



*Athanasios's home burned down in the summer 2021 fires. With a voucher from IOCC, he can purchase basic household goods to begin repairs.*

## Rebuilding Alongside Fire Survivors in Greece

*Ongoing Response Offers Hope, Help for Families, Small Businesses*

"My husband and I have run our own business for 38 years," said Zoe. "And now, because of the fire, we are unemployed." With their patisserie in Northern Evia destroyed in the August 2021 fires, IOCC is helping the couple cover monthly grocery expenses with vouchers for a local supermarket.

Zoe and her husband are among the hundreds of families affected by a series of wildfires during the summer of 2021 on the island of Evia, in Attica, and in the Peloponnese. Greek media reported that the 2021 fire emergency on Evia was the largest disaster in Greece ever caused by a single fire. Recovery will be long and costly.

Immediately after the fires, IOCC partnered with Apostoli, the humanitarian arm of the Archdiocese of Athens, and local groups in Ileia to provide short-term assistance—including school kits and vouchers for school supplies—just as classes were beginning in the fall.

More recently, to help over 120 families, year-round residents of Evia and Attica, whose homes were damaged in the fires (primarily those facing unemployment or low incomes), each household is receiving a voucher from IOCC worth \$1,250. With the vouchers, recipients shop independently at a local chain, tailoring the assistance. They can

*continued on page 2*



FROM THE  
EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

The beginning of a new year is a time to reflect on how far we've come and look forward to the opportunities ahead. These sentiments are particularly poignant this year as 2022 marks an important milestone for IOCC—30 years of humanitarian service.

As I think about the past three decades, I am eternally grateful that we've been able to build an organization that lifts up our brothers and sisters during times when they need it most—and you have been with IOCC every step of the way.

It is your support, generosity, and prayers that have helped change lives for 30 years. Together, God willing, we can continue serving people in incredible need for another 30 years—and beyond. IOCC remains committed to serving effectively and to carefully stewarding your gifts as we implement a new five-year strategic plan that will guide our efforts through 2026.

Thank you for your trust, confidence, and generosity these past 30 years. May God continue to bless each of you and keep you safe in the new year.

In Christ,

Constantine M. Triantafilou  
Executive Director & CEO

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select what they need, whether it's new electrical appliances, furniture, and utensils, or construction materials and tools to rebuild.

Work is ongoing, and IOCC is committed to supporting those affected by the fires as they rebuild lives and livelihoods. Through a holistic approach, IOCC aims to supply immediate hygiene, food, and household necessities and to help businesses and farming families longer term. Next steps on Evia are to provide animal feed to fire-affected farmers and new equipment to small businesses whose property was destroyed.

Donor response to this crisis has been humbling. The George and Judy Marcus Family Foundation and the Jaharis Family Foundation established a matching challenge, ongoing now, to inspire additional donations for these efforts ([iocc.org/greecefiresmatch22](http://iocc.org/greecefiresmatch22)). In addition, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America is working through IOCC to provide assistance.

The physical and emotional rebuilding in fire-affected areas will continue for many years, but with each day there is progress and hope. "We are thankful for the help offered by IOCC," said Zoe. "Knowing that somebody cares for us gives us strength to carry on."



*Zoe's pastry shop in Evia was destroyed by fires, leaving her and her husband without income. IOCC is helping the family with vouchers for groceries.*

# Hurricane Ida Cleanup Continues

*US Teams Still at Work in Louisiana*

It was the second-most devastating hurricane to make landfall in Louisiana, behind only Katrina in 2005. After Hurricane Ida hit the Gulf Coast in September 2021, IOCC moved quickly to focus on the immediate needs of survivors and to develop a plan toward long-term recovery.

IOCC had a team on the ground shortly after the storm to begin the intense process of assessment and cleanup—including help gutting and mucking out damaged homes, removing debris, and clearing away fallen trees. IOCC Frontliners also deployed to provide emotional and spiritual care to homeowners—as well as to volunteers and other team members helping communities affected by this destructive storm.

IOCC Frontliner Father Joel Weir reflected on his time counseling Andrea, a local homeowner. “Being able to take time to listen to Ms. Andrea was truly a blessing to me,” he recalls. “Her faith, even in the midst of such loss and uncertainty ... was profound. We talked and prayed together.”

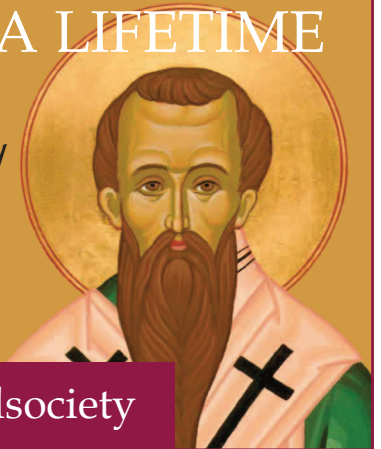
Today, the IOCC team is still on the ground, honored to work beside—and bring hope to—the people of Louisiana. At press time, our teams continue to clean up more homes, and we remain committed to long-term recovery, even though media attention has faded.



*Teams of IOCC volunteers have been at work since September helping communities in Louisiana clean up and rebuild after Hurricane Ida.*

## A LEGACY BEYOND A LIFETIME

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# Bringing Health Services to Syrian Refugees

## *Improving the Quality of Life in Azraq Camp*

Before the crisis in Syria, Azizah lived with her family in Homs. She worked harvesting olives and doing other jobs on the farm.

“My family and neighbors were very close to each other,” Azizah recalls. “We would grieve with them and share happiness with them on religious and family occasions.”

In 2014, however, the conflict forced Azizah, her husband, and their four children to flee to Jordan. They spent the next three years moving from town to town seeking work. By 2017, their finances exhausted, Azizah and her family moved into the Azraq refugee camp.

Shortly after arriving, Azizah fell ill. She recovered but began experiencing severe eye irritation. Having heard about IOCC’s hearing and vision services in the camp, she went to the visual clinic



for evaluation. Working with IOCC’s optometrist and ophthalmologist, she discovered that she needed glasses.

The improvement in Azizah’s condition was almost immediate. “After wearing the glasses,” she said, “my vision has improved, and headaches, irritation, and pain have disappeared.”

Azizah is just one of hundreds of refugees who have benefited from IOCC’s program in Azraq, which has also provided hygiene kits to help families clean their homes and reduce the spread of COVID-19. Making diagnosis and treatment accessible to camp residents is improving their lives in basic but vital ways.

*Azizah, a Syrian refugee now living in Jordan, received vision treatment at an IOCC clinic (below) and a hygiene kit (above) to combat COVID-19.*



Sunday, Feb. 13, 2022  
[ioccc.org/souperbowl](http://ioccc.org/souperbowl)