

THE HELLENIC INITIATIVE

ANNUAL REPORT

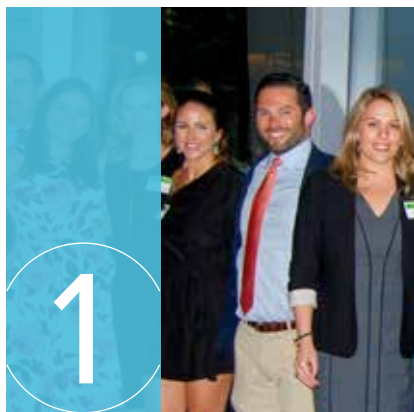
2016

The human capital of Greece is its single best hope for the future. Giving young people who face a 50% unemployment rate in Greece the opportunity to receive training, internships, mentorship, and compensation is a priority of THI. Together, we can build a better tomorrow for Greece, and give the hundreds of thousands, who have been forced to leave to find work, the possibility to return to their homeland.





THE HELLENIC INITIATIVE ANNUAL REPORT 2016



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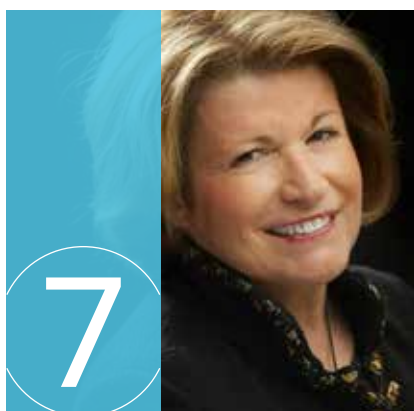
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The flag of the Φιλική Εταιρεία,
the “Society of Friends.”
It has the letters “ΗΕΑ” (Η ΕλευθερίΑ)
and “ΗΘΣ” (“Η ΘάνατοΣ”)
which are a shorthand for the words
“Ελευθερία ή θάνατος” – “Freedom or Death.”

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President Bill Clinton,
Honorary Chairman
Andrew N. Liveris, *Chairman*
Dean Dakolias
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Muhtar Kent
Nicholas Lazares
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Nick Mitaros
Nikos Mouyiaris
Nicholas G. Pappas
Michael Psaros
Nikos Stathopoulos
George Svokos
George Tsunis

Oli Mazi!

THE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

— Andrew N. Liveris —



Dear Friends of THI, Hellenes and Philhellenes All:

The Hellenic Initiative is now well into its fourth year, and the Greek economic crisis is still roiling. Perhaps the people of Greece have become more used to the conditions of the crisis; certainly this leaves some observers feeling that Greece has simply accepted its diminishment. And the world is no longer focused on Greece as it was a year ago. The flow of refugees has temporarily stanchied, the Brexit has replaced the Grexit, and many within the country have become numb to the politics of it all.

But this is no time for complacency. This is no time to relax our efforts. The people of Greece are enduring hardships at an increasingly alarming rate. People are losing hope, and when hope is lost, the return to any semblance of normalcy becomes the most difficult.

This is why 2016 has been THI's most active year for our various philanthropic and entrepreneurial initiatives to date, over \$2.2 million dollars in grants and sustaining programs. Indeed, 2016 has been the year of our largest grant-making to date, thanks to all of the supporters of our efforts. Yet despite our best efforts to demonstrate new paradigms of self-help, growth, and development, we cannot meet the demand. More and more throughout Greece, there is less and less. Our homeland needs the Diaspora now more than ever.

And this is not the first time the Diaspora has played such a vital role. When Greece faced that greatest of challenges of throwing off the Ottoman yoke, Greeks of the Diaspora joined the famous Φιλική Εταιρεία, the "Society of Friends." This secret society (whose symbol is on the opposite page) comprised some of the greatest names of the Greek War of Independence. They had one goal: the liberation of Greece, and their motto was "Freedom or Death!"

Drastic words indeed, but are these times really so different? Greece is dying from within. We Hellenes of the Diaspora and Philhellenes around the world are in possession not only of financial means of assistance, but of models of economic success and revitalization that can breathe new life into our *Ellada*. The Greeks of 1821 rose up to proclaim their freedom; we also must rise to help ensure the economic recovery and freedom of Greece, so that the country may thrive again.

Our Greece is a continuous civilization of thousands of years that have seen many and diverse crises. We can overcome this one too. We don't need a secret society, but we do need a "Society of Friends" – friends of Greece and friends of Greeks. Everyone is welcome to help. Join us!

Oli Mazi,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew N. Liveris". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "L".

Andrew N. Liveris

THE THI NEW LEADERS ARE
THE NEXT GENERATION OF
DIASPORA PACESETTERS.

IF THE DIASPORA IS TO
REMAIN COHESIVE WITH ITS
HELLENIC IDENTITY AND
BE A FORCE FOR
GOOD IN GREECE,
THERE CAN BE NO DELAY.

THI IS ENCOURAGING
MILLENNIALS
TO ENGAGE NOW!



THI New Leaders

1



THI New Leaders in Boston and New York

This year, The Hellenic Initiative founded the THI New Leaders. The THI New Leaders is an international group of like-minded young leaders who share in THI's vision of funding crisis relief programs, encouraging entrepreneurs, and creating jobs for Greece and Greeks. THI's New Leaders are donating their time, skills, and expertise in helping to build a better future for Greece.

Since THI's founding, the Board of Directors recognized that young, driven individuals are the people that will be most valuable in driving economic recovery in Greece. They also recognized that in order to sustain the future work of The Hellenic Initiative, the best and brightest young leaders are paramount to its future growth. The Greek Diaspora has been extremely successful, and young Greeks of the Diaspora are no exception. The THI New Leaders are an avenue for young professionals to "network with purpose" in support of Greece. The New Leaders, who have a strong

affinity and love of Greece, are able to donate their time, talent, and treasure to support THI's programs on the ground and truly make a tangible difference.

The THI New Leaders kicked-off on February 4, 2016 at Pier A Harborhouse in New York. Over 220 Greek American and Philhellene young professionals gathered for a fun evening of networking, food, drink, and conversation. Young leaders from around the northeast attended in support of THI's mission of empowering the future of Greece. Those who attended had the opportunity to learn more about THI's various crisis relief and entrepreneurship programs and how they can become involved.

The THI New Leaders hosted a second event in Boston at Committee Restaurant with over 120 people in attendance. Our numbers are growing daily, with over 200 New Leaders planning to attend THI's Fourth Annual Gala held at the Waldorf Astoria. As the



group expands, events will be held in Montreal, Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York. These first New Leaders events in New York and Boston raised nearly \$40,000, which translated through matches to almost \$120,000 for THI's program with Prolepsis/Diatrofi, feeding schoolchildren throughout Greece.

The New Leaders are building a grassroots network throughout the Diaspora and are helping to bridge the gap with Greeks in Greece and around the world. THI's New Leaders will be able to lend a hand on a wide variety of programs. Service trips are being organized where New



The New Leaders are building a grassroots network throughout the Diaspora and are helping to bridge the gap with Greeks in Greece and around the world.



Leaders can support some of our crisis relief initiatives by helping to administer medicine, provide support at soup kitchens, and spend time with sick and disabled children. Most importantly, the New Leaders will develop a bridge between young professionals in the Diaspora with budding entrepreneurs and professionals in Greece through mentorship, helping to develop a new generation of business leaders. New Leaders in the Diaspora, like the Board Members of The Hellenic Initiative, want to help Greeks to have the same opportunities that we all enjoy and take for granted. ■





NEW LEADERS COMMITTEE

Peter Alemis
 Christopher Allwin
 Michael Apostolides
 Taso Argyros
 Emilia Bechrakis
 Eunice Buhler
 John Catsimatidis, Jr.
 Pantelis J. Constantinides

Peter Corsell
 Yiannis Emmanoualidis
 Manny Friangiadakis
 Chris Goulakos
 Stephanie Kacoyanis
 Michael Karloutsos
 Victoria Katsarou
 Nick Katsoulis

Daphne Konstantinides
 Harry Koulos
 Katie Lazares
 Nicholas P. Lazares
 Zach Leonsis
 Sofia Lingos
 Tatiana Lingos-Webb
 Alexandra Liveris



Anthony Liveris
Gregory Maniatis
Meredith Nelson
Chrys Nikopoulos
George Papaliadis
Nicholas Papapolitis
Christos Perakis

George Petrocheilos
Peter Psiachos
Maria Raptis
Constantine Skarvelis
Paul G. and
Stephanie X. Stamas
Stephanie G. Stamas

Paulina Stamatelos
Alexandra Svokos
Elizabeth Svokos
Paulina Stamatelos
Jason Tsoukas
Konstantinos Vasilakakis





These first New Leaders events
in New York and Boston raised nearly

\$40,000





This \$40,000
translated through matches to almost
\$120,000
for THI's program with Prolepsis / Diatrofi's
which provides daily lunches
for schoolchildren throughout Greece.



IN THE MIDST OF THE
ECONOMIC CRISIS,
THI IS BRINGING FOREIGN
INVESTMENT TO GREECE
FOR THE NEW GENERATION
OF ENTREPRENEURS
AND START-UPS.

THE ATHENS
VENTURE FAIR
IS A GROUND-BREAKING
PARADIGM FOR DOING
BUSINESS IN GREECE.



The 2nd Annual
Venture Fair

2

The 2nd Annual Venture Fair

ATHENS HILTON HOTEL - JUNE 28, 2016

Once again, The Hellenic Initiative brought foreign investment and investors to Greece through its Second Annual Venture Fair. Returning to the Athens Hilton on June 28, 2016, THI brought fifteen promising companies together with more than 120 international investors. Following the first successful Venture Fair in 2015 that raised over \$1.2 million for participating entrepreneurs, The Hellenic Initiative again organized this unique event transforming the discussion about investment into actual opportunity.

More than 40 enthusiastic young entrepreneurs representing 15

upcoming businesses presented their business plans and visions in a 12-minute pitch and interlocutory in front of a group of 120 investors from US, Europe, Australia, and Canada. Before and after the presentations, the participants had the chance to network, receive feedback and interact with highly experienced business executives. The participating companies represented many sectors, all quite important for the development of the Greek economy, such as Food & Beverage, Information Technology, Health, Tourism, Music, IoT, Real Estate, Automotive and the Retail Industry. ■

PARTICIPATING COMPANIES





In conjunction with the VentureGarden program, and with the invaluable assistance of Kurt Heiar, from the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center at the University of Iowa, the fifteen companies, listed below, received mentoring and presentation coaching.







SPONSORS

Many thanks to our sponsors!



PAPAPOLITIS / PAPAPOLITIS

EST* 1898



ATHEXGROUP
Athens Exchange Group

ReedSmith



Second Annual
VENTURE FAIR
Athens 2016



“As Homer said, we are ‘sailing the wine dark sea’ – and it is difficult to see below the surface, a parable for Greece right now. So, in this sea of confusion, to behold a room like this come together is a combination of inspiration, hope, and reality. The reality is provided by all of you in this room. This is not a theoretical gathering or some kind of think tank. This is about business. This is about funding – for profit – some of the wonderful entrepreneurs of this country.”

**–George Stamas, co-founder and president of
The Hellenic Initiative, opening the event**



40

PARTICIPATING
ENTREPRENEURS

\$1.2

MILLION RAISED
for participating entrepreneurs in 2015



VENTURE F

Athens 2016



“ We want those who are born in this beautiful country and are educated at top-notch universities here and overseas, to live in their own country with a high quality of life. We want to keep them here by creating entirely new categories of employment and opportunities that were previously unavailable. Entrepreneurship has the potential to radically change the face of Greece.”

**–Marina Hatsopoulos, Keynote Speaker
Entrepreneur, Director and Angel Investor**

VENTURE FAIR PANELISTS



Peter Abraam

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
STRATEGIC PLANNING

Royal Group



Evi Andrianou

PARTNER

ReaCapital Advisors



Angelos Angelou

FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN

International Accelerator



Jimmy Athanasopoulos

HEAD OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Libra Group



Michael Bapis

PARTNER AND MANAGING
DIRECTOR

The Bapis Group



Aris Candris

RETIRED PRESIDENT AND CEO

Westinghouse Electric Company



Stefanos Capsakis

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Dean Dakolias

CO-CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER

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INVESTMENT COUNSELOR

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Panos Katsambas

PARTNER

Reed Smith



Roxane Koutsolouka

FOUNDER

JOINCARGO



Socratis Lazaridis

CEO

Athens Exchange Group



Cleo Lymberis

SENIOR CORPORATE BANKING
MANAGER

HSBC Bank



Alexander Macridis

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Chryssafidis S.A.



