



THE HELLENIC INITIATIVE

Greeks Helping Greeks

ANNUAL REPORT 2019





About THI

The Hellenic Initiative (THI) is a global, nonprofit, secular institution mobilizing the Greek Diaspora and Philhellene community to support sustainable economic recovery and renewal for Greece and its people. Our programs address crisis relief through strong nonprofit organizations, led by heroic Greeks that are serving their country. They also build capacity in a new generation of heroes, the business leaders and entrepreneurs with the skills and values to promote the long term growth of Hellas.

THI Vision / Mission Statement

Investing in the future of Greece through direct philanthropy and economic revitalization.

We empower people to provide crisis relief, encourage entrepreneurs, and create jobs.

We are The Hellenic Initiative (THI) – a global movement of the Greek Diaspora

About the Cover

Featuring the faces of our ReGeneration Interns.



We, the members of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors, wish to express to all of you, the supporters and friends of The Hellenic Initiative, our deepest gratitude for the trust and support you have given to our organization for the past seven years.

Our mission is simple, to connect the Diaspora with Greece in ways which are valuable for Greece, and valuable for the Diaspora.

One of the programs you will read about in this report is THI's ReGeneration Program. In just 5 years since we launched ReGeneration, with the support of the Coca-Cola Co. and the Coca-Cola Foundation and 400 hiring partners, we have put over 1100 people to work in permanent well-paying jobs in Greece. Most importantly we have witnessed the power of Greece's most valuable asset, its human capital.

We have big plans for ReGeneration and next year we will launch something more ambitious in order to further nurture the creative, entrepreneurial spirit that exists in Greece.

Our affiliated chapters in Australia, Canada and the UK are also making a difference through their own vibrant fundraising efforts and volunteer programs.

Thanks to the growing support of Diaspora Greeks and Philhellenes around the world our efforts not only help people in need but help keep Greeks in Greece.

The crisis may be "officially" over, but the effects of it will last for years to come. As we continue our mission of investing, empowering, and encouraging, we invite you to join us. Together we can reverse the brain drain and create a brain gain.

The THI Executive Committee and Board of Directors



Executive Committee



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Marianna V. Vardinoyannis, Goodwill Ambassador of UNESCO, President of the ELPIDA Association of Friends of Children with cancer



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Founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, MAEVA Group, LLC



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Honorary Advisor, Vicar General of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America



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Founder, Chairman, Chief Executive Officer, Chartwell Hotels



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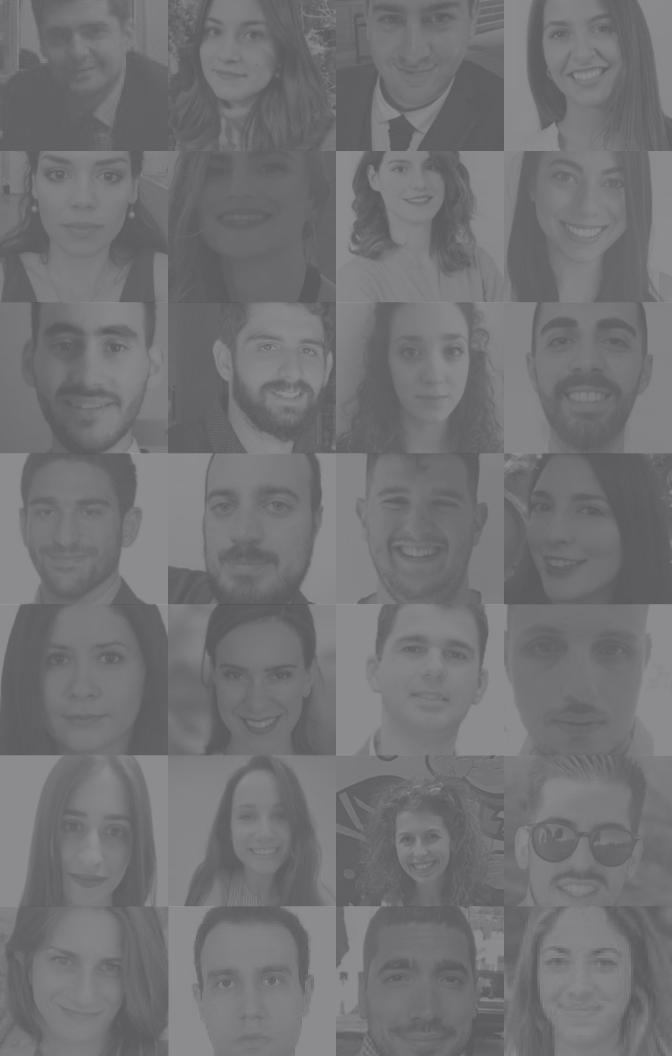
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We thank all of our donors, great and small, who from 2012 to the present have made our mission to Greece possible with their generosity and confidence in our transparency and accountability.











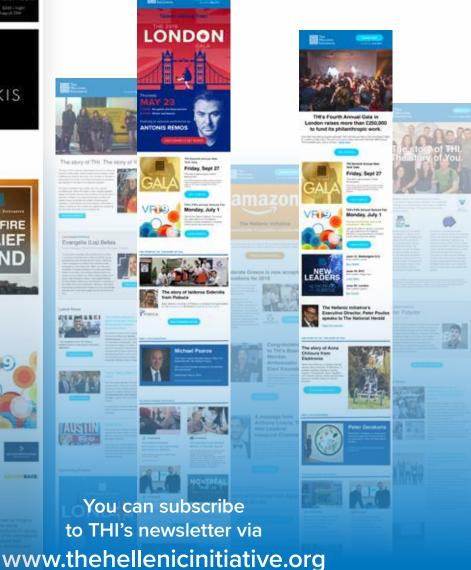


Monthly International Newsletter

Since January 2019, we have been sharing a monthly newsletter with THI's news from all around the world to keep its community connected.

In the newsletter, we feature THI's events, updates on programs, and related news. In addition, on a monthly basis, we present stories and profiles of THI's friends, people that have benefited from its programs, and supporters that support in various ways THI's efforts. Some

of them are major donors, artists that have donated their artwork to THI's silent auctions taking place every year during the Galas, founders of THI's funded nonprofits, young entrepreneurs that have participated to THI's programs etc. News from all over the world are also presented that cover the international work of THI including the work of THI Australia, THI Canada and UK.



Video Campaign with the Greek Reporter

As a reporter Anastasios Papapostolou knows the power of images. He recalls the time he was invited to cover a meeting of notables of the Hellenic Diaspora at the renowned Grande Bretagne hotel.

"It was a dark day for Greece. Outside the Grande Bretagne youth were hurling Molotov cocktails," generating distressing photos that would circle the globe – but inside, new hope was born.

The gathering was one of the keys to the establishment of THI and Anastasios says he is honored to have been among the first journalists to cover the organization.

That was at the beginning of the Greek crisis, and Papapostolou deeply appreciates that since then THI has responded to the call of the homeland with material assistance for those most in need and moral support and guidance for a new generation of Greek entrepreneurs who are the light at the end of the crisis tunnel.

And because Papapostolou is the Founder of The Greek Reporter, one of the world's leading Hellenic websites, armed with video capabilities even more powerful than individual photos, he embraced the vital mission of conveying to the Diaspora the importance of the efforts of the organizations in Greece supported by THI.

The video clip "First Professional Fishing School in Greece Supported by \$20,000 Grant From The Hellenic Initiative" posted on August 5. It is the first of a series of videos to be produced highlighting THI's work on the ground in Greece.

"I am honored that they entrusted me with this undertaking," Papapostolou said.

He has personal knowledge of the agonies and ecstasies of startups. The Greek Reporter began ten years ago when he was a student at California State University, Northridge.



GREEK REP&RTER

He won a scholarship to develop his idea that while people are now moving around so much during their lives borders will lose much of their meaning, they will still want to connect with their ethnicity. "While we Greeks are all over the place, we still identify with our ethnic background, so I got the idea to create the first media outlet with an ethnic focus, focusing on Greeks all over the world," not just news in Greece. It was one of three projects out of 3000 to receive tuition assistance,

and the money he saved was invested in his little web site.

Beginning with a focus of Greeks in Hollywood, The Greek Reporter has moved into other geographic and topical areas. Today in addition to its base in the United States, there is Chinese edition – the first Greek media outlet to do so, Papapostolou says – and a Russian edition.

"The Greek Reporter is people: the reporters who work for the outlet" and the remarkable Greeks they cover – including the groups THI works with. "Hopefully we are doing good work that helps the image of Greece and the image of Greeks around the world."



How to Get Involved with Our Community





Over the past few years, The Hellenic Initiative has built a strong online social media presence, engaging with Greeks and Philhellenes worldwide, but we'd love your help and input to continue growing. Here are some of the things you can do:

Share as much as possible, across all platforms. Repost THI, invite others to events, and encourage others to do the same to help us grow our audience and go viral.

Use our hashtags: #THI, #OliMazi, #GreeksHelpingGreeks, and #TheHellenicInitiative. Tag your photos and posts with any and all of these to keep raising awareness and gaining followers!

Are you a social media whiz? Help us cover events on Instagram stories or Facebook/Instagram live.

Handy with a camera? Let us know! Photography and video enthusiasts are also needed to take photos and video that can go on social media or even our website.

Tell us what you think: who can we partner with on social media? What kinds of campaigns would you like to see?



2. RAISE FUNDS FOR THI

Create an Instagram or Facebook fundraiser - Many friends of THI have been raising money through Facebook Fundraisers this past year! Like, Alexander Sirris who started a Facebook fundraiser for THI and managed to raise \$4,423 for the Wildfires Relief Fund, or Tony Kutulas who raised \$2,000 for his birthday!

Find out if your job matches donations to 501(c)3 organizations. Make your friends aware that if they donate, they can double their donation when their companies match funds.

Most corporations have a budget to make yearly donations to charities. Sell a table to your company. Invite them to come to the gala or another event to learn more about THI and the New Greece we are helping to build, and also have a great time networking with our community.

Come up with your own fundraising method. For instance, create your own SoulCycle class, come up with an event like a Greek wine tasting or a walkathon, or develop a wholesale product that New Leaders can purchase. We're open to your ideas!



3. VOLUNTEER

Sign up to help with our September gala or any of our networking events or dinners. We always need extra hands.

Volunteer to help with administrative tasks in our New York office.

If you've got a special talent or connection with potential sponsors and venues, let us know so you can volunteer to help with our many ongoing projects including community growth, website updates, multi-city fundraisers, and Speaker Series.

If you have the time to assist and do outreach, become a member of a host committee: Sign up to help spread the word about events and bring two additional guests to an event.













#THI #OliMazi #GreeksHelpingGreeks #TheHellenicInitiative





4. AMAZON SMILE

We all know how much we depend on Amazon, but now you can turn your shopping passion into a fundraising tool for THI. By using this Amazon Smile link:

smile.amazon.com/ch/45-5301968

You can ensure that Amazon will donate to THI every time you shop. Use this link and save it in your browser's bookmarks for future use.

5. LEARN, ATTEND AND SPREAD THE WORD

Sign up for our mailing list and share it with others. Our monthly newsletter is the best way to learn our news and all about our work on the ground in Greece.

We want you to talk about The Hellenic Initiative's work. Let people know what it is you find inspirational about our organization. If you want to learn even more, check out our website to learn about the non-profits we work with and our signature Venture Fair.

One of the most impactful ways to help THI is also one of the most simple: Show up. Show your support. Bring friends. Buy a ticket for a fundraiser. Buy a table and fill it with your friends. We want you to come to our spectacular events and help spread the word about how much you enjoy them and how important our work is.

Our events include networking happy hours, fundraisers, New Leaders programs, "Networking with a Purpose", the Speaker Series – and we are planning more.



Cyprus Seeds



Cyprus Seeds is the first organization supported by THI in Cyprus. It was established as a non-profit to support the commercialization of Cypriot academic research with funding (EUR 10K-100K), mentoring, and networking.

Cyprus Seeds is currently funding its first batch of grantees; the funding period spans from July 2019 to June 2020. Seven projects were selected from a pool of 40, from among all the universities and research institutions of Cyprus.

