

NEWS & NEEDS

INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

WINTER 2017

IOCC RESPONDS TO HURRICANE DEVASTATION IN HAITI

It took only minutes for Hurricane Matthew to destroy the small house in Les Cayes, Haiti, that single mother Adette, 38, and her eight children called home. The family huddled in their house when the hurricane hit, too scared to leave, but were forced to flee to another house nearby when forceful winds began ripping away the sheet metal roofing that provided protection.

The port city of Les Cayes, where the Orthodox Church of St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia (ROCOR) is located, experienced the full impact of wind and water damage from Hurricane Matthew, leaving 1.4 million Haitians without food, clean water and safe shelter. Matushka Rose Legouté of the ROCOR mission in Les Cayes reported, "The hurricane left behind thousands of homeless families huddled in shelters far from their homes. The sheet metal roofs of more than 80% of the houses were blown away, trees have fallen by the thousands and many families are left with no source of income."



Through your support and a matching grant provided by the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, IOCC is responding to the urgent needs of Haiti's hurricane survivors. In addition to supporting emergency food assistance for 1,000 families, IOCC is also working to distribute construction materials so that homeless families like Adette's can repair the damage and return their families home. The road to recovery in Haiti remains long and arduous, as at least one million people still require food, shelter, health and livelihood assistance in order to recover from the impact of the hurricane.



IOCC®  **25**
YEARS
INSPIRED BY FAITH. DRIVEN BY PURPOSE.

COMMENCING IOCC'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Join us in celebrating 25 years of giving in the spirit of Christ's love



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



This year marks the 25th anniversary of IOCC's humanitarian mission around the world. We have made great strides since our first airlift of food and medicine to Russia in 1992, delivering more than \$600 million in emergency relief and development assistance to families in more than 50 countries.

This immense impact on the lives of many around the world has been possible because of you. Out of your generosity and devotion to our faith, families in need in places like Syria, Greece, the Balkans, Ethiopia and the US have felt Christ's loving hand reach out to them. They have felt your spirit of compassion from miles away.

It has been my privilege to serve IOCC since its second year and to continue serving throughout the years in multiple capacities under the guidance of our Orthodox hierarchy, the IOCC Board and alongside some of the most talented people in the humanitarian field. The growth and impact that I have witnessed is awe-inspiring and affirms my faith on a daily basis.

Through your steadfast support, IOCC will continue to bring comfort and hope to young families, children, the elderly and disabled wherever and whenever the need is greatest. We will be inspired by action, driven by purpose, serving our Lord as we serve His kingdom.

In Christ,

Constantine M. Triantafilou
Executive Director & CEO



Published five times a year by IOCC, News & Needs is edited by Mark Hodde and Kristen Fiani.

KOSOVO BREAD AND WINE PROGRAM PROVIDES LIFE-SUSTAINING ASSISTANCE

The Bread and Wine program in Kosovo, under His Grace Bishop of Raška-Prizren Diocese Teodosije, is a multi-year effort that creates a ripple effect of economic benefits emanating from the Serbian Orthodox Church to local agricultural producers. The first phase of the Bread and Wine program, which concluded in 2016, included the establishment of the Church's flour-milling capability. IOCC supported construction of the new facility and furnished it with a new production line for whole grain flour, fuel, fertilizers and wheat, barley, rye and corn seeds. The next phase of the program, from 2017 into 2018, will increase grain-milling capacity and also include construction of new feed and storage facilities for commercial livestock. Agriculture Experts Network (Agrolink) has partnered with IOCC to advise the Church and local farmers on modern agricultural techniques and production planning. The Church's increased agricultural output will provide local farmers greater opportunity to sell grain and other raw materials to the Church, which will use it to process bread, pastry goods and animal feed. In turn, the sale of these goods to the wider market in Kosovo will allow the Church to secure more meals for over 2,500 individuals and 1,000 seminary and younger schoolchildren who receive assistance and meals from the

Church's humanitarian kitchen program.



International Orthodox Christian Charities, Inc. (IOCC) is the official humanitarian relief agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America and a member of the ACT Alliance, a global coalition of churches and agencies engaged in development, humanitarian assistance and advocacy.

IOCC, in the spirit of Christ's love, offers emergency relief and development programs to those in need worldwide, without discrimination and strengthens the capacity of the Orthodox Church to so respond.

