



THE
HELLENIC
INITIATIVE

The Hellenic Initiative Unites
The Greek Diaspora And Philhellenes
In Support Of Greece

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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

www.thehellenicinitiative.org



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Elisa and Simos Simeonidis
Niki Yannakis and Yianni Tentomas
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THE HELLENIC INITIATIVE

To our Friends and Supporters,

Since The Hellenic Initiative (THI) was founded in 2012, we have been driven by a simple yet powerful mission: to unite the Greek Diaspora and Philhellenes in support of Greece. More than a decade later, this mission remains as vital as ever, and we are profoundly grateful to you—our community—for your trust, generosity and commitment.

Greece is more than a place on a map or a destination for summer visits. It is a living, evolving country with immense potential, and through THI, we have witnessed how meaningful engagement can strengthen the bonds between Greece and the global Greek community. Whether by supporting those in need, empowering young entrepreneurs or fostering new opportunities, your support has made a real difference.

At THI, we believe in action. Our programs are built on transparency, accountability and a deep respect for the people of Greece. We remain a non-political organization, but we are always seeking ways to help Greece move forward—by investing in its people, strengthening its institutions and creating pathways for success.

Thanks to you, we have been able to provide critical support during difficult times and continue building a foundation for long-term progress. While Greece has moved beyond the worst of its economic crisis, challenges remain, and our work is far from over.

As we look ahead, we invite you to continue this journey with us. Together, we can ensure that Greece thrives—not just for today, but for generations to come.

With gratitude,

*The THI
Executive Committee*





THE HELLENIC INITIATIVE

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HONORING DEAN & MARIANNE METROPOULOS

Recognizing Their Accomplishments in
Private Equity and Venture Capital Supporting Greece

The Hellenic Initiative (THI) hosted its 12th Annual New York Gala on December 7, 2024 at Cipriani Wall Street. This year's gala was an unforgettable evening where Greek culture, philanthropy and inspiration came together under the theme 'Dare to Dream'. The event celebrated THI's mission to support Greece and honored Dean and Marianne Metropoulos for their significant contributions to Greece's economic growth and their ongoing support of the Greek community.

With over 900 distinguished guests from around the world, the Gala raised critical funds for THI's impactful programs. Special guests Paralympic medalists Alexandra Stamatopoulou and Antonis Tsapatakis were celebrated for their achievements, while a lively performance by Thanos Petrelis added to the evening's excitement.

Co-chairs John Koudounis and Michael Psaros played a pivotal role in making the event a success. The evening included a cocktail reception, a red-carpet entrance and an elegant seated dinner. Proceeds from the event will continue to support THI's initiatives in Greece, empowering future generations and driving sustainable progress.

The 12th Annual Gala reinforced the growing support for THI's mission and solidified its place as one of the largest and most successful fundraising events within the global Greek Diaspora. THI remains committed to fostering meaningful partnerships and advancing Greece's prosperity through the collective efforts of philanthropists.



Dean Metropoulos with Special Guests Alexandra Stamatopoulou, 2024 Paralympian Gold Medalist, Swimming - 50m backstroke, and Antonios Tsapatakis, 2024 Paralympian Silver Medalist, Swimming - 100m breaststroke.



*Dare
To
Dream*

thehellenicinitiative.org/gala



“I’m very proud to be part of THI. I’m very proud as a Greek-American. I love that country – Greece. I’ve worked for many years for our Community in the U.S. as well. I’ve been lucky in my career – I’ve travelled to 140... on almost every continent. I really have been very blessed by the origins of my parents and the sacrifices of a wonderful family...”

Dean Metropoulos





“The Gala has always been the centerpiece of our fundraising and our THI family coming together annually for our support for Greece and the Greek people. It’s the opportunity for the Diaspora to show their feelings, their loyalty, their spirit – and here we are. And I emphasize the ‘we’. This is not about ‘ego’ – this is about the ‘we’, and so I thank everyone involved... and together – ‘oli mazi’ we can dare to dream!”

George P. Stamas



ANSWERING THE CALL

THI, Together With Its Relief Partners,
Is Answering The Call for Crisis Relief and Economic Development



Since 2012¹, THI has deployed
in Greece through 336 grants,
\$23.2 Million
in the two core areas of our mission:

Economic Development
\$13.2 million

Crisis Relief
\$10 million

Economic development grants fund programs related to job creation and entrepreneurship and support Greece's start-up ecosystem. Economic development comprises 60% of total dollars deployed. Crisis relief programs related to food insecurity, homelessness, wildfire relief and other humanitarian needs in Greece comprise approximately 40% of total dollars. These funds are deployed to a wide variety of best-in-class NGOs and nonprofits operating in Greece.

**THI has made
336 grants
since inception.**

¹As of the end of February 2025



2024 Economic Development Grants

REGENERATION ReGeneration

ReGeneration is Greece's largest human resources firm, formed in a joint venture between THI and the Coca-Cola Company to reverse Greece's 'brain drain'. Regeneration places college-educated Greeks under age 29 in six-month paid job placements to launch their careers. In over 90% of cases, these internships turn into permanent positions. The program provides extensive training programs to up-skill, re-skill and train candidates for employment.

What we accomplished with your gift:



Since its launch in 2014, ReGeneration has created 4,405 youth placements in the job market, working with more than 1,707 companies and unlocking more than 30 million euro in salaries. The program has offered approximately 1 million hours of soft and hard skills training, as well as more than 400,000 hours of up/re-skilling through its general and bespoke ReGeneration academies.





Venture Impact Award

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

What we accomplished with your gift:



The Venture Impact Awards have supported a total of 57 winners with \$915,000 in prize funding. The winning teams have represented a wide array of sectors important to the Greek economy including agro/food, environment, software, education, recycling/upcycling, healthcare, eco-mobility, robotics, social innovation, and cybersecurity.

2024 Venture Impact Award Winners





Odyssea

Odyssea is a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering young, vulnerable individuals with access to vocational training and employment opportunities. Its mission is to ensure equal opportunities for young people by leveraging knowledge for professional growth and personal development.

