

# The Hellenic Initiative

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#THI

#OliMazi

#GreeksHelpingGreeks

#TheHellenicInitiative

# **About THI**

THI is a global, secular institution founded 10 years ago with a simple but profound mission: to mobilize the Greek Diaspora and Philhellene communities worldwide to invest in the future of Greece. Since our founding, we have invested approximately \$20 million in programs focused on entrepreneurship, job creation, economic development and crisis relief in Greece.

# THI Vision / Mission Statement

The Hellenic Initiative is a global nonprofit organization that brings together Diaspora Greeks and Philhellenes to invest in the future of Greece through programs focused on crisis relief, entrepreneurship, and economic development.



# THE HELLENIC INITIATIVE

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# **Executive Committee**



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Honorary Chairman, 42nd President of the United States



Andrew N. Liveris, Chairman

Former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, The Dow Chemical Company



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Senior Partner, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP



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President, Marwick Associates



**Dean Dakolias** 

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John D. Georges

Chief Executive Officer, Georges Enterprises



**Father Alexander Karloutsos** 

Honorary Advisor



# **Muhtar Kent, Emeritus**

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Chief Executive Officer, Calamos Investments



**Nikos Koumettis** 

Europe Middle East & Africa (EMEA) Group President, The Coca-Cola Company



George M. Logothetis

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Libra Group



**Dennis Mehiel** 

Chairman and Chief Executive
Officer. Four M Investments. LLC



John Pappajohn, Emeritus†

Founder, Pappajohn Capital Resources



Michael G. Psaros

Co-Founder and Managing Partner, KPS Capital Partners, LP



Marianna V. Vardinoyannis

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



**Harry Wilson** 

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

† Memory Eternal, April 23, 2023



# THE HELLENIC INITIATIVE

### A Letter from the Executive Committee

Greetings Friends. The year 2022 marked the 10-year anniversary of The Hellenic Initiative. Throughout the history of Hellenism and the Greek nation, the Diaspora have answered the call to support Greece in its time of need. And in 2012, when Greece was suffering the worst financial crisis of any mixed economy in modern history, the Diaspora again answered the call... and The Hellenic Initiative was born.

THI began with a "megali idea" – to unite the modern Diaspora for Greece on a global scale, invest in Greece's economic recovery and provide crisis relief to offset the massive accompanying human crisis. Our Founders' inspiration came not from a sense that the Diaspora "know better," instead from a feeling that Greece's struggles are our struggles, and its triumphs our triumphs. With this inspiration and your help, what THI has accomplished in these first ten years has exceeded everyone's expectations, even those of our Founders who assembled at the Grande Bretagne Hotel in July 2012, a decade ago.

Our 10th Anniversary was a year of gratitude for the THI family – now numbering in the tens of thousands - who have made the last 10 years possible. It was also a year of looking forward and planning for a scaling of our impact in the decades to come.

The highlights of 2022 included the following:

- Over \$1.1 million deployed in Greece, the highest year of THI's grant-making since 2016,
   while maintaining a financial cushion of over \$1 million;
- Record-breaking funds raised at THI's New York Gala, \$2.2 million;
- Record-breaking funds raised at THI's London Gala, \$326,000;
- Launch of THI's Plant a Tree in Greece initiative with a goal of planting 1 million trees in Greece:
- THI's first major Athens event ATHINA22, a 2-day celebration, including THI's 6th Annual Venture Fair, and a celebration at the Zappeion Megaron attended by over 550 people;
- Continued growth in our New Leaders community, with new chapters opened in London, Athens, San Francisco, Boston, and Philadelphia, and plans laid for Miami and Chicago;
- Prime Minister Mitsotakis's historic address before Congress, an event in which all of our Diaspora organizations came together to celebrate the new Greece and lend support.

Our growth in this first decade and our expansion in 2022 would not have been possible without the generosity of our many donors. Thank you for entrusting us to steward your generous contributions and for making our mission possible. Here's to all we will accomplish together in the next decades.

Oli Mazi

# **Board Members**



Maria Allwin
Philanthropist



Dimitris Georgakopoulos

Co-founder and Managing Partner
Outseta LLC



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Area Chairman, Gallagher Risk
Management Services



Constantine Karides
Senior Partner, Reed Smith LLP



Peter Barris
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Lieutenant Governor of California



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Chief Investment Officer,
Calamos Investments



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Chief Executive Officer,
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**Theane Evangelis** 



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Chief Executive of Consumer Bank,
Westpac Group



James Neary
Senior Partner, Warburg Pincus

# **Board Members (continued)**



Nicholas G. Pappas

President,
Nicholas G. Pappas & Co.



Managing Partner and Member,
Investment Committee of BC
Partners



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Philanthropist



George Svokos

Senior Vice President, Sales, and General Manager, API at Albany Molecular Research Inc.

# **International Ambassadors**



Princess Tatiana
Co-Chair, International
Ambassadors



Peter J. Poulos
Co-Chair, International
Ambassadors



Giannis Antetokounmpo
Professional NBA Player,
Milwaukee Bucks



Arianna Huffington
CEO and Founder, Thrive Global

# **Staff**



Tina Courpas

Executive Director



Christina Maroulis
Executive Assistant



Michael Printzos

Director of Programming



Athena Kokinakis Intern



Artemis Kohas

Director of
Community Development



Nick Tsismenakis, CPA

Controller



Maria Papastathi
Deputy Director of Development



Dean Sirigos
Contributing Editor



Xeni Kouveli
Social Media Manager



John Mindala

Design Consultant, Mindala Design



Tania Myrsioti
Social Media Assistant Manager



Constantine N. Skarvelis
Secretary



# TEN YEARS OF IMPACT



# **Economic Development**

Since inception, THI has directly invested \$11.7 million in Greece through 228 grantees focused on economic development, entrepreneurship and job creation. Our impact includes:



# Regeneration:

Through THI's support, over 3,000 Greek youth placed in jobs



# Venture Garden:

Over 700 Greek start-up business plans evaluated. THI has supported over 150,000 training hours provided to entrepreneurs (finance, budgeting, marketing, strategic planning)



# THI Venture Impact Awards:

Over \$585,000 awarded to 32 promising Greek start-ups



# Venture Fair:

Over 60 Greek start-ups have presented to over 1,000 global investors in six American-style pitching competitions sponsored by THI



# Cyprus Seeds:

Bringing Cypriot research projects from universities to the market place; 4 company spin-offs complete



# **Envolve Greece:**

THI has funded 31 Greek start-ups in 19 sectors



# Athens Partnership:

THI invested \$235,000 to fund priority projects in Athens



# Accelerate Greece:

THI funded Greek entrepreneurs to participate in one-week training in Silicon Valley



# MIT Enterprise Forum:

THI supported the connection of Greek entrepreneurs with the Boston startup community

# **Crisis Relief**

Since inception, THI has directly deployed \$6.8 million through 132 grants focused on crisis relief in Greece. Our impact includes:



# Together for Children:

With THI's support, has assisted 30,000 children living in poverty in Greece



# SOS Villages:

THI sponsored a refugee village in Athens for Ukrainian refugees who have fled to Greece



# **ELIZA:**

Through ELIZA, THI supported the first hotline for reporting of child abuse in Greece, and training module for intake of cases



# Metadrasi:

Launched and operated refugee relief sites on the islands of Lesvos, Samos and Chios



# Elpida Hospital:

Created Greece's first children's oncology hospital, still in operation



# Galiliee:

Created first hospice care unit in Greece, still in operation



# **Olympic Games:**

THI supported 20 Greek and Cypriot athletes, who otherwise would not have been able to fund training for the 2020 Japan Olympics



# Greek Fire Service:

THI purchased 2 fire trucks for underserved areas of Greece affected by wildfires



# We4ALL:

By Spring 2023, THI will plant over 14,000 trees in Evia, Attica and Chios to reforest and restore livelihoods lost in the 2021 wildfires



# THE HELLENIC INITIATIVE



# PROGRAM UPDATE

In the 10 years since inception, THI has deployed

# \$20.1 MILLION

in Greece through 250 grants. THI's mission consists of two strategies: economic development and crisis relief.

Economic development grants fund programs related to job creation and entrepreneurship and support Greece's start-up ecosystem. Economic development comprises 60% of total dollars deployed. Crisis relief programs related to food insecurity, homelessness, wildfire relief and other humanitarian needs in Greece comprise approximately 40% of total dollars deployed.

These funds are deployed to a wide variety of best-in-class NGOs and non-profits operating in Greece.

In 2022 and because of the support of thousands of Greek Diaspora and Philhellenes around the world, THI deployed the most significant amount of capital in its history while also maintaining a sound financial cushion.