THI has supported Cyprus Seeds since it was a concept envisioned by THI co-founder George David. Marina Hatsopoulos, Anna Protopapas, and Dr. Yiannis Monovoukas, all Boston-based, have helped articulate and implement David's vision from day one. Jeremy Downward, a THI Board member, is the acting Chairman of Cyprus Seeds.

cyprusseeds

The Cypriot government considers enabling commercialization of economically promising academic research a high priority, since it will contribute substantially to the country's development and to job creation. It recognizes the mission of Cyprus Seeds as critical, and, to this effect, is providing matching funds capped at $\in 500,000$ for its first funding cycle through the Research and Innovation Foundation.

At the July 2017 Athens Venture Fair, THI invited a Cypriot academic team and a startup. In November 2017 the University of Cyprus in collaboration with THI presented the 3rd Innovation & Entrepreneurship Forum, which showcased academic research with commercial potential. A startup competition was also held, with monetary prizes from THI, the winner, AJM Med-i-caps, was selected to attend the MIT Enterprise Forum Greece competition, which it won.

A total of EUR 600K has been raised from Cypriot corporations (Eurobank, EY Cyprus, Medochemie, Alphamega), the A.G. Leventis Foundation, and several individuals in Cyprus and abroad. THI is Cyprus' Seeds anchor donor.

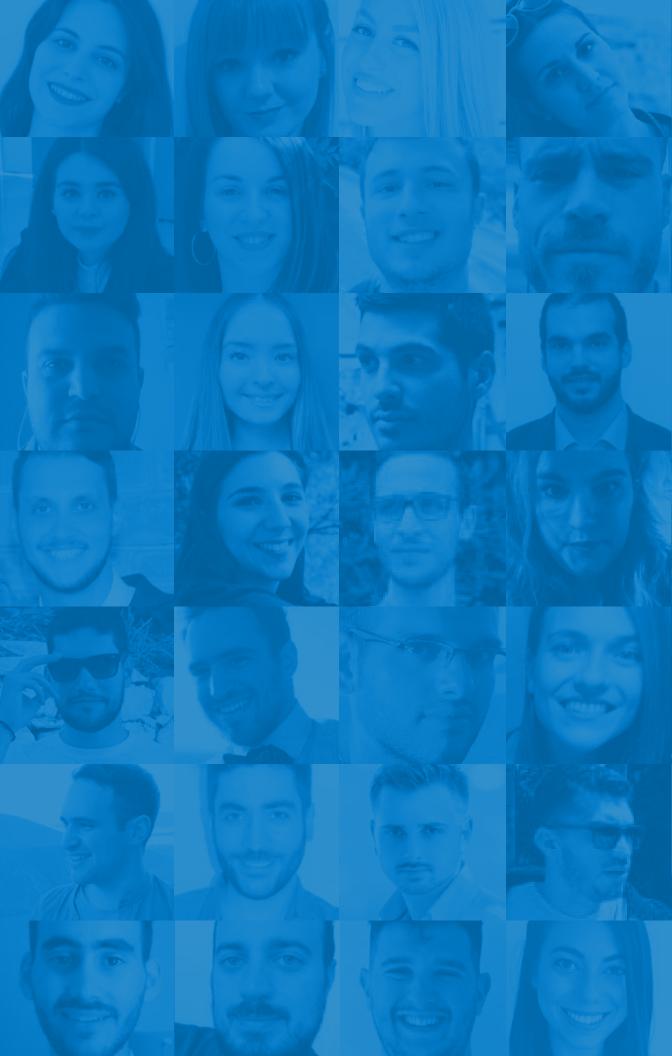


Athens Office



The Hellenic Initiative is proud to announce that it has opened an Athens office. The office is located at the corner of Vasilssis Sofias Avenue and Irodou Attikou Street directly behind the National Gardens. We look forward to welcoming you all there. Many thanks to Dimitrios Athanasopoulos and Stephanie Choremi of Axia Ventures.







6th Annual Gala Gathers Friends, Raises Funds, and Lifts Spirits



"The Hellenic Initiative is one of the great organizations in the Greek world because it brings in the eagles, the outstanding Greeks wherever they are."

-Father Alexander Karloutsos, Honorary Advisor

The friends of The Hellenic Initiative who attended THI's 6th Annual Gala on September 21, 2018 at the New York Hilton know the value of multi-tasking and enriching every moment in their personal lives and professional endeavors, so the promise of a another night of fellowship, philanthropy, and fun attracted 750 leading Hellenes from all over America and the world to the sold out event emceed by actor Chris Diamantopoulos.

First and foremost, the Gala is the leading fundraising vehicle for THI's mission to both provide relief to Hellenes still struggling during the economic crisis, and towards building a New Greece with a brighter future for all. \$2 million was raised that evening for direct crisis relief and economic aid, including crisis relief for underserved communities







PAUL POLMAN

CEO of Unilever

CORINNE MENTZELOPOULOS

Owner and CEO of Château Margaux

in Greece, particularly children, and for Entrepreneurial Development.

The second function is to gather the world's leading Hellenes to generate not only enthusiasm for helping the homeland, but to spark

valuable relationships lasting a lifetime. Fr. Alexander Karloutsos, who gave the opening prayer, noted that "The Hellenic Initiative is one of the great organizations in the Greek world because it brings in the eagles, the outstanding Greeks wherever they are."

He also touched on a third reason the Gala has become a "must attend" event, the largest and most successful Greek Diaspora fundraiser: "this reflects the best of our heritage, and you're looking at the most talented, wonderful people, gathered together to celebrate excellence," further inspiring those present, seasoned pros and young stallions alike, to high achievement and Hellenic pride.

THI Chairman Andrew N. Liveris spoke briefly of the honorees, Paul Polman, CEO of Unilever and THI's Regeneration program partner, and philanthropist Corinne Mentzelopoulos, owner, and CEO of Château Margaux:

"Paul Polman is one of the best CEOs in the world of one of the greatest companies in the world...a humanitarian, a leader, he takes stands for things that matter in the world, like the environment and climate change, and Corinne, with her love of Greece and her passion for producing products we all love, but what she stands for is amazing. She's a successful businesswoman, her father created what she is now managing, and I am so proud that she's accepting out honor tonight."

THI Executive Committee Chairman George P. Stamas said in his welcoming remarks, "from THI's start in New York six years ago we are power-walking in pursuit of our goal to improve the welfare of the Greek people...We have a common sense of purpose, a common sense of our heritage, it's our DNA whether you're Greek or a philhellene, because as the great British poet Shelley said 'we are all Greeks' at least tonight."

Following the acceptance speeches, Peter Poulos was announced as THI's new Executive Director and outgoing Executive Director Mark Arey spoke warmly about his time with THI. In his closing remarks Andrew Liveris highlighted the theme of the event, Olli Mazi - All Together.

It has become a Gala tradition to do a special pitch for additional support. Last year's appeal was moving because it was in support the Attika Wildfires Campaign. \$88,000 was raised on the spot and every single THI Board member that was present came onstage and made a pledge.

















































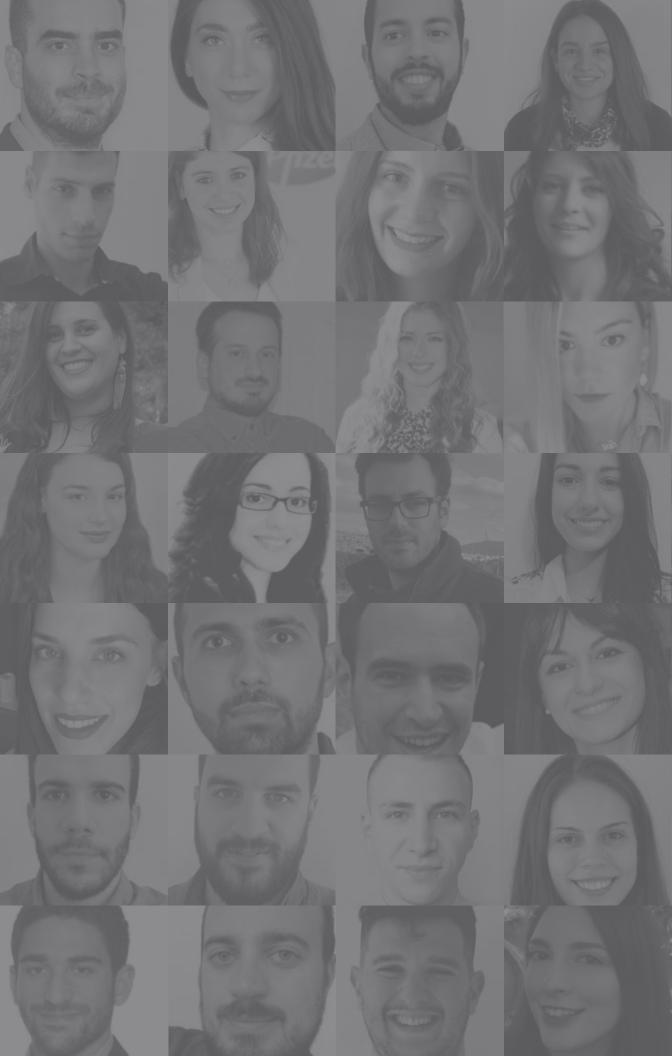














Crisis Relief



Orama ELPIDAS Association

Orama was created as an organization to address the minimal numbers of bone marrow donors registered in Greece. Worldwide over 13 million people are registered as donors, with Greece accounting for merely 15,000 of them only a few years ago. Orama solved this problem by launching many campaigns and by establishing a series of partnerships that raised this figure today to over 75,000, with 37 donors matched with patients. Recently Orama partnered with the Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens (BRFAA), the country's largest Biomed research organization, which is comprised of over 430 researchers. This partnership aimed to establish treatments tailored for each unique patient based on the specific genetic alterations found in their own tumors. This project will allow children from the ELPIDA hospital to be eligible for state of the art, precision-based medicine trials on a global level, therefore increasing their chances to fight their tumors and fully recover. The DNA sequencing, genome testing, and molecular profiling techniques that will be used to identify the specific tumor of each patient will be co-developed in a partnership between BRFAA and the world renowned Dana Farber Cancer Institute of Harvard University (DCFI) based at Boston's Children's Hospital.



What we accomplished with your gift:



THI funds were used to hire 2 people staffing a newly established Medical Data & Clinical Trial Office within the hospital. One of them focuses on data processing while the other is responsible for data entry, helping with the overall process of participation in clinical trials by also digitizing the medical records while acting as a hub with the other partners of this project within and outside of Greece.







Together for Children

Founded in Greece in 1996, Together for Children is an association of non-profit NGOs that work in the field of child welfare and is managed by a Board of Directors composed of representatives of each member-organization. The Association offers every form of assistance to children and young people irrespective of race, religion and political conviction, supporting more than 30,000 children, on an annual basis, including more than 10,000 direct children beneficiaries.



What we accomplished with your gift:



The Hellenic Initiative funding towards TfC covered expenses associated with the operation of the 11525 telephone Counseling Helpline & Counseling Center. This helpline has operated since 2009 and functions as a referral, informational, and child abuse reporting service for children, adolescents, parents, and educators.



The Home Project

A non-profit organization, The HOME Project was established via the generous support of the Libra Group. Its mission is to provide support, protection, education, and social integration services to children that travel and arrive in Greece all alone. Today, thousands of unaccompanied refugee children are without a shelter and in urgent need of protection and support. The HOME Project moves children from the streets, camps, police stations, and detention centers and brings them to the safety of its homes, where they receive support, protection, and social integration services. Currently, 11 homes are operating under the umbrella of The HOME Project having the capacity to accommodate over 200 children in total. Children living in these homes are given shelter, food, access to education but equally important, they also receive medical, psychological, and legal support.





What we accomplished with your gift:



We have funded the position of a full time child psychiatrist and a part-time psychologist working with all the children in the 11 shelters. They monitor children in need of support, prescribe psychiatric treatments when necessary, and provide individual or group therapies to the children in need.





METAdrasi

METAdrasi is a Greek NGO founded in 2010 which helps facilitate the reception and integration of refugees and immigrants in Greece. METAdrasi operates mainly in the following two sectors: interpretation services and the protection of unaccompanied children.