Dean Metropoulos

CHAIRMAN

Metropoulos & Company



Harry Patras

FOUNDER AND CEO

Create Investments and Patras
Property Developments



Nicholas Papapolitis

PARTNER

Papapolitis/Papapolitis



Elias Retsinas

PARTNER

Fasken Martineau DuMoulin



George Stamas

SENIOR PARTNER

Kirkland & Ellis LLP



Nikos Stathopoulos

MANAGING PARTNER

BC Partners



Kurt Heiar

Kurt Heiar is an accomplished corporate executive, serial entrepreneur, and university instructor. Kurt has been the President & CEO of multiple early stage companies for John Pappajohn, and served as Vice President, Marketing, at Baxter Healthcare. At the University of Iowa, Kurt utilizes his Stanford Business Model Canvas training serving as both a faculty member, and as Lead Instructor for the University Venture Schools statewide.

For three years Kurt has been spending one month per summer leading special seminars for the VentureGarden Program of the Hellenic Initiative. In addition, Kurt has been a vital part of the preparation for the Athens Venture Fairs. He meets with all the companies in the weeks before they present to the investors, and offers them guidance as to how to polish their presentations, both visual and verbal.

All of us at The Hellenic Initiative express a deep and abiding gratitude to Kurt for the inestimable contribution he has made to the success of these Greek entrepreneurs and the success of the THI programs for the economic revitalization of Greece.





3 THI PARTNERSHIPS WERE RECOGNIZED

- The THI Venture Garden Award
- The Junior Achievement Competition
- The THI Egg Excellence Award





SUCCESS STORIES



JoinCargo, the most innovative shipping platform in Greece, manages to instantly connect companies who need to ship freight, with carriers who need freight to fill up their trucks. Its focus is based on maximizing the efficiency for both parties, resulting in the highest percentage of productivity and efficiency possible. Following The Hellenic Initiative's First Annual Venture Fair that took place last June, JoinCargo's Founder and CEO, Roxane Koutsoulouka managed to raise funding of €400,000 from three investors, 2 of which were a direct result of JoinCargo's participation.

The funds raised gave JoinCargo the opportunity to focus even more on improving its services. A sales team was put together, focusing on both our shipping and carriers businesses. In the meantime, our developer is making sure that both processes and the platform itself are functional and as efficient as possible. JoinCargo's philosophy is based on the power of constant improvement both through keeping up with the industry's changes, but also by adapting to new tech innovations. JoinCargo is a company that understands competitive advantages lie in the ability of a company to adapt and

expand its horizons through constant learning. New ideas lead to new features and each problem leads to new, more efficient processes. For this reason, JoinCargo strives to stay as close to our customers as possible in order to continually learn and improve our services and drive growth. The recent investments have allowed JoinCargo to more clearly define our procedures and in the coming months, we will begin to focus heavily on marketing. We expect that with our already strong sales, and constantly improving platform, our marketing push will enable us to grow further.



120 INTERNATIONAL INVESTORS

Empowering the Future of Greece



THE THI ANNUAL GALA
IS THE EVENT OF THE YEAR
FOR THE GREEK DIASPORA,
BRINGING TOGETHER
LEADERS FROM ACROSS
CONTINENTS TO
RAISE AWARENESS
AND FUNDS TO
HELP GREECE.



The 3rd Annual Gala




**THE
THIRD ANNUAL
GALA**

Honoring EXCELLENCE & PHILANTHROPY



The Hellenic Initiative's Third Annual Gala was held at the World Trade Center, Tower Number 4, overlooking the site of the Saint Nicholas National Greek Orthodox Shrine on September 30, 2015. The night's fundraising exceeded \$2 million, continuing the record of the most successful fundraising initiative ever within the Greek-Diaspora community.

Focused on the theme, "Empowering the Future of Greece," over 650 supporters of THI's mission to Greece crowded the 53rd Floor of Tower Number Four overlooking the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island and the glorious New York City skyline. Directly below the vast venue was the construction site of the Saint Nicholas National Greek Orthodox Shrine.

The Gala was attended by the Prime Minister of Greece, Alexis Tsipras, several Greek government representatives, including the

Hellenic Republic's Ambassador to the United States, Christos Panagopoulos, the Ambassador to the United Nations Catherine Boura, the Consuls General of Greece and Cyprus, and the EU Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, Dimitris Avramopoulos. Prominent friends and members of the Greek-American community, including Theodore and Gianna Angelopoulos and Olympia Dukakis were among the hundreds who graced the event. Emcees Ryan Serhant and Emilia Bechrakis, Stars

..... The 2015 Recipients



JOHN A. CATSIMATIDIS
FOUNDER, THE RED APPLE GROUP



GEORGE MARCUS
FOUNDER, MARCUS & MILLICHAP



THE AGNES VARIS TRUST
FOUNDED IN 2011



of Bravo’s “Million Dollar Listing New York” provided smooth sailing for the evening.

There were substantive contingents from THI Australia and the future THI Canada, both groups occupying tables.

The event honored three outstanding individuals for their lifetime of entrepreneurship and philanthropy: John A. Catsimatidis, Founder, The Red Apple Group; George Marcus, Founder, Marcus and Milichap; and the late businesswoman, activist and humanitarian, Dr. Agnes

Varis, through her eponymous Trust.

A Waterford crystal “Truffle Bowl” was selected for the Award and the famous exhortation of Peleus to his son, Achilles, (Iliad 11:784) – “αἰὲν ἀριστεύειν, always excel” was inscribed on each, dated, and personalized with this dedication: “for a lifetime of excellence and philanthropy.”

The Annual Gala is an extraordinary gathering of the Greek Diaspora, who come together in New York to celebrate their roots and give to the many worthy causes of THI. It

is truly an evening of fellowship and connection. A true “symposium” of ideas, conversation, and renewed friendships, the Annual Gala provides The Hellenic Initiative not only with funding for our many programs, but it engages Diaspora Greeks at the highest level, and affords the wider community to participate in our programs to both assist those in need and create a more sustainable economy for Greece. ■



“ To give back! We owe it our forebears who gave so richly to us! And to those who are Philhellenes, thank you for understanding what the words, “Hellenic Initiative” mean. The Hellenic concept is all-pervasive through the modern world. The ‘Initiative’ we pursue is not just for today or tomorrow. It is for the youth of Greece – to respond to the call for action: the call of a child that needs food, that needs education. We are here to bring the call to action. The Diaspora in America is mobilizing, as are the Australians, and soon the Canadians and others. Eleven million Greeks have five million in the Diaspora to partner with! The Hellenic Initiative is not a single entity; it is all of us!”

–Andrew Liveris, THI Chairman

THE
HELLENIC
INITIATIVE

The night's fundraising exceeded **\$2 million**, continuing the record of the **most successful fundraising initiative ever** within the Greek-American community.





“ We are here to pay respect to our forefathers, our grandparents and parents. The one thing that will make them happy and proud is that I have achieved having my children love our Ellada!”

–John Catsimatidis





THE
HELLENIC
INITIATIVE





A Waterford crystal “Truffle Bowl” was selected for the Award and the famous exhortation of Peleus to his son, Achilles, (Iliad 11:784) – “αἰὲν ἀριστεύειν, always excel” was inscribed on each, dated, and personalized with this dedication....



A large bouquet of white flowers, possibly hydrangeas, is in a vase in the background. In the foreground, a clear, ornate crystal bowl sits on a metal table. The background is a window with a view of a city.

...“for a lifetime of
excellence and
philanthropy.”





“ When I was first approached in the formative years of THI, it was clear to me that the situation in Greece was dire, and that the Diaspora could help and should help quickly. Although she is not with us today, I am certain that Agnes Varis would support the decisions to support the necessary work of THI. She would also challenge everyone of us to do as much as we can to support it, because it is the right thing to do.”

–George Svokos (on behalf of the Agnes Varis Trust)



“ We formed The Hellenic Initiative in 2012 to mobilize the Greek Diaspora and friends of Greece worldwide, of whom I am proudly one, to support the Nation, to support the people of Greece through long-term development and near-term crisis relief. And the mission is, of course, investing in the future of Greece: through economic revitalization, providing crisis relief, encouraging entrepreneurs, and creating jobs. I am very honored personally, and with the seven hundred thousand of the system of Coca-Cola worldwide, to be part of this very noble initiative.”

–Muhtar Kent

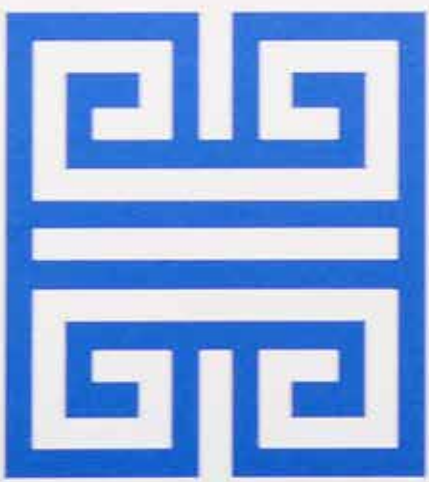




“ We are called together to help our Motherland. The Diaspora is remarkably successful globally – Australia, South Africa, everywhere! But the Greeks have just as much talent at home as we have abroad. We just need a clear runway!

–George Marcus





THE
HELLENIC
INITIATIVE



THE HELLENIC INITIATIVE IS
COMMITTED TO A
TWO-FOLD PROGRAM
OF AID TO GREECE:
CRISIS RELIEF FOR
THOSE MOST IN NEED
AND ENTREPRENEURIAL
SUPPORT FOR THOSE
RENEWING THE
ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE.
WE ARE GRATEFUL TO
ALL OUR NGO'S
AND PARTNERS
FOR THE SUPERLATIVE
WORK THEY DO EVERY DAY.



THI Programs

4





THE HELLENIC INITIATIVE

POINTS of LIGHT

THI Supports Greeks Helping
Greece to Grow and Thrive

There is an old theory of why the Ancient Greeks developed philosophy – it was because the light of Greece was so clear, and it cleared their minds to deep perceptions about reality. Whether this is the case or not, one thing is clear: Greece is a land of light and the people of Greece are shining examples of light.

In the pages that follow, we present our “Points of Light,” instances of Greeks helping Greeks and helping Greece to cope during this ongoing economic and social crisis. You will read about Greek NGOs that are doing phenomenal work in securing the social safety net for the most vulnerable. You will also read about Greek entrepreneurs who are fighting everyday to make a life for themselves and for their employees in Greece. Their courage is truly the future of the country, as it is the brilliance of the Greek soul that has shined through the ages, that shines throughout the Diaspora – where generations of Greeks have known amazing success, and that continues to shine in Greece in these dark times.



CRISIS RELIEF

From its founding in 2012, The Hellenic Initiative has been committed to providing crisis relief in Greece through funding local, innovative, and transparent NGOs. These organizations are “Points of Light,” distributing basic aid, and social and medical services that have disappeared for significant portions of the population. Children, the elderly, and the infirm have been especially hard hit, and the needs vary regionally. While the countryside has abundant food resources, there is often a marked need for medical services. In the cities, food and energy are real deprivations for many.

In four short years, and through the generosity of the Greek Diaspora and Philhellene Communities, THI has directly funded fourteen crisis relief programs and impacted another 25 programs through indirect support.

THI is proud of the work done by committed Greeks in their own homeland to assist their fellow citizens. As a Diaspora-wide organization, THI sees support of those in need as a vital part of its mission to serve.

In what follows, you will see the fourteen crisis relief programs that THI has funded directly, as well as the twenty-five programs that have been funded indirectly (these are eleven organizations under the umbrella of Together for Children).

Since 2012, through our NGO Partners, a total of **\$3,512,653.00** and **AU\$60,000** has been distributed in direct crisis relief.

Direct Impact



Over **2,100,000** meals directly distributed.



Over **10,000** children vaccinated.



More than **13,000** people provided with medical and dental services.



70,000 gallons of heating fuel donated.



250 Patients supported through MDA Hellas.



12 Month of support for cardio surgery in Crete.



Two transit stations for unaccompanied minors in two of the worst hit islands from the refugee crisis, Lesbos and Samos.

Indirect Impact



More than **\$400,000** of donations facilitated through the sharing platform of *Desmos*.



More than **20,000** meals per day otherwise wasted through the organization *Boroume*.



Through our child-focused partner organizations throughout Greece, THI helps **30,000** children per year.

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES



**SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES**

With an exceptional record of serving children and families, SOS Villages Greece has been part of

the THI Crisis Relief portfolio since 2013. The total grant aid that has been offered is now \$800,000.00. Our partnership has supported on average 2,000 individuals per year from 500 families (approximately 1,200 children and 800 adults). In

total, the food aid that has been secured by THI is equivalent to 728,520 meals over the last 4 years. THI's support for these families extends throughout Athens, Piraeus, Thessaloniki, Alexandroupolis, and Kalamata.



TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN

One of the 2016 honorees at the THI Fourth Annual Gala, Together for Children is an umbrella agency supporting ten members:



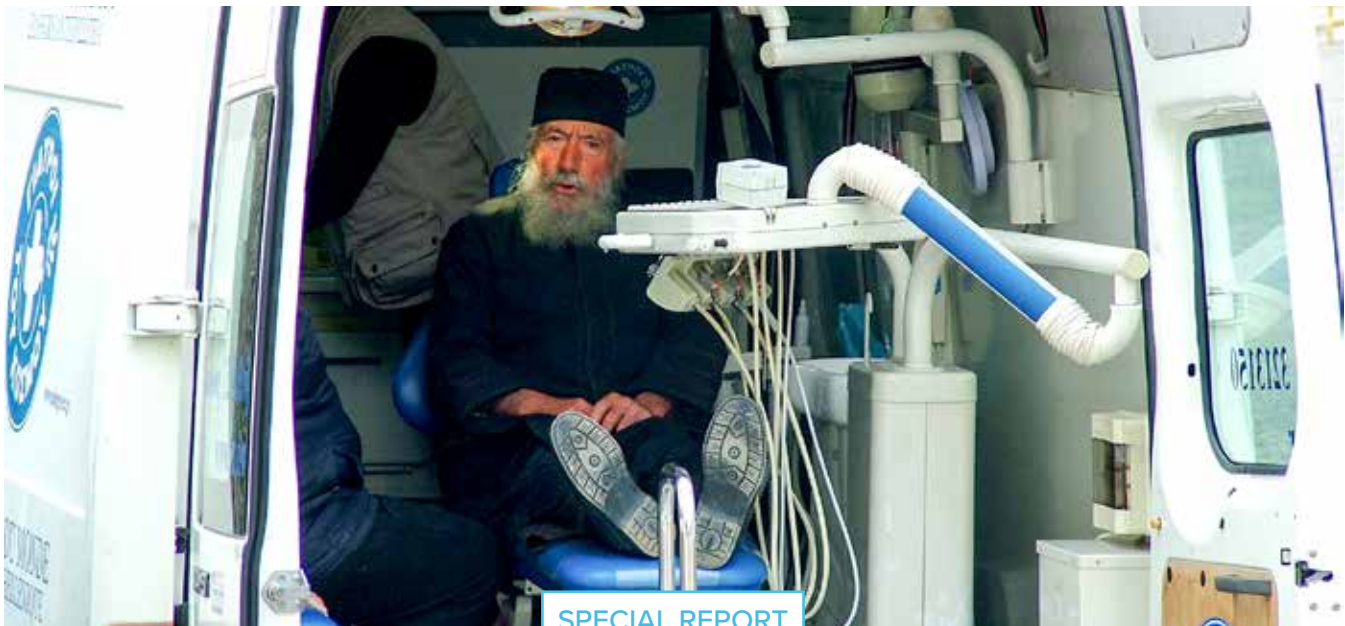
Together for Children

1. Cerebral Palsy Greece, www.eps-ath.gr
2. "Paidiki Stegi" Foundation - Day Care Nurseries, www.paidikestesges.gr
3. Social Work Foundation "Hatzipaterion" Rehabilitation Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy, www.ike.org.gr
4. "Hara" Centre For Individuals with Special Needs, www.kea-hara.gr
5. Merimna's Friends Foundation- "Merimna" Society for the Care of Children & Families Facing Illness & Death, www.merimna.org.gr
6. Friends of the Child, Protection of the Child in its Family Environment, www.filoitoupediou.gr
7. "Eliza" Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, www.eliza.org.gr
8. Panhellenic Juvenile Diabetes Union, www.peand.gr
9. PNOE - Friends of Children in Intensive Care, www.pnoe.org
10. "The Friends of Theotokos"- "Theotokos Foundation", Center for the Assessment, Rehabilitation and Vocational Training of Children and Young People with Mental Disabilities, www.theotokos.gr

THI has partnered with this umbrella organization from 2014 to the present, and the London Kick-off Event was dedicated to its support. To date, THI has granted \$300,000.00 to Together for Children and is encouraged by the impact that has been made. Our aid has primarily been focused on covering operational expenses and staff costs associated with the different programs that these organizations deliver on the ground. From hiring social workers, to special trainers that work with children suffering from cerebral palsy, the lives of 30,000 children are directly or indirectly affected by THI.

DOCTORS OF THE WORLD

Through this partnership, which has been active from 2014 to the present, THI is supporting communities in Athens, Piraeus, Chania, Patras on a regular basis and numerous other cities and smaller villages all around Greece by supporting the organization's mobile units. The total granted to date is \$480,000.00 and the primary focus has been on supporting their dental and vaccination programs. Greek children cannot register to go to school unless they can prove they have received the minimal vaccinations. These can cost \$200.00 per child and many families cannot afford them. In 2015, gynecological services were added as part of the services offered to the community. So far almost 10,000 children have been vaccinated against a number of diseases, more than 13,000 individuals have been provided with primary and secondary dental treatments. and a team of gynecologists has provided services to 1,200 women.



SPECIAL REPORT

A Doctors of the World Story

BY MICHAEL PRINTZOS

I was always good with numbers. I kind of like the way they speak the truth without being susceptible to different interpretations. Being THI's Director of Programming is often a job dealing with a lot of numbers. Wondering how many beneficiaries can be part of one program, and how much value I can get for every dollar invested, are questions that often come to my mind. Avoiding the real hardships that our beneficiaries go through is an advantage of the work I am doing since I have the privilege of dealing with ... numbers.

Or so I thought until the day I arrived in Kastelorizo back in March. For those of you who haven't been there, it is one of the most beautiful islands in the Aegean. Its small harbor gives you the impression that it jumped out of a movie set.

Michael Printzos is THI's Director of Programming in Greece. Michael is a Greek National, born and raised, and is deeply passionate about his homeland. He has been with THI since 2013, and manages all of the programs on the ground, keeps track of the metrics and follows up as needed. He also interfaces with all applicants for THI's charitable work. The work is gratifying, but also challenging, as his reflection demonstrates, after a Doctors of the World mission to the little island of Kastelorizo.



I did not go for vacation, but to accompany aid workers providing relief to those most in need. I was there with a wonderful team of 10 doctors working together with our partner, Doctors of the World. The whole story started at THI's 2015 Gala when I was approached by someone who asked me to examine the living conditions on the island,





especially after the refugee crisis. I was on the phone during the winter trying to organize this trip and connect with the local doctor to see what he needed most. We arrived together with a mobile unit and for 2 days the people in Kastelorizo had access to health services likely much better than anything they could have found in Athens. We visited the elderly and people who had suffered strokes in the past. We visited homes, saw young families coming with their children to be vaccinated, and even served a number of people with primary and secondary dental treatments. Everything looked fine until that Sunday morning when I woke up to get ready for my flight home to my family in Athens. As I was walking around the harbor, I spotted life vests on the surface of the sea. I approached the local medical unit and heard the screams of a woman. I suddenly realized that something terrible had happened. The previous night, more than fifty people had crossed over from the Turkish shore and landed at the neighboring island of Ro. What I did not realize at this point, was that not all of them made it safe.



Amidst the beauty of that island paradise, whose serenity was shattered by the the screams of a bereaved mother, I witnessed the moment when a coast guard officer brought two drowned children in a single body bag to the medical unit. Two innocent souls, a boy and a girl around 3-4 years old, died that night as their mothers lost them at sea. At my back one mother was screaming. The doctors were giving her an injection to calm her down. In front of me the father was smoking a cigarette, staring blankly at the sea, without saying a word or making any sound. Just staring there with his eyes on the horizon wondering....

This is a moment that I will never

forget. Not only because of what I witnessed, but because of my proximity to the disaster. This is when I realized, the hard way, that numbers don't speak the truth all the time. That night's TV news reminded me of this when they reported this story as "two children, drowned in the Aegean". Their mention in the news was as short as the lives they lived.

I don't know how much you believe in numbers yourselves, but I do know that I have many to share with you, like the ones you can find by reading this Annual Report. But as you read through it, try to grasp what these numbers really mean and feel proud of the help you are providing to the people of Greece!

IOCC/APOSTOLI



International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) is well known to many in the Orthodox Christian community. THI has partnered with IOCC and Apostoli, the social service arm of the Autocephalous Church of Greece since 2013 to provide a safety net for the neediest in Greek society. To date, IOCC/Apostoli have received \$900,000.00 thanks to our generous supporters.

The food aid provided through this program is equivalent to over 1,300,000 meals. Our aid under this umbrella ranges from providing



fresh produce delivered through an innovative partnership with a grocery chain, to helping agricultural cooperatives buy new equipment, delivering food parcels with dry food aid through the Church network in Attica, and even donating petrol



to needy families and institutions in northern Greece. In conjunction with this, in 2013 THI also supported six schools in northern Greece with 4,000 liters of petrol during that winter.

PRAKSIS

Praksis is a Greek NGO focused on the implementation of humanitarian programs and medical interventions for the poorest and neediest in Greek society. From 2013 - 2014 a one year grant of \$156,000.00 to provide medical and dental services, as well as intensive support for 25 families through the Praksis “Plus to Minus” program. The program helped recently unemployed families stabilize their finances and transition back to independence. Nearly 3,000 individuals received medical services and another 1,700 dental treatments.



DESMOS

THI and THI Australia are supporting Desmos Direct (www.desmosdirect.org), an online digital tool which facilitates and accelerates the donation process between individuals, companies and social welfare providers. So far more than \$400,000 worth of donations have

been transacted through this portal. The grant commenced in 2014 and continues to the present day, supported by THI Australia. The total grant aid is \$27,000.00 from THI (2014-2015) and AU\$20,000 THI Australia (2015-present).





MDA HELLAS

In 2015 THI made a decision to enhance the services of MDA Hellas in the Special Unit for Neuromuscular Diseases at the AHEPA Hospital in Thessaloniki. The grant of \$50,000.00 funded operations offering daily services to patients suffering from 47 rare neuromuscular disorders.

The Impact....

Christos is now nineteen years old. He was diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD), at the age of one. Christos was one of the first patients at the Unit for Neuromuscular Diseases (NMD) in the “AHEPA” University Hospital. By 2007, Christos was already in a wheelchair, because of the degenerative nature of the disease.

His parents received the diagnosis in the disease’s early stages. Christos first came to the Unit for NMD, with a costly DNA analysis from a private research laboratory. Despite the DNA analysis, he did not qualify for the necessary therapies and examinations in the public health system, because he did not have any valid tests and prescriptions for the disease.

Additionally, Christos’ family was stretched to the limit spending money and time making appointments with many different doctors (neurologist, pulmonologist, orthopedist, and cardiologist) in order to monitor the progress of the disease. Christos normally would have been hospitalized for one week in a public hospital to complete all tests, but being hospitalized was risky because of his susceptibility to infection.

When the family found out that a Special Unit for Neuromuscular Diseases was operating in the “AHEPA” Hospital, they made an appointment the same day. Christos was examined by a pediatric neurologist, a pulmonologist, a cardiologist and orthopedist. His blood sample was sent to a recognized public research laboratory and gave Christos’ family the valid paperwork for his diagnosis free of charge.

Since then Christos, has regular appointments at the Unit of NMD



every six months. He has all the medical care that he needs, all Unit doctors monitor the progress of his disease, and he is doing all required tests. At the age of 16 he came under the team of doctors for adults and he decided to have some sessions with the psychologist of the Unit as well. These sessions helped him to open up his character and improve his life. Currently Christos is studying Biology at the University of Thessaloniki and is working toward a scholarship in order to specialize in research.

The grant of The Hellenic Initiative has contributed not only to maintain the level of services provided in the Unit of NMD, but also to recruit a pulmonologist especially for the patients. Having all these services in one place provides the patients with a “one-stop shop” for their care, saving valuable time, effort and expense.

THE CARDIO SURGERY DEPARTMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL IN HERAKLION, CRETE



When we learned that the only Cardio Surgery Department on the island of Crete (population of over 600,00 with nearly 1,000,000 visitors

every year) was unable to operate due to a lack of funding for staff, The Hellenic Initiative went into action. The unit had all the equipment, thanks to generous private donations, but there was no public funding available. Working with Doctor George Lazopoulos, the

head of the Department, THI helped to fill a funding gap by devising a special funding process through the University that would ensure the money would go to the Cardio Surgery Department. With the Department becoming operational, citizens could now be treated in Crete without having to travel to the mainland.

THI provided \$230,000.00 to staff the unit which opened in 2015 and will continue through the end of 2016. It is hoped that public funds will be found to keep the unit functioning.