# THI 2022 Grants

# At-A-Glance

<b>Economic Development, Job Creation, Entrep</b>	<u>oreneurship</u>
Venture Impact Award (start-up competition)	\$110,000
ReGeneration (job placement)	\$100,000
Greek Youth Symphony (employ musicians)	\$100,000
Cyprus Seeds (commercialization of startups)	\$60,000
Stewards Program (new corporate structure)	\$50,000
Odyssea (job placement)	\$50,000
Prince's Trust International (job training)	\$25,000
VentureFair Prize (pitching competition)	\$25,000
Connect the Dots (mentoring platform)	\$7,661
Total Economic Development:	\$527,661
Crisis Relief	
We4all (Plant a Tree in Greece, wildfire relief)	\$150,000
Greek Food Bank (hunger)	\$60,000
ELPIDA (children's cancer hospital)	\$50,000
Desmos Project (supplies, wildfire relief)	\$50,000
SOS Villages (shelter, Ukrainian Refugees)	\$40,000
Together for Children (Ukrainian Refugee support)	\$40,000
Greek Fire Service (fire equipment, wildfire relief)	\$35,510
ELEPAP (families in poverty)	\$28,329
Breathe (free mental health across Greece)	\$25,000
Cyclades Preservation Fund (sustainability)	\$25,000
FoodOn (job placement, homeless)	\$25,000
WiseGreece (hunger, Easter Appeal)	\$22,038
Apiceuticals (replacing bee hives, wildfire relief)	\$21,062
METAdrasi (homeless shelter)	\$15,000
National Hellenic Student Assoc. (beach cleanup)	\$5,000
Total Crisis Relief:	\$591,939
Total 2022 GRANTS:	. \$1,119,600

# **Economic Development**



# Venture Impact Award

Founded in 2020 and run by THI, the Venture Impact Awards Program is an annual series of awards providing direct financial support to Greek early-stage startups. Teams are vetted on their overall ability to generate financial results while demonstrating impact at large for Greek society. Grants are awarded to all of those seeking capital to expand, create new jobs in Greece or address social and/ or environmental problems. The awards were established with the support of the Charles C. Condes Trust and the Helidoni Foundation. In 2022, Microsoft joined THI in sponsoring the awards.

# What we accomplished with your gift:



The Venture Impact Awards were held in 2020, 2021 and 2022, and have supported a total of 37 winners with \$645,000 in prize funding. The winning teams have represented a wide array of sectors important to the Greek economy including agro/food, environment, computer science, education, recycling/upcycling, healthcare, eco-mobility, bio composite materials, cosmetics, social innovation and microfinance.

\$110,000 Grant











\$30,000 Winner

\$30,000 Winner

\$20,000 Winner

\$20,000 Winner

\$10,000 Winner



# REGENERATION"

# ReGeneration

ReGeneration is Greece's largest human resources firm, formed in a joint venture between THI and the Coca-Cola Company to reverse Greece's "brain drain." Regeneration places college-educated Greeks under age 29 in six-month paid job placements to launch their careers. In over 92% of cases, these placements turn into permanent positions. The program provides extensive training programs to up-skill, re-skill and train candidates for employment.

# What we accomplished with your gift:



Since its launch in 2014, ReGeneration has created over 3,000 youth placements in the job market, working with more than 1,080 companies and unlocking more than 22 million euro in salaries. The program has offered approximately 730,000 hours of soft and hard skills training, as well as 300,000 hours of up/re-skilling through its general and bespoke ReGeneration academies.

\$100,000 Grant



# Greek Youth Symphony Orchestra

The Greek Youth Symphony Orchestra is Greece's only national youth orchestra, comprised of young Greek musicians. GYSO provides a vehicle for talented Greek musicians to develop their artistic careers in Greece. To date, GYSO has given 17 concerts with the participation of more than 200 Greek musicians from 35 different cities in Greece and abroad.

### What we accomplished with your gift:



THI was one of the main sponsors of a large concert given in Athens Megaron Music Hall in May 2022. THI funds will also support the orchestra's 2023 summer tour, including appearances at the Corfu International Festival, and Young Euro Classic Festival in Berlin.

\$100,000 Grant







# Cyprus Seeds

Cyprus Seeds supports the commercialization of research projects with strong IP value and global market potential in Cypriot universities and research institutions. The program provides funding and mentoring to transition research projects from the laboratory to the marketplace.

# What we accomplished with your gift:



Since its launch in 2018, Cyprus Seeds has supported 13 research teams. Three companies in the Cyprus Seeds Program have had commercialization events. Two companies have spun out of the public University setting (the first of their kind in Cyprus). The third secured two sponsored research agreements totaling \$500,000 of funding and optional licensing agreements with two biotech companies based in the United States.

# \$60,000 Grant



# **Stewards**

Stewards is a nonprofit entity with the mission to assist Greek enterprise organizations to adopt the innovative steward-ownership structure, an alternative to conventional company ownership models. Companies operating under this model allow the voting rights to be always held by people who work in the company while profits generated are reinvested in the company. This concept harnesses the power of entrepreneurship while preserving a company's essential goal which is to create products and services that deliver societal value.

# What we accomplished with your gift:



THI funds were used to cover expenses associated with structuring, framework and launching the Stewards model in year 2023.

# \$50,000 Grant

# O odyssea

# Odyssea

Odyssea supports vocational job creation and training for young Greeks (ages 18-34) who are from disadvantaged groups, low income, refugees or migrants, and are not in education or employment situations. Odyssea provides hard and soft skill vocational training and employment placement services.





THI's grant funded Odyssea's operations and provided funds for training and placement. Odyssea's goal is to place 45% of its clients in jobs.

\$50,000 Grant





# Prince's Trust International

# Prince's Trust International

PTI was founded in 2015 by HM King Charles III to address the global crisis in youth unemployment. PTI has supported over 45,000 young people to find jobs since its inception, working in 17 countries, including Greece.



# What we accomplished with your gift:



THI funds were used in support of employability and enterprise projects based on Crete and the Dodecanese islands to support young people not in employment, education or training to find work or start their own businesses. The target is to support over 200 young people (aged 18-35) – with 70% of them achieving a positive outcome – to either become employed, move into education or start a business. The funds for this grant were raised at THI's 2022 London Gala.

\$25,000 Grant



# Venture Fair

The Venture Fair is a THI-founded annual competition in Athens m which brings together investors from across the globe for a pitching event featuring a selection of Greece's most promising startups. Companies seeking to raise \$2-5M are selected from applicants across Greece. THI trains the teams to prepare their pitch decks and presentations. Since 2015, THI has held six Venture Fairs. In 2022, P.P.C. (DEH), the Greek Power Company, co-sponsored the Venture Fair prize with THI.

# What we accomplished with your gift:



Since inception, a total of 72 companies have presented at THI's Venture Fair, with 73% of those companies still active, and having raised more than \$500 million from other investors.

### \$25.000 Venture Fair Award



# bespot.



















**Participating Companies** 



The Winning Company: Feel Therapeutics

# CONNECT THE DOTS

# Project Connect the Dots

Connect the Dots is THI's virtual mentorship program, which taps into the talent of the Greek Diaspora to mentor a new generation of entrepreneurs in Greece. Disapora mentors interact with Greek entrepreneurs on a regaulr basis, providing insight, networking and business development mentoring for Greece's vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem.

# What we accomplished with your gift:



The Connect the Dots platform currently engages 87 users registered primarily from the United States and Greece. The mentoring sessions bring together startups ready to scale up with exceptional young professionals willing to invest their time to help these companies succeed.

\$7,661 Grant



# Envolve Entrepreneurship

Envolve is an entrepreneurship support organization founded by the Libra Group. It provides education, resources, and award programs for start-up and early-stage businesses globally. Its Greek award scheme is run on behalf of The Hellenic Initiative. Striving for a global society where all business owners can prosper and grow, Envolve is committed to developing and cultivating entrepreneurial ecosystems by ensuring that business support services are more readily available to entrepreneurs.

## What we accomplished with your gift:



Since 2012, the Envolve Award in Greece has declared 34 winners from 19 business sectors and has provided over 6,000,000 euro in interest-free, start-up funding. The winners have attracted investments of over 260,000,000 euro and have contributed to the Greek economy by creating more than 1,800 direct and indirect jobs.



# **Crisis Relief**



# We4all / Plant a Tree in Greece

We4all is a sustainability-focused non-profit in Greece which has planted over 600,000 trees in Greece.

### What we accomplished with your gift:



Through THI's Plant A Tree In Greece program, we planted 4,200 trees in Evia and Attika in 2022, with an additional 10,500 scheduled to be planted in the first quarter of 2023. The 4,200 trees were planted in Evia (Rovies, Limni, Papades, Kerasia, Skepasti, Ayia Anna and Achladi) and in Attika (Peania). The trees to be planted in first quarter of 2023 will be planted in Evia, Chios, and Attika (Varimpompi).

### \$150.000 Grant







# Food Bank Greece

Food Bank Greece (FBG) was founded in 1995 and is a member of the European Food Bank Federation. FBG collects food suitable for consumption but non-sellable and donates it to charities, soup kitchens, orphanages and other nonprofits. FBG collects thousands of tons of food from over 100 food companies on an annual basis and distributes it to over 150 soup kitchens.