What we accomplished with your gift:



Since the launch of the first-ever Transit Accommodation Facility in Mytiline, which THI supported early on, Greece has seen the arrival of thousands of unaccompanied children. The vast majority of those live, often for prolonged periods, in live detention or precarious conditions within the camps. To this date hundreds of unaccompanied children have found a temporary home and shelter in one of METAdrasi's shelters. THI has invested \$325,000 in total in support of the METAdrasi shelters operating in Mytilene, Samos, and Chios.



Galilee

Galilee, the only palliative care unit in Greece, was founded a couple of years ago. The Galilee Palliative Care Unit runs under the auspices of the Holy Diocese of Mesogaias and Lavreotiki. The unit is staffed by a specialized team of health professionals including doctors, nurses, psychologists, social workers, physical therapists, occupational therapists, a priest, and nearly 100 trained volunteers.





What we accomplished with your gift:



THI funding covered the costs associated with the salary of 1 nurse working full time for 1 year. On average Galilee supported over 120 patients per month through its Home Care program, around 75 through its Day Care centre. 15 people were hosted at its newly launched bedded unit located on its premises.





Olympic Scholarship Program

Since 2016 we have partnered with the Hellenic Olympic Committee, the A.G. Leventis Foundation, and the John S. Latsis Public Benefit Foundation in supporting Greek and Cypriot athletes as they prepare for the Tokyo 2020 Games. This is a program that was started back in 1999 by the A.G. Leventis Foundation and it marks its 20th anniversary this year.





What we accomplished with your gift:



Each year 11 athletes from Greece and Cyprus receive monetary support as they prepare for the Tokyo 2020 Games. Athletes are chosen each year based on their rankings and overall achievements the previous year.





MDA Hellas

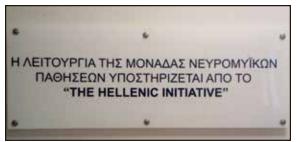
MDA Hellas has created 3 Special Neuromuscular Disorder Units in public hospitals in the cities of Athens, Thessaloniki, and Patras. The aim is to serve better and more efficiently the various needs of the patients suffering from neuromuscular disorders. The Unit in Athens, located in the Aghia Sophia Children's Hospital has been operating since January 2003. The identical Unit in Thessaloniki was launched in 2007, hosted in a specially designed space offered at the AHEPA University General Hospital of Thessaloniki. The final addition was the Unit in Patras' Rio General Hospital, which commenced operations in 2009.



What we accomplished with your gift:



The Hellenic Initiative has been supporting MDA Hellas over the last 3 years. This year our gift covered salaries associated with the positions of a full-time project coordinator and a parttime psychologist. Over 300 medical appointments with doctors and over 200 appointments with psychologists were made possible this year because of this donation.





Action for Women

Action for Women is a Swiss nonprofit established in September 2015. It focuses on combating gender-based violence and exploitation while promoting women's rights and social inclusion. In 2016 the organization launched the Athena Centre for Women on the island of Chios acting as the first women-only space outside of the refugee camps in Greece. Women refugees reaching Greece are often victims of gender-based violence and are left without a way out of their harsh reality. The center acts as a 'safe space' encouraging women to build positive relationships and widen their social network while providing them with access to education, healthcare, as well as legal and psychosocial support. Since its launch the center has supported tens of thousands of women of various nationalities living or crossing through the island of Chios.

What we accomplished with your gift:



More than 400 women per month, over a period of 5 months, received much needed legal support and access to healthcare and were part of activities helping them live their lives in dignity, like normal families.







Higgs

HIGGS is a nonprofit founded in 2015 with the aim of reinforcing NGOs in Greece through capacity building, in particular by offering training, mentoring, and networking classes and events. HIGGS runs 3 flagship programs focusing on the different maturity levels of the NGOs.





What we accomplished with your gift:



For a second year in a row we are funding the country's only accelerator for nonprofits. We offer them services ranging from training seminars and workshops to tailor-made networking events with other NGOs and foundations.





GivMed

GivMed is a nonprofit established in 2016. It focuses on the problem of proper drug disposal and offers solutions that enable individuals to donate their surplus drugs to a network of nonprofits in need of them. According to a study conducted by PULSE and commissioned by GIVMED during the past year, 62% of Greek households had some medication that has expired stored at home. At the same time, around 2.3 million people are on the verge of poverty with little to no access to medicines. GIVMED is working to bridge this gap

What we accomplished with your gift:



We helped the organization donate 18,594 cartons of medicine valued close to \$200,000.





Enaleia

Enaleia is the country's only school for professional fishermen. It started as an idea back in 2016. ENALEIA is addressing two needs. The first is the aging population of the 16,000 Greek fishermen who are currently more than 60 years old on average (ELKETHE, 2017). This means that soon most of them will retire, creating a gap in the market. The second problem that ENALEIA is addressing is that of unemployment in the country. Currently, the unemployment rate in Greece is at 17.2% (ELSTAT, 2019).

What we accomplished with your gift:



We helped Enaleia convert part of its curriculum into an online course, therefore allowing more people even from far away to be part of their training classes and ready to be hired in the fishing sector.





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Symplefsi

Each year a flotilla of a dozen rigid inflatable boats visits a number of Greek islands to support the populations there with in-kind aid and services carried out by the people they on board. For example, during the past 4 years Symplefsi has offered medical check-ups to over 4,000 people and donated equipment to schools.

What we accomplished with your gift:



Last year through THI's aid Symplefsi managed to build a new wing for the public school of Agathonisi. This year we built a new playground for the school yard in the island of Schinousa.









Aggigma Zois

Every year 37,000 people are diagnosed with cancer in Greece. The first period after the diagnosis is critical for patients and families as they are often afraid of or unaware of what the next day will bring. It is often the case that both patients and their relatives feel weak and vulnerable. Aggigma Zois was created to stand by the patients after their diagnosis and during their treatments. The backbone of the organization is its volunteers, 67 in total with 28 active on a weekly basis. In May 2018 Aggigma Zois was granted access to the Agioi Anargyroi Cancer Hospital in Athens.

What we accomplished with your gift:



With your support we helped the organization hire its first full time project manager. In just a few months' time after THI's donation the organization has worked with over 900 patients, helping them and their families, organizing over 15 public awareness events, and managing to decrease its response time by more than a half.







ITHACA HOSE DATES OF THE PROPERTY

Ithaca Laundry

Ithaca is a mobile laundry for the homeless in Athens. It was founded in July 2015 with the aim of diminishing the social exclusion of homeless people and raise awareness for the plight of the homeless. Since the beginning of the economic crisis in Greece, the number of homeless people in Athens has been increasing daily and according to the latest surveys around 20,000 are believed to be homeless under the ETHOS typology. In addition to domestic victims, due to the refugee crisis many people are stranded in Greece and face challenges similar to those confronting the homeless. By offering a free laundry service to the homeless, Ithaca improves their hygiene standards and their self-esteem and dignity, and creates opportunities for them. An Ithaca mobile unit is a van equipped with 2 washing machines and 2 tumble dryers, while municipalities or other partner organizations provide water and electricity.

What we accomplished with your gift:



We supported them in 626 washes that cleaned 3130 kg of clothing. We also helped them run an extra spot, on a weekly basis, in the city of Athens raising their target from 4 to 5.







National Hellenic Student Association of America

The National Hellenic Student Association (NHSA) of North America, Inc. serves as an umbrella for the Hellenic student organizations of universities throughout the United States and Canada. NHSA is the largest Hellenic student and young professional organization in North America, with over 50 member-chapters and it promotes Hellenism, education, mentorship, and the overall unity of the Hellenic community.

What we accomplished with your gift:



We supported the organization on their 2nd Beach Clean Up event, bringing together NHSA members visiting Greece and local volunteers in an effort to clean up a beach in Attika from human-produced pollution.

THI supports the 2nd NHSA Annual Beach Cleanup

A lesser publicized crisis in Greece is that of environmental damage. Though Greece's beaches have gained international recognition for their pristine quality and beauty, they are not immune to the plague of plastic and garbage pollution. In recognition of this growing need to stem the tide of pollution, THI decided to renew their support for the National Hellenic Student Association (NHSA) of North America's second annual Beach Clean-up in Greece on July 20th, 2019 at Marathon Beach after supporting cleaning up the beach at Saronida last year.

The initiative brings together young volunteers of the Hellenic diaspora together with locals, to spend a day out of their summer vacation volunteering their time to clean a beach. The idea to host a Beach Clean-up in Greece during the summer was inspired by environmentally-oriented discussions at the NHSA conference in Atlanta, Georgia the fall of 2017.

NHSA is a 501(c)3 non-profit based in the U.S. that serves as an umbrella organization for Hellenic Student Associations across North America, and promotes Hellenism, education, networking, and overall unity among the younger generation of diaspora Hellenes.

When NHSA approached THI for funding and support of the event, we did not hesitate to respond and embraced the idea of promoting environmental awareness while forming a bridge between Hellenes of the diaspora and Greece in the process.

The Impact

A mass of over 300 pounds of trash has been lifted from Schinias Beach as a result of the NHSA Beach Clean-up. Beyond cleaning the beach, NHSA's initiative demonstrated the power of synergies, bringing together several non-profit groups for a good cause.

NHSA teamed up with ethelon, a non-profit Greece-based volunteer platform, along with $\pi 3$,

a non-profit that raises awareness about plastic and trash pollution and supports events that promote zero-waste and a sustainable future. Together, they brought over 40 volunteers to Saronida Beach in 2018 for a day-long beach cleaning, which included shoreline trash collection as well as underwater cleaning supported by the Poseidon Club Dive Center. The event also exemplified the importance of longterm sustainability while promoting the local economy. As a parting gift, NHSA provided all volunteers with t-shirts printed in Greece.

THI is encouraged by the success of NHSA's event, and is proud to be supporting a diversity of such initiatives making a positive impact in Greece.







THI Donates to the Greek Fire Fighting Service and Wildfire Relief Fund

Wildfires raged once again this summer in Greece, but one year ago, when Greece experienced the worst disaster in its modern history, THI stepped in to help.

Over 100 people lost their lives and many more were injured in the fires that devastated Mati and nearby Kokkino Limanaki near Athens last in 2018. THI responded by launching an online fundraising campaign with our friends Nia Vardalos and John Stamos and made a special appeal at our 2018 NY Gala. Thanks to the generous support of over 548 donors The Hellenic Initiative was able to raise over \$200,000 USD.

Your contributions allowed us to provide immediate relief to the communities affected. In addition, we were able to support local firefighters by providing state of the art firefighting equipment to prevent anything similar from happening again.





Immediate Relief

In August, 2018, IOCC and Apostoli, the philanthropic arm of the Church of Greece, employed THI funds to purchase and deliver 150 new trash bins to the municipality of Rafina-Pikermi in Greece. These bins replaced the ones that were destroyed by intense heat and flames. Delivering these bins on time was a call THI answered after meeting with the Mayor of Rafina-Pikermi and it allowed city crews to resume waste collection while making the cleanup for many residents a lot easier.



Donation to the Greek Fire Fighting Service

THI has ordered an offroad 4×4 vehicle equipped with specially designed firefighting capabilities. THI will request this vehicle to be stationed at the area affected by last year's wildfires in particular near and around the Lyreion Orphanage.

Economic Development



ReGeneration

ReGeneration is an initiative seeking to build bridges between young people in Greece willing to learn and professionally develop with companies seeking opportunities to recruit talent and shape the leaders of tomorrow. The idea was to create a community of leading international and local Greek companies and public and not-for-profit organizations working together to establish a single internship program for the young people of Greece, in Greece. The retention rate for the interns participating in the program has been over 80% through the years.





What we accomplished with your gift:



The Hellenic Initiative has been the founding donor of the ReGeneration program together with the Coca-Cola Co. and the Coca-Cola Foundation. Since its launch in 2014 ReGeneration has created over 1000 internships working with 390 of the country's companies. It has received 8 awards, providing over 125,000 hours of training and last but not least 15,000 hours of community give back work partnering with nonprofits on the ground. All these have made ReGeneration the country's premier internship program.



