

FACT SHEET | DOP Work in Greece's Communities

In October 2016, Daughters of Penelope Grand President Jan Spanos and Executive Director Elena Saviolakis travelled to Greece to meet with the organization's five Athens-area chapters and its four chapter in Northern Greece to assess the impact of Greece's economic crisis on communities and projects it supports. In total, there are 14 active DOP chapters in Greece.

Penelopean Day Care Center – Athens, Greece

The Penelopean Day Care Center is a nursing and day care center for children aged eight months to preschool. The children come from underprivileged families with little or no income. DOP's **Karyatides Chapter** started the center in the late 1950s and the playground was built last year thanks to the DOP's support.



- The center has **140 children enrolled**, the most ever and full capacity. 100 applicants will be rejected.
- Three years ago, enrollment was 90. **Increase attributed to economic crisis.**
- Children receive two meals a day, education, and shelter.
- 2017 projects to be a difficult year, with unemployment hovering at 23.5% and funds (income) for the center drying up amid rising costs (utilities, maintenance, etc.)

NOTE: On average, across OECD countries and Eurozone countries, 35% of children aged 0 to 2 participate in formal childcare and pre-school services. Greece is among lowest, 13.8%. Greece is one of four OECD countries to see participation rates for 0 to 2-year-olds fall since 2006, going from 18.2% to 13.8%.¹

In a majority of OECD countries more than 80% of children, aged 3 to 5, are enrolled in pre-primary education or primary school. Greece is second to last at 47%.² The Greek capital region of Attiki had by far the lowest participation rate of four-year-olds in early childhood education and primary education, at 30.8% in 2012. In 2013, the proportion of four-year-olds who were in early childhood education and primary education across the whole of the EU-28 was 91.8%.³

Athinaides Chapter, Athens, Greece

The Athinaides Chapter supports a local orphanage for abused children 2-6 years of age. It also raises funds to help the elderly in nursing homes, to secure free mammograms for women, and to help children who need special services and care, including children who are deaf and blind.

Amaryllis Chapter in Psihiko, Athens, Greece

The chapter helps children with autism, children in orphanages, and creating awareness about domestic violence and supporting women who are domestic violence victims.

¹ <http://www.oecd.org/els/family/database.htm>

² Ibid.

³ http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Early_childhood_and_primary_education_statistics



Hesperus Chapter, Athens, Greece

The Hesperus Chapter is involved with several projects with a focus on helping the elderly in need.

Kallisto Chapter, Athens, Greece

The Hesperus Chapter is involved with several projects within the local community with a focus on helping children with disabilities.

Lysippi Chapter, Kefalonia, Greece

The chapter continues to raise funds to support children with cancer. Last year, the chapter raised almost \$20,000 to purchase a much-needed Venous ultrasound machine for the local hospital. The Venous ultrasound machine uses sound waves to produce pictures of the body's veins.

Niriides Chapter, Komotini, Greece

The chapter continues to distribute parcels with dry food, sugar, flour, pastas, milk, fruits, potatoes and biscuits, to poor families in the Rodopi region of Thrace. In addition, they secure free mammograms for women and raise funds for children with autism and Asperger's syndrome.

Elpides Chapter, Thessaloniki, Greece

The Elpides Chapter strives to help create breast cancer awareness via workshops and seminars. It also works to raise funds to host free mammograms. In addition, the chapter supports **Melissa's Orphanage** for abused and abandoned girls.

Arisinou Chapter, Xanthe, Greece

The chapter continues to distribute parcels with dry food, sugar, flour, pastas, milk, fruits, potatoes and biscuits, to poor families in the Xanthe area (Northern Greece).

Evridiki Chapter, Alexandroupoli, Greece

The chapter continues to distribute parcels with dry food, sugar, flour, pastas, milk, fruits, potatoes and biscuits, to poor families in the Alexandroupoli area (Northern Greece).