# What we accomplished with your gift:



THI funds were used for targeted purchases supporting FBG's Emergency Food Fund. FBG's donations received are sometimes lacking in certain nutritional areas, including milk, cereals, legumes, rice, tomato paste and olive oil. Those items were purchased with THI funds and had the equivalent nutritional value of 254,000 meals and 40,000 glasses of milk.

### \$60,000 Grant



# ELPIDA Children's Oncology Hospital founded by Marianna V. Vardinovannis

The ELPIDA Association of Friends of Children with Cancer is a specialized hospital treating pediatric cancer patients throughout Greece and Southeastern Europe. It is the first such hospital of its kind in Greece, and partners with similar oncology hospitals globally provide state of the art care to children n Greece.

# What we accomplished with your gift:



THI's grant supported improved molecular analysis techniques, offering better diagnosis and stratification to patients. The funds covered expenses associated with purchasing real time PCR equipment, lab consumables for NGS analysis of cancer predisposition syndromes, and the salary of a bioinformatician.

### \$50,000 Grant



# DESM⊗S

# Desmos

Desmos is a nonprofit umbrella that matches donations from individuals, corporations and foundations to pressing needs within Greek society. Founded in 2012, Desmos works closely with over 1,000 charitable organizations across the country.



# What we accomplished with your gift:



In many remote areas of Greece, civilian landowners provide the first line of defense against wildfires - hours and even days before professional firefighting teams can reach the crisis. Desmos identified seven Forest Firefighting Volunteer Teams (FFVT) in Evia. THI's gift provided much-needed firefighting equipment including helmets, gloves, masks with filters, special uniforms, boots, fireproof hoods, fire pumps, suction hoses, electric generators, chainsaws and first aid kits. The regions in Evia served are Amarynthos, Kallithea, Ano Vathia, Konistres, Limni, Marmari, Psachna, Prokopi, and Styra.

# \$50,000 Grant

# Ukrainian Relief Program

In response to the War in Ukraine, THI made specialized gifts providing relief to the over 30,000 Ukrainian refugees who fled to Greece from their war-torn country.



# SOS Childrens' Villages Greece

SOS CV Greece provides support through a range of services that include a) alternative care, b) family strengthening, c) foster care and d) Emergency Response (ER) programs serving approximately 4,500 children in Greece annually. Following the onset of the war in Ukraine, SOS CV Greece designed a project aiming to support single-mother families by covering their ongoing needs.





THI funds were used to purchase vouchers for the families residing in SOS Villages' shelter in Athens. These vouchers covered the families' food and (NFI) Non-Food Item – related needs. In total, the program supported 115 beneficiaries, mainly single mother families.

### \$40,000 Grant





# Together for Children

Founded in 1996, Together for Children (TFC) is a non-profit/non-governmental association comprised of nine member organizations that work in the field of child welfare. The Association helps on an annual basis more than 30,000 children in need who are facing poverty, social exclusion, domestic violence, chronic diseases, mental or physical disabilities, or the sickness or death of an immediate family member.



# What we accomplished with your gift:



TfC launched the 'Irina' shelter in downtown Athens for homeless Ukrainian women with their children. THI funds supported the operations of this shelter for up to 20 people for 6 months. THI funds provided shelter, food, and access to physical and mental health services.

### \$40,000 Grant





# **Greek Fire Service**

The Greek Fire Service is the national agency of Greece for fire and rescue services, part of the Ministry for Citizen Protection.

### What we accomplished with your gift:



In 2022, THI ordered 5 pick-up trucks to be donated to the Greek Fire Service. While effective, the Fire Services is lacking in equipment in certain remote and fire-prone areas, where the additional trucks can have an impact in future years.

\$35,510 Grant



# **ELEPAP**

ELEPAP is one of the oldest social charities in Greece, founded in 1937. ELEPAP has supported over 100,000 children facing motion disabilities and neurodevelopmental problems operating via six branches across Greece.

# What we accomplished with your gift:



THI funds supported the ELEPAP Family Support program, aimed at providing financial aid to families who cannot support their children's medical care. In total, 22 families received monthly stipends for a period of one year.

\$28,329 Grant





# Breathe

BREATHE was born out of Princess Tatiana's passion and dedication to well-being. It was created to destigmatize mental health, promote self-care, and create awareness for mental health issues in Greece.

### What we accomplished with your gift:



THI funds supported Mila Mou, an online platform which provides free telehealth mental health services to any Greek citizen. Since its launch in 2020, Breathe has facilitated over 33,000 online appointments and received over 600,000 visits to its website. THI funds also supported a digital and TV awareness campaign in partnership with Greece's Ministry of Health.

\$25,000 Grant



# Cyclades Preservation Fund

A participating organization in the UK-based Conservation Collective, the Cyclades Preservation Fund is dedicated to working with local communities to promote the sustainability of the land and sea of the Cyclades islands. CPF provides expertise to enable nature conservation, rewilding and sustainable development through an impactful civil society.



### What we accomplished with your gift:



THI funds sponsored CPF's 'From Movies to Cyclades Movement' initiative. This initiative created a series of environmental movies on topics including inspiring local populations and tourists to take small steps to protect the Cycladic islands, to environmental training videos for those actively engaged in environmental protection and monitoring initiatives to protect the Cycladic sea and land. The funds to support this gift were raised at THI's 2022 London Gala.

\$25,000 Grant



# FoodOn

Food On was founded in 2017 with the goal of restoring dignity and eliminating social exclusion for the homeless and unemployed. Food On provides its clients with educational and employability training programs in the tourism and food industry sectors. It also sponsors 'social dining' events where its clients receive a meal as well as an opportunity to meet and socialize with others.



### What we accomplished with your gift:



With THI's gift, FoodOn hired a full-time project manager. The Project Manager's job is to expand FoodOn's network of partners and job training offerings offerings to help its beneficiaries reenter the workforce.

\$25,000 Grant



# WiseGreece

WiseGreece is a social enterprise with a dual mission: to support Greek food producers to grow and export their goods, and to turn the profits from the sales of these products into food for people in need. WiseGreece offers a selection of over 2,500 products that now reach more than 100 stores across Greece and in eight countries abroad.



# What we accomplished with your gift:



THI funds supported the organization's 'Hope Boxes' program. Every 'Hope Box' contains approximately 13 pounds of food supplies. WiseGreece distributed over 6 tons of food in Hope Boxes to needy families in Pireas and Athens, with products including handmade jams, pasta, flour, legumes etc. The funds were raised during THI's 2022 Easter Appeal.

\$22,038 Grant



# **Apiceuticals:**

Apiceuticals is a family-owned beekeeping company, which had received THI's Venture Impact Award in 2020. Apiceuticals is now one of Greece's most highly specialized and successful beekeeping businesses, and was ideally positioned to assist THI in rebuilding the devastated beekeeping sector in Laconia and Evia.

# What we accomplished with your gift:



With THI funds, Apiceuticals delivered 560 beehives to beekeepers in Laconia and Evia, to restart their honey production businesses which had been lost in the 2021 wildfires. Over 65% of beehives in Laconia and 25% of beehives in Evia were restored through THI's gift.

### \$21,062 Grant





# **METAdrasi**

METAdrasi's mission is to facilitate the reception and integration of refugees and migrants in Greece. Since 2010, METAdrasi has supported over 20,000 unaccompanied children. METAdrasi is the #1 child refugee protection organization in Greece.

# What we accomplished with your gift:



THI's grant supported METAdrasi's Dormitory Unit in downtown Athens, offering a shelter to any homeless minor living in the city as well as to asylum-seeking children and refugees. The dormitory has the capacity to host 56 children in a multi-floor building. It operates 24/7, providing meals, access to healthcare, hygiene kits and clothing as well as support by a group of experienced caregivers.

### \$15,000 Grant



# National Hellenic Students Association

The National Hellenic Student Association (NHSA) of North America, is a collation of Hellenic university student organizations throughout the United States and Canada. NHSA conducts educational, professional, and social initiatives and activities.

# What we accomplished with your gift:



THI funds supported a Beach Clean Up mission organized by NHSA in Heraklion, Crete in the summer of 2022. Over 30 students participated in removing over 700 pounds of trash from Cretan beaches.

# \$5,000 Grant





# TEN-YEAR ANNIVERSARY GALAS

The THI Family united in New York, Athens and London to mark our historic ten year milestone!

# NEW YORK, GALA

The Hellenic Initiative's 10th Anniversary
New York Gala Raises More Than \$2 Million

Event Honors Dr. Albert Bourla, CEO and Chairman of Pfizer

The Hellenic Initiative's (THI) 10th anniversary New York Gala took place on December 3 and raised USD \$2,248,000 to be deployed in Greece to support Greek economic/entrepreneurial development and humanitarian programs.

