



IOCC[®]  **25**
YEARS

INSPIRED BY FAITH. DRIVEN BY PURPOSE.

.....
**INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN CHARITIES**
.....

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IOCC In Brief

What is International Orthodox Christian Charities?

IOCC is the humanitarian aid agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America. IOCC works in cooperation with the Orthodox Church and on behalf of Orthodox Christians. In carrying out its mission, IOCC applies the highest professional standards and renders itself fully accountable to the public and its donors.

What is the mission of IOCC?

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.

Who benefits from the services of IOCC?

Since its inception in 1992, IOCC has provided more than \$600 million in humanitarian relief, sustainable development and self-help programs to people in need. All assistance is provided solely on the basis of need, and benefits families, refugees and displaced persons, the elderly, school children, orphans and people with disabilities.

Where is IOCC providing assistance?

IOCC programs have helped people in more than 60 countries across Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America. Since the need for help is great, IOCC continually works to expand its programs to other areas.

What types of services does IOCC provide?

- **Agriculture and Food Security** programs help rural families to raise their levels of nutrition, standard of living and agricultural productivity.
- **Emergency Response** programs address the immediate needs of people suffering from natural disaster, war or civil unrest.
- **Education** programs help to improve access to learning for children and youth, as well as to nurture local leaders who advocate for their communities and promote the general welfare.
- **Health** programs help to protect the well-being of communities through prevention and intervention.
- **Water and Sanitation** programs help to improve access to clean and safe water and minimize public health threats in vulnerable communities.
- **Economic Opportunity** programs give people the tools to work their way out of poverty with dignity.

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About International Orthodox Christian Charities

International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) was formed in the crucible of crisis 25 years ago and has continued to meet the needs of the world's most vulnerable people and communities in the midst of historic upheaval – from the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the wars in the former Yugoslavia, to the civil war in Syria and ongoing economic crisis gripping Greece. As the official humanitarian aid agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America, IOCC has provided more than \$600 million in humanitarian assistance to vulnerable people in more than 60 countries.

Prior to 1992, Orthodox Christians in North America had no mechanism for responding in a unified way to emergencies in the United States or around the world. Additionally, with the Eastern European revolutions of 1989 and the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991, the plight of people of all faiths living in historically Orthodox countries came to new light in the West. The idea behind IOCC's creation was to set a new standard for Orthodox philanthropy. Since then, IOCC has maintained a steadfast commitment to offer emergency relief and development programs to those in need worldwide, without discrimination, and to strengthen the capacity of the Orthodox Church to respond. The organization's close cooperation with the Orthodox Church in the host countries in which it serves provides an opportunity to reach that country's most vulnerable.



When massive wildfires swept through southern Greece in 2007 and destroyed large swaths of farmland, homes and forests, IOCC provided more than 3,300 metric tons of animal feed to 3,000 farmers in the Peloponnese, and partnered with a local economic development agency to implement a long-term recovery program. And since 2011, IOCC in cooperation with Apostoli, the humanitarian arm of Archdiocese of Athens, has responded to the country's economic and refugee crisis with more than \$33 million in the delivery of medical support, heating fuel, food and job assistance programs to Greece's most vulnerable children, families and elderly. Food, shelter, water and sanitation assistance have also been given to refugees arriving to Greek islands and camps in Athens. These activities are supported by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, the pan-Orthodox community in America, and the ACT Alliance.

In Syria, where more than 13.5 million people have been displaced by the ongoing civil war, IOCC with its church partner, the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East's Department of Ecumenical Relations and Development, is among very few humanitarian organizations still inside Syria, providing shelter, food, and bedding; improving access to water, education and medical care; and helping to ease the emotional trauma of displaced families forced to leave everything behind. Since 2012, IOCC has responded to the urgent needs of millions of people displaced in Syria or living as refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Armenia, Greece, and Serbia.

IOCC's relief work in the Middle East builds upon past successful experience serving in other conflict affected places such as the former Yugoslavia, and Jerusalem, West Bank and Gaza. IOCC also works closely with the Orthodox Church's humanitarian arms in Serbia, Romania, Ethiopia, and elsewhere to assist millions of people whose lives have been torn apart by natural and manmade disasters throughout the world. IOCC is there, helping improve lives, strengthening communities, and helping restore hope and dignity to people in need.



Global Response - Spring 2017

SYRIA - IOCC and the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch's Department of Ecumenical Relations and Development have created child-friendly spaces in Syria. Dream centers provide safe venues for homeless children, orphans, children with disabilities, children of displaced families and other war-affected children, and their parents to receive psycho-social support through art, music, therapy and life skills such as personal care and non-violent communication. A psychiatrist supervises the children's activities and refers cases requiring specialized psychological support.



