



Daughters of Penelope

Serving the Community since 1929

Photo: 2025-2026 DOP Grand Lodge - L to R Back Row - Grand Treasurer Effie Kirkiles, Grand Governor Zone I Lainie Damaskos-Christou, Grand Governor Zone II Christina Vlahopoulos, Grand Governor Zone V Roula Maginas-Koumoutsidis, and Grand Maids of Athena Advisor Helen McClure. Front Row L to R - Grand Vice President Gretchen Holtsinger, Grand President Antoinette Marousis-Zachariades, and Grand Secretary Patty Didik.



Antoinette M. Zachariades
Grand President, DOP

About the Daughters of Penelope

The Daughters of Penelope (DOP) is an international women's organization promoting Hellenism and leading in philanthropic, educational, and civic activities through community service and volunteerism. Founded in San Francisco in 1929, the DOP is the first women's organization of its kind established in the USA. Since 1929, the Daughters of Penelope has initiated thousands of members into our 250 chapters worldwide. With chapters in the United States, Canada, Australia, Greece, and throughout Europe, our mission and outreach is constantly growing. We invite you to join us!

Philanthropy that Impacts Lives

Philanthropy and Volunteerism have been pillars for the Daughters of Penelope over its many years of existence. From natural disaster relief, to raising funds to eliminate life threatening diseases, to making significant contributions to our local municipalities, the Daughters of Penelope is at the forefront of charitable giving.

Education - the Key to Leadership

The DOP Foundation, Inc. provides scholarships on an international basis to a wide variety of students. Recipients are high school seniors, college and post-graduate students - all looking to become tomorrow's leaders.

The Ideals of Ancient Greece Important to All

Throughout the span of its history, the DOP has served as a vital vehicle for the progressive development and emergence of many American citizens of Greek heritage into every facet of society. This fulfillment illustrates the promise of the American Dream and symbolizes the hard work ethic of our immigrant forbearers who labored to achieve that dream with the principles of Hellenism rooted deep in their hearts.

Providing Safe, Dignified Affordable Senior Housing

It is also our civic responsibility to provide affordable housing to senior citizens. We are proud to have districts and chapters that sponsor eight affordable senior housing communities in six states totaling 390 units through the U.S. Housing and Urban Development's Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly program.

Recognizing Athletic Excellence

The Daughters of Penelope recognize female athletes at the high school, collegiate, and professional levels with scholarships, accolades and in some cases, induction into our Athletic Hall of Fame.

Our Grass Roots Strength has a Voice

In addition, through our members, the Daughters of Penelope communicates to elected representatives at the federal, state, and local levels, as well as diplomatic leaders, the positions of the Greek-American community on issues of concern to it.

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A Unique Family of Excellence

We are an international nonpartisan women's organization (501c8). We have three affiliate organizations that comprise the AHEPA family, including AHEPA, the Maids of Athena, and the Sons of Pericles.

The Daughters of Penelope was the realization of Alexandra Apostolides' dream. Her desire was to create a woman's organization and because of her perseverance she formed EOS Chapter #1 with 25 charter members on November 16, 1929 in San Francisco, California. She was elected the first Grand President of the organization in 1931.

Listed below is a sample of the work we have accomplished over the years:

- Together with AHEPA raised over \$500,000 to provide disaster relief in the United States and Greece
- Advancing philanthropy with over 3 million dollars in charitable donations towards Daughters of Penelope National Projects and philanthropic endeavors
- Awarded over 1 million dollars in Daughters of Penelope educational scholarships
- Donated over \$80,000 to Meals on Wheels America to help address senior isolation and hunger
- Launched a fundraising initiative together with AHEPA in support of the rebuilding of the St. Nicholas Shine at the World Trade Center collecting a total of 1 million dollars
- Donated over \$100,000 in gifts and pool maintenance for the children of Saint Basil Academy
- Raised over \$100,000 to host cultural events to promote Hellenism and women
- Raised over \$100,000 to host events towards promoting and celebrating outstanding women inside and outside the organization
- Provide support to Penelope House Family Domestic Violence Shelter in Mobile, AL, Penelope's Place Family Domestic Violence Shelter in Brockton, MA, and WIN Hellas Family Domestic Violence Hotline in Athens, Greece
- Develop strategies to launch civic responsibility campaigns to support issues important to the organization's mission to be discussed on Capitol Hill such as Domestic Violence Awareness
- Help grow the Victim's Rights Caucus grow through action alerts
- Increased membership in the Congressional Hellenic Caucus which led to co-sponsorship of legislation supporting United States - Greece relations.
- Led successful efforts to strengthen federal investment in programs authorized by the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) in Congress
- Championing excellence by providing youth academic and athletic scholarships worldwide
- Launched initiatives to foster collaboration with multigenerational membership
- Celebrate and promote female leaders in business, education, arts, and culture
- Provide mentorship/networking opportunities to not only promote women in leadership roles but also to interact with successful female role models
- Provide affordable senior housing via senior housing complexes
- Providing emergency disaster relief worldwide including a most recent 2022 initiative to provide hygiene relief kits for IOCC to distribute to victims of natural disasters
- Raised awareness and funds for the K-9 for Warriors project to support veterans



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