Dr. Albert Bourla, Chairman and CEO of Pfizer, and a native son of the northern Greek city of Thessaloniki, was honored at the event and said, "In the years to come, science and technology will continue to lead the way, while countries that focus on innovation will see rapid, stable and, most importantly, inclusive and equitable growth in the future. Greece has an excellent opportunity to become one of these countries and I strongly believe that the Greek diaspora can contribute to upgrade the innovative ecosystem of the country."

Pfizer has invested significantly in an innovation hub in Thessaloniki as a way to create



opportunities for young Greeks and help reverse the brain drain of young professionals leaving Greece. A portion of the proceeds from the event supported a grant of a transport vehicle to each of the Jewish Community Centers of Athens and Thessaloniki, in Dr. Bourla's honor, to transport elderly and needy community members to receive basic services.

"Dr. Bourla's and Pfizer's commitment to Greece and the Greek people have been a triumph of generosity," said THI Board Chairman and Co-Founder Andrew N. Liveris. "Our work at the intersection of philanthropy and economic development is creating a framework of support for Greece that will go on for generations."







"Our THI Board, our many generous supporters, and our dedicated staff are honored to be extending a helping hand to so many in Greece," said THI Board President and Co-Founder George P. Stamas. Stamas was honored by his fellow Board members with an award for his ten years of dedicated service to The Hellenic Initiative.

"The whole THI family: our Board, talented staff, donors, supporters and each person who attended brought their energy and passion to the evening and made it a great success. We are so grateful. THI is launching into our second decade with tremendous momentum," said THI Executive Director Tina Courpas.

Father Alexander Karloutsos opened the evening's presentation with a moment of prayer.







James N. Gianopulos, Ret. Chairman and CEO, Paramount Pictures, served as emcee and Greek superstar Elli Kokkinou performed for an enthusiastic crowd. The Jimmy Vali Band provided entertainment.

Officials from Greece and the Greek American community attended, including the U.S. Ambassador in Athens, George Tsunis; the Greek Ambassador in Washington, Alexandra Papadopoulou; the Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus, Marios Lysiotis; the Consul General of Greece in New York, Konstantinos Konstantinou; the Consul General of the Republic of Cyprus, Michalis Firillas; Prince Pavlos and his wife Marie Chantal; U.S. Representative Nicole Malliotakis.

Nineteen THI Board members from the U.S., Greece and Australia attended including John Koudounis, Michael Psaros, and Dennis Mehiel.

A silent auction of worldclass art, jewelry and experiences donated by Greeks from around the world contributed more than \$120,000 the total funds raised.

On Friday December 2, a sold-out pre-Gala celebration of the next generation of THI called THI New Leaders was held at Thalassa Restaurant in Tribeca. On Saturday morning December 3, THI in connection with Friends of St. Nicholas, hosted over 150 THI New Leaders and Board members for a private tour of the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine.

























# ATHENS GALA

# The Hellenic Initiative celebrates its 10th Anniversary of Uniting the Diaspora for Greece with 6th Annual Venture Fair and a Gala Reception at the Iconic Zappeion Megaron in Athens

Some of Greece's most promising start-ups presented their companies to investors from Greece and around the world at The Hellenic Initiative's (THI) 6th Annual Venture Fair, the only American-style pitching event of its kind in Greece. The Venture Fair was held at the Grande Bretagne in Athens on July 11. In addition to the 10 competing companies in industries ranging from biomedical data

markers to technology-accelerating applications, the program included two panels. One entitled "Global Energy in Transition" featured Alex Patelis, Chief Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister of Greece, Andrew Liveris, former CEO of Dow Chemical and THI Board Chairman, and Georgios Stassis, CEO of the Public Power Corporation of Greece, Greece's largest company. The panel's

host was Mr. Aris Candris, former CEO of Westinghouse Electric Company and THI Board member. The second panel addressed entrepreneurship and the dynamics of the Greek ecosystem and featured investors Miltos Kornaros of Southbridge and Alex Fotakidis of CVC, along with the CEO and COO of Skroutz, one of Greece's breakout success stories, George Hadjigeorgiou and Yannis







Alivizatos. The panel's host was Marianna Skylakakis, herself an entrepreneur, and CEO of AthiNEA.

Start-up Feel Therapeutics won the \$25,000 prize sponsored by The Hellenic Initiative and The Public Power Corporation of Greece. This startup develops digital biomarkers and therapeutics

to provide objective data for the diagnosis and management of mental health. FEEL Therapeutics utilizes a proprietary mobile device that detects emotions and produces digital interventions to provide mental health support on a real time basis.



In the evening of the same day, The Hellenic Initiative hosted a cocktail reception at the Zappeion Megaron where friends, participants and supporters of the wider "THI family", members of the Greek Diaspora from all over the world, as well as senior executives of the largest companies in Greece were present. Among the VIPs who

attended the reception were the new U.S. Ambassador to Greece Mr. George Tsunis, Prince Nikolaos and Princess Tatiana, numerous Ministers of the Government, as well as other prominent members of the political, social and business life of Greece. The guests also had the opportunity to meet the participants of Venture Fair 2022, as well

as laureates of previous events. The Greek Youth Symphony, sponsored by THI since 2019, and founded by 23-year Dionysis Grammenos, inspired the audience with their performance. The night continued with the sounds of DJ Avgoustinos Galiassos entertaining an enthusiastic crowd.







ANDREW LIVERIS, THI Board Chairman and GEORGE STAMAS, THI President issued a joint statement,

"The last few days have been a celebration of an amazing journey for The Hellenic Initiative and its partners and supporters. We have changed the way the diaspora view Greece. We have helped Greeks in need. We have created jobs and opportunities in Greece. We are part of the restoration of Greek pride and position in the international community of nations. We have a lot more to do and achieve, and what we all have experienced these last few days is how ready we all are to take this amazing partnership, between THI and Greece, to the next level. Oli mazi."





BILL CLINTON, former president of the United States of America, said through a video message:

"Since its birth,
The Hellenic
Initiative has been
an important
partner of Greeks
helping to recover,
create prosperity
and address major
challenges."



**MRS. MARIANNA V. VARDINOYANNIS**, UNESCO Ambassador and Founder and President of the Association of Friends of Children with Cancer "Elpida", also stated through a video message:

"What makes the work of THI unique is the fact that each of its members share the same vision. The vision to create and invest for a better future for Greece."



**NIKOS KOUMETTIS**, President of Europe for the Coca-Cola Company, and THI Board Member, discussed Regeneration, one of THI's signature programs and its impact on Greece.

"The Hellenic Initiative believed in ReGeneration's vision from the very beginning and has consistently supported the program, offering a better future for Greek youth. I feel particularly proud that I am part of an organization that meaningfully shows its passion and love for Greece!"



The next day, on July 12, THI's new program "Plant a Tree in Greece" organized a morning service event on Hymettus Mountain outside Athens, for the care of more than 2,200 trees planted by THI last May. THI concluded the 2-day program with the first Athens event of its global New Leaders program, a network of Greek and Diaspora young professionals, ages 25-45.

# LONDON GALA

### THI's London Gala raises a record \$326,000

Almost 400 guests celebrated The Hellenic Initiative's 6th Annual London Gala on September 22nd at the iconic Dorchester Hotel in Mayfair. The event, which also celebrated THI's 10th anniversary, raised over \$326,000 for THI's programs in Greece, and was the most successful London gala in THI's history.

The Conservation Collective and Prince's Trust International were honored during the event, two UK-based organizations that are active in Greece. Conservation Collective is a global network of 17 local environment foundations dedicated to preserving the environment and reversing climate change. The Collective does work in the Cycladic and Ionian islands and in Greece's Argolic Gulf.

Prince's Trust International (PTI) is an organization founded by the Prince of Wales, now HM King Charles III, to address the global





Prince's Trust International

crisis in youth unemployment. PTI has supported thousands of Greek youth through education and employment opportunities. Proceeds from the event were awarded to the two honorees, in support of their work in Greece.

The evening started with a reception, Silent Auction and dinner. The event was Co-chaired by Nikos Stathopoulos, THI Board Member, Constantine Logothetis, THI UK Trustee, and Princess Tatiana, Chair of THI's International Ambassadors Program. Stathopoulos welcome guests to the Program, highlighting the olive trees on each table and

encouraging guests to plant a tree in Greece in support of THI's efforts to reforest Greece after the 2021 Greek wildfires.

After dinner, Greek singing superstar Despina Vandi performed for the enthusiastic crowd. Vandi is one of Greece's most successful and multitalented showwomen, with her singing and acting career transcending Greece's borders. She was followed by DJ Avgoustinos Galiassos, a prominent Greek DJ who plays in London, Monte Carlo, Athens and major events across Greece.

The event was also attended by Prince Pavlos, Princess Tatiana, Mary Katrantzou, a well-known Greek clothing designer who donated several pieces to the Silent Auction, Minister Notis Mitarakis, and Greek Ambassador to the UK Ioannis E. Raptakis, among others.



























