



February 2024

Dear Philoptochos Chapter President & Operation Classroom Chair,

The school year is in full swing, and I want to encourage your Philoptochos chapter to **conduct an Operation Classroom project!** This National Initiative is ongoing, not just when kids start school, but throughout the school year.

After each project, **let us know** about the good works you're doing for kids, teachers and staff members in your community:

- Complete the form available on the Chicago Philoptochos Ministry page (www.ChicagoPhilo.org) and email it and photos to Vonnie Karafotias, vonnie@karafotias.com
- Also, please send a brief summary and photos to the editors of the Metropolis Philoptochos newsletter, The Perspective:
 - Marilyn Jemas, marilynnjemas@gmail.com
 - Kathy Korbakes, kathykorbakes@gmail.com
 - **Please Note: ANY photos of children that are sent in must have been approved by the school, organization, etc. in order to be put in the Newsletter**

Not sure how to get started with Operation Classroom?

First, if you don't have an Operation Classroom chair, please identify someone to take on this role. Then, partner with a school in your area that has kids in need, and speak with a staff member to decide on a project. There is helpful information on the national Philoptochos website, too: www.philoptochos.org/operation-classroom/

Here are **some ideas** to consider:

1. Collect backpacks and other school supplies. (Supplies are needed year round)
2. Hold a new/gently used book drive at your parish.
3. Stock a "needs closet" at the school with socks, underwear, hygiene supplies for girls, and personal items like toothpaste and deodorant.
4. Purchase snacks for kids.

Thank you for your support of Operation Classroom and Philoptochos. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Vonnie Karafotias

Chicago Metropolis Operation Classroom Chair

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