KOSOVO - IOCC's Bread and Wine program, in partnership with the Serbian Orthodox Diocese of Raška-Prizren and Kosovo-Metohija, is helping to develop local capacity for the production of whole-grain flour and animal feed through the construction of a grain mill and storage facility. Over 200 local small farmers will benefit from the access to the Church as a reliable local market. Income from the mill will also allow the Church to provide assistance for over 3,000 people who receive meals through the Church's humanitarian kitchen.

USA - The first IOCC Action Team of 2017 took place in Mandeville, Louisiana, with 10 Orthodox Seminarians representing four seminaries participating. IOCC coordinates Action Teams throughout the year, helping homeowners to rebuild following a severe weather event. Since the Action Team Program was formed in 2005, over 235 homes have been built by IOCC seminarians and lay volunteers.





What Others Are Saying About Our Work

“Obviously IOCC was a major player here. They came out early on. I think they did very well in terms of how they approached the problem. They went to local communities, talked to the diocese, to the priests, to the community leaders, to the farmers, to those most impacted by the damage. They went to the communities and talked to them about their needs. So we were very pleased that an American organization and private citizens reached out to help their Greek friends.

- Daniel V. Speckhard, Former U.S. Ambassador to Greece

“IOCC’s mission in the service of the poor is a common, sacred task. ... IOCC is a vehicle of cooperation for the sister Orthodox Churches. We need this inter-Orthodox unity not only in the area of philanthropy but also on a broader spectrum.”

- His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch BARTHOLOMEW

“IOCC has opened avenues for Orthodox activity where no one imagined we would ever go.”

**- His Eminence Archbishop DEMETRIOS
of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America**

“You don’t have to be Orthodox Christian to appreciate the great work IOCC does. Through partnership with local community organizations in more than a dozen countries, they are creating lasting, positive change on a broad scale. I have seen IOCC’s work first-hand and admire and support their humanitarian efforts around the world.”

- Jim Rosapepe, former U.S. Ambassador to Romania

“I certainly give my most heartfelt recommendation to all Orthodox Christians to participate in this organization, because it is indeed a manifestation of our unity and has shown itself in our hour of need.”

- His Holiness Patriarch PAVLE of Serbia

“We are very proud of the work which IOCC has done in Serbia. It’s really a unique organization filling a unique role in this society. IOCC is at the cutting edge, not only representing the best of American society, but representing some of the new and fresh forces in the Church.”

**- Richard Miles, former chief of mission,
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia**

“(IOCC is) American Orthodoxy’s gift to the world.”

- Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



Constantine M. Triantafilou, Executive Director & CEO

For 24 years, Constantine M. Triantafilou, also known as “Dean,” has been the driving force behind International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC). As Executive Director and CEO, Constantine manages all facets of relief and development programs for IOCC, including its international headquarters in Baltimore, Maryland, and 10 field offices in the US, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East.

Constantine began honing his career in humanitarian work at IOCC in 1993 when he joined the organization as commodities manager for the former Yugoslavia country office. He was promoted to country representative for Balkans programs in 1995, and to director of programs in 1997 before taking the helm in 1998. Under his leadership and vision, IOCC has grown from providing \$70 million in humanitarian assistance to 11 countries in its first six years of existence, into a global humanitarian organization that has distributed over \$600 million in emergency assistance and development programs to vulnerable families and communities in more than 60 countries across four continents.

Constantine’s commitment to his role in advancing humanitarian work through the Orthodox Christian Church extends beyond IOCC. In 2004, IOCC co-sponsored the “Orthodox Diakonia” conference in Finland, bringing together Orthodox humanitarians from five continents. His international and ecumenical experience in the field of humanitarian work has also earned him the respect of numerous government and private organizations, and positions on the boards of Church World Service (CWS); the ACT Alliance, a global coalition of more than 140 churches and agencies engaged in development, humanitarian assistance and advocacy; and the Baltimore International Non-Governmental Organization (BINGO).

In recognition for his leadership role in IOCC’s humanitarian impact around the world, Constantine received the Order of St. Sava, First Degree by Patriarch Pavle of the Serbian Orthodox Church; the Order of St. Sabba from His Beatitude Theodoros II, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa; and was named an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the highest honor a lay person can receive in the Orthodox Church.

Prior to joining IOCC, Constantine worked on construction projects in Kenya and Tanzania for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Mission Center and the Orthodox Church of East Africa. He is a graduate of Texas A&M University, where he earned his bachelor’s degree in history.

Constantine and his wife, Maja, are the proud parents of twins, Nicholas and Anna.