## THE HELLENIC INITIATIVE



# PLANT A TREE IN GREECE

2022 New Program Launch

In May 2022, THI launched an ongoing and worldwide campaign to restore the land and livelihoods lost in the Greek Wildfires of 2021. Plant a Tree in Greece offers Greeks of the Diaspora and Philhellenes the opportunity to purchase a tree for \$25 to be planted in Greece, supporting the planting and care of the tree for the first two critical years.

Trees can be planted for any occasion, to mark a life event, or to celebrate and support our roots and the country that gave us our heritage. Each tree planted comes with a certificate to commemorate the occasion.

Plant A Tree In Greece also provided, for the first time ever, opportunities for the THI Family to engage in service projects, to plant, care for, and water the trees.

#### **ORIGINS:**

# The Diaspora Answers The Call For Wildfire Relief

- In the Summer of 2021, Greece was ravaged by severe wildfires which damaged over 125,000 hectares (300,000 acres) of land, the most severe wildfires in Greece since 2007.
- The Hellenic Initiative launched a wildfires campaign to response to the crisis and raised over \$550,000 from 4,500 supporters in 47 countries.
- THI allocated these funds to three restorative projects, including \$100,000 dedicated to reforesting damaged land. And the idea for Plant a Tree in Greece was born.

#### **GLOBAL GOALS**

### Of The Plant A Tree In Greece Program

- In May 2022, THI launched an ongoing and worldwide campaign.
- Plant a Tree in Greece offers Greeks of the Diaspora and Philhellenes the opportunity, to purchase a tree for \$25 to be planted in Greece.
- The trees will be planted to restore, re-balance and re-forest the natural environment from the damage of the wildfires, as well as to restore and support livelihoods destroyed by the fires.
- Trees can be planted for any occasion, to mark a life event, or to celebrate and support our roots and the country that gave us our heritage.
- Large programs of 500 trees (\$12,500) or more may be customized in partnership with THI.



 GOAL: to plant 1 MILLION TREES IN GREECE

#### **OUR PARTNERS**

#### On The Ground

THI has partnered with organizations on the ground in Greece for the planting of the trees:



- We4All: Formed in 2018, We4All is an award-winning nonprofit organization that engages in tree planting, re-forestation and other ecological initiatives In Greece. We4All engages in corporate responsibility programs for companies such as Eurobank, EY, AstraZeneca, Coca Cola and KPMG. To date, We4All has planted over 600,000 trees in Greece.
- Other partners: THI is engaged in continuous dialogue with Greece-based public and private partners, with focuses on the environment, sustainable farming, etc.

#### **PLANTINGS**

- To Date



#### 🛍 Evia / Regions of Rovies, towns of Limni, Papades, Kerasia, Skepasti, Ayia Anna. Achladi

Goals: Beautification of Evia mountains with less flammable, erosion-preventing species and, replacement of farmers' olive orchards destroyed in the wildfires of 2021.

Trees: Olive, Carob, Myrtles, Judas Trees, Cypress, Acacia, Arbutus, Sedge,

Plantings: March 2022 (2,200 trees). January 2023 (7,500 trees)

#### Hymettus Mountain, Paiania, Attica

Goals: Environmental stability, as the mountain is one of the main sources of oxygen for Athens.

Trees: Cypress, Carob, Acacia, bushes to assist local biodiversity, and automatic watering line.

**Plantings:** May 2022 (2,000 trees)



#### Island of Chios, Area of Kalamoti

Goals: Re-forestation of an area burned in the wildfires of 2019 Trees: Pine, Cypress

Plantings: March 2023 (500

trees)

Scheduled –



#### Marympompi Attika, Varympompi

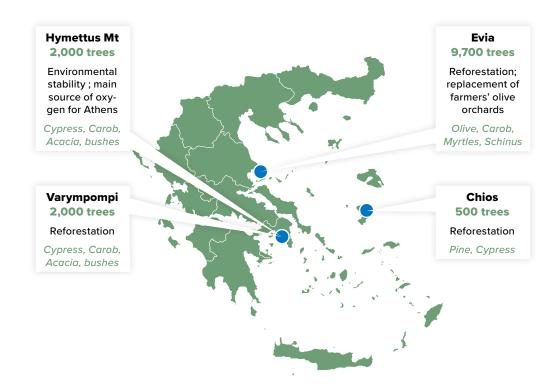
Goals: Beautification with less flammable, erosion-preventing species and re-forestation of a burned area.

Trees: Cyprus, Carob, Acacia, bushes

Plantings: March 2023 (2,000+ trees)



Princess Tatiana, May 2022 Planting Hymettus Mountain



www.plantatreeingreece.com



## THE HELLENIC INITIATIVE



# NEW LEADERS

THI's New Leaders Celebrated
Our 10th Anniversary All Year Long!

The year 2022 was a robust year for THI New Leaders, as we expanded our community to London, San Francisco, Athens, and Philadelphia, returned to Boston, and laid plans for expansion in Miami, Chicago and a return to Los Angeles for 2023.

### THI New Leader Executive Committee 2022

Michael Apostolides Panos Balomenos Georgia Belesis Eunice Buhler, Co-chair James Canale Arianna Panaviota Christou Sophia Constantinides, Co-chair Pantelis J. Constantinides Ellen Grace Furgis Panayiota Georgalis Alexa Georgiou **Emmanuel Georgouras** Chris Goulakos, Co-chair Niko Hahalis Danielle Harrison Nicole Henry, Co-chair Stephanie Kacoyanis, Co-chair Eleni Kanatsouli Angelo Karras, Co-chair Constantine George Katsarakis Alexandra Kontopanos Nicholas Korompilas Vana C Koutsomitis Athena Koutsonikolas Georgios Laskaris **Anthony Liveris** Louis Loizou, Co-chair Zachary Lountzis **Gregory Makris** Athanasios Manole Elias Manolis Peter Manuselis, Co-chair Kostapanos Miliaresis, Co-chair Marily Nika Christos Dimitrios Nikas Christina Nikolos Maria Nikou Konstantine Ouranitsas, Co-chair Kyriaki (Sandy) Papadimitriou Alexandros Papadopoulos Petros Perselis Renos Savvides Nicolette Scott Stephanie Skouras Kostas Speridakos Angelina Spiropoulos Christina Stampouloglou Matthew Stylianou Theodora Tavridou Konstantine Tettonis Kaiti Vartholomaios Kosti Vasilakakis Marianthi Vlachos Simoni Zarkada



February: London New Leaders Cocktail Party

In early 2022, in-person events started to become the norm again, and we were so happy to reunite with our strong New Leaders community! We began the year celebrating Tsiknopempti in London with a Fundraising Cocktail Event showing that our global presence is as strong as ever post-lockdowns.

Our Annual NYC New Leaders Happy Hour returned in March! We had some serious fun at this amazing event held at Thalassa Restaurant, which has been a wonderful supporter of our New Leader events all year. At this event, we also said goodbye to Peter Poulos, our former Executive Director, and welcomed Tina Courpas, our first woman Executive Director! Guests had a lot to celebrate and were able to enjoy specialty cocktails by Stray Dog Gin, Skinos Mastiha Spirit, and

Otto's Athens Vermouth thanks to their generous sponsorships. Hellenic Aesthetic provided that extra touch by gifting all attendees with 'Marti' (March) bracelets.

We welcomed 16 new Executive Committee Members in April to our New Leaders leadership team, allowing more people to get involved more deeply with our organization. In 2022, we also grew our New Leaders membership program, which provides ticket discounts, access to special events and other benefits at two membership levels.

In May in San Francisco, we held an Inaugural THI Northern California Speaker Series at the St. Francis Yacht Club. The talk was on 'Hellenism and Entrepreneurship', put together and hosted by our brand new Northern California



February: London New Leaders Cocktail Party

New Leaders Chapter in San Francisco, spearheaded by Kostas Speridakos and Mikey Kailis. Our New Leaders and guests engaged with our dynamic panel including Dr. Marily Nika, AR/ VR Experience Product Lead at Google: Andreas Stavropoulos, partner at Threshold Ventures; Dr. Fav Christodoulou, co-founder and chief scientific officer of Miroculus Inc; and Konstantine Buhler, partner at Sequoia Capital. Also in attendance was Eleni Kounalakis, Lt. Governor of California and THI Board Member. Many thanks to sponsors Counterpart Ventures, General Catalyst, Threshold Ventures, The George Hotel Napa, the Consulate General of Greece in San Francisco and all who made this event a tremendous success.

Our next 'new' city was a long time coming – Athens. Our New Leaders from across the globe landed in our beloved Athens for a series of events supporting entrepreneurship at Venture Fair, celebrating THI's 10 Years at the iconic Zappeion Megaron, watering trees for our Plant A Tree program on Mount Hymettus and culminating in our first ever New Leaders Happy Hour with a spectacular sunset view of the Acropolis at Skyfall bar. We are extremely proud that our global New Leaders community united for the first time to join us in our work in Greece.