What we accomplished with your gift:



THI funds support the implementation of the Odyssea model in Thessaloniki, where chronic youth unemployment persists and there is a gap in Vocational Education and Training (VET) and employment services. Since the launch of the Odyssea Youth Center in May 2024, the organization has trained 220 young people, of which 136 have already been successfully employed.



AFI

AFI was established in 2014 through a collaboration between Action Aid Hellas and Adie International. As Greece's pioneering microfinance institution, AFI aims to empower grassroots micro-entrepreneurs and unemployed individuals who lack access to traditional banking services, facilitating business growth and self-employment opportunities.

What we accomplished with your gift:



AFI supports entrepreneurs in non-metropolitan areas, where the entrepreneurial opportunities and potential have been growing, but access to finance remains scarce. THI funds support AFI to bolster its presence in these areas. In 2024 AFI financed 47 businesses and trained 251 people, leading to the creation of 28 new jobs in non-metropolitan areas.



Venture Garden

VentureGarden launched in 2014 as a joint venture between Anatolia College in Thessaloniki and ALBA in Athens, with THI as founding donor. VentureGarden is a free comprehensive educational and training program for entrepreneurs who wish to create viable start-ups in Greece.

What we accomplished with your gift:



Since its launch, VentureGarden has remained faithful to its motto of growing ideas into viable businesses. To date, it has played a pivotal role in helping create or support 338 ventures and generating more than 1,000 jobs for the economy. The companies it has helped create have collectively raised over \$11 million in funding, growing its overall impact in the entrepreneurial landscape and Greek economy.



Stelios Awards For Young Entrepreneurs

The Stelios Philanthropic Foundation is dedicated to a comprehensive range of impactful charitable initiatives, with a focus on regions intimately connected to the founder's life and work – specifically the UK, Monaco, Greece, and Cyprus.

What we accomplished with your gift:



THI funds contributed to funding the 3rd prize of the 2024 Stelios Awards for Young Entrepreneurs in Greece. Since its inception 14 years ago, this program alone has seen the Foundation allocate €1,130,000 in support of the winners.





Accelerate Greece

Accelerate Greece, founded in California in 2019, is now hosted in Toronto, Canada. Its mission is to drive innovation in Greece by supporting entrepreneurs in building the next generation of successful Greek tech companies through an intensive acceleration program.

What we accomplished with your gift:



THI funds supported the participation of three Greek startups in a week-long acceleration program. The program included immersive workshops, training, breakout sessions, mentorship, networking and introductions to investors and over 20 partners and mentors. In 2024, Accelerate Greece partnered with Elevate Festival to offer exclusive access to winning teams.



HELMEPA

Founded in 1982 by visionary Greek shipowners and seafarers with the vision to 'Save the Seas' and ensure a clean and healthy marine environment, HELMEPA stands as one of the most historic and influential environmental organizations. Nearly 40 years later, HELMEPA boasts a community of nearly 300,000 volunteers and has evolved into an open participatory platform for 344 companies, over 2,312 ocean-going vessels and 14,200 seafarers, forming an extensive global network of stakeholders.

What we accomplished with your gift:



THI funds supported HELMEPA's Big Blue Accelerator. The program offers a comprehensive and structured approach towards youth employability and economic development, with a particular focus on young individuals residing in remote Greek islands. Through the program, 25 young people (aged 18-25) from the Dodecanese were equipped with the skills, networks and opportunities necessary for employment in various sectors of the Blue Economy. Priority was given to small islands such as Karpathos, Kastellorizo, Kasos and Symi.





2024 Crisis Relief Grants



Eurohoops / THI Summer Youth Academy

Eurohoops stands as the foremost organization in Europe working on spreading the love for the sport and fostering sportsmanship. Through a range of online and offline initiatives, Eurohoops works on teaching basketball's fundamentals to children, shaping the next generation while utilizing modern and secure sports venues.



What we accomplished with your gift:



THI supported the operation of THI's Summer Youth Academy, which provided more than 100 children from all backgrounds in Attica with a two-week camp centered around basketball and aimed at fostering personal growth and a sense of community. The camp offered a variety of activities, including basketball sessions, mentorship programs and excursions, providing valuable experiences that focused on enhancing self-discipline, self-esteem and teamwork. Additionally, the program emphasized the development of essential soft skills and emotional intelligence (EQ), preparing the children for success both on and off the courts.





Greek Food Bank

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

What we accomplished with your gift:



THI funds support targeted purchases of food supplies that can't be provided by donations. Typically, companies donate items that are nearing their expiry date. However essential food items tend to have a longer expiry date and are rarely donated by companies. 420,000 meals and 70,000 glasses of milk have been provided to more than 50,000 individuals who secure their food by visiting soup kitchens, local parishes, and other charities in some of the most underprivileged areas of Attika.



We4all / Plant A Tree In Greece

We4all is a Greek nonprofit dedicated to sustainability and environmental protection. Its initiatives include planting, watering and nurturing trees, as well as preserving forested areas. We4all also provides environmental training programs, with a focus on collaborating with schools.

What we accomplished with your gift:



In 2024 THI's Plant a tree in Greece Program planted 10,000 trees, bringing the total number to 24,200. The trees have been planted all over Greece, in regions such as Attika, Evia, Chios, Argolis, Korinthos, Ilia and Spetses.





Higgs / THI Volunteer Connect

HIGGS was established in 2015 as the premier hub and incubator for nonprofit organizations and initiatives with a positive social and environmental impact. Through its core programs, HIGGS has provided invaluable support to over 200 nonprofits across Greece, generating over 900 jobs and reaching over 360,000 beneficiaries.



What we accomplished with your gift:



THI funds supported HIGGS in launching a tailor-made volunteering program for the THI global community. The organization developed a dedicated online platform, THI Volunteer Connect, allowing users from around the world to organize their volunteering activities, while offering flexibility in scheduling and location preferences. In 2024, more than 15 volunteering activities from vetted non-profits all over Greece were uploaded on the platform.



Greek Fire Service

In the summer of 2021, an unprecedented, prolonged heatwave sparked wildfires which ravaged the mainland and the islands. The wildfires destroyed forests, homes and businesses, displaced thousands of people and killed thousands of animals. The Hellenic Initiative conducted a campaign that raised \$550,000 from 4,500 individuals from 47 countries.