VentureGarden

VentureGarden aspires to promote more, and more successful, entrepreneurs in Greece, providing foundational training to emerging entrepreneurs and qualified mentorship to nurture ideas into viable enterprises. The program was established in early 2014 by The Hellenic Initiative in partnership with the American College of Greece's ALBA Graduate Business School in Athens, and Anatolia College in Thessaloniki.







What we accomplished with your gift:



The Hellenic Initiative has been the sole sponsor of this program. Since 2014 the program has received thousands of applications and trained over 900 people, helping them start or boost their business. The last few years the program has focused on reaching communities outside of Athens and Thessaloniki through the so called GreenHouse events and so far this program has visited the cities of Chalkida, Trikala, Patra, Xanthi, Kozani, Heraklion, Kalamata, Kavala, Ioannina and Sparti.



SXSW

Over the past five years, through the partnership between The Hellenic Initiative and the U.S. Embassy, almost 100 Greek startups have had the chance to participate in the prestigious South by Southwest (SXSW) conference. Through their participation, they had the opportunity to exhibit their business models and ideas on an international stage which includes some of the world's most successful investors, representing over 100 countries. Additionally, they networked with a group of 35,000 panelists and entrepreneurs with a significant global presence.







What we accomplished with your gift:



Thirteen startups representing the best of the best in the Greek startup ecosystem were selected to travel to Austin, Texas to participate in SXSW from March 8-17, 2019, with the support of the Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media. The Hellenic Initiative, and the U.S. Embassy in Athens, in collaboration with the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and Industry Disruptors – Game Changers.





Junior Achievement Greece

JA Greece was established in 2005 as a non-profit organization offering educational programs on entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and skills building in both private and public schools in Greece. Since its launch the organization has trained approximately 80,000 Greek students aged 10-30 years, coming from public and private secondary schools and universities from around Greece. Doing so, it has earned an outstanding reputation for the added value it brings to the Greek educational system and has managed to change how entrepreneurship is perceived in the wider population. The Company Program is the organization's flagship educational program. It addresses high school students aged between 15-18. In the Company Program, students learn how to take a business idea from a conceptual and theoretical level to one based on reality and good practice. Each student is assigned specific responsibilities and has the obligation and opportunity to participate in the Company actively.



What we accomplished with your gift:



For a fourth consecutive year The Hellenic Initiative was one of the sponsors of the Company Program. This year more than 3,000 students from 160 public and private high schools took part in the program.





Accelerate Greece

The focus of Accelerate Greece is to drive innovation in Greece by supporting entrepreneurs in building the next wave of successful Greek tech companies through participation in an acceleration program in California. This program includes immersive workshops, breakout sessions, mentorship, networking, and introductions to potential investors. The program is week-long and designed to support entrepreneurs in Greece and accelerate their growth. It is held at the Eureka Building at Irvine California. Accelerate Greece brings together Greeks from the Diaspora who work in the broader U.S. startup world with tech entrepreneurs in Greece.

What we accomplished with your gift:



The Hellenic Initiative funds were used to cover expenses associated with travelling and accommodations in California during the days of the event for 3 startups from Greece. A small amount was also used to sponsor the Eureka Fest during the same days.







Cyprus Seeds

Cyprus Seeds was established in Cyprus in July 2018, as a non-profit organization, to help transition academic research from the university laboratory to the market-place. It aims to support research teams, comprised of faculty, Ph.D.s and Post Docs, from all the universities and research centers in Cyprus. It is a national program, independent of any university on the island. Cyprus Seeds will offer pre-seed funding, mentoring, training, and networking, and aims to support a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 10 projects, per year. Funding is in the form of grants ranging between €10,000 and €100,000 for each of the projects selected. The first funding period will run between June 2019 to June 2020.

What we accomplished with your gift:



The main sources of funding to Cyprus Seeds are donations. The initial donors are The Hellenic Initiative (THI), The A.G. Leventis Foundation, private corporations in Cyprus, including Eurobank and EY Cyprus, and individuals in Cyprus and abroad, including George David, Cypriot entrepreneurs and philanthropists.







The 5th Annual

VENTURE FAIR

Venture Fair Opens Doors and Inspires Young Entrepreneurs

The Hellenic Initiative opened doors to promising Greek startups with an opportunity to pitch their work to international and local investors with its Venture Fair on July 1.

THI, consistent with its vision to bring investment to Greece and support youth Greek entrepreneurship in this

critical economic period, organized the 5th Annual Venture Fair, which was held at Hilton Athens Hotel.

Recognizing that empowering entrepreneurs to succeed in Greece is vital to rebuilding the Greek economy, stimulating job creation, and promoting positive social change, THI succeeded in attracting even more investors this year.

THI officers and board members from Australia to America to



London travelled to Athens to meet the talented young people and some participated as judges in the competition. Picking a winner gets harder every year - judges were overheard saying all the candidates were impressive.

The Annual Venture Fair is one of THI's key efforts in Greece, focused on bringing growth and seed capital to the country's most dynamic and effective young innovators.

Launched in 2015, the Venture Fair offers a unique opportunity for young Greek entrepreneurs wishing to connect with prominent members of the international business scene, to pitch their ideas, share their successes, and present their business plans in front of investors from the

United States, Europe, Australia, and Canada.

The 11 participating startups of the 5th Annual Venture Fair were: Inomo, Excelon, Deliverback, Centaur Analytics, Beenova, Apiceuticals, Quanta and Qualia, PD Neurotechnology, MassiveGRID, Solmeyea, and Xtapod.

Venture Fair 2019 also included an informative talk about the challenges and opportunities for



"In THI we focus our efforts on helping Greece to bring out its best qualities and energies. Our experience with Venture Fair these past five years has shown us that there is tremendous talent among **Greek youth. By supporting** noteworthy efforts such as those of the Venture Fair startups, the Greek Diaspora proves its commitment to help reversing the brain drain, a vital element in building the country's future."





Greece's economic development led by Marcos Veremis and Nicholas Papapolitis, the leader the THI Corporate Ambassador's Program whose work is appreciated by Greek enterprises.

Kurt Heiar, the serial entrepreneur affiliated with the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center (JPEC), also addressed the gathering and expressed his enthusiasm for the young Greek entrepreneurs he meets and works with. Kurt Heiar is an lowa JPEC lecturer and CEO of 4 early-stage companies to date. It was through THI Executive Committee Member John Papajohn that Kurt first visited Athens back in 2014. Since then, Kurt's role has been instrumental in helping THI achieve even more on the ground when working with startups and the overall ecosystem. He is the ideal partner as he combines a business acumen together with a passion for teaching, mentoring, and training. Kurt has been active with Venture Fair since its launch helping participating teams throughout the years.

George P. Stamas, THI's Board President, welcomed the guests and set the tone: "In THI we focus our efforts on helping Greece to bring out its best qualities and energies. Our experience with Venture Fair these past five years has shown us that there is tremendous talent among Greek youth. By supporting noteworthy efforts such as those of the Venture Fair startups, the Greek Diaspora proves its commitment to help reversing the brain drain, a vital element in building the country's future."

Participants and cooperating groups were thanked and the young entrepreneurs were congratulated by THI Chairman and industrialist Andrew N. Liveris in his keynote address.

























VentureFair.gr

Participating Companies



peeuona



DELIVERBACK





massive GRID















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"We are glad you are there"

is a common refrain we hear from donors who learn of THI Canada for the first time.

They are motivated to support our mission and love the fact that we offer transparency, accountability and "boots on the ground" that identifies, qualifies and monitors where and how we spend their money. People also appreciate the fact that we are part of a global Hellenic diaspora project that is uniting our different countries behind the common cause of supporting our compatriots in Greece.

The past twelve months have seen THI Canada continue on a measured growth trajectory. We are growing organically our support base, our board and our reach. Besides strong bases in Toronto and Montreal, we are building a base in Calgary, Alberta with our first annual event taking place there in early October. It is humbling to have so many people

stepping up to support our mission both materially and with time and effort.

Our focus has and continues to be comparably low cost fundraising so that most of a donor's money is spent on delivering aid. We do this by donation campaigns and informal events that deliver our message effectively without a high cost. At the end of 2018, our cost per dollar raised was 0%. The plan is to continue minimizing the cost of our fundraising efforts including targeting Foundations and Planned Giving.

On the project side, we continue to search for and fund low cost/high impact projects in smaller centres that may fall below the radar of the better known charity providers in Greece. One such project is the Giannitsa Soup

Kitchen, of which more information follows. Going forward, we would like to collaborate with the other members of THI so that our support will have even more impact. We have already reached out to 8 Greek Canadian place of origin Associations in Toronto inviting them to participate in our efforts to provide food aid to schools in their regions.

Together with our donors and supporters, we continue to grow our capacity to provide high impact help to those most in need. We remain optimistic that as we become better known, our capacity to raise money will grow and increase our ability to help more people in need.

Lastly we extend a big Thank You to our Board Members and dedicated volunteers.

Prolepsis/Diatrofi

Prolepsis/Diatrofi provides daily meals to needy school-children throughout Greece. Unfortunately, for many children this is their only meal for the day. Through Prolepsis / Diatrofi we also provide daily meals to people affected by the Greek Wildfires in the summer of 2018.

The numbers: to date THI Canada has committed \$100,000.00 CAD to Prolepsis/Diatrofi programs:

The donation made possible the participation of 431 additional students attending 7 schools in underprivileged areas of Greece. Thanks to the THI Canada grant a total of 13.423 meals were offered to students in need.

SOS Children Villages Greece-Babies Home

SOS operates a series of "villages" that provide abandoned and orphaned children with a family environment. SOS Babies Home (SOS - ELIZA Home) in Athens focuses on the care and protection of abused babies and children up to 5 years old, providing education and social re-integration. It also provides psychological and social support for parents.

The numbers: to date THI Canada has committed \$100,000.00 CAD to SOS Children Villages Greece Babies Home:

Through the support of THI Canada SOS Children Villages Greece managed to cover the food needs for 36 SOS families and most specifically for 198 children and 36 SOS Mothers. The food aid support covered the need for

food for all our programs from April 2018 to December 2018

Additionally, through this donation the SOS Babies Home operated in Maroussi-Athens supported 25 children in total. Due to previous severe neglect, many of the children presented health problems and required systematic pediatric care. 5 children were hospitalized at the Pediatric Clinic of the Athens Medical Centre which offers its medical services for free on a 24-hour basis.

Doctors of the World Greece (MdM Greece)

The Hellenic Initiative-Canada supported three of the eight Open Polyclinics of Médecins du Monde Greek delegation by covering partially the needs for vaccines, medicines and medical consumable for the medical office. In its Polyclinics MdM provides vulnerable groups with consultation, examination, vaccination, social support, as well as referrals to secondary healthcare units.

The objective of this program is to ensure free access to primary healthcare for the most vulnerable individuals and those living below poverty line, as well as to socially excluded families, children and elders. This report covers the implementation and progress made in the MdM's Polyclinics of Athens, Patras and Chania supported by THI.

The numbers: to date THI Canada has committed \$100,000.00 CAD to MdM Greece programs:

A total of 30,149 medical consultations took place and 8,972 medications - prescriptions were provided to people in need.

Since the 1st of January 2019, the Hellenic Initiative - Canada supported the operation of the Dental Clinic of MdM in Athens through the implementation of the program "Dental Care for All: Support to the Homeless and Vulnerable Children". THI Canada's support enabled the Dental clinic to operate 5 times a week and has already treated 602 patients.

The Giannitsa Soup Kitchen

The Hellenic Initiative Canada (THI Canada) through a generous donation from the Eleni and Vasileios Ifandis Charitable Foundation supported the work of the Giannitsa Soup Kitchen, providing daily meals to 100 people in need with a grant of \$25,000 CAD.

People with no income or an annual income of less than 5,000 euros receive daily meals. People that cannot afford healthcare or medicine can register at the medical and pharmaceutical centre to receive medical care from volunteer doctors. 200 people are registered for free healthcare.

The "community supermarket" assists 150 families that have registered to receive help. People donate goods and food to the "market" and then everything is redistributed to those in need.