PROLEPSIS/DIATROFI

Since 2012, Prolepsis has been implementing the Food Aid and Promotion of Healthy Nutrition Program—DIATROFI supported by the founding donor, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. Prolepsis provides a nutritious, daily meal to disadvantaged schools around Greece. DIATROFI, the largest school food aid initiative in the nation, supports public school students in vulnerable areas by offering them a healthy, free meal on a daily basis and promoting nutrition via educational material and activities. The main goal of the Program is to reduce food-insecurity among children residing in socioeconomically-disadvantaged areas of Greece and to encourage healthy nutritional habits for both students and their families, thereby aiming to address the obesity epidem-

ic in Greece. The Program avoids student stigmatization and enhances social inclusion through the participation of all students in selected school.

The beneficiaries of the Program are students from ages 5-15 in selected schools of vulnerable areas in Greece and their families. Participating schools include all grades and are selected on the basis of strict socio-economic criteria, related to regional net-taxable income, unemployment, food insecurity data, school principals' written statements on the percentage of children in need, and the presence of socially disadvantaged students.



There are still well over 100,000 students waiting to participate in this program.

THI's grant for 2015 – 2016 of \$66,000 was matched 3:1 by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. In addition, the THI New Leaders Kickoff Cocktail event in New York City on February 2, 2016, and the THI New Leaders Boston Cockatil Party on June 6th, dedicated all the money raised to Prolepsis/DIATROFI which in turn was matched by THI and then again by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.



BOROUME



The objective of Boroume's core program is to reduce food waste and to increase food donations to charities and their beneficiaries, using innovative and non-traditional channels. The program has consistently shown steady increase in the number of donated food portions, food donors, and recipient charities while the type of food donors expanded. Boroume has saved and redistributed a remarkable number of food portions, now in excess of 3,700,000 portions that have found



their way to the needy and hungry. This is a savings estimated to be over 5,650,000 euros! Boroume has found innovative ways to connect food to hungry people, and has done it at minimal expense.

THI and THI Australia have supported staff costs to keep the organization running with total grants of \$27,000.00 from THI (2014-2015) and AU\$40,000 from THI Australia (2015-present).



THE REFUGEE CRISIS



In 2015, nearly one million refugees and immigrants reached the Greek islands from the shores of Turkey. Most of them traveled on to countries in Western Europe via the Western Balkan corridor. The majority fled war, violence or persecution in Syria, Iraq or Afghanistan, and need international protection.

With the rest of the world, THI witnessed not only the sorrow and pity of this tide of refugees, but also the incredible strain that this crisis was placing on the people of Greece, who were responding with a humanity unparalleled by any other country or people. Inspired by the generous donations of a THI Board Member,

THI made a commitment to reach out to a Greek NGO, METAdrasi, that was specializing in protecting unaccompanied minors who reached Greek shores. METAdrasi, along with many international NGOs, were in the front line in the Summer of 2015 when the island of Mytilene (Lesvos) became a "Ground Zero" for the refugee crisis. Even as the Greeks on the island were seemingly overwhelmed by the flood of refugees, they continued to open their hearts and arms to the battle weary masses reaching their shores.

METAdrasi opened the first center for unaccompanied minors on the Island, and has since opened

a center on Samos. The total grant by THI was \$200,000.00 and these centers have relieved both the refugees and assisted the local Greek residents of these islands cope with the refugee crisis. Over 35% of refugees arriving in Greece are children, many of them separated from their families or unaccompanied. METAdrasi has provided legal services to unaccompanied children since 2009. METAdrasi teams initiate family reunification cases; facilitate legal guardianship cases, acting on behalf of the Public Prosecutors (including the Public Prosecutor for minors) who are appointed by law as temporary guardians; run the two transit accommodation facilities in Lesvos and Samos, and accompany children in transit so they are not trafficked or harmed.

METAdrasi offers free legal aid to asylum-seekers and torture survivors entitled to international protection. Its programs include trainings on asylum law and procedure; individual representation; identification and support to vulnerable populations; and legal support to detained refugees.

Some of the most serious humanitarian concerns addressed by METAdrasi are: child protection and the safety of unaccompanied minors; trafficking of women and children; lack of capacity in identifying, protecting and representing asylum-seekers and torture survivors; inhumane living conditions for refugees and migrants in camps and detention centers. It is also necessary to provide effective reception and asylum procedures.

Thanks to a THI Board Member who is a Senior Partner at Reed Smith LLP, as part of its pro bono program, Reed Smith is cooperating at its own expense with METAdrasi in a number of fields to address some of the more pressing concerns, by forming joint teams between Reed Smith pro bono lawyers and existing METAdrasi lawyers and other personnel already working in the field.

Existing need for legal services vastly exceeds capacity. Reed Smith has a 100-member human rights team that has handled refugee cases for over 15 years. The firm has worked with Syrian and Iraqi refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and Kurdistan for the last 18 months. Reed Smith has an office in Athens and sends teams of qualified pro bono lawyers and Arabic interpreters to support METAdrasi lawyers in Greece.

Reed Smith has been working with METAdrasi since May of 2016 and the partnership is very strong. Over 40 international lawyers and case workers volunteer in Chios, Samos and Lesbos. The firm brings its own interpreters and field coordinators and operates as a mobile legal clinic in parallel to METAdrasi's lawyers. Reed Smith is supporting the most vulnerable refugees, while adding capacity to the Greek legal system, which is overwhelmed by the number of refugees seeking protection. The firm plans remaining in Greece supporting METAdrasi until October 2016, and is building the architecture for a permanent volunteer structure so that international lawyers may come to Greece and serve Lora Pappas and her METAdrasi team for as long as needed.

METAdrasi also partnered with a Greek startup called Gridmates that is working to fund the cost of

ΜΕΤΑΔΡΑΣΗ

ΔΡΑΣΗ ΓΙΑ ΤΗ ΜΕΤΑΝΑΣΤΕΥΣΗ & ΤΗΝ ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ

the utilities for the transit center on Lesbos. Gridmates is the world's first internet platform designed to end energy poverty. It empowers individuals with the ability to donate energy to people in need. Gridmates was one of the first companies to participate in SXSW in 2014 with the support of The Hellenic Initiative and International Accelerator and was able to attract \$150,000 in investments and another \$105,000 in awards from the US Department of Energy.

In addition to the work with METAdrasi, THI has supported the Bodossaki Foundation and its "Giving for Greece" program with a grant for 2016 of \$75,000.00. This program provides shelter, protection, and the support with appropriate services for unaccompanied minors living in Greece for one year.

These types of cooperation are indicative of the kind of work that The Hellenic Initiative is propagating throughout Greece. As THI grows into a larger and larger nexus of synergies for Greece and the Diaspora, we hope that many more points of light will shine!





ENTREPRENEURSHIP & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

THI's Entrepreneurship Programs and Economic Development initiatives are focused on the long-term economic health of Greece and Greeks. It has been reported that since the beginning of the crisis in 2010, perhaps as many as 400,000 young Greeks have left the country in search of work and opportunity elsewhere, primarily in Western Europe. This number is literally staggering! If the United States lost the same percentage of its youth, the number would be in excess of twelve million. Such a loss of citizenry is not sustainable for any country's future.

When THI was founded, it was decided that the long-term needs of Greece were as important as the short-term needs for direct crisis relief. Greeks of the Diaspora possess new paradigms for economic growth and entrepreneurial engagement that have historically been tremendously

successful throughout the world. Therefore, in addition to monetary support and funding, fueling new engines of economic and entrepreneurial revitalization, they represent a main focus of the THI program for Greece. Some of it would be bold experimentation, trying new paradigms where perhaps none had existed before. In the pages that follow, the full panoply of THI programs for economic growth and entrepreneurship is represented.

We begin with the Hellenic Entrepreneurship Award (HEA), THI's first program. Funded by Libra Group, HEA has already invested \$4.25 million in Greek start-ups. The Athens Venture Fair, THI's platform to fund, for profit, mature startups looking for Series A/B funding, is described on pages 13-27. Some programs have morphed, others have ended, and some are going strong.

All together, including HEA, nearly \$6.2 million have been invested in programs and companies.

Additionally, THI Board Members have invested in a private equity fund (60 million euros) that is investing in Greek companies. The fund has no direct relationship to THI, the synergies created by those involved have proven useful to the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

THI is also a major supporter of the mission to the SXSW Interactive festival in Austin, TX that has seen some of Greece's best startups raising funds and support abroad. Though each of these programs indirectly promotes growth and job creation THI is also a strategic supporter of the ReGeneration program focusing on direct job creation through 6-month, paid internships in some of Greece's best companies.

\$6.2 MILLION
invested in programs and companies



HELLENIC
ENTREPRENEURSHIP
AWARD

Jimmy Athanasopoulos, Chairman

Alexandros Nousias, Director

*Maria Gabriela Anagnostopoulos,
Project Manager & Financial
Analyst*

*Charisia Chatzitsoli, Administrative
Assistant & Event Coordinator*

*Dimitris Chaintinis, Marketing
Executive*

Olga Theodosiou, Legal Counsel

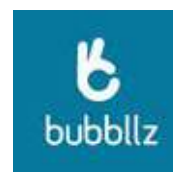
Fenia Haikali, Legal Counsel

Yiannis Mallios, Intern

HELLENIC ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARD



THE 2016 WINNERS



This year the Hellenic Entrepreneurship Award (HEA) proudly announced another three winners, bringing the total number of winning companies to fourteen. Since the program's inception in 2012, over 2,600 Greek start-ups have applied and submitted their business plans to the HEA. The number of applicants alone proves that the entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well in Greece. In addition to the mentoring and business support provided by supporters of the program, this year's winners received increased prize funding of €1,250,000.

The award was conceived and is

operated by the Libra Group which has committed €10 million to the program. In addition to funding, Libra provides experienced and industry-specific mentorship to the HEA winners. Jalouise Pty Ltd, an Australia-based property and development company, and Dimitris Goulandris, also support the HEA through significant financial contributions. In addition to contributing to the winning funds, Piraeus Bank supports applicants and winners through its training subsidiary, the Excelixi Centre of Sustainability and Entrepreneurship. In recognition of the Hellenic Entrepreneurship Award's contribution to sustainable

entrepreneurship, The Onassis Cultural Centre has granted use of its facilities to the HEA.

We have been heartened by the numerous organisations who have stepped forward to help HEA winners and finalists achieve their commercial ambitions. By joining the HEA family, these organisations demonstrate their commitment to developing Greece's entrepreneurial community. The award supporters include: Antidote, Intracom Telecom, Ioannis Vassardanis & Partners Law Firm, Lykourezos Law Offices, Microsoft Hellas, Moore Stephens, People for Business, Reed Smith, SAP Hellas and White Room.



President of Greece presents 2016 awards

With more than 1,100 submitted business plans, the HEA's fourth year attracted a record number of participants. The award year culminated in a ceremony at the Onassis Cultural Centre in Athens on Wednesday, June 1, where the President of the Hellenic Republic, Prokopios Pavlopoulos, presented trophies to the three winners. This brings the total number of winners to fourteen since the inception of the award program. The 2016 winners are Blueground, Bubllyz and Raymetrics. They span a range of commercial sectors, from hospitality to social media marketing to meteorology.

The winning companies will share prize funding of €1.250.000 and, as usual, will be provided with an expert mentor and a range of business support services, including legal, accounting, marketing, IT, communications and HR services.



The 2016 Winners

Blueground is a technology-enabled chain of serviced apartments, houses and villas created by transforming existing residential properties. The company functions like a hotel, but instead of all rooms being under a single roof, it operates individual properties spread across a city. Blueground (www.theblueground.com) serves corporate and leisure travellers in Greece, Turkey and soon in UAE.

Bubllyz (www.bubllyz.com) is a mobile application that rewards users' social media posts and, via a web marketing platform, enables brands and vendors to promote products and services through user-generated content. Users simply take a photo or selfie with the product they buy and a reward code is created. They receive instant rewards in the form of discounts, coupons, competitions, loyalty points and special offers when they post their pictures on social media.

Raymetrics (www.raymetrics.com) aims to create a new, advanced and powerful 3D ceilometer (instrument for determining the height of clouds) for the aviation industry, aimed at providing additional data, essential for airports and meteorological agencies, such as Total Cloud Cover information



(in 3D), Incoming Cloud Base Height, Planetary Boundary Layer Height (useful for weather forecasting and modelling) and Vertical Optical Range (VOR).

Past Awards

The eleven innovative companies who were declared winners between 2013 and 2015 are now successfully pursuing their business plans. Operating in 11 different sectors and trading products & services in more than 30 countries, these companies are contributing to the Greek economy through the creation of hundreds of direct and indirect jobs and have collectively attracted funding totalling over €11 million in the form of awards, grants, loan capital and equity investment.

The winners are part of the growing HEA family, positively impacting Greek entrepreneurship and sharing the HEA values of inspiration, responsibility, creativity, collaboration, sustainability and growth.