What we accomplished with your gift:



The Hellenic Initiative Wildfire Relief Campaign helped firefighters, first responders and our vetted nonprofit organizations save Greece. Part of the fund supported the Greek Fire Service, providing it with five specialized pick-up trucks, suitable for transporting firefighting commando teams during emergencies.





ELEPAP

ELEPAP is Greece's oldest philanthropic organization. Over the past 87 years, ELEPAP has assisted more than 110,000 infants, children and adults. The organization's primary objective is to enhance the lives of children with motor disabilities and neurodevelopmental disorders. Utilizing globally recognized techniques and practices, ELEPAP offers a distinctive care model that integrates rehabilitation and education.

What we accomplished with your gift:



Ensuring safe and comfortable transportation for the organization's children is paramount as navigating Athens can be exhausting and poses hurdles for them. THI supported the procurement of a school bus for the organization's Rehabilitation Center in Athens that significantly enhanced the children's everyday lives.



ELIZA

ELIZA was founded in 2008 with the primary goal of safeguarding children from abuse and neglect. ELIZA's initiatives are centered around raising awareness and mobilizing society to combat the mistreatment of children, as well as identifying and addressing instances of child abuse to ensure appropriate measures are taken to support affected children.

What we accomplished with your gift:



THI funds support ELIZA's efforts in the sustainability of its Child Safety Care Units in public hospitals and a capacity-building workshop for healthcare professionals in Greece. The Units provide comprehensive examinations for approximately 200 suspected child abuse cases and psychosocial support to more than 300 families per year. This funding helps to maintain operations, ensure on-site training for healthcare staff, and reduce hospitalization time of children.





ELPIDA

Founded in 1990 by a group of compassionate women led by Marianna V. Vardinoyannis, ELPIDA is dedicated to supporting children suffering from cancer and their families. The organization's mission is multifaceted, aiming to provide scientific, social and humanitarian assistance, raise public awareness about childhood cancer, address the social exclusion of sick children and promote volunteerism.

What we accomplished with your gift:



In 2020, Elpida opened the Center for Cell and Gene Therapy, located in the laboratory facilities of the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit at the Children's Oncology Unit 'Marianna V. Vardinoyannis-ELPIDA'. THI funds supported the procurement of necessary equipment that will allow the Unit to preserve grafts for extended periods of time, ensuring their availability to patients, and to preserve advanced therapy medicinal products until they are fully tested and ready to be administered.



Prolepsis

The DIATROFI program, an effort by Prolepsis, extends its support to students in primary and secondary public schools living in socioeconomically vulnerable areas across Greece, actively contributing to the fight against food insecurity and obesity.

What we accomplished with your gift:



Prolepsis was the recipient of the funds raised during THI's 2024 Easter Appeal. The funds raised supported the children of two kindergartens in Attica with more than 5,000 meals.



SOS Children's Villages

SOS CV Greece is a member association of the international organization SOS Children's Villages International, which operates in 136 countries and protects more than 500,000 children annually. Established in 1975, SOS CV Greece is recognized as a charitable organization with a core mission of safeguarding children who, due to severe circumstances, lack the care of their biological families.



What we accomplished with your gift:



Since 2012, SOS CV Greece has been implementing a range of family-centered support initiatives to empower individuals, bolster resilience and facilitate educational progress. THI funds supported family support programs in Alexandroupolis and Patras, extending support to 2,000 children and young adults facing disabilities and learning challenges, prioritizing activities such as non-formal education, STEM engagement, stress relief initiatives and provision of nutritious snacks.



Fainareti

Fainareti, established in 2006, is an organization that promotes the physical and mental well-being of pregnant women and their families. Its vision is to ensure equal access to high-quality primary care services for all pregnant women, new mothers, fathers and their babies during the perinatal period.



What we accomplished with your gift:



Fainareti's 'Baby Bank' initiative aims to combat child poverty by supplying essential baby items to families in extreme need. Through community donations and partnerships with affiliated organizations and municipalities, Fainareti collects and distributes high-quality baby clothes, equipment and furniture, promoting reuse while reducing waste. THI funds support the 'Baby Bank' program by covering the cost of a full-time Project Manager who oversees the program's operations.





Life Evolution

Founded in March 2018, Life Evolution empowers adolescents and young adults transitioning from closed child protection facilities. Through a list of services, including education, counseling, psychological support and engagement in sports, arts and cultural activities, Life Evolution is working to integrate its beneficiaries into society seamlessly.

What we accomplished with your gift:



THI funds support the comprehensive professional growth and development of 20 beneficiaries, aged 16 to 18, originating from closed child protection facilities in Greece. Over the course of an entire year, the project equipped these individuals with essential vocational guidance, career counseling and specialized training that will allow them to transition to independence.



Greek Youth Symphony Orchestra

Founded in 2017 by conductor Dionysis Grammenos, GYSO brings together talented young Greek musicians from across Greece and the world. GYSO is dedicated to discovering, training and promoting young Greek musicians in the symphonic and operatic repertoire. The orchestra offers them opportunities to perform in concerts and to collaborate with internationally acclaimed artists, conductors, soloists and tutors. Since its inception, GYSO has worked with over 300 young Greek musicians aged 18-26 from 46 different cities.

What we accomplished with your gift:



THI funds supported the orchestra's landmark concert at the Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage of Carnegie Hall in New York on November 3, 2024, featuring 90 young Greek musicians, which was attended by 1,240 people. The event was GYSO's inaugural performance in the United States, following a string of successful European concerts.



ANIMA

ANIMA is a non-profit organization dedicated to the nursing and rehabilitation of wild animals in their natural habitat. Established in 2005, it has become Greece's foremost wildlife care and rehabilitation organization.



What we accomplished with your gift:



During the devastating fires in Greece in July and August 2023, ANIMA received 400 injured tortoises and a total of 800 more animals. THI funds supported the construction of a special enclosure that facilitates rehabilitation and the return of the tortoises to nature. In 2024 162 tortoises were sheltered and more than 90 were re-introduced to their natural habitat. The grant also supported the purchase of a portable X-Ray machine and the hiring of a veterinary nurse that helped treat a total of 3,879 animals, an unusually high number due to the extreme heat in the summer and the Attica wildfires.