HOPE genesis

HOPEgenesis is a non-profit organization in the field of medicine that addresses the issue of low birth rates in Greece. Its mission is to provide comprehensive medical care and treatment for women who become pregnant until the day they give birth.





The Ark of the World (Kivotos tou Kosmou) is a Charitable Nonprofit Organisation providing special care and protection to mothers and children.

It is first and foremost intended and addressed to young unprotected children, most of whom come from single-parent families, and to many children without parents, who experience difficult circumstances, neglect, abandonment, lack of medical care and uncertain future.







London's Greek Community, with its close ties to Philhellenes in the United Kingdom, has been one of the diamonds in the crown of the Hellenic Diaspora for decades if not centuries.

Maintaining strong ties to the homeland from the start and helping Greece face every historic challenge and opportunity, the Community has now embraced THI, as was seen when over 400 guests attended THI's 4th Annual Gala at the Dorchester Hotel in London on May 23rd. The sold out crowd raised more than 250,000 GBP to fund THI's philanthropic work in Greece.

Event Co-chair and THI Board Member Nikos Stathopoulos along with fellow Co-chairs Constantine Logothetis and Princess Tatiana thanked the attendees for their generous support. THI Board President, George Stamas introduced THI Board Members who were in attendance, including Marianna

Vardinoyannis and Bill Doucas, and THI Executive Director Peter Poulos spoke about the work of THI's young professional group, The New Leaders.

The evening's honorees were Kivotos tou Kosmou, which was established in 1998 by Father Antonios Papanikolaou, and provides special care and protection to vulnerable mothers and children in Greece. Nikos Stathopoulos presented the award to Father Antonios, who accepted on behalf of the organization.

The second honoree was HOPEgenesis, a nonprofit organization founded in 2015 in the field of medicine that addresses the issue of low birth rates in Greece. Its mission

is to provide comprehensive medical care and treatment for women who become pregnant until the day they give birth. HOPEgenesis' is contributing to the revival, development, and increase of Greece's population. Dr. Stephanos Chandakas, HOPEgenesis' founder, accepted the award from Princess Tatiana on their behalf.

International recording star Antonis Remos and his band gave a very special performance, entertaining the sold out crowd until well after midnight.

A silent auction raised over 40,000 GBP, featuring fantastic prizes including stays at luxury Greek hotels like Mykonian Collection and Belvedere in Mykonos, jewelry from Vourakis, Kessaris, Serkos, and Katramopoulos, and one of a kind items from Mary Katrantzou, Vardas, Navarino Icons, and MePe Greece.

Greek food start-up sensation Carpo provided gift bags for all those in attendance.















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The Hellenic Initiative Australia has significantly expanded its activities and impact in the past 12 months, with a major increase in grants supporting vulnerable communities in need throughout Greece.

Since August 2018, THI Australia has committed AU\$328,000 to six NGOs, including three new program partners focused on the health and wellbeing of children in regional areas and people living on Greece's remote Aegean islands.

In January 2019, THI Australia also announced a new AU\$500,000 program for public health initiatives in Greece over the next five years, made possible through the generosity of leading Western Australian property investor, academic, and philanthropist, Con Berbatis and his wife, Rita.

The leadership gift, which makes the Berbatis family one of THI Australia's leading benefactors, signified a commitment to making public health a priority, following a decade of austerity and cutbacks in the health system. The program is being spearheaded by Dr. Helen Zorbas, the former CEO of Cancer Australia and member of the THI Australia Board.

THI Australia is committed to supporting programs beyond crisis relief and contribute to the generational change required to build a better future for Greece.

THI Australia continues to support Greek youth through

its Internship Program, which has provided 21 graduates from Greece with work and training opportunities in Australian companies.

Through THI Australia's Volunteering Program, now in its third year, more than 130 volunteers from Australia have assisted the Boroume Farmers' Market program, stepping up to lend a hand to help people in need.

THI Australia also continues to raise awareness of its activities and the ongoing need in Greece through events held across Australia. THI chairman Andrew N. Liveris was back in his hometown of Darwin for an engaging event hosted by THI Australia at the landmark 21-level Paspaley

headquarters on November 10, 2018. Key political, business and Greek community representatives enjoyed an engaging evening featuring Mr. Liveris in conversation with veteran journalist and newscaster, John Mangos.

Mr. Liveris also took part in THI Australia's *Rising to the Challenge – Greece at the crossroads of social change* conversation series in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth between September 9-12, 2019. Crisis as a catalyst for social change was the key theme of the events, which featured a panel discussion with THI Australia program partners, Desmos Vice-President, Lena Papalexopoulou and Emfasis Co-Founder, Maria Karra.









Saving lives on Greece's remote islands

Axion Hellas President Vasilis Pateras is acutely aware that thorough medical checks can save lives. Since 2016, Axion Hellas volunteer medical teams have travelled to some of Greece's most remote Aegean islands to provide residents with free health checks.



More than 50 specialist doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals have conducted thousands of examinations and medical tests at fully equipped temporary clinics set up on the islands during their annual volunteer missions.

"Very often we find problems, skin problems, heart problems, and I can say that Axion Hellas has helped to save lives," says Mr. Pateras.

"We've seen strange stories, like a 45-year-old woman who'd had three children who had not visited a gynaecologist before. We had a 60-year-old man who had a very serious problem with his heart. We escorted him to the nearest hospital because he needed a serious operation, which he had after a few days and it saved his life," Mr. Pateras recalls.

The Hellenic Initiative Australia has supported two Axion Hellas missions to assist people living in isolated island communities, through grants totalling AU\$100,000. More than 500 people were examined during the September 2018 mission to island of Psara and the Volissos region of Chios and 1,164 residents received health checks during a 10-day mission to Astypalea, Tilos, Halki, and Kastellorizo in April 2019.

Residents of these remote islands, particularly the elderly, face many challenges accessing medical care, especially during the winter months when ferry services are limited. Travel to bigger nearby towns, islands, or Athens hospitals can take days and be prohibitively expensive.

Axion Hellas provides comprehensive health checks, including blood tests, breast examinations, ultrasounds, dental checks, and eye tests (and can provide on-the-spot prescription glasses) and follows up with results.

"It is not an easy thing to save your life if you have a serious incident on those islands," says Mr. Pateras. "We believe that if you do all these tests you minimise the possibilities that can happen."

Axion Hellas' core team travel in a flotilla of 10-12 inflatable boats, which are integral to efficiently transporting equipment and volunteers between smaller islands.

Mr. Pateras is always moved by the welcome Axion Hellas receives from resident of the islands.

"We receive a lot of attention, a lot of love, and we give these people hope, which is very important."







THI Australia has renewed its support for Emfasis Foundation for a second year, enabling Emfasis to continue to help improve the living conditions of people living on the streets in Athens, where the need is as great as ever.

The AU\$35,000 grant covers the annual operation of Emfasis'

Mobile Support Unit (MSU), which supported more than 1,300 homeless and rough sleepers in Athens and Piraeus.

With the MSU's increased and regular presence in the field overall, Emfasis almost tripled the number of people assisted through its outreach programs during the As well as addressing people's immediate needs by distributing food and survival kits, Emfasis provides a critical link to social support services and ongoing support to help people find temporary housing and employment and reintegrate gradually into the community.

Desmos – Inspiring a new generation of citizens

For a second year, THI Australia has contributed AU\$30,000 to the progressive I Care & Act educational

and active citizenship among school children in Greece.
Implemented by the Desmos Non-Profit Foundation and the Lambrakis Foundation, the program inspires and empowers Greek youth to become civic-minded and engaged, motivating the communities and networks around them.

program, which is fostering a culture of volunteering

In the 2018-19 school year, 13,132 students and 1,111 teachers at 172 schools participated in the program. Through classroom learning and student-led volunteer activities in their local communities, children can experience the joy of giving and changing the society they live in.









Pedtrauma – Giving all children access to lifesaving care

More than 12,500 children have benefitted from major upgrades of regional hospital pediatric clinics last year, supported by THI Australia's AU\$60,000 grant to Pediatric Trauma Care (Pedtrauma).

Pedtrauma is providing children throughout Greece with access to lifesaving medical care by establishing Pediatric Trauma Centres and equipping pediatric clinics in under-resourced public hospitals.

The grant to Pedtrauma covered the purchase of key medical equipment for three regional hospitals that provide critical emergency and pediatric care for children – Kastoria and Ioannina in northern Greece, and the island of Kythira, south of the Peloponnese.

The upgraded Pediatric and Neonatal Clinics at the Kastoria General Hospital opened in September 2018 and the loannina facilities were inaugurated in



October 2018. Equipment for the Pediatric Trauma Centre at the General Hospital-Health Centre of Kythira, expected to be in place by October 2019, will benefit approximately 1,000 children annually.

Since 2010, Pedtrauma has spent more than €1.5 million establishing Trauma Centres and upgrading Pediatric Departments and Neonatal Clinics at 53 public hospitals and health centres throughout Greece, prioritising areas which are the most disadvantaged and lack basic equipment.





SOS Children's Villages Greece – Support for disadvantaged children in Patras



In March 2019, THI Australia President Nicholas Pappas attended the opening of SOS Children's Villages Greece' new Learning and Education Centre in the city of Patras, housed at the new SOS Social Centre, which supports local families facing economic hardship and unemployment.

THI Australia has provided AU\$32,000 to support the centre, which runs daily programs during the school year to help disadvantaged children with educational support and training, meals, family counselling, and a range of important support services.

The program aims to empower children facing adversity to build better futures for themselves and make a lasting impact on families participating.



Boroume – Saving & donating food to people in need

Following a major funding boost last year, the successful Boroume Farmers Market Program almost doubled the amount of fresh food collected in Athens and Thessaloniki for donation to people in need.

In 2018, more than 128,000 kilos of produce saved from weekly neighbourhood farmers markets supported 32 charities, including church and municipal soup kitchens, refugee shelters, and hospices for people with disabilities.

THI Australia is supporting the program a third year, providing an AU\$71,000 grant in 2018-19 to continue the expansion of the innovative and impactful food-saving initiative.

Last year's grant enabled Boroume to increase the number of participating markets to 21 in Athens and six in Thessaloniki. Another seven markets are expected to come on board over the next 12 months.

Since its inception in October 2015, the Farmers' Market Program has saved and offered more than 240,000 kilos of fresh produce, equating to approximately 960,000 food portions.









Australian companies providing opportunities for Greece's talented graduates

Alex Papamanuel was compelled to act after hearing about the plight of Greece's talented young graduates and the country's massive brain drain at a THI event in Sydney in 2017.

"When that was described that night, about young, educated Greeks having no opportunities back home because of lack of work, that really inspired us to get into this program," says the head Australia's largest polyurethane manufacturer, Era Polymers.

"We have a lot of chemical engineers working for us so it's not a big deal for us to us to offer another job to a young Greek, but it could mean the world to them and be lifechanging."

Within months, Markos Mavromatis, a 26-year-old graduate engineer from Athens started his first job in his field in western Sydney, through The Hellenic Initiative Australia's Internship Program. During his six months in the Era labs, Markos had the opportunity to work on developing a new product, which was on track to go to market, and become a valued member of the Era team.

"He brought what I see as the best of young Greeks," says Mr. Papamanuel. "He brought independence, he brought intelligence, and he brought a willingness to work and to embrace his new surroundings."

Markos is one of 21 Greek interns who have completed sixmonth paid internships across Australia since the launch of the Internship Program in 2015. Thanks to the generosity of host companies ranging from major banks to family-owned enterprises like Era Polymers, interns receive training and mentoring and return to Greece with new skills and outlooks.

For a company with a proud Greek heritage (Era is named after the patron saint of the family's ancestral island, Samos), the program "It has been a privilege to work in an Australian architectural firm with multi-scale projects and experience an ideal workplace and multicultural environment. The practical knowledge I've gained dayto-day has strengthened my skills as a young professional and it's been an incredible experience living and working on the Gold Coast. Thank you to Archidiom and to The Hellenic Initiative Australia for this amazing opportunity."

Alexandra Androutsopoulou,
 Architecture Intern

offered a unique opportunity to connect with Greece.