VENTUREGARDEN



VentureGarden was established in early 2014 by The Hellenic Initiative, Anatolia School of Business in Thessaloniki, and ALBA Graduate Business School in Athens, in order to provide support and training to Greece's budding entrepreneurs. The program aspires to promote entrepreneurs in Greece through training and mentoring in order to nurture raw ideas into viable business enterprises.

The program runs simultaneously in both Thessaloniki and Athens through Anatolia College and ALBA respectively, with each school responsible for providing a physical location for VentureGarden to operate. Both schools are responsible for co-planning and co-managing their programs. Each school has a director to set strategy and direction and a manager to run daily activities. The majority of classes are held in either Athens or Thessaloniki, however, we have had small scale seminars in other cities

around Greece, including Volos and Corinth, Kavala and Kalamata.

Since 2014, THI has invested \$568,630.00 in the VentureGarden partnership, helping emerging entrepreneurs to develop their ideas and create a real business. The program has received 1,234 applications and welcomed 402 participants to five rounds in Athens and Thessaloniki, as well as the four workshops in Volos and Corinth, Kavala and Kalamata. In total more than 346 teaching hours and 558 mentoring hours (by 88 Mentor) have been delivered.

VentureGarden is a blended learning educational process that helps participants develop their entrepreneurial mindset and then work on their specific ideas. In the first 2 rounds, the process had two stages: a rigorous 5 week classroom based activity with two courses per week facilitated by a professor and delivered by experienced specialists, and a 12

month support and mentoring phase built around a customized roadmap to entrepreneurial success. The initial stage of the educational courses is repeated twice a year (February & September) and welcomes all interested participants regardless of the entrepreneurial characteristics of their idea. During the 5 weeks, participants are encouraged to test their hypotheses and work on identifying their customer base. Following the 5 weeks of classroom training, participants are assessed and asked to join VG's mentoring and support services, a 6-month program with the goal of proving their Product Market Fit hypothesis and their Customer Get-Keep-Grow strategies. The core teaching period consists of 10 courses (two per week based on the Business Model Canvas) that address the key issues of entrepreneurial launch.

A VentureGarden Story...

In March of 2014, The Hellenic Initiative launched VentureGarden a joint project of Anatolia Business School in Thessaloniki and ALBA Graduate Business School in Athens. THI provided the funding to enable aspiring and existing entrepreneurs to develop their ideas in an educational setting. There was no age limit imposed and the ideas could come from any sector.

Fast forward to 2015 – and enter Sophia Stathatou, Yota Pavlaki and Eleni Vafiadi, three women who had been friends from childhood. They had all enjoyed successful careers in the fields of Marketing, Advertising, Research and Greek Botany, but they wanted to try “in a small way to make a big difference by creating a modern product” that would project their values of creativity, love for their country, hard work, and innovation.

At the age of 60 and despite the Greek economic situation, they decided to setup their own business and follow their dream.

Yota and Eleni participated in the 4th cycle of VentureGarden in Athens which, as they noted, provided the amazing opportunity to streamline their thoughts and ideas and understand their value proposition and customers. In their own words:

O r e a n t h i Bakery” When we applied to Venture Garden, we never thought you would accept us because of our age. We are really happy we participated in the program! It was a great experience for us and the fact that we met young people who aspire to be successful entrepreneurs, gave us the chance to integrate the new generation's way of thinking to our own mindset and adjust to the modern entrepreneurial reality.”

“Before joining VentureGarden, we felt that we were fighting alone. During the classes we met people who could help us. VentureGarden also helped us become more confident. Prior to the classes we thought we were naive and somewhat romantic believing that our products could make it to the US market, so it was very important for us to find people that will understand and support our vision.”

The result is Oreanthi, (oreanthi.gr)



a company producing high quality Greek herbal tea collections that are created by Sophia, Yota and Eleni. Oreanthi excels by creating unique herbal infusions from native whole leaf herbs, blended with flowers which represent the Greek spirit of wellness, creativity and tradition. Through its distributor, Hellenic Farms (hellenicfarms.com), Oreanthi has entered the US market in their newest cooperation with Pi Bakery in New York.

Oreanthi products, at Pi Bakerie at
512 Broome Street, SoHo NYC
For more information, visit:
Venturegarden.gr

THE HELLENIC INITIATIVE AT SXSW AND SXSW IN GREECE

IN 2014, The Hellenic Initiative partnered with Angelou Economics and the International Accelerator to bring Greek-based companies to Austin, TX for the world-renowned SXSW Interactive Festival. SXSW is one of the leading and largest entrepreneurial opportunities in the world. For the past three years, THI has been providing funding to bring Greek teams to this incredible event, a city-wide celebration that captivates Austin, Texas and much of the high-tech, culturally savvy world for its duration. That funding has amounted to \$125,750.00. In that time, nearly sixty companies have attended SXSW thanks to THI's underwriting their participation in the Interactive Festival, and six companies have raised almost \$20 million as a direct result of their coming to SXSW. In 2016, the companies that participated were:



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- Filisia Interfaces
- Pegneon
- Mastiha World
- SentiGeek
- MiniMe-Labs
- Accusonus
- Reportbrain
- Quantimetrica
- Vidavo
- Yodiwo
- Ark Analytics
- Near App
- Codebender
- Mobiltron
- MyeTutor
- CityCrop
- Threding.com
- Ergon
- TMA Global
- Bare Square
- Nobilissimus Apps

The companies that qualify to come – usually for the first time to the USA – have an unprecedented opportunity to meet investors, gain experience pitching their ideas, and networking in one of the most dynamic entrepreneurial environments in the world. In 2016, THI expanded its funding to include partner financing for a fast-pitch competition for the

companies who were prepared to do so, as well as trade show booths for the participants. These added components, along with the networking and mentorship provided by Angelou Economics and the International Accelerator provided a rich and textured entrepreneurial environment.

In the aftermath of SXSW, THI

had the opportunity to facilitate a first-time visit to Greece for SXSW executives. In partnership with Angelou Economics and the US Embassy in Greece, THI arranged for site visits by the SXSW team to both Athens and Thessaloniki. In each city, SXSW held an “boot camp” event in each city, where over 300 participants attended.

EGG (ENTER·GROW·GO)



The egg - enter·grow·go Program provides young business teams with an integrated framework of business incubation, acceleration and co-working space. It offers a range of supportive services and tools that help them develop and accelerate innovative business ideas into actual companies. It supports innovative youth entrepreneurship in order to create more employment opportunities in Greece, particularly among young people.

The Hellenic Initiative has partnered with the egg since 2015, and committed \$150,000.00 to be used as as seed funds, in the form of grants, to help support the companies having participated to the program

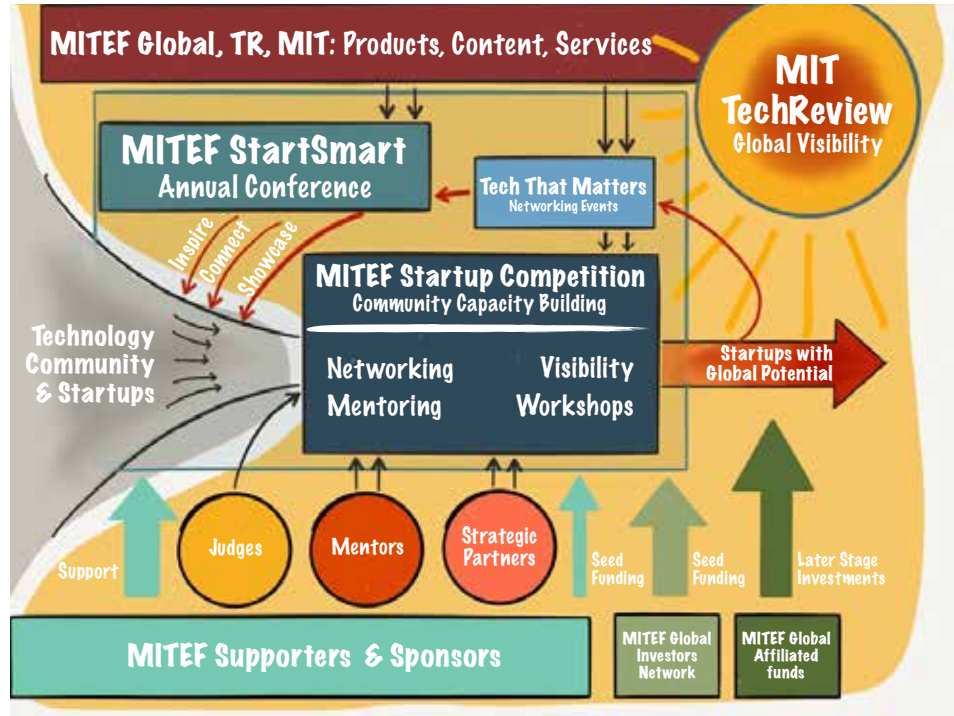


THI Board Member Jeremy Downward at the award ceremony with THI Director of Programming Michael Printzos and THI Director of Development Peter Poulos.

THI has partnered with MIT Enterprise Forum Greece to provide the Greek technology ecosystem to have access to this important member of the worldwide MIT Enterprise Forum system. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology is known as a global leader in monetizing high-tech intellectual property. With the assistance of Marina Hatsopoulos (keynote speaker at the Athens Venture Fair 2016), who is an MIT alumna and venture capitalist in Boston, THI is building a growing relationship with MIT and the MIT Enterprise Forum Greece.

Beginning in the summer of 2015, THI helped to bring ten Greek start-ups to Boston for one week to attend a special entrepreneurial seminar with funding of \$10,000. IN 2016, THI formalized the relationship with MIT Enterprise Forum Greece with a \$50,000.00 grant to assist the organization and provide some prizes for the Startup Competition winners.

Visualizing the MITEF Greece Community



With the assistance of **Marina Hatsopoulos**, THI is building a growing relationship with MIT and the MIT Enterprise Forum Greece



All the Participants at the Award Ceremony

THREE START-UP COMPANIES WERE AWARDED AS FOLLOWS:



1st
Advantis Medical Imaging
with the prize of \$ 55,000.00
www.advantis.io

2nd
Vesselbot
with the prize of \$ 35,000.00
www.vesselbot.com

3rd
Owiwi
with the prize of \$ 10,000.00
www.owiwi.co.uk



THE AUSTRALIAN INTERNSHIP PROGRAM AND THE FELLOWSHIP FOR A NEW ECONOMY

The Australian Internship Program is an initiative of THI Australia and is described on pages 80-81. It was inspired by the one-year program, The Fellowship for a New Economy, which was an experimental program that placed highly skilled but underemployed Greek professionals for a one year paid internship in a major American company or organization. The funding for the program, \$372,130.00, was provided by the companies themselves and ran from 2014 – 2015. The participants were as follows:



THI Australia launched its flagship Australian Internship Program in June 2015 to provide work and training opportunities for Greek graduates facing unprecedented unemployment in Greece. THI Australia has partnered with more than 20 Australian companies to offer six-month paid internship positions, which represents an investment in Greece's youth of \$1.5 million over three years. Interns receive training and mentoring, develop new skills and then return to Greece with new mindsets and capabilities based on their Australian workplace experience.

Participating companies include major Australian banks ANZ and NAB, and placements are spread across Australia in a variety of industries, from engineering to IT. The first eight Greek graduates began their internships in Australia in February 2016, working in companies in Melbourne, Sydney and Perth. Another four interns arrived between June and August 2016 in the second round of placements.

The Australian Internship Program is working in partnership with the groundbreaking ReGeneration program (see next section) in Greece to select candidates for the Australian positions.



REGENERATION

ReGeneration is a partnership of The Coca-Cola Company and The Hellenic Initiative in cooperation with the World Economic Forum Global Shapers Athens Hub. As of this year, THI has invested \$540,000.00 helping to create internships in some of the largest companies of

Greece. So far more than 13,300 applicants have submitted CVs, and the program has created a total of 156 internships in 57 companies with a retention rate of over 80%.

ReGeneration is the most prominent multi-stakeholder graduate trainee program in

Greece, designed to increase youth employability and thus actively contribute to battling severe brain drain and youth unemployment.

Over its 3 operational cycles, ReGeneration has achieved a positive impact on candidates, stakeholders and the Greek society alike:

An increasing number of hired trainees are being hired full-time after the end of their traineeship, from **75%** in 2014 to **86%** in 2015, thus fulfilling the program's core objective.

13.000+ hours of targeted training (ranging from business skills, to soft skills and targeted digital trainings) have been delivered to all trainees.

8.000+ hours of community service have been offered to 6 NGOs dealing with homelessness and the refugee crisis. The program has firm believers, facilitators and promoters and their support has extra meaning in the particularly challenging current socio-economic environment of Greece:

130+ organizations such as professional associations, business specialists, academia and embassies have actively embraced the program

80+ individuals from **25+** companies have offered pro bono services worth over **€1.2M** to help design and implement the program

2 major sponsors, The Coca-Cola Company along with The Coca-Cola Foundation plus The Hellenic initiative, totaling in approximately **€2.25M** in capital and pro bono offered products and/or services.

