Cockinos Family Youth Ministry Development Fund …

DEVELOPING FUTURE ORTHODOX LEADERS

The value to the youth of our parish provided by the Cockinos Family Youth Ministry Development Fund is immeasurable. We are blessed by this visionary endowment to support the Youth of St. Nektarios, to keep them active in Orthodox life and to invest in our future leaders. The Cockinos Fund is the first major gift to the larger, multi-faceted St. Nektarios Endowment formed to benefit the overall work and mission of our church.

This Fund benefits our Youth Ministry participation at both the Metropolis and the parish levels.

Over the past year, the Cockinos Fund has funded full and partial scholarships for our youth to attend various Metropolis-level youth events and programs. As the costs for Metropolis-level events escalate, this fund allows our youth to continue to represent our parish and actively participate at all levels. This past year the fund provided $3,360 in scholarships for Winter Youth Rally, a Metropolis-level event hosted in Atlanta every December. Winter Youth Rally offers GOYAns in grades 7-12 the opportunity to engage in worship and fellowship with their peers from around the Metropolis. This event remains a favorite among Orthodox youth. The four-day event includes worship Vespers in the round, a Divine Liturgy at the Atlanta Cathedral with Metropolitan Alexios, a Bible Bowl Tournament, as well as the favorite basketball and volleyball tournaments.

The Cockinos Fund also funded $3,800 in scholarships for The Metropolis of Atlanta St. Stephen’s Summer Camp, a week-long camp held each summer at the Diakonia Retreat Center in Salem, SC. St. Stephen's Summer Camp is grounded on the principals of living an Orthodox lifestyle with twice daily liturgical services; opportunities for reflection; community living and meals; athletics; arts & crafts; and nightly social activities.

Winter Youth Rally and St. Stephen’s Summer Camp allow our GOYAns the chance to build life-long bonds and relationships with other Orthodox Christian youth in our Metropolis. Because of the Fund, all of our youth who wish to participate in these special and meaningful events are able to do so, regardless of abilities.

The Cockinos Fund also blesses our parish-level programming and events. This year, the Fund provided approximately $4,000 to support GOYA Summer of Service, Hellenic Dance, a Mother/Daughter Book Study, and our weekly Orthodox Life (O-Life) sessions. It has also provided registration fee and travel assistance to families in our parish whose children are speaking at District, Metropolis, and/or National level St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festivals.

In addition, the Fund is supporting a summer pilgrimage for students in 9th and 10th grade to the St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine with a grant of $2,500. The shrine is dedicated to the first colony of Greek settlers who came to America in 1768.

The Youth Ministry would like to recognize and thank the St. Nektarios Endowment and specifically the Cockinos Family Youth Ministry Development Fund for helping to ensure that all of our youth are able to take part in programs and events which help them remain active and engaged in the life of the Church.

Helen Giles, Director,
St. Nektarios Department of Youth Ministry

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. Hebrews 6:19 NIV
The Cockinos Family Youth Ministry Development Fund

2018 Annual Financial Report

- Portfolio Balance
  - January 2018 = $454,071
  - December 2018 = $441,579
  - April 2019 = $490,213
- New Gifts – $43,300
- 2018 Interest and Dividends Earned – $21,899
- Fees – $4,800 annually
- Managed by First Citizens Investment Services

2018 Grants Awarded in accordance with the Fund Agreement

- 11 grants approved for a total of $17,040
- $11,060 to St. Nektarios Youth Department for
  - Scholarships to attend St. Stephens Camp and Winter Youth Rally
  - Youth Staff Development
  - Grant for St. Photios Pilgrimage
- $5,500 for individual Mission Work to benefit Youth
- $480 for local children’s charity with FOCUS Backpacks

Grant Applications

Open to all St. Nektarios ministries. Individuals may also be eligible.
Grants should benefit youth 18 and younger.
Next Application deadline: August 30, 2019

About the Endowment

The Endowment was established in 2017 to provide donors an opportunity to make planned gifts to the Church that will provide a lasting legacy of financial support and will become a living memorial that honors the vision and mission of St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church.