"It's always been a thought in our heads about having a Greek intern come out but we had no idea how to go about it without THI making that possible for us," says Mr. Papamanuel. "I am thankful for this initiative and the fact that it allowed us to be introduced to Marcos and hopefully we have helped each other in our own special way."





CHRIS GOULAKOS

Inspired by his grandfather, he aims to fire up young Greek entrepreneurs

In discussions with young entrepreneurial Greeks in the Diaspora, it is common to hear about their being inspired by their Forebears, especially the immigrant generation.

Chris Goulakos is a managing director at Balius Partners, a permanent capital investment company making value investments in the digital economy.

An important teacher and exemplar is his grandfather Christos Goulakos, who emigrated from Mani, Greece and now lives in Montreal, Canada.

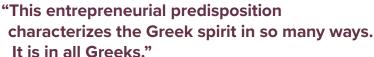
"It was to honor his legacy and values and the love of Greece he instilled in us that I became involved in THI," he said.

His grandfather also planted in him his respect for markets and entrepreneurship that is the foundation for his career - but he also inculcated the obligation to 'give back' - which also is why Goulakos thought THI is "unique in that it is really about supporting Greek entrepreneurship and a market solution to some of the issues ailing the country."

During World War II Christos Goulakos moved to Montreal where is more welcoming. Goulakos was drawn to THI because it is working to cultivate that spirit in the homeland too.

"The same upbringing with the same values have been instilled in all of us, yet one economic geography of a market-based capitalist system unlocks that potential and those innate virtues, and another, like that which has prevailed in Greece, with statist intervention and crony capitalism, prevents human flourishing."

When THI members share their success stories with young people in Greece, it kindles hope there.



his two uncles were working in hotels and restaurants. "He started by sweeping floors and bussing tables - he didn't speak or write a word of English but day by day made his way through Montreal society. He saved his money, enabling him to buy the building where his restaurant was located, and step by step he kept buying nearby buildings with his sons Socrates and George, creating a real estate portfolio that is still in the family three generations later." Hard work. Patience. Foresight

 the essence of capitalism. Goulakos learned how it is "the best path for prosperity

and growth," in a simple object lesson from the life of a humble immigrant.

"This entrepreneurial predisposition characterizes the Greek spirit in so many ways. It is in all Greeks," and it flourishes most in the Diaspora, where the soil

He became involved with THI five vears ago, "impressed by the vision. the market-focused mission, and the innovative approaches THI was undertaking to stimulate entrepreneurship in Greece. What THI created is impressive, but to make it work, you have to build out and have grassroots mobilization across the young generations in Greece and abroad."

He believes in building bridges fostering those dialogues and connections "where we can convey to peers across the Atlantic good ideas and best practices that we've learned in colleges and working for Fortune 500 level companies."

His ambition is for the New Leaders groups to grow and disperse in North America and spread to Greece through events like Venture Fair, which he thinks can generate teams of New Leaders that can mentor Greekdomiciled entrepreneurs while also acting as investor representatives for THI Board members, thereby creating horizontal bridges to contemporaries in Greece and vertical bridges within the THI organization.

THI will always have a special place in Chris' heart, as it was through the first Canadian event he organized in 2014 that led him to meet his future wife, Stephanie Stamas Goulakos.



JOHN CATSIMATIDIS, JR.

New Leaders Can Grow and Be Planted in More Cities

John Catsimatidis Jr., like many New Leaders, first learned about THI through his parents. "A few years ago they received an award and when I was attending the event I got to speak to the people who worked there. I learned about the causes it was engaged in and it just seemed like something I wanted to be involved with."

Well informed, Mr. Catsimatidis understands Greece's biggest challenges, and that THI's help would be critical. "A lot of people across the miles it makes THI's work more personal and tangible.

The new Greek government is an exciting development, he said, adding that from the outside it looks like Prime Minister Mitsotakis and his team are off to a good start, and that they appreciate what THI is trying to do.

"I was just in Greece for a week and it seems like people are more optimistic than they were when I visited last year. The real estate market and the economy both among business persons and in the Community at large, that we need to pull in." While he sees there is a great amount of awareness of THI in the cities with large Greek communities, he would like to see more New Leader groups throughout America and for "THI to organize more events to bring us all together."

"The real estate market and the economy as a whole are doing better and I don't think in the last ten years there has been a better time to invest in Greece."

have left Greece – especially the young. Greece is hurting and needs help and it's important that all Greeks outside the country to try to help."

He is most excited about THI's efforts to support the entrepreneurs who are creating companies that will attract back the young people who left.

"I had the opportunity to attend the 2018 Venture Fair and it was great meeting with all the young Greek entrepreneurs trying to build companies within Greece...some have quickly grown pretty large and it's very nice to see THI spotlighting the young entrepreneurs."

Mr. Catsimatidis is also interested in the Young Leaders in the Diaspora as a model for what can be done in Greece. "It is important to bring together the community of young people outside Greece, but I'd like there to be something like Young Leaders in Greece that could connect with the groups in the United States so that we can build even stronger bridges." He feels that by creating friendships

as a whole are doing better and I don't think in the last ten years there has been a better time to invest in Greece."

He believes that, "while a significant percentage of the Greek-American business community is involved in THI, there are even more people,



LOUIS LOIZOU

Excited About New Leaders in Europe

Investment Banker Louis Loizou has been in London for 19 years, beginning his career there after studies in econometrics, mathematics, and finance at Oxford and the London School of Economics. For the past seven years as a partner he has run Loizou & Co., a boutique management consulting firm. They provide services to the private sector – for example, helping companies expand their international operations – and to governments, including a current project advising the Cyprus Ministry of Finance on the privatization of the Stock Exchange.

world, addressing the challenges the economy faces through finance and economics. Asked if that is because of a family business background, he said "it is because I find it very fulfilling, especially when I sit down with family owners I am advising, helping them take their businesses to the next level, and particularly advising them on how to engage the next generations in running the companies. I find that extremely rewarding and fulfilling."

He noted that, "Cyprus after independence is now in its third generation of business ownership, and research shows that it doing, but the third sometimes finds itself disconnected, or not as strongly motivated to continue," so they explore the possibilities for selling.

It's not just about numbers, but flesh and blood and emotions and family dynamics - the stuff of great literature, which he loves. "I also read quite a few psychology books, and about how to deal with different personalities."

All these elements contributed to Loizou's interest in helping Greece and Cyprus move forward through THI's endeavors.

Mr. Loizou also contributes to the "... having been introduced to the New Hellenic community Leaders, I see it is a great opportunity as chairman of the to mobilize the young generation..." Hellenic Bankers Association in the UK. is the most crit-While many ical generation of his classmates for transferring took their math businesses to abilities into the younger famtheoretical ily members. The physics, he was first generation more interestbuilt the business. ed in connecting the second watched his knowledge diwhat their parents were rectly with the real

"Last year, after the wildfire disaster, the way that we viewed THI was that it was one of the most reliable charities outside of Greece for channeling donations, making sure that the money will go to the right places. THI has this good name."

He said that he was also driven to become more involved because "while we have seen THI grow very much in a short period of time, we have not seen the same in London, apart from the wonderful annual gala, but having been introduced to the New Leaders, I see it is a great opportunity to mobilize the young generation, which is the source of much of the passion for contributing to Greece and Cyprus - and we have seen a very good response."

Mr. Loizou was delighted with the kick start networking event at The Orange, a fine restaurant in London, and said, "we are looking forward to speaker series and panel discussions, and to connecting with other New Leader groups around the world, including new chapters that can be formed in Europe."

KATHRYN LAZARES

Reaching Out, Building Bridges to the Homeland

Kathryn Lazares is an attorney who grew up in Boston, where she attended law school and is now Assistant Vice President and Assistant General Counsel for Berkshire Residential Investments.

Her parents and most of her grandparents were born in the United States, but the family maintained Greek traditions in the home, especially during the holidays. Her older brother Nick is also a New Leader and works for a fintech company in New York. Her younger sister, Alexandra, works for Amazon, putting Kathryn in touch with cutting edge companies and technologies.

cultural events with philanthropic components. "It benefits our efforts because it brings in smaller donations but at a higher volume, while also being able to tie in some of these business initiatives with other cultural events and elements that are unique to Hellenism."

There are now people in communication with one another, she said, who can create environments where young entrepreneurs and artists and musicians feed off each other's energy and inspire each other to be bold and take risks — and raise funds. Now that the New Leaders have a strong foundation,

about THI and Venture Fair and we generated a lot of interest from people who were saying 'hey, I want to help. I've been looking for ways to get connected back to Greece."

Ms. Lazares acknowledged that the Diaspora is somewhat disconnected from Greece, but that people are seeking bridges. "We knew Greece was going through a crisis and we wanted to help – we just never knew how, and THI is a great avenue for us to do that...the most beautiful part of this is that...we can make a direct impact on Greece from the Diaspora and connect Greeks with the Diaspora all over the world."

"We told people about THI and Venture Fair and we generated a lot of interest from people who were saying 'hey, I want to help."

"My brother and I got involved though my dad, who is also named Nick, and who is good friends with George Stamas, who pulled him in early on, when they were setting their initial course. After getting involved my father told us 'this is something that could be interesting to you."

The siblings began attending events, like the gala in New York, and meeting more and more people, and "when it came time to start putting together the New Leaders, George Stamas reached out to me and my brother," she said.

The original goal was to undertake crowd funding for projects and to help launch Venture Fair – Kathryn and her brother were part of the core group that helped develop the concept and organize the event.

She has attended one Venture Fair, and was very impressed. "At the Fair, you meet a lot of entrepreneurial minds that are doing a lot of good things."

While she appreciates the generosity of THI's major donors, New Leaders also attracted Kathryn because it brings together younger people who are delighted to donate smaller amounts while attending



New Leaders Fundraise and Build Community

BOSTON

We hosted our second Boston
New Leaders fundraiser in
February of this year. The
community came out strong
to support Enaleia - Greece's
first fishing school and one
of The Hellenic Initiative's
grantees. Everyone gathered
at Saloniki Greek, drank Kleos
Mastiha and left with bags from
Olympiana Specialty Foods.









NEW YORK CITY

Our Annual NYC New Leaders fundraiser always sells out! This year, we had a record number of young professionals come out to support us in a two floor space at Amali NYC and our guests got to sample specialty Skinos Mastiha Cocktails.









WASHINGTON, D.C.

THI New Leaders launched in Washington D.C. in June! Our first fundraiser brought together many new faces. Board President George Stamas was in attendance and spoke to the crowd about our work. We look forward to growing this community!









LONDON

The Hellenic Initiative London community has been thriving for years and now it officially has its own New Leaders group! On June 27th we hosted our inaugural fundraiser benefitting Kivotos tou Kosmou and we had a wonderful turnout.









NEW YORK GALA

Our New York City Gala has always welcomed young people. Last year the New Leaders established their own Host Committee and now have the ability to purchase their own tables. The results are in and the 2018 gala saw a record number of New Leaders coming out, learning more, supporting the cause, and enjoying the evening. New Leaders are also an integral part of setting the event up as they volunteer their time and efforts to make the evening a success!









SPEAKER SERIES

On a spring May night, with a stunning NYC backdrop, New Leaders filled the room to hear Michael Psaros, Co-Founder and Co-Managing Partner of KPS Capital Partners, LP, and a member of THI's Board of Directors. The guests were inspired by Mr. Psaros presentation about how his #Greek heritage has helped him to prosper.









LOS ANGELES





THI New Leaders Innovation Night

At the intersection of Accelerate Greece, one of our grantee programs, and Eureka Fest, a tech/ creative festival, we were grateful to have hosted an Innovation Night on April 4, 2019 to launch our New Leaders in LA. That night, we were able to see some of THI's work in action as our teams from Accelerate Greece pitched onstage. We were also given the opportunity to introduce attendees to our organization and inform them about the varied types of aid we provide to the people on the ground in Greece.



























THI is partnering with corporations to create jobs and mentor a new generation of business leaders to help move Greece forward. Corporate Ambassadors' generous contributions help sustain the organization and fund its economic development and philanthropic programs throughout the calendar year.

All corporations are welcome to become THI's Corporate Ambassadors and contribute to our efforts. Please contact us to learn more about the donation levels and the benefits we offer.