SUMMER YOUTH ACADEMY

An initiative fueled by the belief in the transformative power of education and sports.



THE
HELLENIC
INITIATIVE

SUMMER YOUTH ACADEMY

At The Hellenic Initiative, we believe in the power of education and sports to transform lives. Our focus is on youth lacking traditional economic and family structure advantages.

Together with Eurohoops, a renowned basketball organization, we have partnered to create a new unforgettable summer experience for young people who deserve every opportunity to succeed.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



thehellenicinitiative.org/summer-youth-academy



Academy Highlights

Empowering Youth:

- 50% of participants came from families with an annual income of less than \$3,000, while the remainder had incomes below \$24,000.
- 30% of participants were girls.
- 94% reported having a good to very good experience.

Basketball at the Forefront:

- Designed for all skill levels: Intensive basketball training, basketball theory sessions, fitness development, games and challenges.
- 92% of participants reported that the Academy improved their basketball skills.

Not Just a Basketball Camp:

Through specially designed daily educational workshops focused on Individuality and Communication, Team Dynamics and Leadership, children are encouraged and supported to discover their unique qualities and learn how to communicate them effectively to others. 94% of participants reported the Academy helped them grow their self-esteem.

Fun & Socializing:

Children need time to relax and have fun! We ensure there is dedicated time each day for kids to unwind, socialize and make new friends. 93% of participants reported that the Academy helped them to develop friendships.

New for 2025

Reaching Further

bringing one-day events in public spaces and courts all over Athens, and beyond the summer months.

Engaging Alumni:

creation of an alumni community that will actively participate in the Academy's implementation, to ensure sustainable impact.

Expanding Partnerships:

New partnerships with renowned athletes, teams and international organizations.





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VOLUNTEER CONNECT

Your roots are calling – help bring change to Greece!
Explore how you can empower Greece through volunteerism.



Connect with your heritage, empower local communities and experience the profound rewards of giving back through impactful volunteer work. By contributing to meaningful causes across Greece, you'll not only create lasting change but also strengthen cultural ties. Let's embark on this transformative journey together and build a brighter future for Greece.

Our volunteering program is open to everyone, regardless of age, background or interests. Whether you are a student, a professional, a retiree or someone with a passion for making a change, there is a place for you in our movement. We believe that every individual

has unique skills and experiences that can contribute to the betterment of our communities in Greece.

No matter your background or personal characteristics, we can create a volunteering activity that aligns with your interests and abilities.





THE PLATFORM

THI Volunteer Connect has been designed to connect the Greek Diaspora with volunteer opportunities in Greece. It serves as a bridge between the global Greek community and local nonprofits and organizations in need of support, allowing individuals to give back to their homeland by participating in meaningful initiatives.



THE MISSION

THI Volunteer Connect aims to re-connect Diaspora Greeks with their roots, enable their contribution to Greece's development and build a sense of community among them.



THE IMPACT

We enhance the impact of Greek organizations and initiatives by connecting them to members of the global Greek community. By channeling the skills and resources of the Diaspora, we enhance the capacity of Greek organizations to address important challenges and support community growth, fostering a stronger bond between Greece and its Diaspora.



thehellenicinitiative.org/volunteerconnect



PLANT A TREE IN GREECE

The Hellenic Initiative Launched A Wildfires Campaign
To Respond To The Crisis And Raised Over \$550,000
from 4,500 Supporters In 47 Countries.



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

Our partner: We4all is a Greek nonprofit dedicated to sustainability and environmental protection. Its initiatives include planting, watering, and nurturing trees, as well as preserving forested areas. We4all also provides environmental training programs, with a focus on collaborating with schools.