New Leaders descended upon Athens from all around the world, including from across the United States, Canada, London and beyond.

The Fall started with New Leaders manifesting a strong presence at our 6th Annual London Gala in September. In October, we had a sold out fundraiser at the exclusive Quin House in Boston! This

event was generously sponsored by the Sakellaris Family and consisted of delicious food and wine sponsored by Axios wines - there was even dancing!.

In November, we launched the brand-new Philadelphia New Leaders Chapter with bites, drinks, and plenty of networking opportunities. It was a night to remember, as many families came together in support of the endeavor, and we can't wait to see what else this chapter will do.

We wrapped up this amazing year-long celebration of THI's 10 years of impact in Greece with a dynamic weekend of events in December. Our 10th Anniversary New York Gala on December brought with it a full weekend of events for our New Leaders for the first time since 2019. We spent Friday night hosting a hugely successful pre-Gala New Leaders

March: NYC New Leaders Happy Hour











May: San Francisco New Leaders Speaker Series

Happy Hour at Thalassa sponsored by our friends at Stray Dog Gin. This was our first Happy Hour complete with a DJ, and dancing definitely ensued! Saturday featured a private guided tour of the then-not-yet-open-to-the-public St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox and National Shrine. Members of the Parish Council and our own THI Board Member Michael Psaros gave special preview tours providing insight into the architecture, the custom iconography, and why the St. Nicholas National Shrine at the World Trade Center is such an important monument of our culture and faith. It was very moving for all in attendance.

New Leaders attended the New York Gala on Saturday night, after which we held an after party at Skinos Restaurant near Cipriani Wall Street. To say that all the Greek young professionals in Manhattan joined with our New Leaders that night would not be an exaggeration!

On Sunday morning in New York, we gathered our New Leader Executive Committee and

Athena New Leaders Members for an exclusive post-Gala brunch recapping the highlights of the previous night and brainstorming on future New Leader endeavors.

Another exciting partnership we continue to expand is our 'take-over' of The National Herald. The newspaper continues profiling our New Leader Executive Committee and Members once every two weeks in a dedicated corner 'take-over'. It's an exciting way for the Greek community to learn more about our talented New Leaders and THI as they all answer why



they have chosen to be involved with The Hellenic Initiative!

We saw tremendous growth in our New Leaders program in 2022, with new city chapters in San Francisco, Athens, London, Boston and Philadelphia. New Leaders are the future of our community and view THI as an important way to express their Hellenism and love of Greece, and a way to be part of a growing and vibrant Greek community, professionally and personally. 2023 is sure to bring many more New Leaders together in cities across the globe. Oli Mazi!



July: Athens New Leaders Zappeion Event



July: Athens New Leaders Happy Hour





July: Athens New Leaders Plant A Tree In Greece Service Project





October: Boston New Leaders Cocktail Party





November: Philadelphia New Leaders Chapter



December: New Leaders visit to St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center





December: NYC New Leaders Pre-Gala Party and Post-Gala Brunch





December: NYC New Leaders 10th Anniversary Gala





December: NYC New Leaders 10th Anniversary Gala





## THE HELLENIC INITIATIVE



# THI AROUND THE WORLD

Updates from our THI communities in Australia and Canada





#### **Board of Directors**

#### Nicholas G. Pappas AM

Chair, Bank of Sydney President, THI Australia

#### Peter Abraam

Executive Director, Royal Group

#### **Chris Dolkas**

Director, RND Lawyers

#### **George Giovas**

Managing Director, Axius Partners

#### George Kailis

Company Director

#### Andrew N. Liveris

Director, Jalouise Pty Ltd

#### Aphroditi Miriklis

Chair, Commonwealth Businesswomen's Network

#### **Nick Mitaros**

Chairman, Leichhardt Industrials

#### Nicholas Mylonas

Chief Property & Procurement Officer, Findex

#### **Evan Nicholas**

Member, Faculty of Science & Engineering Advisory Council, Curtin University

#### **Bill Papastergiadis OAM**

Managing Partner, Moray & Agnew Lawyers

#### **Harry Patras**

Director, Create Investments

#### Lee Verios

Company Director

#### Dr Helen Zorbas AO

Chair, National Breast Cancer Foundation

#### **Advisory Staff**

#### Harry Stamoulis

Managing Director, Stamoulis Property Group

#### Nicolas Zervos

Principal, Zervos Lawyers

#### **Emmanuel Drivas**

Chairman, The Coffee Club

#### **Staff**

#### Stergitsa Zamagias-Hill

Chief Executive

#### Victoria Kyriakopoulos

Program Manager

#### au.thehellenicinitiative.org

In 2022, The Hellenic Initiative Australia, a registered charity in Australia with the primary purpose to provide relief and support to Greece and its people, approved grants across its four program streams – health, social services, education and employment pathways.

A total of AU\$328,962 was awarded in grants to its partner NGOs, including Boroume, Doctors of the World Greece, Emfasis, Ithaca Laundry, Pediatric Trauma Care, SOS Children's Villages, and The Tipping Point in Greece.

Highlights include:

February 2022, Australia's Ambassador to Greece, H.E Arthur Spyrou met and volunteered with two of THI Australia's partner charities in Greece – Boroume and Emfasis. THI Australia is grateful for Ambassador Spyrou's and the Australian Embassy's continued support throughout the year.

March 2022, THI Australia welcomed its newest partner charity in Greece that provides the only mobile laundry service for disadvantaged individuals in Athens, Ithaca Laundry. THI Australia's €11,745 grant supported the job reintegration program enabling disadvantaged individuals to be trained and employed as the drivers of the mobile laundry units. Many beneficiaries of the program have previously used the laundry services offered by this innovative NGO. In seven months, the mobile laundry services undertook 1,707 wash services for 767 unique beneficiaries.

May 2022, THI Australia also awarded Pediatric Trauma Care, with an AU\$28,500 grant to purchase medical equipment for the health care centres/paediatric units on the islands of Milos and Skyros. THI Australia also launched an online Appeal in 2022 to support a further 10 health care centres on the small islands of Anafi, Folegandros, Fournoi Korseon,

Irakleia, Koufonisia, Kimolos, Lipsi, Nisyros, Sikinos and Therassia. Since 2018, THI Australia has provided a total of AU\$164,980 in grants to Pedtrauma.

July 2022, THI Australia hosted its fifth Digital Conversation Series webinar, and the participants enjoyed an insightful discussion with Greece's Foreign Affairs Minister, H.E Nikos Dendias.

It also renewed its support of the THI Australia Public Health Project delivered by Doctors of the World Greece for the third consecutive year with a AU\$100,000 grant for a further 12 months. The Project enables more than 3,000 unique beneficiaries from disadvantaged communities to access free health care services at the Open Polyclinic in Athens.

September 2022, THI Australia renewed its support of The Tipping Point education and career mentoring program for the fourth consecutive year. The grant of AU\$27,500 will enable more than 700 students at 11 schools in Greece to participate in this innovative online program.

October 2022, THI Australia hosted its first in-person meeting since the lifting of COVID restrictions and was honored that THI's Global Chairman, Andrew N. Liveris AO joined the meeting.

THI Australia's Honorary Council of eminent Greek Australians and philhellenes was established in October 2022.

December 2022, THI Australia and THI Canada launched the first joint Appeal in support of families and individuals facing food insecurity in Greece. Funds raised will be provided to the Desmos Food-Aid program and registered beneficiaries at the social grocery of Salamina in Attica, and the social grocery of Thermo in Aitoloakarnia will receive care packages for two months.



Australia's Ambassador Arthur Spyrou (seated) and Embassy staff.



Australia's Ambassador to Greece and THI Australia CEO volunteering with Boroume.











Medical equipment purchased for Skyros Health Centre



THI Australia Directors with Andrew N Liveris at the October 2022 board meeting.



THI Australia sponsored schools participating in The Tipping Point online career program.



#### ca.thehellenicinitiative.org

#### **THI Canada Directors**

#### Alexander Georgiadis, co-President

President Krinos Foods Canada Ltd. and Tiras Dairies Inc.