The program is gaining more and more traction:

A targeted customized PR plan has reached almost **80%** of the two core audiences (graduates and hiring companies)

The vast majority of trainees and hiring companies alike declare to be highly satisfied with the program and actively act as their ambassadors

The program has won **3** acclaimed National HR Awards in the category "graduate development programs".

Paid Internship

Placement



6 MONTHS
full-time paid
internship



80 HOURS
training



25 HOURS
community
service

TOTAL

more than
200
interns hired



17.000
hours of
training

3 Awards
won



9.000 hours of
community work



€1,2M pro bono
contribution from
sponsors & partners



150+
stakeholders

2014

1.800
applications



55
interns hired



21
hiring companies



76%
of interns
are currently
full-time employees



2015

4.200
applications
(+57%)



105
interns hired



36
hiring companies



82%
of interns were
offered contract
extension



2016

6.300
applications
(+33%)



61
internships
at the moment
(and more
than 170 open
positions)



Thank you to our all of our hiring partners



With the kind support and sponsorship of



THI AND EDUCATION

As part of its commitment to reinvigorating the Greek genius, THI has made significant investments in educational programs around Greece.

Junior Achievement (JA/SEN)



THI partnered with JA/SEN with a \$50,000.00 grant to address high school students aged between 15-18, in order for students to learn how to take a business idea from concept and theory to reality and practice. The students formed their own mini-enterprise and discovered first-hand how a company functions. After sessions of brainstorming and several discussion sessions where they recognized and defined needs and solutions, they decided about

the brand name of their company, as well as the product or service they were to offer. They elected a board of directors from among their peers, raised share capital, and marketed and financed a product or service of their own choice. Each student was assigned specific responsibilities and had the obligation and opportunity to actively participate in the Company. All students had the opportunity during the Company Program, to develop communication, decision-

making, negotiation, organization and time management skills as an expected outcome. The competition that ensued was extraordinary, and all the students came away with deep feelings of accomplishment and purpose.

This kind of business education at the High School level is essential if Greece is to produce the class of entrepreneurial innovators and pioneers who will help re-shape the modern Greek economy.





The Fulbright Foundation in Greece

Former US Ambassador David D. Pearce (left) with THI and Fulbright staff at the Award ceremony at the US Embassy in Athens, June 2016

In 2016, THI designated a \$40,000.00 year-long grant in support of The Fulbright Foundation in Greece supporting three scholarship and educational programs for the academic year 2016-2017: “The Greek Secondary Educator Program”, “The Greek Visiting Scholars Program” and “The Train the Trainers Workshop”.

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. “Fulbright GR” administers the Fulbright Program between the United States and Greece. Moreover, it is a non-profit, non-political, autonomous institution, which awards grants to both Greek and U.S. citizens in almost every field and discipline.

The Greek Secondary Educator

Program is through the “American Studies Institute” and concentrates on improving teaching quality and the development of curricula in educational institutions and schools outside the United States. It takes place in universities of the United States and addresses high school teachers who teach English, as well as professionals involved in developing curricula, training teachers and writing textbooks and manuals.

The Greek Visiting Scholars Program refers to university or engineering faculties’ professors and researchers, who have completed at least four years of work experience since obtaining their doctorate diploma. The program is open to every field of study, and addresses scholars who wish to do research and lectures at universities or research centers in the United States, with which they have already secured co-operation. The scholarships’ duration

ranges from three to six months.

The third program supported through The Hellenic Initiative grant is the Train the Trainers Workshop, which is an important part of the Fulbright Foundation outreach activities in Greece. This workshop promotes the multiplier effect of the Fulbright grants, as it provides a platform for program alumni to share their newly acquired knowledge and expertise and act as Trainers to their colleagues across the country. The “Train the Trainers” program is offered to teachers and administrators from Greek public schools and takes place in the fall or spring of each year in different parts of the country. The aim of the “Train the Trainers” program is to maximize the impact of the grants awarded, by spreading the experience to other educators, who have not been exposed to this intensive training program in the U.S. and also to foster connections with other educators across Greece.

The American School of Classical Studies in Athens

THI Board Members and families touring the American School in June 2016



Since 1881, the American School of Classical Studies at Athens (ASCSA), a private American overseas research center located in the heart of Athens, has been committed to education, archaeological exploration, and scholarly research. ASCSA Libraries provide one of the best research facilities to scholars working in Greece: the Blegen Library is devoted to the study of Greece and Rome, and the Gennadius Library is

among the greatest in the world for the study of Byzantine, Medieval, and modern Greece.

The Hellenic Initiative partnered with ASCSA in “The Library Project,” a long-term plan to combine and streamline the Blegen and Gennadius Libraries, reorganizing their holdings in order to provide readers with greater access to its collections. THI granted of \$50,000.00 for four Greek interns to have the opportunity



for to receive training in collections care and management in preparation for a career in library science.



FINAL THOUGHTS

The Κρυφό Σχολειό , the “Secret School” of the Church that preserved Greek language, culture and Orthodox Christian Faith during the time of “Turkokratia,” remains an iconic inspiration for Hellenes around the world. The poem, “Φεγγαράκιμου λαμπρό” has inspired generations of our youth.

There is a new Κρυφό Σχολειό in Greece today, a secret that needs to be revealed as far and as wide as possible. The new Κρυφό Σχολειό is the emerging entrepreneurial ecosystem that is forming in Greece despite the ongoing economic catastrophe that has engulfed the country. These brave, new ‘entrepreneurs’ (entrepreneurs willing to traverse land and sea to find their treasure, like Jason’s Argonauts) are inspiring real hope for the economic recovery of Greece.

Not content with the status quo, not satisfied with failed policies and empty promises, not burdened by the ennui of disappointment, these exemplars of the human capital that is the richest wealth of Greece are venturing forth into the great adventure of self-motivating and self-sustaining entrepreneurialism. They are showing the imagination of their forebears – the Greeks who gave the world philosophy and democracy, art and aesthetics, τὸ καλὸν κάγαθόν, and the rest of what we call “Western Civilization.” Truly, they are the best hope for the renewal of Greece.

With neither social nor political encouragement, and often in the face of crushing bureaucratic foolishness, these modern heroes

are committed to Greece and to her future. They want to live and earn their living in a Greece that creates opportunities for all. Facing the lack of investment opportunities and investor confidence, they are spanning the globe, presenting their ideas and companies. Even if it means they have to establish their companies overseas, they are committed to creating jobs in Greece, which now has a 25% unemployment rate that is over 50% for those under the age of 30.

For too long, a false narrative has been imposed in Greece, that discourages and even despises the entrepreneurial enterprise as being “beneath” Greeks, or at worst, unpatriotic. What a contrast from the entrepreneurial narrative we witness around the globe in the Diaspora. Never has there been a more successful and prosperous people in any and every place. The Diaspora thrives because the cultures it has adopted promote and reward ingenuity and hard work. The Greeks of Greece are no different, and the proof is in the young people, the new Κρυφό Σχολειό of Greece.

These young entrepreneurs are bringing ingenuity and creativity to the dire economic reality that is Greece today. From high schoolers to retired yiyias, Greeks are finding new ways to sustain themselves. The recent Junior Achievement Exposition in Athens is a case in point. Sixty-three teams from across the islands and mainland were showcased in a program supported by The Stavros Niarchos Foundation,



Jason seizing the Golden Fleece from the Hydra (Apulian Red Figure Vase, 4th Cent. BC)

The Hellenic Initiative, and a whole host of stakeholders. One team invented a new soft drink; another an app that maps the entire Athens Marathon from start to finish with archaeological high points and a drone-generated aerial visual of the entire course. A team from a school for the mentally challenged developed a product line of agro-products to benefit the hungry. The list goes on and on.

This is the new Κρυφό Σχολειό, preserving and augmenting the legacy of Greece. The Diaspora should be more than very proud of their achievements. Let us honor their efforts. The Hellenic Initiative was founded in 2012 to do exactly this, and there is plenty of room at the table. ■

Όλοι μαζί!

THIS YEAR,
WE WELCOME THI CANADA
TO THE THI FAMILY,
WHICH IS ALREADY
GROWING WITH
THI AUSTRALIA.
LONDON IS ENGAGED,
AND EUROPE,
CENTRAL AND SOUTH
AMERICA, AND THE
PACIFIC RIM ARE
ON THE HORIZION.



THI Around the World

5



In what was a busy and exciting year, The Hellenic Initiative Australia welcomed the first eight Greek graduates into the pioneering Australian Internship program and provided grants to two Greek non-profit organizations assisting those in need.

The Hellenic Initiative also expanded its outreach across Australia, culminating in a gala event in Perth that boosted support for Australian programs and raised awareness about THI's global mission to address Greece's immediate relief needs and support long term economic renewal.

The global bonds being built through the THI movement were evident in the warm reception given to the the strong Australian contingent at the 3rd Annual Banquet in New York last September, and the significant Australian delegation that attended the second THI Annual Venture Fair in Athens in June 2016.

This year, THI Australia was invited to play a leading role in shortlisting the 15 Greek start-ups



Boroume founders Alex Theodoridis and Alexia Moatsou with THI President Nick Pappas and THI Director of Programming, Michael Printzos in Athens.

that pitched their businesses at the Venture Fair, with Australian Board Members Peter Abraam, George Givas and Harry Patras joining the selection committee and taking part in panels' deliberations on the day.

As THI's Australian chapter evolves, we look forward to further Australian involvement in what is becoming a truly global Diaspora effort to assist the people of Greece

during these challenging times.

Assisting Crisis Relief Efforts

In November 2015, THI Australia announced crisis relief grants to Boroume and Desmos, two dynamic non-profit organizations assisting those in need through the distribution of food, goods and services to individuals and welfare organizations throughout Greece.

Boroume was granted



AU\$40,000 to fund its Food Saving Program and Desmos received AU\$20,000 to support the Desmos Direct online service.

“THI Australia is honoured to be supporting the innovative and far-reaching work being done by Boroume and Desmos at this moment of profound need in Greece,” said THI President Nick Pappas. During visits to Boroume and Desmos in November, Mr Pappas also had the opportunity to visit a Boroume-supported soup kitchen run by Caritas in downtown Athens, which provides food to more than 350 people daily, mainly immigrants and refugees.

In 2017, THI Australia is looking to extend its partnership with Boroume through a new volunteer program that will see young Greek Australians donating their time to assist Boroume with programs on the ground throughout Greece.

Reaching out to Australia

More than 200 key business and community leaders, and families representing several generations of Perth’s robust and dynamic Greek community attended the launch of The Hellenic Initiative in Western Australia on 23 March 2016. Held at the prestigious State Reception Centre in Kings Park, Perth, the event raised more than AU\$100,000 towards THI programs.

THI Chairman and global business leader Andrew N Liveris AO, CEO of the Dow Chemical Company, was proud to be back on home ground as keynote speaker at the event.

“Every expatriate community out there needs to model what Australia has done to build a global Greek diaspora network, to really seize an opportunity to stand tall and put our shoulders against the wheel of history and take a leadership role in advancing not just the work of THI International but your work,” Mr Liveris told the gathering.



Other distinguished speakers included THI Australia President Nick Pappas, the Ambassador of Greece to Australia, Ekaterini Xagorari, and Greek Olympic gold medalist and Vice-Governor of Thessaloniki, Voula Patoulidou. A highlight of the evening was the heartwarming speech by intern Stavroula Oikonomou, a THI architecture intern at Cox Howlett & Bailey Woodland in Perth.

Our deep appreciation goes to major event sponsors Kailis Bros, Jalouise Pty Ltd, Cirrena and THI’s supporters in the West and across Australia.



I hope you will continue this program and give opportunities to more young people like me to come in Australia... This experience will not only boost their resume but will change their life and give them different perspective in their professional and personal life. It will help them to dream big and achieve even more.”

Giorgi, 25, intern at NAB Sydney

The six-month paid Australian internship program offers a unique opportunity for Greek graduates facing unprecedented unemployment to receive training and work experience in Australian companies and to return to Greece with new skills, mindsets and a boosted resume.

Australian Internship Program

The Australian Internship Program launched last year became a reality with the arrival of the first eight interns in February 2016.

The six-month paid internship program offers a unique opportunity for Greek graduates facing unprecedented unemployment to receive training and work experience in Australian companies and to return to Greece with new skills, mindsets and a boosted resume.

Working with the ReGeneration team in Greece to recruit and train top candidates, the pilot program placed Greek interns in a range of host companies across Australia in a variety of sectors.

