

# Saint Iakovos Retreat Center Newsletter

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago  
Newsletter—Christmas, 2011

The Future Home of FANARI CAMP...



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## The Impact of our Retreat Center...

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Pan Orthodox Youth Day held at St. Iakovos Retreat Center on June 18, 2011 was definitely a major highlight of my summer. It was a fun event for the entire family. There were over 125 people from various churches from Wisconsin and Illinois at the event. It was an exciting and fun day for both children and adults! There were a large variety of activities for all.

We had a water balloon toss, went on a train ride and a tractor pulled hayride! It was beautiful seeing the entire camp area on the tractor! There was a jumping balloon house which the younger children loved! We participated in team sports too...we played soccer, baseball and basketball games. During the day we had the opportunity to feed the horses and pet newborn kittens! They were so cute! As we walked we saw peacocks on the camp ground. We had a delicious lunch prepared by the priests too! It was yummy!

The main cabin was beautiful. New rooms with bunk beds have recently been built and the pool next to the main cabin looked perfect and ready to dive into! The St. Iakovos Retreat Center can be used for Philoptochos gatherings, JOY and GOYA meetings too. The annual Fanari Summer Camp will be so fun in these new enormous facilities! Teens from 6<sup>th</sup> grade to 11<sup>th</sup> grade will have many fun summer memories here for years to come. My family and I enjoyed the Pan Orthodox Youth Day at St. Iakovos Retreat Center very much and we plan to attend again in the future!

Christina Pappas, 15 years old - Wauwatosa, WI

## St. Iakovos Retreat Center

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Chicago, IL 60610

312- 337-4130

[www.metropolisretreat.org](http://www.metropolisretreat.org)

[info@metropolisretreat.org](mailto:info@metropolisretreat.org)

Physical Address:

920 224th Avenue

Kansasville, Wisconsin 53139

One of the 15 beautiful Proskynetaria recently installed along the wooded paths...



# Our Story on Giving to the St. Iakovos Retreat Center

Reflections of a \$100,000 donor...

The St. Iakovos Retreat Center is an incredibly meaningful project for our Greek Orthodox community in the Chicago land area. My husband and I are very excited to be a part of this spiritually-enriching undertaking.

One of my favorite literary authors, Kahill Gibran, once said, "All you have shall some day be given. Therefore give now, that the season of giving may be yours and not your inheritors." The way I interpret this quote and expand upon it is that if you have been blessed with the luxury to give to a cause that will bring so much good into the world, then why wait? We also know, as Orthodox Christians, that we should not hoard our riches, but give with a loving heart. This idea is reiterated many times in the Bible. In the Book of St. Matthew it says, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth...but, store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...For, where your treasure is, there your heart will be." (Matthew 6: 19-21)

Did we wrestle with the idea of giving? I have to be honest and say that we did a little bit. This was the largest donation that we have ever given to any charity or organization and we have two young kids' futures to think about. Those typical thoughts of, "Well, we are in good financial shape now and we are set for a while, but what about in 20 and 30 years or more?" Then, I remembered some wise words that our Presbytera shared with us at a Family Ministry Night last year, "Give with your heart and God will always take care of you." These words resonated in my head and the worrisome thoughts dissipated. My husband and I also know that when we have God in our hearts, no matter what happens, we will always be OK.

We prayed long and hard that night and we were both on the same page the next day with the following enlightened truths. First, we were very blessed to be financially able to do this. How could we not share our wealth? It would be wrong not to! Second, we really believe strongly in this endeavor. As a Fanari Camp Alum, I know what a profound impact Fanari Camp can have on a young person's life. For me, I believe Fanari Camp helped to positively shape my moral character, enriched my spiritual life and my love for our Greek Orthodox faith and created friendships and great memories that will last a lifetime. How could I not help to continue this awesome tradition for my children and their generation, as well as generations to come?

Continued next page...

