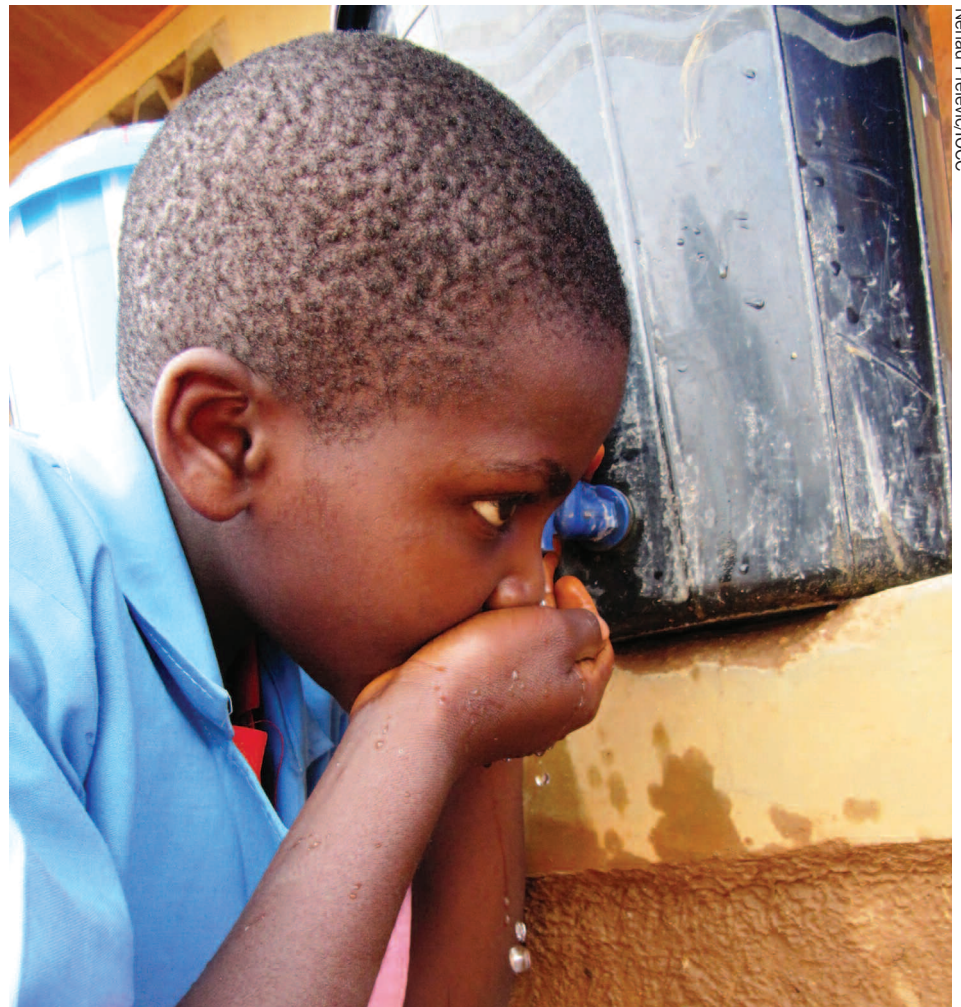




# QUENCHING THE THIRST FOR CLEAN WATER IN CAMEROON

A drink of fresh, clean water is a luxury for many people in rural parts of Cameroon. Although the country has an abundance of rain water, 40 percent of the people living in rural areas don't have access to clean water. Women and children tasked with the job of collecting water for the family often walk several miles to fill large plastic jugs and carry them back. Even worse, the water often comes from contaminated sources and exposes them to life-threatening diseases such as cholera, diarrhea and dysentery. Children are especially vulnerable, with waterborne disease the leading cause of childhood deaths in Cameroon. Through the generous support of the Katherine Valone "St. Photini" Water Program, IOCC in cooperation with the Holy Orthodox Metropolis of Cameroon is improving hygiene conditions with access to clean water for



Nerard Peliwv/IOCC

This young boy savors every drop of his drink of water from a new dispenser at a school in northwestern Cameroon. Rainwater harvesting systems installed by IOCC at two of the country's largest rural high schools will ensure that more than 9,000 schoolchildren have access to clean and safe drinking water.