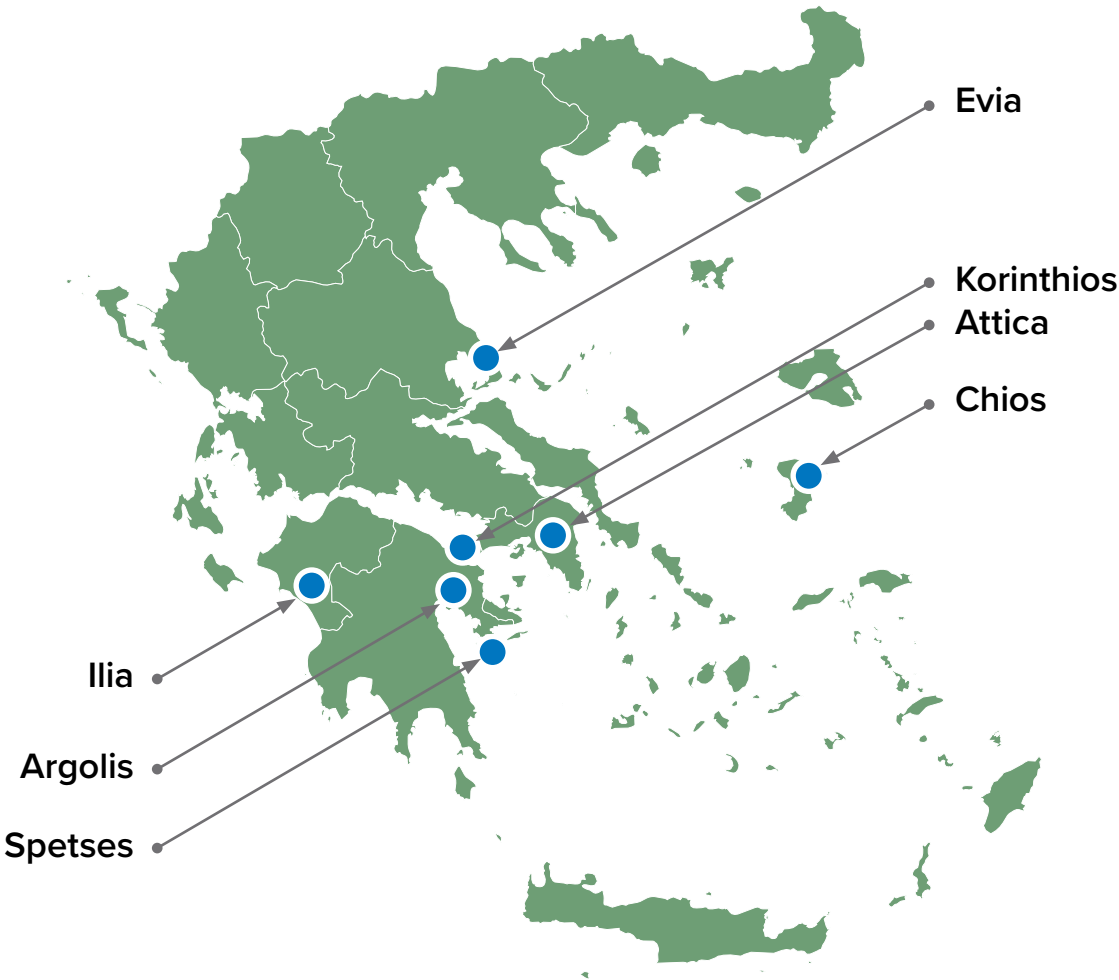




What we have achieved: Since March 2022, with the support of thousands of donors all over the world, THI's Plant a Tree program has seen 24,200 trees being planted all over Greece, 10,000 of which were planted in 2024. The trees give life to areas that have been affected by wildfires every year.

In addition, two water tanks were installed in Ancient Olympia and one in Attica (Varibobi), to contribute to fire prevention and support local firefighters in their work.

The program has engaged more than 3,500 volunteers, making it a tangible example of what we can achieve together - Oli Mazi.



thehellenicinitiative.org/plantatreeingreece



8th Annual London Gala

Food Bank of Greece and New Agriculture New Generation

On October 3, 2024 THI held its 8th Annual London Gala at The Dorchester, one of London’s premier event venues, raising over \$400,000 – another record.

Co-chaired by THI London Board member Constantine Logothetis, THI Board members Nikos Stathopoulos and Peter Poulos, and THI International Ambassador Princess Tatiana Blatnik, the evening celebrated two organizations committed to impactful work in Greece: the Food Bank of Greece and New Agriculture New Generation (NANG).

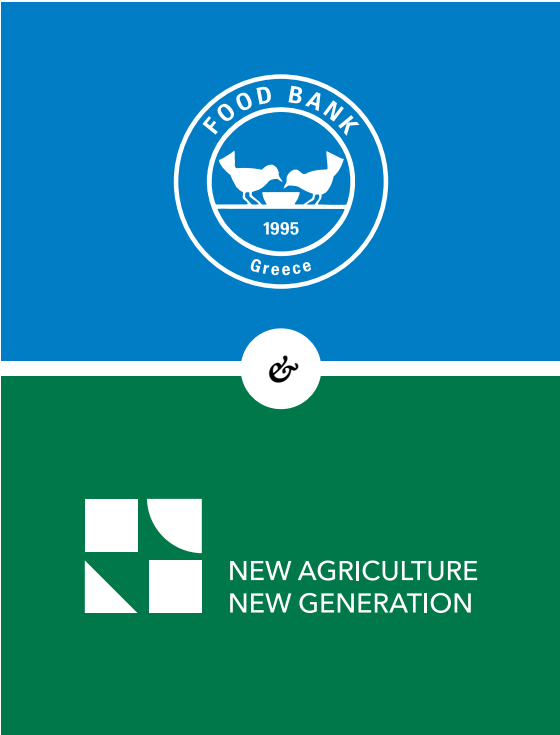
The sold-out gala, which has become the foremost gathering of Hellenes and Philhellenes in London, featured a reception, a gourmet dinner, and a fiery performance by renowned singer Eleni Foureira enjoyed by 400 guests.



NANG, a non-profit focused on strengthening Greece’s agrifood sector, has supported the establishment of numerous sustainable businesses in rural and remote communities. The Food Bank of

Greece, founded in 1995, combats hunger and food waste, distributing over 2,000 tons of food annually to support thousands in need through its partnerships with local charities.

Honorees



Entertainment by







The Hellenic Initiative 2nd Annual Monaco Event

A night of inspiration and generosity in Monaco!

THI's 2nd Annual Fundraising Event in Monaco was a resounding success, raising €124,000 to support the THI Summer Youth Academy. The event was hosted at the Stelios Haji-Ioannou Charitable Foundation Headquarters in Monaco, and the funds raised during the dinner were matched by Sir Stelios Haji-Ioannou, a dedicated THI Board member.

The evening was further elevated by the presence of Greek basketball legend Nikos Galis. A special thank you goes out to Sir Stelios and Ms. Katerina Lanara (President of the Hellenic Community in Monaco), as well as all our supporters from the local community who made this night possible.





THI's Summer Youth Academy: Transforming Lives and Building Futures

Celebrity Game Launched Exciting Program for 14-18 Year-Olds in Athens

The Hellenic Initiative (THI) presented its first-ever Summer Youth Academy, sponsored, designed, and implemented by THI for children aged 14-18, taking place at the Lycée Léonin Athens school in the Patisia neighborhood of the capital of Greece. This inaugural basketball academy offered a transformative experience that leveraged the power of sports for youth empowerment and leadership to more than 100 children at no cost, combining comprehensive basketball training with a series of educational, recreational and empowering activities.

The Academy commenced with a Celebrity Game featuring prominent Greek athletes, business leaders, and artists, along with children who participated in the Academy. The game was followed by a cocktail reception at the Stelios Foundation Conference Hall in Plaka. The reception was attended by prominent business and sports leaders, USA Ambassador George Tsunis, THI Board President George Stamas, THI Board Members John Koudounis, Dean Metropoulos and Nikos Stathopoulos and friends of THI, all getting together to celebrate the launch of this ambitious program.