## LEADERSHIP GIFTS

<b>\$1,000,000</b> Chris P Tomaras	Chicago, IL
<b>\$100,000 and up</b> AHEPA #78 Harold Anagnos Annunciation Church Anonymous Andrew A. Athens Nicholas Bouras Clergy Syndesmos of Chicago Arthur and Chryssoula Labros Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos METROPOLITAN IAKOVOS of Chicago Novak Family Foundation Kosmas (Gus) and Gail Pablecas Steve A. and Elaine B. Regopoulos and Family Constantine S. Sivalis Family Spell Foundation of Minneapolis SS. Peter & Paul Church Dr. Jeff and Stella Winterheimer	Merrillville, IN Long Grove, IL Milwaukee, WI  Chicago, IL Summit, NJ Valparaiso, IN Brookfield, WI Chicago, IL Chicago, IL Merrillville, IN S. Barrington, IL Inverness, IL Northbrook, IL Minneapolis, MN Glenview, IL Wheaton, IL
<b>\$50,000 and up</b> Thomas Dallas Mr. and Mrs. Ernest C. Karras Greek American Restaurant Association (GARA) Peter Parthenis SS. Peter and Paul Philoptochos	Lincolnwood, IL Oak Brook, IL Des Plaines, IL Elk Grove Village, IL Glenview, IL
<b>\$25,000 and up</b> AHEPA District 13 Holy Apostles Church George Karas Leadership 100 Demetrios and Marianne Logothetis St. Demetrios Church St. John the Baptist Church Bill J. Peggy and Jason Vranas	Westchester, IL West Dundee, IL New York, NY Riverwoods, IL Elmhurst, IL Des Plaines, IL Skokie, IL
<b>\$10,000 and up</b> Anonymous Anonymous Anonymous John Apostolou Assumption Church Arthur and Nancy Balourdos Steve Balourdos Dimitris Bousis Harry Bozonielos George Chipain John Collis Peter Coulopoulos Chris Demos Mary and Constantine Diamantakos Diplomat West John Diveris John and Pat Galanis Hellenic League John Hilaris Holy Anargyroi Church Holy Taxiarchai-St. Haralambos Church Holy Trinity Church Nikolaos Kalouris Nick Kopley Karen and Mark Koulogeorge Demetrios Kozonis Louis Malevitis Vasilios Mermnos Manthos and Marina Pablecas Patriarch Athenagoras National Institute Taki Sotos Eugenia, Ron and Emily Splinter SS. Constantine & Helen Church SS. Constantine & Helen Cathedral St. Nectarios Church Myron Stamos Artemis Trebellas George Vouritissas Nick Yiannias	Chicago, IL Chicago, IL Chicago, IL Chicago, IL Chicago, IL Bensenville, IL  Glenview, IL Gary, IL Oakbrook Terrace, IL Chicago, IL Elmhurst, IL Valparaiso, IN Milwaukee, WI Chicago, IL Carol Stream, IL Rochester, MN Niles, IL Chicago, IL Northbrook, IL Bannockburn, IL Oakbrook, IL Long Island, NY Arlington Heights, IL Cheyenne, WY Niles, IL Chicago, IL Palos Hills, IL Merrillville, IN Palatine, IL Oconomowoc, WI Champaign, IL Palatine, IL Dubuque, IA
<b>\$5,000 and up</b> AHEPA Midwest District PFDA Rev. Fr. Vladimir Chominsky George Dalianis Rev. Fr. James Dokos Anna Giannoulas Dr. Bob and Laurie Gountis Harper-Egginton Charitable Foundation William Hoelt Paul and Cindy Karos Karris Family Foundation Demetrios Kotsakis Daniel Kuesis Tom Kyriakopoulos John Pantan Theodore Sepsis St. Spyridon Church Theodore Vlahos	Elmhurst, IL Chicago, IL Park Ridge, IL Milwaukee, WI Chicago, IL New Berlin, WI Gulfstream, FL Minnnetonka Beach, MN Edina, MN Chicago, IL Oak Brook, IL Barrington, IL Itaska, IL Elmwood Park, IL Elmhurst, IL Palos Heights, IL Kewanee, IL
<b>\$1,000 and up</b> All Saints Church J.C. Anderson Lena and Tom Angelos Annunciation Cathedral In Memory of George Arvanitis Ascension of Our Lord Church Assumption Church Maria Balourdos Mata Binteris Rev. Fr. Evagoras Constantinides Georgio's Comfort Inn and Banquets Evangeline Gouletas Greek Consulate George Haralambopoulos Holy Cross Church Nick Kasemotes Harry and Theresa Keekatos Spiro Kinnas Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lattas Leopardo Charitable Foundation William and May Logothetis In Memory of Spiro Nicholaou John Pantopoulos Peter Pantan Theodore Pappas Paul's Jewelers, Inc Harold and Faye Peponis In Memory of Holly C. Price Debra and John Prodromos The Prophet Elias Church Sandra and Theo Rigopoulos Costas Simos SS. Constantine Church Charles Staes St. Andrew Church St. Andrew Church St. Anthony Church St. Luke Evangelist Orthodox Church St. Mary's Church St. Spyridon Church Three Hierarchs Church Hi-Tech Auto - Andy and Frances Tsamis Daniel Ugaste Charles Vournazos Western Region Basketball Tournament YAL - Metropolis Of Chicago	Joliet, IL Elmhurst, IL Elmhurst, IL Chicago, IL Niles, IL Lincolnshire, IL Madison, WI Chicago, IL Elmhurst, IL Crown Point, IN Orland Park, IL Miami, FL Chicago, IL Chicago, IL Justice, IL Kenosha, WI Elmwood Park, IL Burr Ridge, IL Chicago, IL Hoffman Estates, IL Crown Point, IN  Elmwood Park, IL Chicago, IL West Allis, WI Chicago, IL Chicago, IL Deerfield, IL Dubuque, IA Mt. Prospect, IL Chicago, IL Rockford, IL Palos Park, IL Chicago, IL South Bend, IN Springfield, IL Palos Hills, IL Minneapolis, MN Sheboygan, WI Champaign, IL Mokena, IL Geneva, IL Chicago, IL Chicago, IL Downers Grove, IL