## Inside News & Needs

Fresh Hope For Greece's Families ..... pg. 2

The Future Threatened For Syria's Schoolchildren ..... pg. 3

A Place To Call Home Again .. pg. 3

Praying For Peace In Troubled Lands ..... pg. 4

more than 9,000 schoolchildren living in northwestern Cameroon. Rainwater harvesting systems installed on two of the area's largest schools will use rooftop gutters, filters and collection tanks to capture and store rainwater runoff, and provide an

estimated 380,000 gallons of potable water each year. IOCC will also provide teachers with technical training on the system's upkeep, and provide students with school kits and hygiene kits to ensure that they have the tools needed to learn and stay healthy.



## From The Executive Director



### Supplying The Tools For Success

There is an old adage that says, "It's easier to get the job done if you have the right tools."

In my case, it means having reliable vehicles to cover the thousands of miles our field staff must travel to provide assistance to those in need, as well as computers and phones to help us stay connected to each other and to you, our IOCC supporters. For a school child, those tools may be much simpler but just as necessary to be productive – books, school uniforms, a meal, and safe drinking water.

Civil war in Syria is making learning extremely difficult, even impossible, for many of its children. Schools have been converted to emergency shelters, books and belongings have been destroyed by battles raging in once peaceful neighborhoods, and more than one million Syrian children now live in foreign countries as impoverished refugees. Cameroon's schoolchildren face a different threat – the lack of safe, clean drinking water threatens their health and their ability to attend school. In Greece, children from families living on the brink of poverty are faced with attending class hungry or underfed.

IOCC is working to ensure that these children have access to the basic tools they need to thrive in a healthy and safe learning environment. Whether it's improving the well-being of children and their families in Syria, Cameroon, or Greece, the most powerful tool for transforming lives is compassion. These stories demonstrate how, through your compassion, IOCC is transforming lives every day, and providing those in need with the tools to succeed.

In Christ,

Constantine M. Triantafilou  
Executive Director & CEO

# FRESH HOPE FOR GREECE'S FAMILIES



Despina Katsivelaiki/IOCC

Admitting that he needs help isn't easy for Nick, an unemployed construction worker from a modest neighborhood in Athens. The unemployment benefits he received for one year have stopped. His wife is also out of work, and their family savings have been drained. Nick's situation is all too common among the working class in Greece where unemployment is nearly 28 percent and the jobless rate for construction workers has surpassed 50 percent. Hard-working people who never relied on social services must now seek out basic necessities for their families. Nick's family rely on dry food parcels provided by IOCC and relief partner, Apostoli, the humanitarian arm of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Athens, to help them from going hungry.

A new program offers fresh hope for Greece's struggling families. Beginning this fall, more than 5,500 people will have access to fresh food to supplement dry food parcels. Selected families will receive fresh food cards that they can use to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables and milk at participating supermarkets. The fresh food items will be sourced locally, helping to sustain 500 farming families across the country and in turn, benefit the Greek economy. The fresh food initiative, initially funded by the Hellenic Initiative and private donors, has also received support from The Jaharis Family Foundation. Contributions made to IOCC to support hunger relief efforts and other aid to Greece will be matched by the Foundation up to one million dollars.



Scan here to double the impact of your gift to Greece's poor!

IOCC's new fresh food initiative gives Greece's most vulnerable families the opportunity to purchase locally sourced fruits, vegetables and milk at supermarkets using a fresh food card. The program is also helping to sustain 500 Greek farming families who are providing the fresh produce and milk being offered to the program participants.

International Orthodox Christian Charities, Inc. (IOCC) is the official humanitarian aid agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central 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.



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## THE FUTURE THREATENED FOR SYRIA'S SCHOOLCHILDREN

A generation of school children is at risk as the education of Syrian youth threatens to become another casualty of the prolonged conflict. Over the past year, two million youngsters inside Syria were forced to drop out of school according to UNICEF. Many schools now serve as emergency shelters for displaced families, and the one million child refugees who fled Syria empty-handed lack the uniforms and supplies required to attend class in host country schools. IOCC, an ACT Alliance member, is helping to bridge the learning gap for Syria's school children across the region. Working in Syria with church partner, the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East, IOCC is helping more than 550 displaced Syrian schoolchildren catch up with classwork via newly established remedial primary and secondary level classes. In Jordan, IOCC is outfitting more than 30,000 Syrian refugee children like Ahlam, 6, with new uniforms so that they can enroll in Jordan's public schools. For Syrian children now living in Lebanon, IOCC is rehabilitating and repairing schools in Beirut and Bekaa Valley to accommodate the influx of refugee children who will be joining local students this fall.



