

YOUR SUPPORT AT WORK



USA: IOCC volunteers joined relief workers from NECHAMA Jewish Response to Disaster in Iowa last July to help families clean out their homes damaged by devastating summer floods in the Midwest. As the newest member of the national Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, IOCC will belong to the largest US network of volunteer disaster response agencies prepared to aid American families and communities before and after disasters.



INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES
110 West Road
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Baltimore, Maryland 21204 • USA



SYRIA: As thousands of Syrian mothers struggle to keep their children warm this winter, IOCC and church partner, the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East (GOPA) is responding with sweater sets made by displaced Syrian women taught to knit through a cash-for-work program. The new skills help provide vital income and displaced Syrian children benefit by receiving warm clothes to protect them against bitter cold.

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IOCC EVENTS & PRESENTATIONS

- **Saturday, February 21 - Denver, CO**
IOCC Awareness Dinner
Assumption of the Theotokos Cathedral
- **Sunday, March 29 - Pittsburgh, PA**
Syrian Relief Dinner and Prayer Service
Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
- **Saturday, April 18 - Virginia Beach, VA**
5K Run/Walk for IOCC
- **Sunday, April 19 - Philadelphia, PA**
4th Annual Benefit Banquet for IOCC
Adelphia Restaurant

FATHERS: PLEASE DISPLAY THE INSIDE POSTER IN YOUR PARISH

Hygiene Kits Needed

The need for hygiene kits is great for vulnerable families in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Cameroon. Find easy assembly instructions at iocc.org/kits.



INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

PRIEST to PRIEST

Winter 2015

The Gospel of Christ and the Ministry of IOCC

Today every news report gives to us images and stories of human need and suffering. We see faces of people fleeing from violence, we learn the stories of men, women, and children in refugee camps, we look into the eyes of the homeless and hungry. We encounter these images and stories in a direct and personal way – they challenge us to respond as Christians. Yet these images and stories are also at a great distance from us – suggesting there is little or nothing we can do to respond.

International Orthodox Christian Charities gives us the opportunity to respond to human need with care and compassion. As Orthodox priests and parishioners, as Orthodox parishes and organizations, we receive from IOCC the ability to reach out to suffering people in the United States and around the world. It is equally valid to put it another way – it is we who give IOCC the ability to reach out to people in need on our behalf, on behalf of the Orthodox communities in the United States.

This “reaching out” is mandated by our faith and it is rooted in the Gospel of Christ. Through IOCC practical assistance is given to many in the form of education support, refugee assistance, nutrition and health, and water, sanitation and



Working in cooperation with Apostoli, the humanitarian arm of the Church of Greece, IOCC is providing the country's children in need with school kits filled with essential supplies.

hygiene awareness. These programs require funding, professional and competent personnel, and the community of support we as Orthodox Christians in America provide.

It is our calling as priests to strengthen the Christian ministry of IOCC by encouraging our parishioners and communities to know, value, and support IOCC. In this way we will witness in a practical and beautiful and faithful way to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Very Reverend Leonid Kishkovsky
Rector of Our Lady of Kazan Church, Sea Cliff, New York
Director of External Affairs and Interchurch Relations
Orthodox Church in America

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 Triantafyllou

IOCC Relief in LEBANON

IOCC has been working in Lebanon since 2001 to address social issues such as community health and education. For the past three years, IOCC has responded to the growing humanitarian needs of Syrian refugee families fleeing civil war in their country and now living in Lebanon.



Education Support

This school in Bar Elias is one of 50 public schools being rehabilitated by IOCC to improve school conditions for more than 7,500 Lebanese children and to accommodate the swell of 5,000 Syrian refugee students enrolled this school year. IOCC is working to ensure a healthy and safe learning environment for Lebanese school children and their Syrian classmates.

Refugee Assistance

Since March 2012, IOCC has assisted more than 145,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon with relief items such as food, blankets, heating stoves, hygiene and infant kits, as well as doing the utmost to protect the well-being of more than 32,000 of Syria's youngest refugees with malnutrition screenings and treatment.



Nutrition and Health

Safeguarding the early development and health of young children is at the core of IOCC health workers' efforts to educate Lebanese mothers and Syrian refugee mothers on the importance of infant nutrition and breastfeeding practices, particularly in times of emergency.



Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Awareness

IOCC is helping stem the spread of infectious diseases in overcrowded refugee settlements with the construction of sanitation systems, and better access to safe water for washing and drinking.

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