**SPECIAL NEEDS DAY— OCT 29TH, 2011  
POSTED ON FACEBOOK...**

***"Thank you to everyone who organized the retreat for our children with special need. I pray when you close your eyes tonight you see my daughter smile and hear her giggles. Eleni and Maria you are "koukles" for watching Katerina while I attended the discussion. The families I met were amazing and the children were angels. Please express my gratitude to the St Iakovos board and the staff. May God bless the board and the staff with the sounds of the children's laughter until they close their eyes and beyond. Glory be to God and as always... "***

***Bill Boundroukas***

## **Why we Gave" continued...**

Finally, we view this donation as an investment in not only equipping our children with a strong foundation in the Greek Orthodox faith, but also as an investment in the continuation and maintenance of our faith. The St. Iakovos Retreat Center will serve as an instrumental vehicle in spreading God's word. We will come together as many various ministries sharing our experiences and growing closer to God.

Let us remember that Jesus Christ is our "Chief cornerstone," Who will guide us in building something great in His name. We are the "living stones," called to do His work. Let Him guide us in building The St. Iakovos Retreat Center together! We will continue to annually give what we can to ensure that this dream becomes a reality and is sustained with our love and support. I hope that if you are able to contribute, in any way, that you join us in this rewarding journey. May the Holy Spirit fill your hearts and homes this Christmas season and always!

*With Christian Agape,  
Your Fellow Greek Orthodox  
Christians*

## **Thank you...**

***To the Clergy Syndesmos and many guests at the Metropolitan's Nameday Dinner who supported us. Over \$170,000 in gifts and pledges were raised for the Retreat Center!***

***Thank you to all our donors who have supported this project from the beginning!***

### **ANNUAL GIFTS**

#### **CHERUBS (\$5,000 annually)**

Anonymous	
Rev. Fr. Vladimir Chominsky	Chicago, IL
Holy Apostles Church	Westchester, IL
Holy Trinity Church	Chicago, IL
Holy Trinity Philoptochos	Chicago, IL
Daniel Kuesis	Barrington, IL