#### John Sotos, co-President

Sotos LLP, Partner

#### Anna Antonopoulos, Treasurer

CFO, The Corner Collection

#### Jenny Mboutsiadis

Secretary Partner, Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP

#### Tula Alexopoulos

Former Director, Ontario Securities Commission Chair, Grants Committee

#### **Elias Retsinas**

Senior Partner, Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP

#### **7isis Haritos**

Former Regional Advisor, United Nations Secretariat

#### Katerina Sokou

Chair, PR and Social Media Communications Director, Washington, D.C. correspondent

#### Nikos Koumettis

President, Europe Operating Unit, The Coca-Cola Company

#### Steven Makrinos

Founder and President, BenefitsPensions.com

#### **Peter Kollias**

CFP, CIM®, DMS, MBA, Senior Wealth Advisor, Portfolio Manager

#### Nik Nanos

Chief Data Scientist, Nanos Research

#### Alexandra Tzannidakis

Senior Associate, KPMG Law LLP

#### Jenny Boussoulas

CEO, JET Accounting & Consulting

#### **Tony Lourakis**

CEO, Fleet Complete

#### **Honourary Directors**

#### Robert Peck

Former Ambassador of Canada to the Hellenic Republic (2011-2015)

#### Steve Vranakis

Former Chief Creative Officer of Greece

#### Our global impact in 2022 doubled

During 2022, THI Canada continued to be by the side of Greek families and celebrated many firsts. Specifically, 2022 saw THI Canada's first Scholarship program, expanded its established programs to new remote Greek regions, and responded to global emergencies, such as the influx of Ukrainian refugees into Greece. THI Canada also collaborated with Canadian diaspora institutions such as the Toronto Economic Forum, that seek to further promote synergies between Canada and Greece.

#### **Programs**

Despite the challenges of the past couple of years, THIC's programs grew in 2022. THI Canada provided 271,152.80 CAD towards emergency responses, healthcare programs, poverty relief, and education. It also focused on raising awareness of the experiences of Greece's most vulnerable populations, including elderly communities faced with deplorable living conditions, and other social issues.

THI Canada expanded its partnership with HOPEgenesis to include the island of Folegandros in addition to Kasos, Iraklia and Ag. Efstratios. Since the start of our program, we have welcomed 10 babies on the islands of Kasos, Iraklia, and Ag. Efstatios, areas that were threatened by the extreme birth decline rates.



Baby Girl born on Kasos Island on October 14th, 2022, through our program with HOPEgenesis

· For the third consecutive year, THIC stayed by the side of seniors that live alone or require special care through the Intervention for the 60+ program with Doctors of the World Greece and the TIMA Charitable Foundation. The Intervention for the 60+ program was publicly acknowledged and praised for the work it has done for the senior population during a ceremony in June 2022 that was also attended by representatives of the Greek government. Over the years, the program has helped more than 800 people receive both physical and psychological care from trained professionals who visit them at their homes or connect with them virtually.



- THI Canada worked with the Prolepsis Institute and the Diatrofi program to deliver 8,849 meals for students that attended schools in the areas of Rhodopi, Evros and Xanthi.
- THI Canada renewed the Giannitsa Soup Kitchen program – "Meal of Love" for its fourth consecutive year. The soup kitchen that is led by Father Spyridis and his team of devoted volunteers operates daily to provide meals to over 120 people in the local community of Giannitsa.

 THI Canada in partnership with the University of Toronto School of Music launched the 2023 THI Canada Graduate Scholarship in Music. The \$40,000/year Scholarship is co-funded by THI Canada and the University of Toronto Faculty of Music. In 2023, the THI Canada Scholarship program will be re-launched to expand its area of focus to fields that are in high demand in Greece and to provide incentives for the reverse of the brain-drain.

#### Campaigns

In 2022, THI Canada continued to effectively respond to humanitarian emergencies. THI Canada supported the "Humanitarian Emergency Relief Fund for Ukrainian refugees arriving in Greece" to provide humanitarian aid, medical support, and other services for Ukrainian families escaping their war-torn country into Greece. The campaign raised over \$40,000 which supported families resettling and getting their new start in Greece.



THI Canada and THI Australia responded to the significant increase of people living on the verge of poverty in Greece, and collaborated for the first time for the "End of Year Global Appeal for Greece." The campaign raised \$20,000 jointly, which will provide basic food items that will be distributed through the social groceries of Salamina (Attica) and Thermo (Aitoloakarnania) through the DESMOS Food Aid program. This first global campaign paved the way for future joint projects that will unite Greeks of the diaspora and help produce collaborative impact of great magnitude.



#### **Events**

#### **Toronto Economic Forum**

THI Canada partnered with the Delphi Economic Forum of Greece to bring together the inaugural Toronto Economic Forum. The forum, which will be hosted annually, promoted Greek – Canadian trade and investment ties. It welcomed discussions with a special focus on foreign investments and trade partnerships, particularly in the fields of tourism, pharmaceuticals,

technology, renewable energy and the mineral resources sectors.

Keynote speakers included Nikos Papathanasis, Alternate Minister of Investments and Development of the Hellenic Republic, Francois-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry of Canada and Prem Watsa, President and CEO of FairFax Financial Holdings Limited.

THI Canada's co-President John Sotos called attention to the importance of forming a promising future for Greece-Canada relations: "We brought together an impressive array of leaders from the Greek and Canadian governments and businesses to promote mutually advantageous relations between the two countries."

#### **New Leaders' Christmas Party**

On December 19th, THIC New Leaders had their first Christmas Party at Belfast Love in Toronto. For this event, the New Leaders were joined by the group's Ambassador Marissa Papakonstantinou, Paralympic medalist, who gave an inspiring speech on leadership and empowerment. According to New Leader Yonida Koukio, "the event was an excellent opportunity to bring people together again following a very difficult pandemic and also network and create new opportunities for collaboration for the benefit of Greece."



Alternate Minister of Development Nikos Papathanasis with Minister of Innovation, Science, and industry minister François-Philippe Champagne, at the Toronto Economic Forum



Volunteers at the Giannitsa Soup Kitchen, St. George temple, Giannitsa



THI-Canada New Leaders Christmas Party



Doctors of the World Greece humanitarian aid for Ukrainian refugees



## THE HELLENIC INITIATIVE



# DONOR PROFILES

Thank you to all of our donors who have made THI's mission possible in our first 10 Years and for your generosity in our 10th Anniversary year.



# What the Charles C. Condes Trust and THI Mean to Pete Zervakis and His Family

Peter Zervakis remembers his beloved uncle Charles C. Condes. Through THI, the Charles Condes Trust supports entrepreneurs in Greece, reversing the brain drain and honoring the memory of a self-made engineer, investor and lover of Hellenism.

We honor and thank The Condes-Zervakis family for entrusting us to honor Charles C. Condes by supporting the entrepreneurs of Greece today.

Charles C. Condes was born in Chicago, Illinois to Constantine S. and Harikleia (Yiannias) Condes who had emigrated from Niata, Lakonia and Alea, Arkadia, respectively. At the age of 16, Charles opened his own dairy store and later worked various jobs while attending the Illinois Institute of Technology. After receiving a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, Charles served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II as a meteorologist for the RAF. Charles was stationed across North Africa. the Middle East, and Cyprus. After the war, he launched his career as a consulting engineer, initially in the private sector, and later as a bridge design engineer for the city of Chicago. Charles enjoyed researching companies and later made many successful investments in the stock market.

Charles was happily married for 25 years to the late Phyllis Holik and together they traveled the world. He was a highly principled man who was devoted to his family and his faith. Charles was also a philanthropist who donated to many charities and churches – including Leadership 100, IOCC, the Pan Hellenic Scholarship Foundation, and Philoxenia Charities. He was a firm believer in the power of education, the ability of the individual to succeed through their own hard work, and a lover of all things Hellenic.

In 2020, the Condes-Zervakis family began a philanthropic relationship with THI and, in memory of Charles C. Condes, established the Venture Impact Awards (VIA). The VIA awards early stage companies in Greece with cash prizes of between \$10,000 and \$25,000. Because of the generosity of the Condes-Zervakis family, THI has made the awards in 2020, 2021 (jointly funded with the Helidoni Foundation), and 2022. Charles cared deeply about retaining talent in Greece and encouraging business development that would strengthen the country's economy and geopolitical security.



Charles's grandnephew Pete Zervakis is well-known in the Upper Midwest as News Anchor for Spectrum News Channel 1 based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Pete was delighted to speak about the special man who was his grand uncle, the beloved uncle of his mother Harriette Condes-Zervakis. Harriette is the Trust's representative, and with Pete made the gift to THI

"Charles was my Pappou's brother. I knew him very well. My mom used to say he viewed me as the closest thing to a grandchild. He lived only 30 minutes away" in the Chicago suburbs, and when Pete was growing up he and Harriette visited him. "And I made it a point when home from college on breaks to always go see him," he added.

Pete loved hearing about Charles' world travels, which beautifully supplemented Pete's formal education. Pete also learned about and gained appreciation for Hellenism and the Orthodox faith.

"He was very passionate about supporting Greek causes," which Pete observed at events they both attended. More recently, "when I lived again in Chicago for a year, I enjoyed attending Church at the community of St. Basil's and hearing from parishioners who knew Uncle Charles there."

He believes his grand uncle believed so strongly in 'giving back' to Hellenism because being born in the United States, Charles understood that along with the great opportunities and blessings found in America there is also the temptation "that once you go into the melting pot it is easier to lose sight of where your family came from." He saw his donations as "as putting resources into prolonging and promoting our Faith and

Heritage in ways that will make it easier for people in future generations to stay connected to where they came from."