The Hellenic Initiative's Venture Impact Awards Grant \$110,000 To 8 Greek Startups

\$915,000 awarded to 57 Greek startups since 2020

For the 5th consecutive year The Hellenic Initiative (THI) celebrated the achievements of Greece's most promising startups, highlighting the 'good' done by emerging for-profit ventures as well as their commercial potential. On December 16, eight startups received a total of \$110,000 at the annual Venture Impact Awards (VIA) event. Since 2020 THI has awarded 57 winners with \$915,000 in cash prizes, making a real difference for them, especially during the pandemic.

At the Conference Center in Athens of the Stelios Philanthropic Foundation of THI Board member Sir Stelios Haji-Ioannou, Giannis Dionatos, publisher of Startupper.gr, once again served as the MC.

THI Board member Jeremy Downward provided an overview

of VIA's significance. "In 2012... Greece was in dire straits... fortunately, THI was in a position to help." He continued: "the evolution of the startup system in this country has been absolutely remarkable." The 20 finalists "were extremely strong... and we now see real pride in being Greek and doing something here in Greece... which is now a country engendering true innovation."

A record 82 applicants were rewarded for their contributions to society and the economic future of Greece, already 'giving back' in various ways, demonstrating human, social, or environmental impact, including through job creation.

The winners at the \$20,000 level were Coffee-Eco, MindTheHack, and SciDrones, and \$10,000 cash

prizes were won by Adam Health, Billys, Caius, Dataphoria, and Robenso.

Michael Printzos, THI Country Head, Greece, welcomed the guests and introduced Dimitris Georgakopoulos, who helped spearhead the VIA. He is Co-Founder of the Helidoni Foundation, VIA's anchor donor along with the Charles C. Condes trust.

Harriette Condes Zervakis sent the following message: "The Charles C. Condes Trust congratulates the 2024 Venture Impact Award winners. We applaud the young people and businesses who have chosen to make their fortune and their future in Greece."

Thank you to THI staff and the THI Directors for their unwavering support of Greek enterprises."

“THI remains committed to assisting Hellenic startups when they need support the most – at the start – and rewarding those striving both for commercial success and to benefit society.”

Andrew N. Liveris, THI's Board Chairman





Sponsors



VIA is a powerful symbol of THI's commitment to Greece's talented youth. As we stated in our new video, "united, there is no dream too grand, no challenge too great – let's dare to dream – together!"

George P. Stamas, THI's Board President



Coffeeco is at the forefront of Greece's circular economy.



Billys is a comprehensive building management software platform that simplifies property management.



MindTheHack was founded with a vision to revolutionize the cybersecurity landscape, their intuitive platform setting a new standard.



Caius' innovative A.I. products map forests, digitize areas, protect ecosystems, and promote sustainability, ecotourism, and rural development.



SciDrones integrates drones and A.I., transforming raw remote sensing data into actionable insights for pollution monitoring and infrastructure mapping.



Dataphoria's platform provides data-driven insights that help companies meet their Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) goals.



Adam Health is revolutionizing men's health care, developing a wearable sensor that monitors users during sleep.



Robenso exploits recent technological advancements to develop integrated systems that facilitate industrial recycling.



Greek Youth Symphony Orchestra

Debuted at Carnegie Hall in 2024

THI's support for young people in Greece extends to the Cultural realm. The Greek Youth Symphony Orchestra (GYSO) was founded in 2017 by conductor Dionysis Grammenos, consisting of young Greek musicians from all parts of Greece and abroad. GYSO aims to identify, train and promote young Greek musicians in the symphonic and operatic repertoire, while offering them the opportunity to participate in concerts and collaborate all over the world with internationally renowned artists, conductors, soloists and tutors.

The orchestra's gifted musicians made their Carnegie Hall debut on November 3, 2024 with the support of THI, which has proudly supported GYSO with donations totaling \$175,000 since 2020.

GYSO is championed by THI Executive Committee Member Nick Alexos, who says, "the achievements of the GYSO and its founder and conductor, Dionysis Grammenos, are truly inspiring. These young talents are the torchbearers of European culture, and we should all take pride in their success."





THE 1821 SOCIETY

As Modern-Day Diaspora Greeks, We Are As Committed
To Freedom For Greece As Our Ancestors Ever were.

The year 1821 marked a pivotal moment in history—when Greece courageously began its fight for independence from the Ottoman Empire. This monumental struggle was fueled not only by the bravery of those within Greece’s borders but also by the indomitable spirit of the Greek Diaspora and passionate supporters from around the world. The War of Independence was initiated by the Philiki Eteria, a secret political and revolutionary organization founded in 1814 in Odessa, whose mission was to overthrow Ottoman rule and establish a free and independent Greek state. Through unwavering commitment and the support of Greeks and Philhellenes alike, Greece ultimately achieved its long-awaited freedom, forever altering its future.

Today, we have founded the 1821 Society in that same spirit. As descendants of those who fought for



THE
HELLENIC
INITIATIVE

THE 1821 SOCIETY

Greece’s independence, we carry the torch of Hellenism and aim to serve as a modern embodiment of the Philiki Eteria. Just as our ancestors united to secure freedom, we now unite to confront Greece’s current challenges: rebuilding its economy and creating jobs, reversing the brain drain, addressing urgent humanitarian needs, and

preserving and promoting Hellenistic ideals.

Through the 1821 Society, we are not only working to ensure a brighter future for Greece but also striving to preserve and share the rich legacy of Greek culture with generations to come. Our mission connects Hellenism around the world, building global bridges to Greece. Over the past two years, we have built a strong foundation of dedicated members who share this vision and are eager to play an active part in its impact.



In 2024 alone, we hosted well-attended events in Palm Beach, the Hamptons, Connecticut, Los Angeles, and New York City—demonstrating strong and growing interest in our cause. From the challenges posed by the global economic landscape to ongoing humanitarian crises, the need for collective action and solidarity has never been greater. As a member of the 1821 Society, your contributions make a tangible difference by supporting organizations and NGOs in Greece that are dedicated to improving the lives of its people and preserving our shared heritage.

By joining the 1821 Society, you not only honor the sacrifices of those who came before us, you also become part of a movement actively shaping Greece’s future, ensuring that our rich traditions and values continue to thrive. Members also enjoy access to exclusive events and initiatives, providing opportunities to connect, exchange ideas, and collaborate.