Mona, 8, and her new friend, Maysam, 9, are overjoyed with the two new uniforms that will allow them to attend a Jordanian public school this fall. IOCC is providing school uniforms to more than 30,000 Syrian refugee children living in Jordan to enable them to continue their education.

## A PLACE TO CALL HOME AGAIN



Father Dimitrios Antokas and a young volunteer work side by side to help secure the framing on this storm-damaged home. More than 100 Orthodox faithful volunteered their time to IOCC Action teams this summer to restore homes and hope to families who lost everything to natural disasters.

Barbara, 70, spent more than 40 years creating a comfortable home in the coastal town of Brick, New Jersey, for her family. It took only a few minutes in October 2012 for surging waters from Superstorm Sandy to flood her modest bungalow and obliterate a lifetime of hard work and treasured belongings. Her neighbor John, 80, a retired naval seaman, barely escaped his home as those same waters rushed over his bay front deck and submerged his small cottage. For these survivors and thousands of others left homeless, the prospect of starting over seemed overwhelming. IOCC, in partnership with Orthodox churches and Habitat for Humanity, sent volunteers to the East Coast this summer to assist Sandy survivors like Barbara and John in rebuilding their storm-damaged homes. "I am so thankful for the help of good people like IOCC," said Barbara. "They helped put a roof back over my head," added John.

More than 100 volunteers from Orthodox communities across the country rolled up their sleeves this summer to join IOCC in helping families from Louisiana, Texas, Minnesota, Kentucky, Delaware, and New Jersey rebuild homes destroyed by floods, hurricanes and tornadoes. As part of its longstanding commitment to volunteerism in the face of need, IOCC has provided more than 800 volunteers and almost 30,000 man-hours since 2005, rebuilding or providing critical repairs to 169 family homes damaged by natural disasters.

## PRAYING FOR PEACE IN TROUBLED LANDS

*"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:21*

It is with a heavy heart that we have listened to the news coming from both Egypt and Syria in recent times. Most recently, we have been saddened by the news of the attack on the ancient Christian city of Maaloula, Syria by the rebel forces and the desecration of holy places. This city houses one of the oldest and most important monasteries, the Convent of St. Thekla, which is considered a holy place by both Christians and Muslims alike. It is one of the few remaining places in the world where Aramaic, the language of Jesus Christ, is still spoken. For many years, the Christians and Muslims in Syria have lived side by side as neighbors and friends, and have respected the rights of each other to worship freely. This has all changed since the conflict began, which not only has resulted in the death of approximately 100,000 Syrians, but the displacement of more than two million. The toll on humanity has been unspeakable, and we pray every day for peace to somehow come to those troubled lands.

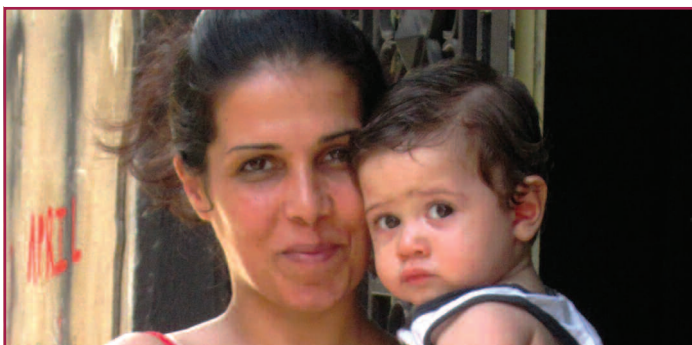
As Christians, we make no distinction as to religious belief when it comes to respecting human life and protecting it. These are all the children of God, and we ask that your prayers be extended to all of them in this time of great turmoil and danger. We ask the Lord to bless the work of IOCC which brings comfort to these suffering people through the good work that it does.

May our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, the Light of our lives, and our refuge and salvation, have mercy on us.

+Metropolitan Philip  
Archbishop of New York and  
Metropolitan of All North America



Displaced Syrian families gather in front of an Orthodox Church in the Syrian border town of Daraa seeking humanitarian aid after fleeing fighting in their hometowns. IOCC supports one of the largest established networks to deliver life-saving humanitarian aid inside Syria where more than 7 million people are currently in need of assistance.



**IOCC Sunday: A Day Of Sharing!**  
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