Pete and Harriette viewed it as their duty to prudently deploy Charles Condes' fund where they would have impact. "We tried to find an organization that shared his values, especially focusing on promoting Hellenism. My mom did a lot of background research and talked to a lot of organizations. She identified THI, and enjoyed "learning more about the organization. It was a no-brainer for us to go to THI once we discovered it." Through the support of the Charles C. Condes Trust, the Venture Impact awards have helped 67 early stage companies in Greece.



Charles C. Condes

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Harriette Condes-Zervakis speaks with Yiannis Moutsios at THI's 2022 Venture Impact Awards.

# Dimitrios Athanasopoulos— Man of Action and 'AXIA'

Since THI's founding, Dimitris Athanasopoulos and AXIA Ventures have answered the call to support THI and Greece in any way possible. A man of generosity and action, we honor and thank Dimitri for his many contributions to THI over the last ten years.

Dimitris Athanasopoulos is the Founding Partner, Group Managing Director & Member of the Executive Committee of AXIA Ventures Group, Ltd, an investment firm with headquarters in Cyprus and offices in Athens, New York and Milan. Dimitris is also the Founding Partner and currently serves as Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer, and Director of ITHAX Acquisition Corp. Doing business in Greece and the United States, Dimitris has a clear view of the path for Greece's future and how THI can help.

Born in Greece, Dimitris went abroad to study, and like many, planned to return to Greece with expertise to help the homeland. Though life and career put him on a different path, Dimitri never stopped thinking about what Greece needs to fulfill its potential, and wherever he could, has taken action.

"I grew up in Athens – my family has roots in the Peloponnese. My father was active in retailing and wholesaling in the textile business. When I was young, I lacked



interest in business, but my father was the catalyst for me to pay more attention. I became interested in and an amateur investor in the stock market."

That interest took him to New York to study finance and investment, and after school, he started working in New York. Dimitri held positions in the Private Wealth Management divisions of Salomon Smith Barney and Morgan Stanley in New York.

"But always in the back of my mind was the idea of helping Greece," specifically helping Greek firms gain access to global markets. And that is what eventually happened.

Dimitri founded AXIA Ventures in 2007. "When I founded AXIA, the idea was to see how to connect large pools of capital in the global market with Greece and Southeastern Europe." Shortly after the firm's founding, both the

global financial crisis and the Greek financial crisis struck.

"We tried to turn a crisis into an opportunity. It was not easy, but eventually we were able to bring people outside closer to Greece, to get them to understand the problems but also the potential opportunities there once the country started to go in the right direction."

AXIA opened windows for foreign investors to look at Greece, focusing on "Greece's competitive advantages, including a very well-educated population and very capable entrepreneurs". Dimitricites "the work and reforms of the current government," as additional factors adding to Greece's current attractiveness to foreign investors. "The new Greece is coming fast, with a government that is creating a framework that is friendly and pro-investment."

Dimitri said that in the context of the global energy crisis "Greece has made tremendous progress in becoming an energy hub," and with the upgrades of Greece's ports, "Greece is becoming Europe's first point of entry from all of Asia, with more to offer also in terms of logistics and processing facilities. For the first time, we are also taking advantage of important geopolitical elements and establishing a foundation to build upon."

And as the world discovers Greece as a desirable place to live, companies have an additional reason to take a look at Greece. "Very important global companies are making significant investments, and it's a trigger for many Greeks who left to move back to Greece." He feels very strongly the potential for brain drain to turn into brain gain.

Dimitri and AXIA Ventures have been supporters of THI from the beginning: from providing office space to THI in Athens, to supporting THI as event sponsor, to serving as a judge for THI's Venture Fair in Athens, to speaking on THI's 2021 Webinar regarding investment in Greece. Dimitri says, "We have always been there to help THI any way we were asked."

"We became involved with THI right from the beginning, right from the foundation, because we saw that it was important to create practical highways of connectivity between the Diaspora and Greece."

"What also made THI attractive to us was that they are practically-oriented. At Axia, we look to see what we could do to help people in a practical way, to help them explore their abilities and talents and show new entrepreneurs

and startups and ventures how to compete, and think more globally. THI shares this approach."

Dimitri and Axia also share THI's philosophy that the Diaspora have a role to play in the building of the New Greece. "People from the Diaspora want to go the extra mile to help. It is a great boost to young Greek entrepreneurs to see that the Diaspora is there to support their efforts."

"We became involved with THI right from the beginning, right from the foundation, because we saw that it was important to create practical highways of connectivity between the Diaspora and Greece."



Dimitri Athanosopoulos, wife Karla de Farache, and son at THI's 10th Anniversary Gala in New York.

# With a Long Tradition of Giving, Holy Trinity of New Orleans Supports THI's Ukrainian Refugee Relief Program

America's oldest Greek Orthodox Church, led by THI Board Member John Georges, unites to raised money for THI's Ukrainian Refugee Relief effort in Greece.

The Church of the Holy Trinity of New Orleans owns the honor of being the first Greek Orthodox parish in the United States. From its founding to the present, it is an institution born of generosity and a sense of giving and giving back.

John Georges, an internationally-known businessman and philanthropist and a member of the Board of Directors of The Hellenic Initiative, was delighted to talk about his parish – especially since it recently made a substantial donation to THI– specifically to assist

Ukrainian refugees in Greece.

"Because of the work done by our ancestors, we have a thriving Greek community here," said Georges. "When this year's Festival arrived, the Ukrainian situation came up, and since I'm on the THI Board, a few of us got together and presented the idea to the community: for every ticket sold to our festival, we would offer a dollar to support Ukrainian refugees in Greece, and we would do it through THI. We raised about \$20.000."

Georges spoke about Holy Trinity's rich history. "The first Greeks arrived in New Orleans in the 1700s and were a prominent business and community by the 1800s. John noted, "In 1864, Nicholas Benachi of Chios, the first Consul of Greece in New Orleans, offered his home for worship services. Then, in 1866, we built the first Greek Orthodox Church of the Americas here, along with a small cottage for the priest." In 1867, Mr. Benachi sold this property to the Orthodox Community. John added



that "the Benachis were cotton brokers from the community of Greeks in northern Africa who were part of the cotton exchange."

Every Holy Trinity generation since has made its contribution, strongly inspired by their predecessors. According to Georges, "We adopted 200 orphans in Cyprus, also in the 70s we created a Kalamata Earthquake Relief Fund." More recently they supported the new St. Nicholas Church at the World Trade Center.

The current generation's standout trait is resilience. "The story of the New Orleans Greek Community is also that today, it is thriving even though it overcame a direct hit on the church by Hurricane Katrina – it was rebuilt in a matter of months. As a Community, I think we punch way over our weight," Georges said without exaggeration.

"We are a thriving Greek community of multiple generations. My kids are fourth generation, and we are not the oldest family," he said. And they are not lonely for Hellenic company. After noting New Orleans' importance for the Greek shipping industry, John said, "there are about 5,000 Greeks in New Orleans, 30,000 in its driving radius." That's a lot of Hellenic energy in a small space, and it is guided by a philanthropic spirit that extends far back to the beginning of Holy Trinity's distinguished history.



"Because of the work done by our ancestors, we have a thriving Greek community here. When this year's Festival arrived, the Ukrainian situation came up, and since I'm on the THI Board, a few of us got together and presented the idea to the community: for every ticket sold to our festival, we would offer a dollar to support Ukrainian refugees in Greece, and we would do it through THI. We raised about \$20,000."

John Georges, THI Board Member



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"What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others."

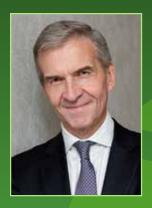
Pericles, Athenian Statesman

10 YEARS
I FIRS

# GLOBAL CORPORATE PARTNERS PROGRAM

THI's Global Corporate Partners are part of a committed corporate circle focused specifically on supporting economic development and entrepreneurship in Greece. Corporate Partners' dues of \$25,000 per year are directed towards THI's programs which support entrepreneurship, job creation and training, including Regeneration, VentureGarden, and THI's Venture Impact Awards.

The year 2022 saw an expansion and solidifying of the GCPP vision. In 2022, our Partners fostered relationships with each other and with Greek businesses, learned more about the vibrant Greek economic landscape, and gained exposure to THI's global Greek Diaspora community. We believe that by continuing to support Greece's educated, talented and motivated population to rebuild the country itself, we can have a significant impact on Greece's future success. We thank our Global Corporate Partners for joining us in this mission and look forward to growing our circle of committed corporations over the coming years.



"I believe the opportunities for Greece are enormous and as a global firm that is a little (about 50 years) younger than modern Greece, we are thrilled to continue to be a long-term partner of this amazing country and its people."

George Casey, Managing Partner of Shearman & Sterling, THI Global Corporate Partner

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