Two engineering graduates worked on construction projects with Hickory Group in Melbourne, four finance graduates were placed

with major Australian banks ANZ and NAB in Melbourne and Sydney, a marketing intern worked with international education provider, Lonsdale Institute, while Cox Howlett & Bailey Woodland in Perth took on a graduate architect.

The program has attracted widespread interest and support both within Greece and across Australia. Australian Ambassador to Greece, John Griffin, hosted a reception for the interns at his residence in Athens in November and met with the THI interns again during his visit to Melbourne on 7 April 2016 to get an update on their progress.

The feedback from both interns and host companies participating in this exciting program has been overwhelmingly positive and rewarding.

“The experience gained during their time in Australia has had a profound effect on both their professional and personal growth and we believe it will bode well for their future career in Greece,” said THI Australia President Nick Pappas.

As the first internship cycle concluded, four new interns arrived in Australia to start their six-month placements with NAB in Sydney, and Findex and Sinapse in Melbourne.

The total value of the program to date is estimated at in excess of AUD \$500,000.

“The employment situation in Greece for today’s graduates remains extremely challenging and we hope that with the continued support of local businesses and corporate Australia, we will continue to offer young Greeks this unique opportunity,” Mr Pappas said. ■

2016 Internship Host Companies



National Australia Bank



“It is a life-changing experience. Experiencing the business environment in such a developed country is a boost for my skills and a great start for my career. Living in another country helps you to improve as a person not only by working and living in a foreign environment but also by meeting people from a different cultural background.”

Aggeliki, 27, Intern at ANZ, Melbourne

THI AUSTRALIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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THI London Kick-off Event

It was a full house for The Hellenic Initiative’s London Kick-off Event on May 19th at the historic Halcyon Gallery! Over £30,000 was raised to support the Greek NGO, “Together for Children” (Ένωση “Μαζί για το Παιδί”) funding eleven specific organizations who assist at-risk children in Greece.

“Together for Children” offers all kinds of assistance to children and young people irrespective of race, religion and political conviction, supporting more than 30,000 children on an annual basis. This includes more than 10,000 direct child beneficiaries, who face poverty and social exclusion, domestic violence, chronic diseases, mental or physical disabilities and the sickness



or death of an immediate family member. “Together for Children” is a recipient of THI’s

Special thanks the Halcyon

Gallery and their team and to the over 250 friends of The Hellenic Initiative who attended and contributed to such a successful event! 🇬🇧

Event Co-Chairs Nikos Stathopoulos, Dimitri Goulandris, and Constantine M. Logothetis led a tremendous effort with the support of the Host Committee:

EVENT CO-CHAIRS

Nikos Stathopoulos, THI Board Member
Dimitri Goulandris
Constantine M. Logothetis

EVENT BENEFACTORS

LXM Group
Nicholas L. Papapolitis, Papapolitis & Papapolitis
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Nasos Thanopoulos



Together for Children

maziatopaidi.gr

The "Together for Children" 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, who face poverty and social exclusion, domestic violence, chronic diseases, mental or physical disabilities and the sickness or death of an immediate family member.





CANADA

THI Associate Director James Canale presenting the matching grant to "Reaching for the Stars" with Voula McLaughlin and SOS Children's Villages Greece Executive Director George Protopappas



In July of 2015, George Stamas, President of THI, visited with a select group of Diaspora Greeks in Montreal, Canada to discuss THI's efforts for Greece. Thus THI Canada was conceived. At the same, a young Toronto

businesswoman inspired by THI had already initiated a project, "Reaching for the Stars," to support a SOS Children's Village

Greece, a partner of THI. These efforts are now merging together after a year of intense work and diligence by Greek Canadians. ■

THI CANADA MEMBERS

ELIAS RETSINAS

Elias Retsinas specializes in real estate law and is a senior partner at Fasken Martineau's Montreal office. His practice is focused on the acquisition, financing, development and leasing of real estate assets such as office and residential complexes, shopping centres, resorts, wilderness estates and hotel properties.



Elias regularly acts on behalf of domestic and foreign family offices, lenders, property owners/investors, developers and hotel banners and has extensive knowledge and understanding of the technical and business aspects surrounding the real estate industry.

Elias recently led various high-profile real estate transactions including the conclusion of construction and term financing arrangements exceeding \$3B with some of Canada's most active lenders and real estate developers.

TASSO LAGIOS

Managing partner of Richter LLP, over 23 years of experience counseling numerous Canadian-controlled private companies as well as public corporations. He practices in the area of tax working with businesses to meet their overall business objectives while ensuring that tax matters are properly addressed.



Over the years, Tasso Lagios has written numerous papers and been invited as a guest lecturer on topics ranging from corporate reorganizations, international taxation as well as industry specific topics such as real estate and retail.

He has also lectured for McGill University, the *Ordre des comptables professionnels agréés du Québec*, the Canadian Tax Foundation and various private events.

DR. JOHN SAMPALIS

Dr. John Sampalis is an entrepreneur who is recognized as one of Canada's leading epidemiologists and the top trauma researcher in Canada. Founded in 1985, JSS Medical Research Inc. has over 25 years of experience in clinical research. With over 120 projects in 15 different therapeutic areas, their clinical operations teams handle high volumes of recruitment with over 400,000 patients processed at more than 8,000 sites in the last five years.



Dr. Sampalis is a tenured professor of Surgery and Epidemiology & Biostatistics of McGill University, the University of Montreal and University of Laval. With over 140 peer-reviewed publications in high ranking journals and more than seven million dollars in research funding, Dr. Sampalis is recognized as one of the leading clinical epidemiologists in the world, and one of the top trauma researchers in Canada.

JOHN SOTOS

John Sotos is the founding partner of Sotos LLP and carries on a broad transactional and dispute resolution practice in franchise, hospitality, automotive, grocery and distribution law.



John possesses unique expertise in franchising corporate networks, mergers of competing systems and offers an expert perspective on franchise regulation, having advised governments on both a national and international scale throughout his career. He regularly counsels companies on matters regarding structuring international and domestic franchise transactions, system restructurings, distribution of products and services as well as on franchise disclosure matters.

He offers strategic support to franchisors, buying or selling franchise systems, as well as those who are in the process of repositioning their concept or brand. John has significant expertise negotiating complex franchise matters and is counsel to numerous trade and not for profit associations.

VOULA MCLAUGHLIN

Voula McLaughlin, first generation Greek Canadian, is a wife and mother of two living in Toronto, Canada. Mrs. McLaughlin started her career in advertising in the early 2000's working with business to business as well as consumer publishers and media companies. She left the workforce in 2013 to pursue a philanthropic mission to help children in Greece. As one of the founders along with her CoChair Anastasios Moussas, Voula McLaughlin has been a leader in the Toronto Greek Community by spearheading the THI-inspired fundraiser, "Reaching for the Stars." The annual event commenced in 2014 and focuses its fundraising for SOS Children's Villages Greece. As one of the driving forces behind this event, Voula has served to bring The Hellenic Initiative's mission to Canada.



ALEXANDER GEORGIADIS

Krinos is Canada's largest importer, distributor and manufacturer of Greek/Mediterranean specialty foods with distribution and production facilities in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver. The company sells through various distribution channels such as, supermarkets, gourmet stores, wholesale and major food service institutions over 500 frozen, refrigerated and dry foods items in various product categories including, feta cheese, various hard cheeses, olives, olive oil, fillo dough products, pasta, peppers, condiments and confectionery.



Alexander, holds a Masters in International Affairs from Columbia University 85' and a B.A. in Political Science from IONA College 83'. At Columbia as a student of the School of International and Public affairs (S.I.P.A.), he was elected President of his class and since 2009 he is also a member of the S.I.P.A. Advisory Board.

EDUARDO MOURA

Eduardo Moura joined Eldorado's Sao Bento Gold Mine in Brazil in October 1996 as a Planning Engineer and relocated to the Vancouver Office in 2000. He is VP, Corporate Development and VP and General Manager. Eduardo has an MBA from Simon Fraser University in British Columbia, a post-graduate degree in Engineering Economy from Fundao Dom Cabral and a degree in Engineering from the Federal University of Minas Gerais in Brazil. He has been involved in the evaluation of numerous open pit and underground projects and has provided leadership in corporate transactions on behalf of Eldorado Gold.



ANNA ANTONOPOULOS CPA, CA

Anna Antonopoulos CPA, CA: Vice President Finance of the Antonopoulos Group, a dynamic hospitality and real estate company with a portfolio of boutique hotels, restaurants and spas in Old Montreal. Over the past many years, the group has been recognized on several occasions for its exceptional contribution to regional tourism.



Anna is also a board member of the Foundation of the Contemporary Arts Museum of Montreal. The Antonopoulos Group has been honored with the Montreal Arts-Business Award for their continued support of the arts.

WE GRATEFULLY
ACKNOWLEDGE
ALL OUR FOUNDATION
AND CORPORATE
SUPPORTERS
WHO HAVE
PARTNERED WITH US
AND DONATED
TO THE MANY
DYNAMIC PROGRAMS
THAT ARE CHANGING
THE LIVES OF GREEKS
FOR THE BETTER.



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Agnes Varis
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Scurly Dog Capital



List complete as of September 15, 2016

THE HELLENIC INITIATIVE IS
REPRESENTED
BY OVER FORTY
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THESE DIRECTORS
ARE VISIONARY LEADERS
IN THEIR
RESPECTIVE FIELDS.
IT IS A PLEASURE TO
INTRODUCE OUR ONLY
BOARD MEMBER
FROM FRANCE,
CORRINE
MENTZELOPOULOS.



THI Board Member Profile:
Corinne Mentzelopoulos





Corinne
Mentzelopoulos
and her daughter
Alexandra at the
family estate.

THI BOARD MEMBER PROFILE:

Corinne Mentzelopoulos

CHÂTEAU MARGAUX

Where Hellenic spirit meets French wine

A GREEK FAMILY IS BEHIND ONE OF THE BEST AND MOST EXPENSIVE WINES IN THE WORLD

By Theodora Malos

Story and photos courtesy of neoskosmos.com

Château Margaux is considered one of the finest wine estates in the world, with its legendary bottle of 1787 alone insured for more than \$225,000.

Although the company needs no further introduction to wine connoisseurs, what most people don't know is that Château Margaux (previously known as La Mothe de Margaux) is owned and operated by a Greek family of migrants from the Peloponnese.

Born in Patras in 1915, André Mentzelopoulos, son of a hotelier, decided to leave home and become a citizen of the world. He studied literature in Grenoble and made his fortune through importing and exporting before returning to France in 1958.

In 1977, just as Bordeaux wines were emerging from a serious

economic and qualitative crisis, the entrepreneur bought the Château Margaux wine estate, which architect Louis Combes had designed in a style inspired by Greece. The ionic architecture filled André with pride and reminded him of Greece.

Located at the commune of Margaux on the left bank of the Garonne estuary in the Médoc region, France, the estate has 82 hectares under vine, with cabernet sauvignon inevitably dominant (75 per cent) with 20 per cent merlot making up most of the rest, along with a smattering of cabernet franc and petit verdot.

While Château Margaux's history and legacy stems from more than five centuries, it's a known fact that there has not been another owner as influential as André Mentzelopoulos.

Under the guidance of renowned

oenologist Emile Peynaud, Mentzelopoulos reintroduced the Pavillon Rouge du Château Margaux by considerably increasing the selection, and he redefined the Pavillon Blanc du Château Margaux.

The dedicated and hard-working businessman passed away in 1980 before he got the chance to enjoy the renaissance of his Château Margaux. His daughter Corinne took over the business as well as the challenge of keeping up with the extraordinary worldwide demand for Bordeaux wines.

In a rare and exclusive interview with Neos Kosmos, Corinne Metzelopoulos gives her insight into her family's journey, the legendary brand and the enormity of the legacy she was left with as well as her ties with Greece. ■

“ My Greek heritage grew on me gradually; I am not only proud of my heritage, I am also convinced that I would not be the same person I am today if I were 100 percent French.”

– Corinne Mentzelopoulos



Having studied the classics, humanities, political studies and having worked in advertising and retail distribution, do you feel that all these disciplines have helped your journey in heading the iconic, French national treasure that is Château Margaux?

“ Well, I am sure they have all helped me a great deal; I am also very grateful that my Greek father, who was adamant I speak English fluently -he spoke six languages-, sent me to summer camp in North-America. I believe it gave me a new outlook and experience of the world beyond Europe.”

You have stated in a previous interview that your father André was a genius in having the foresight to purchase Château Margaux, which had been on sale for two years. At the same time, you have stated that he drank ghastly wines. How do you reconcile these two extremes in the eventual restoration of the Château Margaux and its success?

“ My father was a true Spartan and he worked hard all his life, not indulging in the little pleasures life can bring. Still, when he heard about Château Margaux he immediately understood what it stood for in terms of heritage, quality and world-wide prestige. From then on, he only drank wines from Château Margaux!”

