



DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE FACT SHEET

The Daughters of Penelope is a preeminent international women's service association and affiliate organization of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA).

The Daughters of Penelope is a leading international organization of women of Hellenic descent and Philhellenes, founded November 16, 1929, in **San Francisco, California**, to improve the status and well-being of women and their families and to provide women the opportunity to make significant contributions to their communities and country.

The mission of the Daughters of Penelope is to promote the ideals of ancient Greece, philanthropy, education, civic responsibility, good citizenship, and family and individual excellence, through community service and volunteerism.

Daughters of Penelope chapters sponsor affordable and dignified housing to the nation's senior citizen population by participating in the **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Section 202 Housing for the Elderly Program**. The properties are located at:

- Hoover, Alabama
- Mishawaka, Indiana
- Ankeny, Iowa
- Peabody, Massachusetts
- Bloomington, Minnesota (two properties)
- Houston, Texas (two properties)

The Daughters of Penelope relentlessly supports efforts to combat **domestic violence** in the United States and in Greece:

- **Penelope House**, a domestic violence center for women and their children located in Mobile, Alabama and sponsored by the Daughters of Penelope, is the first of its kind in the state of Alabama and is recognized as a model shelter for others to emulate throughout the U.S.
- **Penelope's Place** is a domestic violence shelter sponsored by the DOP in Brockton, Massachusetts.
- **WINHellas** is a domestic violence hotline in Greece supported by the DOP.

The Daughters of Penelope is the first ethnic organization to submit oral history tapes to the **Library of Congress**, which tapes provide an oral history of first generation Greek-American women in the United States.



The Daughters of Penelope promotes awareness of and provide financial support for many **medical research** and charitable organizations such as the University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center (formerly the Papanicolaou Cancer Center), cancer and breast cancer research; Thalassemia (Cooley's Anemia), Lymphangiomyomatosis (LAM), Alzheimer's Foundation, American Heart Association, Muscular Dystrophy, and others.

The Daughters of Penelope provides support and financial assistance to victims and communities affected by natural disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes, and forest fires.

The Daughters of Penelope Foundation, Inc. supports the educational objectives of the Daughters of Penelope by providing tens of thousands of dollars annually for scholarships, sponsoring educational seminars, and donating children's books to libraries, schools, shelters and churches through the "Penelope's Books" program.

The Daughters of Penelope has contributed financially to the preservation of our national landmarks, specifically, the restoration of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island (1986 to 1991).

The Daughters of Penelope has supported and contributed to mission-driven organizations such as: Special Olympics, Barbara Bush Foundation for Literacy, Children's Wish Foundation, UNICEF, Habitat for Humanity, Saint Basil Academy, and countless others to help support and strengthen families and communities.

- Most recently, the Daughters of Penelope has donated \$50,000 collectively to **Meals on Wheels of America** and tens of thousands of dollars to sponsor support service dogs for **veterans** suffering from PTSD.

The Daughters of Penelope donated tens of thousands of dollars to the rebuilding of **Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at World Trade Center** – the only House of Worship destroyed on September 11.

In December 2013, the Daughters of Penelope worked with the Hellenic Caucus and the Embassy of Greece to raise awareness of the health benefits of eating a "Healthy Greek Diet" to Capitol Hill.

In the 111th Congress, both chambers of Congress passed resolutions commemorating the 80th anniversary of the Daughters of Penelope and its work in the community.

In the 114th Congress, a U.S. Senate resolution was introduced to commemorate the Daughters of Penelope's 85th anniversary, and U.S. representatives submitted entries into the Congressional Record.

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