

Daughters of Penelope National Projects 2016-2017

National Projects

At the 2016 Supreme Convention in Las Vegas, NV, the Daughters of Penelope selected three mandatory projects and four voluntary charitable projects for the 2016-2017 National Obligations year.

They are:

Mandatory Obligations:

- 1) Domestic Family Violence Center: Penelope House, Mobile, AL
- 2) Domestic Family Violence Center: Penelope's Place, Brockton, MA
- 3) The Sjogren's Syndrome Foundation

Voluntary Obligations:

- 4) Penelopean Day Care Center – Athens, Greece
- 5) Limbitless Solutions
- 6) Daughters of Penelope Foundation, Inc.
- 7) Melissa's Orphanage – Thessaloniki, Greece

Description of Mandatory Projects

Penelope House Family Violence Center - www.penelopehouse.org - Penelope House, the first shelter for battered women and children in Alabama, was founded under the direction of the Daughters of Penelope Chapter in 1978. Penelope House was one of the first such shelters in the nation and has served as a model for many shelters in the U.S. Penelope House helps victims of domestic violence to gain social and economic independence through shelter, counseling, advocacy and referral to community resources and agencies. The 24-hour crisis lines provide counseling, information and referral services to families in abusive situations. Penelope House provides shelter for victims of domestic violence and their children. Victims are provided a safe place to stay while assessing their life situation and setting goals for the future. Financial support to Penelope House helps save lives of victims of domestic violence and their children and helps provide them needed services.

Penelope's Place Family Violence Center - Penelope's Place, a collaboration between the Daughters of Penelope and Health Imperatives (<http://healthimperatives.org/>), is a 24/7 emergency residence in the City of Brockton, MA, for women and children fleeing domestic violence. Residents live at Penelope's Place for an average of 90 days. During that time Penelope's Place staff provides a safe place for healing from the trauma of domestic violence. Each resident is assigned to a primary staff person, who works with the resident and her family to develop goals to achieve self-sufficiency upon leaving Penelope's Place. Services provided include counseling, housing, legal and medical advocacy, life skills, parenting skills, and job coaching. In addition, children receive services from a specialized child therapist. Penelope's Place can accommodate up to five families at any time.

The Sjogren's Syndrome Foundation - <http://www.sjogrens.org/index.php> - Sjögren's syndrome is a chronic autoimmune disease in which a person's white blood cells attack their moisture-producing glands. Today, as many as 4 million Americans are living with this disease. Click here to learn more: <http://www.givinglibrary.org/organizations/sjogren-s-syndrome-foundation>.

Description of Voluntary Projects

Penelopean Day Care Center in Athens, Greece - Located in Nea Ionia in Greece, the center is a Nursing and Day Care Center for Children eight months to preschool aged children of underprivileged families with low or no income.

Limbitless Solutions - <http://limbitless-solutions.org/index.php/en/> - Limbitless Solutions is a non-profit organization devoted to bringing volunteers and technology to the kids who need it most. Limbitless Solutions is devoted to building a generation of innovators who use their skills and passion to improve the world around them. The organization uses additive manufacturing to advance personalized bionics and solutions for disabilities. Limbitless Solutions believes that no family should have to pay for their child to receive an arm.

Daughters of Penelope Foundation, Inc. - www.dopfoundationinc.com - The Daughters of Penelope Foundation, Inc., was established in 1983 to promote educational, cultural, scholarship and civic programs; to foster research in art, education, science and public affairs, to promote social, ethical, philanthropic, cultural, educational and intellectual interests of the members of the Daughters of Penelope and to preserve and promote the ideals and traditions of Hellenism. As a tax exempt 501(c)3 Foundation in the U.S.A., the Foundation provides funding for scholarships, seminars, symposiums, lectures and other educational activities. The Foundation has promoted education through reading with its Children's Literacy Program; awarded the Daughters of Penelope scholarships each year; submitted the Greek Immigrant Oral History Study tapes to the Library of Congress; and sponsored Lectures and Symposia.

Melissa's Orphanage for Girls - <http://www.stegimelissa.gr/> - Melissa Orphanage for Girls was established in 1921. It accommodates 28 girls aged 10 to 18 years old who have been removed from their families following a court order due to instances of maltreatment, abuse or abandonment. The goal of the Orphanage is to substitute as well as possible the care and nurture that would have been provided within a healthy family environment.