What is the migration story of your family from Greece to France? You were born just outside of Paris and lived in France most of your life. How important is your Greek heritage and how has this affected your upbringing?

“ Yes, I was born in Paris where I have lived all my life but my father, who was born in Greece, settled in France in 1958, having lived before then in Burma, India and Pakistan. I am proud of my Greek roots and my name; it’s so different from everyone else in France. I was baptised in the Greek Orthodox Church and, as a child I used to travel Greece with my father often.

My Greek heritage grew on me gradually; I am not only proud of my heritage, I am also convinced that I would not be the same person I am today if I were 100 percent French. I spend every summer in Greece at our family home and I speak Greek.”



With its story dating back to the 16th century, Château Margaux was deemed a national treasure by French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. How do you accommodate the enormity of this historical aspect?

“Owning and running Château Margaux is a unique privilege, and I always keep in mind that it has been there for five centuries and it will live way after me and my family.”

How important was the contribution of revolutionary oenologist Émile Peynaud in the development of the renowned vintages?

“Émile Peynaud was crucial in restoring the true quality of the wine. I believe hiring Émile as a consultant was one of the best decisions my father made. I was lucky enough to work with him until 1990.”

In 2012 you received the distinction of Officer of the Legion of Honor. A French Order established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802. The Order is the highest decoration in France. How important was such honour that was bestowed on you?

“I believe I owe it all to my father and to the magnitude of the fame of Château Margaux.”

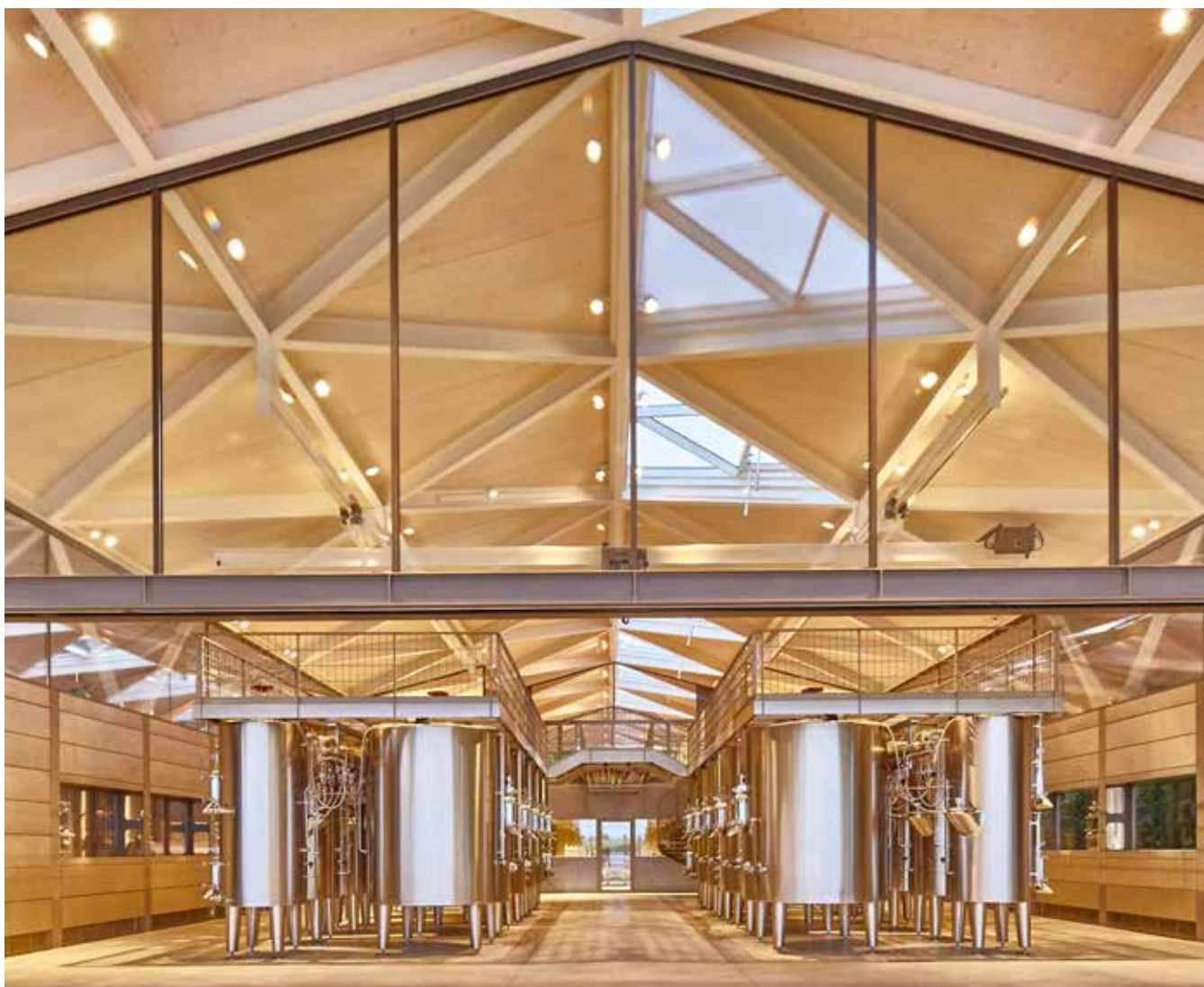
The youngest of your two daughters, Alexandra Petit-Mentzelopoulos, has joined Château Margaux. Do you see a family wine dynasty emerging and how significant is it to you personally that this lineage now continues?

“I have two daughters and one son. My youngest daughter, Alexandra, has been working for Château Margaux for some years now and I have tried to put everything in place for a smooth and fruitful transition when the time comes for my children to take over the business.”

How do you view the current economic and humanitarian crisis in Greece? What areas would you address in the political-economic areas?

“I try to help as much as I can in Greece, especially in education and hospitals. I look after a number of things in my grandfather's village up in the mountains of the Peloponnese, as well as in the village where we have our family house. I am a board member of the Hellenic Initiative, a large Greek American not-for-profit organisation that does amazing work in Greece. At this point in my life, I have decided to increase my commitments towards this cause.”





The year 1961 seems to be a highlight year for the wine. Why?

“1961 was probably one of the best vintages of the 20th century. The climatic conditions were perfect throughout the growing season and a severe frost reduced the overall quantity, which contributed to a lot of concentration in the grapes. 1961 is one of those magic Bordeaux vintages, and an example of what Bordeaux can produce at its best combined with its ageing unique capacity worldwide.”

What would you consider your biggest success since you took over the family business?

“‘Primum non nocere’; a Latin expression that means ‘Don’t do any harm in the first place.’”

Have you had the opportunity to visit Australia? What do you think of the quality of Australian and Greek wines? Are there any that have impressed you?

“Unfortunately, I have not been to Australia but I am planning to go in the future. I have enjoyed many Australian wines, especially the white ones, and during summer time, I drink solely Greek wines ranging from assyrtiko to retsina, which I am very fond of.”

From an aspiring veterinarian, neurosurgeon, conductor and skiing champion, what would you advise someone contemplating entering the winemaking business?

“You have to love wine.”

American fashion model/actress Margaux Hemingway was named after Château Margaux. Did you ever have the opportunity to meet her?

“Yes, and I have many pictures of Margaux with my father. She was beautiful and a lot of fun. I believe she also was a ski champion.”



I drink solely Greek wines ranging from assyrtiko to retsina, which I am very fond of.

You have a penchant for junk food, i.e. burgers and fries, which – somehow - you recommend with a Margaux. How do these two extremes complement one another?

“ Well, I love being able to go from a hot dog with a Coke to a sophisticated meal with good wine. I am happy that I can enjoy both experiences.”

What advice would you like to offer to young women that want to succeed in their careers?

“ You have to work hard and love what you do.”

Is there such a thing as work/life balance for a mother?

“ I hope there is but you might have to ask my children the same question.”

Do you think that there is gender equality in the world? How is this represented at the highest levels of business?

“ There would be gender equality in the world if women decided to be more competitive. Some women prefer to look after their children instead; a choice I respect.”



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TO RELIEVE THE SUFFERING
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THI Donor Profiles



The Hellenic Initiative is proud to have donors who embrace our mission, sometimes even without our asking.... Below is a statement from Christine Kondoleon of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and a facsimile of a letter of James Karis, a retired FBI Agent of a distinguished career.



“ I am heartened by the success of The Hellenic Initiative and their targeted and meaningful projects”

I can still recall growing up in the 50s in New York City and living with Yiayia Matina Kondoleon, we spoke often of the needs of the Greek people.

We organized boxes of clothes and sent other necessities by post to relatives on the island of Kythera and Athens. We were raised with a strong sense of giving back to the homeland because the Greeks had struggled mightily through WWII and suffered deprivations through their civil war. That sense of reaching back and offering a helping hand was a good thing but later when I went to Greece in the 60s and 70s there was a resentment of Greek Americans, perhaps a sense of pride and wanting to forget the unpleasant past. Now I am heartened by the success of The Hellenic Initiative and their targeted and meaningful projects that lead to significant on the ground uplifts. I am awakened in our sense of purpose to build the bridge to our brothers and sisters in Greece, to let them know they are not forgotten or alone. As the world has become global, so must our hearts and our outreach.

Thank you The Hellenic Initiative founders and funders for making this a reality.

THI DONOR MEMBER PROFILE:

James G. Karis

They, like so many others, have embraced the mission of THI, helping the People of Greece face their prolonged economic crisis. Their generosity of heart and genuine φιλανθρωπία are a shining example for us all.

June 27, 2016

Enclosed is a check for \$50,000 (fifty thousand dollars) from the Trust of Aleck G. Karis. I am the Trustee for my twin brother Aleck's Trust. He died on July 15, 2015 in Hermosa Beach, Ca. at the age of 92.

My brother Aleck has expressed a strong desire to help the Greek people living in Greece during this terrible time. Therefore I am confident he would approve of this donation to The Hellenic Initiative.

Our parents were born in Messinia, Greece (father, George Katritses, from Gargaliani, mother from Kalamata) and came over as immigrants. This also adds to our affection for Greece. The donation would certainly meet with their approval as well as all living members of the Karis family.

Sincerely,



James G. Karis



“ My brother Aleck has expressed a strong desire to help the Greek people living in Greece during this terrible time.”

SINCE 2012,
OVER 1,300 INDIVIDUALS
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Demetris Katsonis		Anthony Liveris, Applegart

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Sophia Logothetis
Diomedes Logothetis
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The Benevity Community Impact
Fund
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Mshop LLC
Netronix, Inc.
Pontiac 2+2 Registry
TMT Niles
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Nicolakis
Angela Monette
Aurorita LTD
Clapsis Selling
Eventsy INC
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Zuzudrive Inc.
Safos Systems
Frontstream Holdings LLC
NPP Marketing
Rhinestone TShirt World
Alphasoft Australia
Notion Publishing
Numoax
Red Anvil Forge
Athens Media Lab Corporation
ceoworld.biz

*List complete as of
September 15, 2016*

Hellenic Initiative, Inc.

Statement of Financial Position

DECEMBER 31, 2015

ASSETS

Cash and investment	\$3,324,488
Receivables and other assets	153,242
	<hr/>
Total assets	\$3,477,730
	<hr/>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Payables	\$1,038,345
Net assets	2,439,385
	<hr/>
Total liabilities and net assets	\$3,477,730
	<hr/>

SUPPORT AND REVENUE*

Special event revenue	\$1,883,543
Less: costs of direct benefits to donors	(477,843)
	<hr/>
Special event revenue, net	1,405,700
Contributions	373,035
Investment income and gains	17,052
	<hr/>
Total support and revenue	1,795,787

EXPENSES*

Program expenses - grants	2,507,973
Program expenses - other	279,784
Fundraising	327,583
General and administrative	550,457
	<hr/>
Total expenses	3,665,797
	<hr/>

Change in net assets	<hr/>
	\$(1,870,010)
	<hr/>

* Revenues and expenses above exclude in-kind contributions that were donated to Hellenic Initiative, Inc. for programmatic, fundraising and general and administrative activities.

Thanks to the generosity of the Greek Diaspora and Philhellene community, The Hellenic Initiative received over \$625,000 of in-kind contributions, donated to support our cause.

Since 2012, THI has committed or distributed:

- \$3.5 million in direct crisis relief
- \$5.9 million to programs supporting Entrepreneurship and Economic Development

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Maria Yanna, for the edition "Portraits of Prominent Greeks in the U.S.A."
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TheHellenicInitiative.org

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.

Since 2012, THI has committed or distributed:

\$3.5 million
in direct crisis relief

\$6.2 million
to programs supporting
Entrepreneurship and
Economic Development



OUR MISSION



THE HELLENIC INITIATIVE