Become a Corporate Ambassador at

thehellenicinitiative.org/corporate-ambassadors

Corporate Friends of THI -

An Avenue for Helping

In addition to ideas, relationships are the heart and essence of all great endeavors, and a worldwide organization like The Hellenic Initiative experiences both opportunities and challenges in drawing together the Hellenic Diaspora. International Lawyer Nicholas Papapolitis believes Corporate Friends of THI is a wonderful avenue not only for individuals, but for companies to be able to contribute to its philanthropic work.

Knowing the benefit to THI and the people it helps of building a variety of relationships, he wanted to establish corporate ambassadors for the organization, an idea that he shared with Andrew Liveris and Peter Poulos.

As Managing Partner of Papapolitis & Papapolitis, established 100 years ago and one of the biggest law firms in Greece – it is an international firm with offices in Athens and London – Papapolitis knows such an endeavor is appealing to companies because it falls within the broader corporate responsibility programs of corporations.

He also feels strongly that there are a number of ways besides financial contributions companies can assist with a great number of programs of THI, such as internship programs that spread

Nicholas Papapolitis

is drawn to THI's efforts to help build a New Greece because his family history is filled with stories of building and rebuilding.

the wealth of knowledge of various industry sectors for the benefit of the startups THI has assisted through Venture Fair and Venture Garden. Mentoring programs have also been discussed.

Nicholas Papapolitis is drawn to THI's efforts to help build a New Greece because his family history is filled with stories of building and rebuilding. Both his parents were Greek-Americans – his father, with roots in Smyrna, was born in New York, and his mother, who has Pontian roots, was born in Chicago. They later moved to Greece, where Nicholas was born. After studying in the UK, he worked in New York at the renowned law firm of Skadden, Arps from 2005-2007.

His ties to the United States remain strong and are reflected in his firm's support for the American Hellenic Chamber of Commerce. "It is the largest institution that helps Greece-U.S. relations in business and finance," said Nicholas, who is member of the Board of Directors and chairman of the Investment Committee.

Papapolitis & Papapolitis is also at the forefront of the effort to build a New Greece. They act as a hub for foreign investors in Greece, especially those in the United States, advising and assisting in some of the biggest transactions of U.S. companies and asset managers investing in Greece. That gives Nicholas a unique perspective on this vital dimension of Greek economic recovery.

Nicholas Papapolitis Chairman, THI Corporate Ambassadors

75

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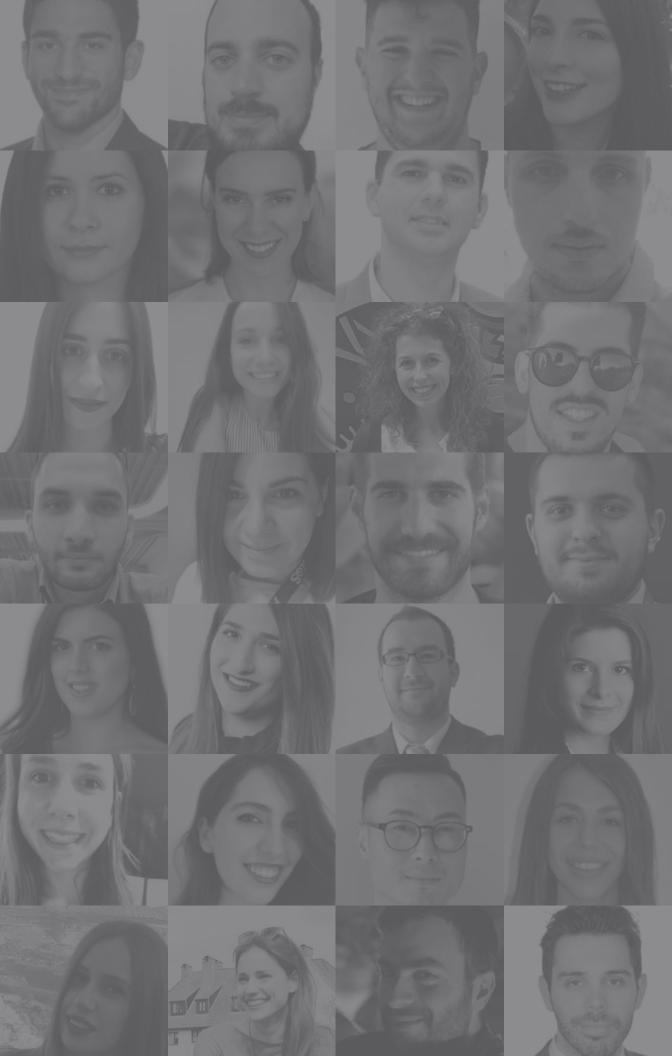














Anthi and Christos Lavidas Shine the THI Light in London

There are very dedicated and talented young people in the THI orbit who are proving that there are many ways for Diaspora Greeks to help build a New Greece.

They are fascinated by the startups that have successfully faced the challenges of doing business in Greece during the crisis and are excited about opportunities generated by THI to help them, including through mentoring and coaching.

Anthi and Christos Lavidas were born in Athens and moved to the United States as children, living in New Jersey before moving to London for their higher education. They studied together at Cambridge and after both started working in London Christos returned to America to earn this MBA at Harvard. They now live in London where Anthi is a physician and Christos works for a private equity firm.

Christos learned about THI from Greg Stamas, the son of THI Board President. George Stamas. As they become friends though their schools contacts, Christos was impressed with what he learned about THI and both siblings wanted to be involved. They "began by attending all the galas, in New York and London."

and graduated to helping organize the first New Leaders event in London.

"We were encouraged to do something in London by George Stamas, who put us in touch

"What THI does, which I appreciate, is the work of vetting and understanding where the money goes in terms of the charities they give to, so it's a really good channel through which to be able to give back."

-Christos Lavidas

with Peter Poulos. We reached out to young people who wanted to help and we found a venue called The Orange, which had a relaxed atmosphere the guests enjoyed. It was a very nice evening with young people who were interesting in helping out and meeting each other and having a nice time," Anthi said.

The aim was to raise awareness, but they also wanted to bring together and involve younger professionals for whom London Gala tickets were out of reach at the moment. "As we get older and more successful, down the line

we will become major benefactors," she said, but they wanted to start building now.

Inspired by the culture of 'giving back' that is stronger in the United States than in Europe," they wanted to get young people involved through the message "we are doing a good thing...we are getting together for good causes" - for example, supporting effective organizations like the beneficiary of that first event, O Kivotos tou Kosmou – Ark of the world, which helps abandoned children. "We were impressed by the clip about them at the London Gala," she said. "It was very moving to see its founder, Father Antonios Papanikolaou, talk about what they do."

"We are looking forward to developing a community here," Christos said, adding they are planning one more networking event before beginning more substantial fundraising efforts. "There is a lot of interest from partners and benefactors."

Christos noted that there "are a lot of young people who want to give back," and help Greece, but "there are not many obvious ways to do that. What THI does, which I appreciate, is the work of vetting and understanding where the money goes in terms of the charities

they give to, so it's a really good channel through which to be able to give back. Even if we are small here now, it's good to raise awareness so that people know that this is an organization they can trust in terms of giving back."

Antonis H. Diamataris Long Time Friend, Ready to Ramp Up THI's Relationship with Greece

Antonis H. Diamataris had been Publisher of the Ethnikos Kirix – The National Herald – for 40 years before he was appointed by new Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis as Deputy Foreign Minister with Responsibility for Greeks Abroad.

As a publisher and prominent member of the Greek-American community he was in a position to share with other leaders what he learned about THI. He was also pleased to be able to spread the word through the articles about what THI was doing for Greece and its people. The coverage helped build a knowledge foundation in the United States and Canada which helped THI develop and expand its reach.

Mr. Diamataris immediately grasped the importance of THI's mission. "As Publisher of The National Herald my daily concern was to help and promote as best I could the relationship between the Greek-American community and Greece, especially during the crisis years," he said during a THI visit to the Foreign Ministry, across the street from the Parliament building.

"First let me express my happiness and gratitude to the people who conceived the idea and organized The Hellenic Initiative in support of issues relating to Greece, most importantly in the financial and business sector, and especially for what they do to inspire, help, and give hope to the younger generation."

He explained that "it pained me that the 'organized' Diaspora would not or could not do more, so that when THI was established, with the kinds and quality of people who were involved, I saw that it could develop into something important, and it did. I have followed the work of THI since the beginning and I have nothing but respect and admiration for what they do. I worked especially well under the leadership of past



"I want to emphasize once again that THI has offered substantial services to Greece, but working with someone in the government like myself who has lived in America 50 years and is familiar with its people and its circumstances, THI will be able to contribute even more."

-Antonis Diamataris

Executive Director Mark Arey, and that continues with Peter Poulos.

Noting that in his new capacity he can do more, he added, "I want to say that we and the new government of Greece, which is pro-business and pro-West, are here to work with THI in any way we can. I want to emphasize once again that THI has offered substantial services to Greece, but working with someone in the government like myself who

has lived in America for 50 years and is familiar with its people and its circumstances, THI will be able to contribute even more regarding whatever issues and areas I can help with, and if I can bring the leaders and administrators of THI into communication with additional members of the Greek government, I am here to do anything I can. It would be my joy – it is my job, and it is, I believe, what I came here to do."

James Mallios and Friends Rise to the Occasion and Support Greek Wildfire Relief

Attorney James Mallios and his Greek friends and colleagues where strongly shaken by the news about the wildfires in Greece last year. "We kept talking about how we should do something" – but like many in the Diaspora, they hesitated, "because you never know where the money is going to go."

They would not let that be the last word, however. The people they spoke to about what they wanted to do included Father Alex Karloutsos, who told Mallios, "you must go to The Hellenic Initiative."

Mallios said, "the recommendation was so resounding, with the ability of THI to do things across the board," for Greece, that he and his partner Nicola Kotsoni, who was familiar with THI, made the decision to join in its efforts.

Together they run a restaurant consulting business, and they also

operate separate groups of restaurants, and between them they were able to secure the participation of numerous restaurants in a successful campaign that devoted a substantial portion of their gross receipts for a day to groups supported by THI.

He also hosted a New Leader Networking with a Purpose event at his wonderful Amali restaurant in New York.

The compassion he felt for those who lost homes and loved ones in the fires has deep roots. Most of his family are the descendants of refugees – his father is an Epirote who escaped from Albania as the border was slamming shut during the Cold War and his grandfather was from Constantinople and narrowly escaped Turkish atrocities in the Early 20th century. He also has a grandmother from the island of Naxos.

"What I like about the organization is that while there is a reverence for the past and Hellenic values, it also feels very modern becuse it's addressing matters that are today's issues in a way that makes them approachable to people in the United States."

THI also enables people to feel a stronger connection with Greece. Greek-American young professionals who are New Leaders in the United States are also able to connect with Greek professionals and businesspersons and help them by mentoring the young and guiding the more established who want to grow their businesses and connect with international markets. That makes THI feel relevant and contemporary for Greek Americans, Mallios said.





THE HELLENIC INITIATIVE

Help us in our efforts to provide direct crisis relief to the people of Greece.

thehellenicinitiative.org/donate







Some are born Greek, some are transformed into Hellenes by love – first falling in love with a Greek person, and then with the country – like Princess Tatiana.

Born in Venezuela and growing up in Switzerland, Princess Tatiana did not imagine a life for herself in Greece until she met Prince Nikolaos.

Her resume is built on a foundation of scholarship and business acumen, but it is crowned by labors of love, endeavors whose aim is to help her beloved Greece and its people.

After graduating from Aiglon College in Switzerland and receiving her BA in Sociology from Georgetown University she joined Diane von Furstenberg's fashion house as public relations consultant and event organizer, and before that she had held similar positions in London. Princess Tatiana has a passion for natural and healthy living which she expresses through her philanthropic and entrepreneurial work, first abroad, and now in Greece

She co-founded ELPIDA Youth, a branch of the Association of Friends of Children with Cancer – ELIPIDA. She also teamed up with BOROUME – WE CAN, a non-profit organization that runs an extensive meals donation program, on a special cookbook project. Most recently she joined Lemon Tree as VP of Business Development – working to secure strategic partnerships for growth in order to bring agricultural projects to refugee communities and conflict areas around the world.

