helping families return to their homes as quickly as possible

by providing them with the tools and supplies needed to clean and disinfect homes exposed to stagnant water, a potential breeding ground for diseases and other public health threats.

IOCC EVENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

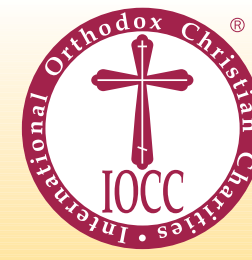
- **September 27, 2014** – Chicago, IL
Annual 5K Run/Walk
St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church
- **October 18, 2014** – Baltimore, MD
2014 Baltimore Running Festival
- **October 11, 2014** — Cleveland, OH
Biennial Fashion Show
St. Michael Woodside
- **October 25, 2014** — Charlotte, NC
“A Taste of IOCC”
St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church
- **November 9, 2014** – St. Louis, MO
12th Annual IOCC Banquet

COMING SOON
The 12th edition of *My Prayer Journal*, a free publication created by IOCC for Orthodox children ages 7-12. Watch your mailbox for your free copy. Learn more at iocc.org/prayerjournal

Fathers: Please display the inside poster in your parish

School and Hygiene Kits Are Needed!

HELP A CHILD IN NEED.
Find easy to follow kit assembly directions at iocc.org/kits



INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

PRIEST to PRIEST



The Impact of *Frontline* on Our Parishes

In the years since its inception, IOCC has conducted targeted programs that truly make a difference in the lives of the afflicted. Initially, the work of IOCC was carried out on foreign soil. In more recent years their efforts have expanded to include domestic initiatives which have broadened their impact in the United States. One example of this is the *Frontline* program which consists of over 100 clergy and laity trained to deploy to disaster sites in order to provide emotional and spiritual care. Within the Metropolis of San Francisco, we are blessed with ten clergy who have received special training to participate in the *Frontline* program.

The excellent work of IOCC became personally evident in 2013 within the Metropolis of San Francisco with two major incidents which affected two of our communities and their congregations. In late May 2013, the parish of Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Tucson, Arizona suffered a devastating fire. In the months following this disaster, IOCC sent *Frontliners* to Tucson to provide grief counseling for the parishioners. The loss of their church was deeply emotional, with many parishioners being born and raised in this community, and suffering the loss of their spiritual home. The support of IOCC helped bring healing to their hearts and souls and mobilized the parish to work together in unity and love to rebuild their church.

In June 2013, the Yarnell Hill Fire consumed thousands of acres in northern Arizona and claimed the lives of 19 firefighters. Many of them left young wives and children, and the small community of Prescott where they lived was overwhelmed with grief. The mission parish of Saint George Greek Orthodox Church in Prescott,

Arizona was also directly affected by this fire, as the brother of a parishioner was one of the firefighters who died. Everyone in the parish knew someone and the emotional ripples in this small town were deep and piercing. The clergy sent by IOCC *Frontline* brought comfort not only to our parishioners, but to the civic community by joining in prayer, providing counseling, and offering Paraklesis and Memorial Services.

These are just two examples of the work of IOCC, but there are countless others which demonstrate the importance of the *Frontline* program and the positive impact it has had and will continue to have on our communities in peril. Please remember that *Frontline* is not a program only for a hundred or so specialists – it is OUR ministry. Clergy who live in the same area as *Frontliners* should be ready help cover their brothers' parish responsibilities when they deploy. Parishes should help fund the equipping and outfitting of *Frontline* clergy and laity. All of us can never forget that there are times when meeting the needs of the least of our brethren means being away from local responsibilities – when a priest deploys as a *Frontliner*, all of us must regard this not as an inconvenience, but as a source of pride for the local parish.

I am grateful to God for the good work that IOCC offers in disaster response and development activities throughout the world. Through IOCC's expanded vision, the America's Orthodox Christians have yet another way to serve their neighbors and provide meaningful support when disaster strikes on our shores.

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR ORTHODOX CLERGY

From the clergy of the IOCC Board of Directors:

His Eminence Archbishop Nicolae, Very Rev. Fr. Leonid Kishkovsky, Rev. Fr. Luke Palumbis, Very Reverend Fr. Nicholas Triantafilou

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IOCC RELIEF IN SYRIA

Working with church partner, the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East, IOCC supports one of the largest humanitarian networks inside Syria. Since 2012, IOCC has provided relief to more than one million people inside Syria affected by the crisis through programs that include:

Access to Clean Water —

To help minimize the public health threat from Syria's severely damaged infrastructure, IOCC is repairing wells and water systems, and installing water storage tanks to provide safe access to water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene.



photos by IOCC/GOPA



Emergency Aid — Displaced families inside Syria who have lost everything and are now living in shelters or makeshift housing are receiving dry food parcels and essential items like infant care supplies, clothing, mattresses, blankets, and bedding.



Medical Assistance — Syria's weakened healthcare system is putting medical treatment out of reach for thousands of Syrian families. IOCC is helping Syrian people with critical medical needs by providing minor surgical procedures and medical supplies.

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