

What is International Orthodox Christian Charities?

IOCC is a humanitarian aid agency established in 1992 by the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America. IOCC works in cooperation with the Orthodox Church and on behalf of Orthodox Christians. In carrying out its mission, IOCC applies the highest professional standards and renders itself fully accountable to the public and its donors.

What is the mission of IOCC?

IOCC, in the spirit of Christ's love, offers emergency relief and development programs to those in need worldwide, without discrimination, and strengthens the capacity of the Orthodox Church to so respond.

Who benefits from the services of IOCC?

Since its inception, IOCC has provided more than \$400 million in humanitarian relief, sustainable development and self-help programs to people in need. All assistance is provided solely on the basis of need, and benefits orphans, refugees and displaced persons, the elderly, school children, families and people with disabilities.

Where is IOCC providing assistance?

IOCC programs have helped people in 50 countries across Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America. Since the need for help is great, IOCC continually works to expand its programs to other areas.

What types of services does IOCC provide?

- **Community Development and Mobilization** programs increase the ability of local organizations to address local challenges.
- **Refugee Return and Assistance** programs facilitate the safe reintegration of refugees into their home countries.
- **Youth Development and Services** programs foster youth leadership and youth participation in their communities.
- **Business Development** programs give people the tools to work their way out of poverty with dignity.
- **Agriculture and Food Production** programs help rural populations raise their levels of nutrition, standard of living and agricultural productivity.
- **Disaster and Emergency Relief** programs address the immediate needs of people suffering from natural disaster, war or civil unrest.
- **Education and Training** programs nurture local leaders and organizations which advocate for their communities and promote the general welfare.
- **Social Welfare** programs provide material and technical assistance to social welfare institutions such as hospitals, orphanages and homeless shelters.
- **Infrastructure Construction and Repair** programs for the repair of homes, farm infrastructure, schools and public utilities.

GREECE – With Greece’s escalating economic woes driving more and more families into a desperate struggle to keep a roof over their heads and food on the table, IOCC in cooperation with Apostoli, the social service agency of the Greek Orthodox Diocese of Athens, is putting your support to work securing food aid packages for impoverished families and jobs for the unemployed. IOCC is supporting Apostoli’s efforts to collect, sort and package food items from donation centers set up in 213 participating supermarkets in Greece. From a donated warehouse space, the newly hired workers assemble 30-pound parcels containing enough food staples such as flour, rice, beans, milk and canned tomatoes to feed a family of four for a month. The food aid packages are then delivered each month to 70 parishes in the greater Athens metropolitan area where they are distributed by the parish priest to families living in poverty.



Katerina Basileiou/Apostoli

SYRIA – As concern grows over the plight of displaced families in Syria, IOCC and the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East (GOPA) in cooperation with the Syrian Red Crescent are working to identify the most urgent needs of these families including housing assistance, aid for displaced schoolchildren, essential hygiene and household items, infant supplies, medical kits and heating fuel. GOPA teams are visiting displaced families resettled in Damascus, while IOCC staff in both Jordan and Lebanon are working to attend to the needs of Syrian refugees pouring into both countries. Syria currently hosts one of the largest urban refugee and asylum-seeker populations in the world, with more than one million refugees from neighboring Iraq. In addition to the Iraqi refugee assistance program currently being implemented by IOCC and GOPA, with the support of Finn Church Aid, IOCC continues to support Iraqi refugees in Jordan.

ZIMBABWE – Through a donation from the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, IOCC in cooperation with the Zimbabwe Orthodox Church and medical partners, Medical Teams International (MTI) and Wheels for Humanity (WFH), delivered 185 wheelchairs and two large medical kits to St. Nectarios Clinic in Parktown filled with enough medicine to treat 20,000 ailing children and adults for intestinal and respiratory infections, malaria, cholera and pneumonia. Since 2006, IOCC has delivered over \$13 million in medicines and medical equipment to the people of Zimbabwe.