1821 Society Annual Donor Levels

Join the 1821 Society today and continue the legacy of resilience, unity, and hope that has defined the Greek spirit for centuries.

The Lord Byron Circle
\$18,210
2 years membership

In honor of history’s greatest philhellene who inspired, funded, and fought in the Greek revolution.

Benefits:

- ✓ Invitations to:
 - Annual exclusive, members-only gathering at world-class venue with insider access to top-level Hellenes and Philhellenes. Intimate two days to include organized discussions, networking lunches, receptions and dinner.
 - Annual THI Board Retreat weekend.
 - Bimonthly online talks with some of the world’s greatest minds.
- ✓ VIP seating at all THI events
- ✓ Four complimentary tickets to THI’s London and NYC Galas
- ✓ Profiled in 1821 Society newsletter and The National Herald
- ✓ All other Philiki Eteria benefits

Philiki Eteria Member
\$1,821
year

In honor of the diaspora secret society that sparked the Greek War of Independence.

Benefits:

- ✓ Invitations to select THI events throughout the year
- ✓ THI 1821 Society Experiences
- ✓ 1821 Society monthly newsletter





The 1821 Society Members

The Lord Byron Circle

- | | |
|---|--|
| Kostas & Laura Alexakis | Ted & Lynn Leonsis |
| Nicholas W. & Marcie Alexos | Andrew N. & Paula Liveris |
| Maria Allwin | George M. & Nitzia Logothetis |
| George & Lee Ann Anderson | Paul & Kelly Lountzis |
| John & Mimi Anderson | George M. & Judy Marcus |
| Leon & Robyn Andris | Dennis & Karen Mehiel |
| Michael & Christine Angelakis | Corinne Mentzelopoulos & Hubert Leven |
| Michael & Julie Angelos | C. Dean & Marianne Metropoulos |
| Peter & Barbara Arbes | Constantine S. Mihas |
| Peter & Adrienne Barris | Doretta Mistras |
| John P. & Mae Calamos | Pericles & Neda Navab |
| Aris & Laura Candris | James & Rebecca Neary |
| John & Margo Catsimatidis | Cathy Papoulias-Sakellaris & George Sakellaris |
| Achilleas Constantakopoulos & Costantza Sbokou Constantakopoulou | Peter & Ethel D. Parthenis |
| Dean Dakolias & Monique Cusson | Karen Paterakis Philippou & George Philippou |
| Athanasios Damis & Annie Kyprianou | Peter & Susanna Polydor |
| Jeremy Downward | Peter J. Poulos & Mark Caligiuri |
| Theane Evangelis & Evangelos Kousoulas | Michael & Robin Psaros |
| Nic Faitos | George J. Sampas & Anna Kuzmik Sampas |
| John D. Georges & Dathel Coleman Georges | Nick Scandalios |
| Sir Stelios Haji-Ioannou & Ms. Orla Murphy | Daniel & Deborah Settelmayer |
| Dr. Panos & Debi Kalaritis | Simos Simeonidis & Elisa Konofagou |
| Kosmo Kallierakos | Lea Soupata & Sotirios Zervoulis |
| Fr. Alexander & Pr. Xanthi Karloutsos | William & Tiki Spell |
| Leah Kats | George P. & Georgia Stamas |
| Louis & Barbara Katsos | Nikos & Marita Stathopoulos |
| Cindy & Leonidas Kontothanassis | George & Grazia Svokos |
| David & Sandra Kostel | Spyros Svoronos |
| John S. & Joanne Koudounis | Terry Theologides & Deb Rodriguez |
| Nicos Koulis | John & Renee Vasiliou |
| Nikos Koumettis & Sarita Chaim | Spiro & Roman Verras |
| Amb. Eleni Kounalakis & Markos Kounalakis | John Tentomas & Niki Yannakis |
| | Christiana Zouzias |

Philiki Eteria Member

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Angelique Fiorini Alexos | Nicholas Navab |
| Constantine Vasilios Alexos | Thomas Navab |
| Justinian Theodore Alexos | John Aristotle Phillips |
| James Anderson | Dr. Georgios Sabatakos |
| Thomas Constance | Peter & Aphrodite Skeadas |
| Rhea & Bill Grous | George N. Tavlarios |
| Olga Karakadas | Harry P. Tavlarios |
| Lorena & Nick Livanos | Nick Tsismenakis & Demetra Machaira |
| George L. & Marie Michaels | |

List complete as of February 20, 2025



Watermill, New York • On August 23, 2024, an 1821 Society Cocktail Reception was held at the home of Board Member Dennis and Karen Mehiel.

City, Connecticut • On September 12, 2024, an 1821 Society Cocktail Reception was held.



Los Angeles, California • On September 26, 2024, an 1821 Society Cocktail Reception was held.





New York, New York • On November 3, 2024, an 1821 Society Cocktail Reception was held as part of the Greek Youth Symphony Orchestra debut at Carnegie Hall.



New York, New York • On December 6, 2024, an 1821 Society Cocktail Reception was held at Calamos Investments, hosted by Board Member John Koudounis.





ANOTHER EXCEPTIONAL YEAR for THI's New Leaders!

NEW LEADERS



THE HELLENIC
INITIATIVE
#olimazi

We kicked off our fundraising events with a bang, starting in February. Miami was our first stop, where we hosted an unforgettable evening in early February. The event brought together an impressive crowd, with a strong showing from both local New Leaders and many Northeast friends who flew in to join the celebration. The stunning backdrop of South Beach, along with the delicious food, live music, drinks by Skinos Mastiha Spirit made for an amazing night at Santorini by Georgios.

A couple weeks later, we headed to Washington, DC for a dynamic event that brought together THI supporters from the region. This event's success was

wholly due to the large and active group of hosts who brought together their respective networks and brought in silent auction donations, sponsorships, and a sold out venue! Everyone turned out to meet one another and also to hear from the founders of Cava, Ike Grigoropoulos, Chef Dimitri Moshovitis, and Ted Xenohristos. The night was filled with energy, as new and familiar faces mingled to support the organization's mission and enjoy the vibrant atmosphere.