ASSEMBLY OF CANONICAL
ORTHODOX BISHOPS
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

IOCC is a member of

act alliance



RURAL CO-OPS CREATE JOBS FOR GREEK FAMILIES

Worker cooperatives, or co-ops, assist small-scale farmers and other trade professionals by providing them with the training and support networks needed to scale up their operations and sell to larger markets. Often, their success is hindered by a lack of funding that can be invested in their growth beyond day-to-day profit. As part of the “Give for Greece” program, IOCC is assisting co-ops of farmers, fishermen, bakers and agricultural producers who are essential to revitalizing the economy in Greece’s small towns and villages. Since 2015, IOCC and Apostoli, the humanitarian arm of the Holy Archdiocese of Athens, have helped 41 co-ops in northern Greece become more productive and profitable through financial support to buy supplies, equipment and machinery needed to expand their operations. In return, participating co-ops “pay it forward” by donating a portion of their products to local institutions such as orphanages and eldercare homes. So far, more than 5,000 rural families are benefitting from the program.

HOW YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

When the local textile factory and largest employer in the northern Greek village of Agios Antonios shut down in 1997, families were suddenly without income. Many tried to earn a living raising livestock, but EU regulations made it difficult to realize a profit. Once the livestock was sold and expenses were accounted for, virtually no money remained for the families to live on. In response, a group of 18 women from the village rallied together to start the first women’s coop. They used their home kitchens to produce handmade pasta and hand-rolled pastry dough, which they sold to small local bakeries and gourmet food shops.

As the business grew, they moved into a renovated dairy production site. IOCC assisted by purchasing a commercial pasta/dough roller and prep table. These basic tools have allowed the co-op employees to increase their output, reduce their production costs and become profitable again – even with lower prices to make the products more affordable.

What began as supplemental income for their families became the primary revenue source for many and, in some cases, the only source. These products have become so popular that at times workers cannot keep up with demand. The 18 women who operate the co-op today largely represent the founding group and have since brought their daughters into the business. The co-op provides both a flexible work schedule for younger working mothers and also preserves ancient food traditions that are an integral part of the Greek culture.

In return for the support they received, the co-op donates 10 percent of its products to help feed the elderly, disabled and orphans living at local social welfare institutions.

CHILD-FRIENDLY SPACES GIVE SYRIAN YOUTH A PLACE TO DREAM

In May 2016, IOCC and the Department of Ecumenical Relations and Development (DERD) of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East launched *Dream* in Al-Hassekah Governorate, Syria. *Dream* provides safe venues for homeless, orphaned, disabled and displaced children to receive psychosocial support. The children learn life skills such as personal care and hygiene, problem-solving and nonviolent communication, as well as how to express their feelings, nurture their self-esteem and respond to challenging social situations.

To reinforce these lessons, parents and caretakers are also educated in child protection, child psychology and motivational practices. Skills are taught in a fun and engaging way through theater, sports matches, games, art and other interactive sessions that take place over the course of three months.

Dream has impacted the lives of nearly 500 children and more than 200 mothers, in addition to hundreds more who have participated in recreational events and open days organized by the *Dream* team. The team includes volunteer facilitators trained in child development and therapeutic interventions. The program is supervised by a psychiatrist who follows up with the children's activities and escalates cases requiring specialized psychosocial support.

Dream is part of ongoing work to deliver life-saving humanitarian aid to Syria's war-weary people. Since February 2012, IOCC programs have touched the lives of more than three million people inside of Syria affected by the crisis, as well as displaced persons and refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Greece, Serbia, Romania and Armenia.

IOCC'S RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS IN SYRIA

The Need:

- 13.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance
- 4.9 million trapped in highly-threatening situations
- More than 1 million displaced in shelters, camps or makeshift settlements
- 500,000 of these displaced are children or infants

Our Work:



Dry food, infant care kits, clothing, bedding, blankets, mattresses and other provisions



Housing assistance, repairs and renovations



Essential medicines and life-saving surgeries



Child-friendly spaces, pre- and post-natal care and nutrition and psychosocial counseling



School uniforms, school renovations, access to remedial classes and school kits



Art and music therapy, stress management and trauma counseling



Clean water and sanitation facilities to curb the spread of disease



Cash-for-Work programs to rebuild communities and offer jobs and income to families