Its goal is to build and expand upon its first gift from the Cockinos family. Future gifts will build upon this foundation and will be earmarked for the general well-being of our church and its ministries—the Endowment invests all principal for long-term growth and makes interest income available for ministry work.

How can you join The St. Nektarios Endowment Legacy Circle?

Please consider a gift now or a Planned Gift as part of your Estate Planning. Gifts begin at $5,000 and can include:
- Bequests made in donor’s will or trust
- Gifts of cash, securities, life insurance, real estate
- Or qualified retirement plans (401k, IRA)

Please consider adding the Endowment as a beneficiary to your life insurance. Just request a new beneficiary designation form from your insurance company.

The St. Nektarios Endowment is a designated 501(c)3 charity. All gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

For more information, please contact Committee Members

Theodora Sexstone, Emile Khuri, Sam Kleto, Julie Milich, Maria Mortis, Peter B. Pappas and James Thomas.

Two Weeks of Mission Work A Change for a Lifetime

Kalliope Balatsias

Kalliope Balatsias, as a 2018 grant recipient, was able to spend two weeks on a faculty-led mission trip in Kenya with Western Carolina University. Kalliope experienced working with students with disabilities in a developing country with minimal teaching resources. From her note to the Endowment Board, Kalliope shared,

To My Family at St. Nektarios,
I cannot begin to thank you all enough for providing me with the appropriate funds for going on this trip to Kenya. It was an incredible learning experience and has strengthened me as a believer.

She learned that religious practice is allowed in Kenya during the school day and most of the schools she visited had Christian Religious Education (CRE) in the classroom. Kalliope explained,

In one school that we visited, I interviewed many of the students asking them what their favorite subjects were and the most liked subject in the school was CRE. I was fortunate enough to teach a CRE lesson to that class and it was one of the most rewarding lessons I had ever taught.

Kalliope encountered students who while receiving free public education, came from financial struggling homes. She realized,

The biggest lesson I had learned in Kenya was not that the people are struggling and are in constant need of service, but what our job as Christians is . . . to provide service with a lasting impact.

This trip was truly eye opening. A summary on one page simply doesn’t do it justice. I’ve learned many things that I will carry with me in my lifetime and use to change the world one child at a time. You all have blessed me greatly with this opportunity, and for that I am forever grateful from this lifetime to the next.

All the best,
Kalliope Balatsias
Leaving a Lasting Legacy

The St. Nektarios Legacy Circle has been established to recognize all who have made a planned gift to the Endowment.

To become a member or for more information, simply complete this form and return to the church address on the reverse side or send the requested information in an email to Theodora Sexstone, Endowment Chairman, at tsexstone@gmail.com

☐ Yes I/we want to be a member (s) of the Legacy Circle and include St. Nektarios in my/our financial planning.

Name (s) ____________________________________________________________________________  Phone _______________________

Address _______________________________________________ City _________________________ St ______ Zip _________________

Email: _______________________________________________________________________________

Check all that apply:

☐ I would like information on making a planned gift
☐ I want to arrange a gift by will
☐ I would like information on how to make a gift of stock, cash, life insurance, real estate, or other.
☐ I have arranged for a gift through: _______________________

Hebrews 6:19 NIV

Our Orthodox faith anchors us through generations and across continents. We are members of a community of believers; and our Church has been, is now, and always will be the Body of Christ on earth. We believe we are called to live our faith, as we take each step on earth to learn to walk with Christ.

St. Nektarios Church is making a significant impact on our parish members, on our region, and on our world by providing worship, service, witness, and fellowship. To help fulfill this mission, we have established the St. Nektarios Endowment Fund and Legacy Circle.

By making a gift now or a Planned Gift to the St. Nektarios Endowment, you can leave a lasting legacy to our Church. Your gift will be the anchor for generations to come, and may offer you substantial current tax benefits and future estate tax benefits.

Examples of Gifts to the Endowment include:

Bequest made in the donor’s will or trust — Gift of Cash — Gift of Securities — Gift of Life Insurance

Gift of Real Estate — Qualified Retirement Plans: 401K, IRA

Gifts begin at $5,000.

Visit www.stnektarios.org for our brochure and for more information on this Endowment

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