Among the joys Princess Tatiana has discovered since moving to Greece are its many talented young people. "When I moved here from London in 2013 after my marriage I did not know what to expect. Most young people were leaving Greece, but many remained. One of the things that I love about my time in Greece is meeting all these young, super-entrepreneurial and innovative young people creating incredible new brands. It was extremely inspiring to see the creation of small businesses and grass roots organizations and to see them coming together, working together, thinking outside the box."

"The Hellenic Initiative is helping to harness that entrepreneurial spirit and help it grow," she said, which prompted her to become a THI Board member.

Being born in Venezuela - though her family moved to Switzerland when she was four -Princess Tatiana embraced moving to Greece and began working on various projects, which allowed her to meet and work with many young Greeks affected by, but not stopped by the crisis. "One of my outlooks in life is to look at challenges and see them as an opportunity for change - some see only a wall, others find ways to climb the wall and see what is on the other side - that is what impresses me about all Greeks, especially in the Diaspora, and now in Greece."

Even those Greeks who have gone to other countries are more inclined to return than the youth of other nations – they stay in touch with family, friends, and colleagues though laptops, cell phones, and inexpensive air travel. And they are paying attention to friends and others who are building companies – and organizations like THI that are helping them – that they hope will be their tickets back home.

"When I joined THI, I felt it was a great honor, to be among such a distinguished group of Board Members. I am not Greek by birth, but I feel there is a little bit of Greek in me."

Young Greeks hoping to stay or return are buoyed by the cultural riches and beauty their country offers, giving credence to those who believe that the net effect of the need to seek jobs abroad will not be a brain drain, but a brain gain when they return with knowledge and expertise to opportunities created by their peers at home.

"The word that I use is 'magnetic' – Greece has something magnetic and it pulls people back over and over again. When I meet people abroad and tell them I moved to Greece, they tell me either that it is their dream to go there or to come back."

"When I wrote my cook book," she said, "A Taste of Greece: Recipes, Cuisine & Culture, which attracted contributions from more than 42 people including Rita Wilson, Jim Gianopulos, Dean Karnazes, and Olympia Dukakis

- they were not all Greek, but they love this country - I asked them three questions when I interviewed them. 1) What does Greece mean to you; 2) What is your favorite Greek food; and 3) What's your fondest memory of Greece."

Princess Tatiana was moved to learn how deeply personal the third question was for people. "In everyone's answers there was a sense of nostalgia – be it a foreigner who only spends one week in Summer here, or someone in the Diaspora who only knows the country from hearing about it from their grandparents. And I experience it now too when I travel."

Perhaps the elements of Hellenism they grew up with outside Greece, in the art and architecture they experience, in the literature and history they read, makes a first visit feel like a homecoming, even to non-Greeks.

"And the welcome they receive," evokes that feeling she said.
"The word Philoxenia is a huge part of why I fell in love with this country. I have never experienced people welcoming me so warmly, people literally opening their doors – opening their hearts – and I am extremely grateful."

Her husband Nikolaos was not born or raised there either, but he was raised Greek, she said. "He grew up speaking Greek – he's as Greek as they come – and it was his lifelong dream to live in Greece, so when we talked about it, we looked at each other and said, 'ok, let's go."

She first encountered Greece at the age of five, accompanying her parents on a sailing trip around the islands. "But my first real experience of Greece was coming with Nikolaos for a few months in summer in 2003 and I fell in love. I watched every sunset and every sunrise."

Becoming a THI Board member has further broadened her Hellenic outlook, meeting people in the Diaspora. "I travelled throughout Australia with THI – six cities in twelve days of fundraising," and to her it was amazing that "people who are so far away are still unbelievably rooted in Greece."

A Greece that is now her home.







A Natural

A Tribute to NIKOS MOUYIARIS

"I am one who strongly believes in the power of the Greek spirit."

—Nikos Mouyiaris

Nikos Mouyiaris was considered a natural entrepreneur' – as a boy in Atheniou, Cyprus, he sold candy to his classmates and bought eggs from the local village women, packaged them, and sold them to merchants for a profit – but his early life in his homeland also revealed him to be a 'born philanthropist'.

Nikos could not bear for the fruits of his gifts and skills to be enjoyed only by himself. He wanted his talents and efforts to also benefit others, a spirit that motivated his joining the endeavors of The Hellenic Initiative.

His enthusiasm for THI initiatives that help not only generate resources and opportunities for young entrepreneurs in Greece and Cyprus but also provide mentoring that molds them into leaders was mirrored in Mouyiaris' youth by his funding a cooperative helping women to not only start their own businesses but to also become leaders in their communities.

Because of his honest acknowledgement that good fortune played as great a role as his hard work and ability in his self-made life, giving back was as important to him as making fine products and building a great company.

A gifted scientist as well as a shrewd businessman, Nikos epitomized the American Dream. As a poor student from Cyprus he emigrated to the United States in the 1970s and founded Mana Products, Inc. with \$6,000 he borrowed from his brother. The company became one of the world's leading contract and private label cosmetics manufacturers.

A quiet, unassuming man who

impressed as much with his modesty as by his achievements, Nikos became a visionary business and community leader, earning him the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

In addition to focusing on what could be done to help Greece and Cyprus emerge from their economic crises as quickly as possible, Nikos was also passionate and steadfast in his support of their other national and international issues, and their diaspora communities. He was the Founder of the pioneering Hellenic American Leadership Council (HALC), served on the boards of the Pancyprian Association of America and the Coordinated Effort of Hellenes, and was a strong supporter of many other organizations. His philanthropic endeavors included the Elytis Chair at Rutgers, Children's SOS Villages in Greece, Paradise 4 Kids, an Ebola orphanage in Sierra Leone, and the Malaika Foundation, which educates young girls in the Congo.

In his early days, Nikos incubated some of today's leading brands. Supporting entrepreneurship and beauty innovation made Nikos a highly respected industry leader, prompting a pay-it-forward philosophy, a personal and humble philanthropy that has helped hundreds, if not thousands, of people.

And his love of Cyprus and Greece new no bounds.

"I am one who strongly believes in the power of the Greek spirit," he told The National Herald. "I am one who believes in Greek values." He envisioned – and worked hard to engender – a Diaspora that would be a force that "can truly help Cyprus and Greece to do better."



Founder of Mana Products.

Inner Beauty Expressed in Action

In Memory of ALEXANDER NAVAB



"Beauty is not in the face; beauty is a light in the heart."

—Kahlil Gibran

There is a beauty on the surface that makes one look at a face. But there is a beauty like Alexander Navab's which makes one see deep into a soul. This beauty is from within and colors everything with its glow.

Alex devoted himself to causes that he believed in, deeply. In his own words his life advice to others were: "Rely on faith, value family, cultivate long-term friendships, embrace change, be grateful for both your blessings and your hardships, and give back to those in need."

He learned these lessons very early from his parents' own example. Alex was born the first of four children to a Greek American mother, Katina Armenakis, and an Iranian medical doctor father, Dr. Ali Navab. The birth of his siblings, Pericles, Aphrodite, and Demetra followed soon after.

His parents were the first to teach Alex about the value of education, healthcare, cultural diversity, compromise, faith, family, friends, embracing change, and giving back to those in need.

Alex's first language was Persian/Farsi, but Greek language, food, and music enveloped his childhood memories. For the first fourteen years of his life, he spent ten months in Iran and two summer months in Greece, embracing both of his parents' cultures and families in harmony.

In 1979 the Islamic Revolution disrupted his homeland. His parents decided that they would be safer in Greece, but this decision had a horrible price: Alex's father was stopped at the airport and had

to stay behind in Iran. The family waited for him in Greece for two years. This was a trying time for the family, but particularly for Alex, who stepped in as head of the family at 14 years of age.

For Alex and his family, Greece was a refuge of safety and freedom. His gratitude was so profound that it later inspired him join the Executive Committee of The Hellenic Initiative because he wished to support economic renewal in Greece through philanthropy, entrepreneurship, and economic investment.

His father's professions as physician and educator also inspired Alex to support the institutions that gave him so many opportunities, and to creating those opportunities for others. He joined the Board of Trustees at New York-Presbyterian Hospital and the Columbia University Board of Trustees. He also served as Chair of the Board of Visitors at Columbia College and on the Board of Dean's Advisors at Harvard Business School.

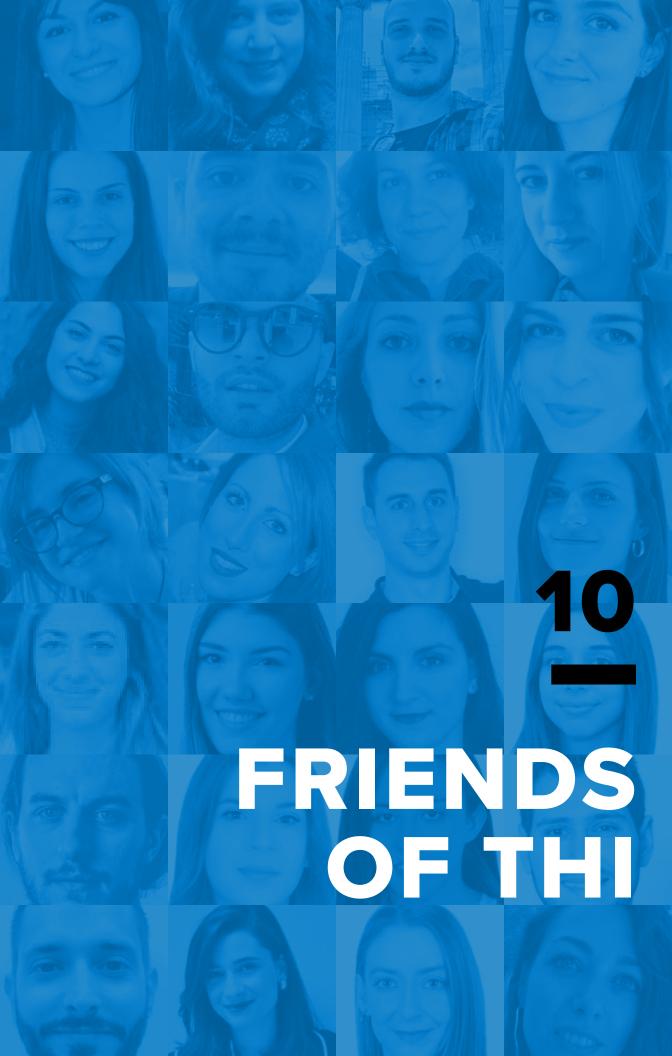
Alex is survived by his wife Mary Kathryn, with whom he shared a bond of love, faith and devotion, and three remarkable children, Julian, Arabella and Neva, for whom he felt limitless affection.

Despite his extraordinary life experiences, nothing was more important to Alex than family. Through all the days of his life, those who Alex loved were protected by his warm and shepherding hand. His family will feel his presence and guiding spirit forever.



THI deeply thanks the Navab family for sharing their thoughts and memories about Alexander, some of which we presented above. Everlasting be his memory.





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Inspired by the growing excitement over the celebration of Greece's upcoming Bicentennial, we have created The 1821 Society as a unique body of individuals within the THI family.

1821 Society members make an annual financial gift to support the work of THI. Gifts may be paid all at once or monthly.

1821 marks the year that Hellenes began the military campaign to gain their independence from the Ottoman Empire. With help from the Diaspora and Philhellenes, that independence was achieved.

The 1821 Society is a new 'Philiki Eteria', the secret society founded in 1814 that helped struggling Hellenes establish modern Greece.

The current financial crisis in Greece has led to both struggles and opportunities similar to those faced by our ancestors.

Please join us, as a member of the 1821 society, honoring the memory of our ancestors, and helping pull Greece out of its current crisis by helping those building a New Greece.

Members' generous contributions invest in the startups that have begun to make the world notice and sustain the organizations and NGOs that are making an impact on the ground in Greece, funding programs throughout the calendar year.

To learn more about the 1821 Society and how you can become a member, please visit

thehellenicinitiative.org

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