#### **SERAPHIM (\$1,000 annually)**

Anonymous	
Holy Anargyroi Church	Rochester, MN
Marilynn and Noel Jemas	Chesterfield, MO
Rev. Fr. George Kaloudis	Chicago, IL
George Karas	West Dundee, IL
Nick Kasemeotes	Pleasant Prairie, WI
Kimissis tis Theotokou Church	Racine, WI
Dr. John and Becky Mamalakis	Pleasant Prairie, WI
Novak Family Foundation	Merrillville, IN
St. John the Baptist Church	Des Plaines, IL
Bill J. and Peggy Vranas	Skokie, IL

#### **ARCHANGELS (\$500 annually)**

Rev. Fr. Sotirios Dimitriou	Orland Park, IL
George and Jean Haralampopoulos	Chicago, IL
Rev. Fr. John Ketchum	Racine, WI

#### **ANGELS (\$100 annually)**

Spero Argyris	Bartlett, IL
Maria Contos	New Lenox, IL
Brad and Doreen DeSent	Glenview, IL
Frances Geary	Inverness, IL
Rev. Fr. Andrew Georganas	Elmhurst, IL
Rev. Fr. Apostolos Georgiafentis	Chicago, IL
Rev. Fr. James Greanias and family	Valparaiso, IN
Michael and Rachelle Hareng	Lake In The Hills, IL
Peter Hasiakos	Indian head Park, IL
Roberta Korfias	Dyer, IN
Constantine Limberakis	Arlington Heights, IL
Georgia Mitchell	Northbrook, IL
Rev. Fr. Theologos Pandelis	Franklin, WI
Alex Pappas	Northbrook, IL
Harry Psaltis	Schererville, IL
Sandra Rigopoulos	Mt. Prospect, IL



## Planned New Facilities

### Hotel Style Residence Hall

We currently have 10 rooms donated and are looking for more \$100,000 donors.

Consider joining our Wall of Recognition with a Leadership Gift and becoming an Annual Donor!

Please cut out and return the forms below.

## Board of Directors

METROPOLITAN IAKOVOS OF CHICAGO

BISHOP DEMETRIOS OF MOKISSOS

Bill J Vranas—President

John Balourdos—Vice President

Nick Kirkeles—Secretary

Tom Kanelos—Treasurer

George Vourvoulis—Past President

Rev. Fr. Angelo Artemas

Rev. Fr. James Dokos

Rev. Fr. Andrew Georganas

Rev. Fr. Nicholas Georgiou

Rev. Fr. James Greanias

Rev. Fr. John Ketchum

Rev. Fr. Ted Poteres

Fred Chapekis

Brad DeSent

George Haralampopoulos

Arthur Labros

Alex Pappas

Harold Peponis

Joanne Stavrakas

Chris Avramopoulos—Ex Officio

## Join Our WALL OF RECOGNITION

### Levels of Giving:

Your name will be permanently displayed on this wall.

- \$50,000       \$5,000  
 \$25,000       \$1,000  
 \$10,000  
 \$100,000 (Naming Rights for Room)



NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Charge My Credit Card:

Credit Card Type:  VISA  MasterCard  American Express

NAME ON CREDIT CARD \_\_\_\_\_

CARD # \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE (MO/YR) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ SECURITY CODE \_\_\_\_\_

If paying by check, please include your check when returning this card.

(Please make your check out to and return to: St. Iakovos Retreat Center, 40 East Burton Place, Chicago, IL 60610)

Please direct any corrections to:

Nick Kasemeotes—Development

507-358-6521

nick@metropolitaretreat.org

Thank you again!

To reserve a date for your group outing please send an email to: [saintiakovosrc@aol.com](mailto:saintiakovosrc@aol.com)

Include the dates, approximate number of people, contact information and name of parish group or association.

## JOIN OUR ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

### Four Levels of Giving Annually:



- Cherub – \$5,000/year  
 Seraphim – \$1,000/year  
 Archangels – \$500/year  
 Angels – \$100/year

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Charge My Credit Card Yearly:

Credit Card Type:  VISA  MasterCard  American Express

NAME ON CREDIT CARD \_\_\_\_\_

CARD # \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE (MO/YR) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ SECURITY CODE \_\_\_\_\_

If paying by check, please include your check when returning this card.

(Please return to St. Iakovos Retreat Center, 40 East Burton Place, Chicago, IL 60610)