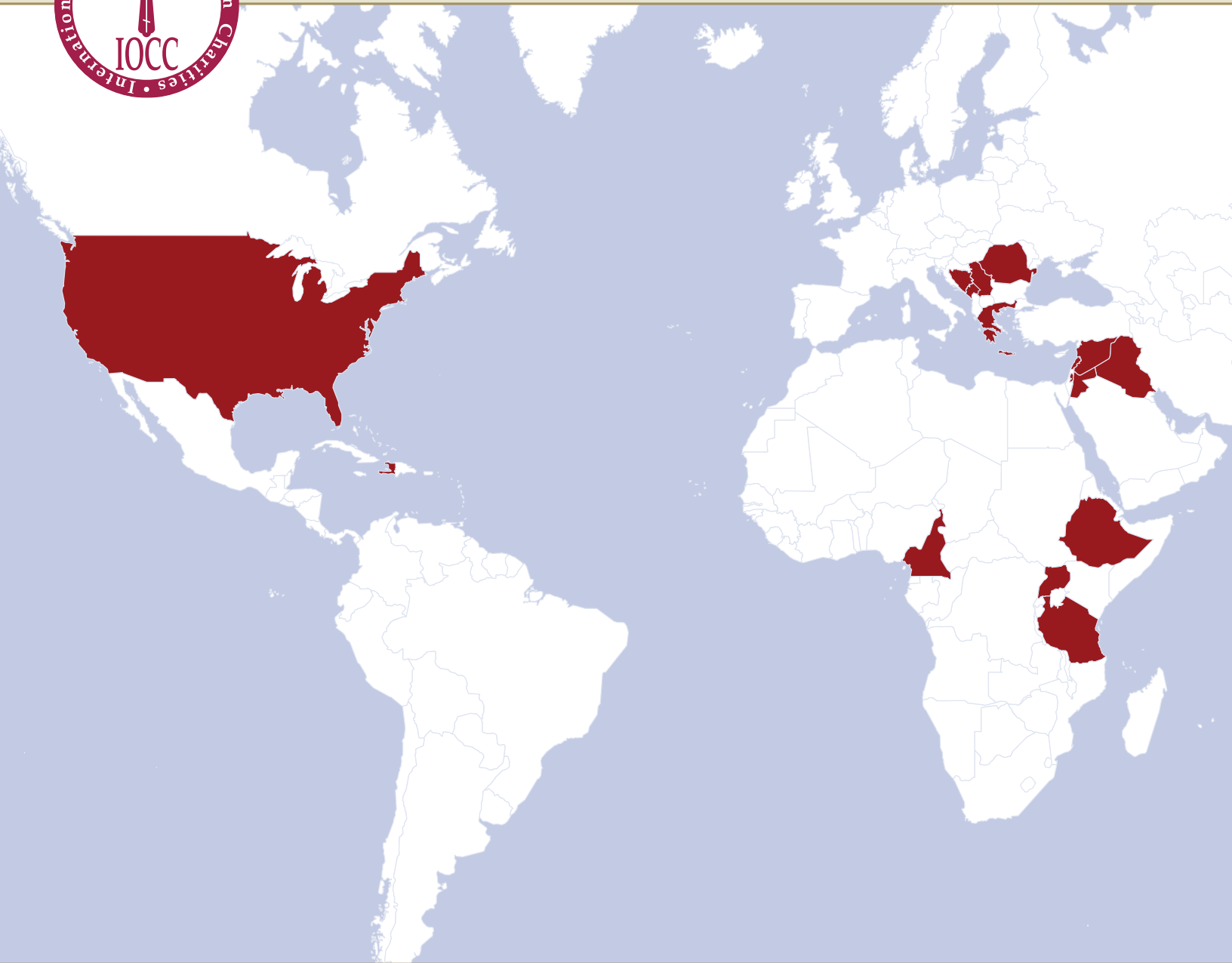


Constantine M. Triantafilou (left) and IOCC Board Chairman, Mark Stavropoulos outside an IOCC podocniosis treatment center in Debre Markos, Ethiopia. Since 2009, IOCC has provided shoes, treatment and foot care supplies to more than 300,000 Ethiopian children and adults with the aim of eradicating this crippling disease.

In response to a need expressed by members of our Orthodox Christian community, International Orthodox Christian Charities, Inc. (IOCC) was established in March 1992 and serves as the official international humanitarian organization of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America.



Countries where IOCC is currently working



- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Cameroon
- Ethiopia
- Greece
- Haiti
- Jerusalem/
West Bank/Gaza
- Jordan
- Kosovo
- Lebanon
- Romania
- Serbia
- Syria
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- USA

Since 1992, International Orthodox Christian Charities has brought help and hope to people affected by war, poverty, disease and natural disaster throughout the world. With the support of a worldwide network of Orthodox Church leaders, local partners, volunteers and contributors, IOCC works each day to assist vulnerable people – refugees, the elderly, children, families and people with disabilities – through humanitarian and self-help programs.