April brought our first-ever New Leaders Pre-Gala event in New York City, which became our highest netting New Leader event thus far. The night was underwritten by Alexandra and Leo Psaros, children



Miami, Florida, February 2024

of THI Board Member Michael Psaros. The fundraiser quickly sold out and the evening was filled with excitement and energy as New Leaders from all over gathered for a night of networking and philanthropy. This New Leader's Gala truly set the bar for future such gatherings, and we are incredibly proud of the success and impact it had.

June was a bustling month for us, as we landed in Los Angeles for the 'See and Be Scene' event in partnership with the LA Greek Film Festival (LAGFF) and the Global Greek Film Initiative (GGFI). This star-studded evening featured singer Angelina Alexon and a fantastic turnout from the West Coast Greek

community. It was a celebration of culture, film and philanthropy, and we couldn't have been happier with how it turned out.

In July, we went global, with our 3rd Annual Athens Plant A Tree Service project and the highest-attended global Happy Hour in THI history. We began the day with a hands-on tree-planting event in Paiania, a fire-affected area outside Athens, where we worked alongside We4All to tend to trees previously planted by THI. The volunteers who braved the heat had a special lunch at Taverna Houneri courtesy of THI for their hard work. The day ended with a spectacular Global Happy Hour at Skyfall Bar, with New Leaders joining



Washington, D.C., February 2024

from around the world. The view of the Acropolis at sunset was a perfect way to celebrate our growing global community.

The excitement continued in the fall with a Happy Hour in London on the rooftop of the famed Greek restaurant Elysee. Local New Leaders and those in town for the weekend all came together to Network with a Purpose. In December, we hosted our annual pre-Gala event. This year, it was in collaboration with Milos Estiatorio, our newest global partner for New Leader events. It was a spectacular evening held at the Milos NY Wine Bar in Hudson Yards and definitely proved that the two brands are a perfect fit for strategic partnership! This was just one of many exciting

initiatives that came together to wrap up the year.

Throughout the year, we remained committed to keeping our New Leaders engaged and connected. Our monthly newsletters kept everyone up-to-date on upcoming events, as well as insights from Artemis Kohas, our Director of Community Development, sharing valuable updates and reflections on the community's growth. We kept up with our annual membership campaign, which raised as much as our events, reflecting the commitment and generosity of our members.

Our Executive Committee was more active than ever, collaborating on projects focused on fundraising, marketing, recruitment, and expanding our global impact. Their dedication to supporting THI's mission



THI New Leader

Executive Committee 2024

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Vassilis Arsenis | Alexandra Kontopanos , Co-chair | Areti Sakellaris |
| Stavriana Asprogiannidou | Dimitrios Kyranos | Alex Samaras |
| Niki Backos | Georgios Laskaris | Dimitri Skambas |
| Panagiotis Balomenos | Matthew Lianides , Co-chair | Constantine (Kostas) Speridakos |
| Georgia Belesis | Louis Loizou | Elina Stavropoulou |
| Tefkros Bolanos | Zachary Lountzis | George Stellas |
| Lia Bozonelis | Grigoris (Gregory) Makris , Co-chair | Theodora Tavridou |
| Eunice Buhler | Athanasios Manole | Eugene Theodore |
| Konstantina Choros | Elias Manolis | Jay K Tourgoutian |
| Marissa Eliades | Alexander Marcopoulos | Mirianthi Tsismenakis |
| Kalliope Filax | Vasilis Mornto | Nikolaos Vidalis |
| Konstantinos Flogaitis | Joanna James Moschos | Denny Venetia Vildiridou |
| Ellen Grace Furgis | Christos Dimitrios Nikas | Marianthi Vlachos |
| Lexi Georgiadis , Co-chair | Demetri Nikolias | Nicole Vournazos , Co-chair |
| Niko Hahalīs | Christina Nikolos , Co-chair | Ioannis Wallingford |
| Katerina Iliakopoulou | Maria Nikou | Lia Wrenn |
| Eirini Ioannidi | Konstantine Ouranitsas , Co-chair | Zacharias (Harris) Xanthos |
| George Mark Kailas | Kyriaki (Sandy) Papadimitriou | Theresia Yiallourou |
| Orestis Kaitezidis | Petros Perselis | George N. Zapantis |
| Angelo Karras, Co-chair | Alexander Philliou | Simoni Zarkada |
| Kelly Kollias | | |

**New Leaders are an international group
of like-minded professionals under 45 years of age
who actively believe in investing in the future of Greece
through direct philanthropy and economic revitalization**

continues to drive our success, and we couldn't be more grateful for their hard work.

As always, our events in New York continued to be a highlight of the year. The 2024 New York Gala, held in December, was a fitting conclusion to an outstanding year, with New Leaders attending in full force and contributing to the success of the event.

We also maintained our tradition of honoring our Executive Committee with the 3rd Annual Post-Gala Executive Committee & Membership Brunch. This year we invited New Leader Members at the Athena level as well as Philiki Eteria members to this intimate gathering. We love to take the opportunity to express our gratitude to those who have dedicated so much time and effort to

the cause and to build momentum for the year ahead.

Our partnership with The National Herald continues to grow, with our New Leader Executive Committee and Members being regularly profiled in a dedicated corner of the publication. This ongoing exposure helps raise awareness about the incredible work being done by our members and amplifies the impact of THI in the global Greek community.

The year 2024 proved that New Leaders are not only the future of THI but are also integral to our mission's growth and success. The expansion into new cities and the continued enthusiasm from our global community are a testament to the value that THI brings to the Greek diaspora. ***Oli Mazi!***



New Leader Members

All New Leader members benefit from joining an international network of philanthropic leaders and partnering with a quality organization and dedicated staff, that ensures that gifts, voice, and time are efficiently invested in Greece to maximize impact. New Leader members are also invited to attend national and worldwide gatherings of The Hellenic Initiative.

Athena
\$250
year

Benefits:

- ✓ Listing in Annual Report
- ✓ Priority Access to all THI global community events
- ✓ 15% discounted tickets to all THI ticketed events

Plato
\$100
year

Benefits:

- ✓ Listing in Annual Report
- ✓ Priority Access to to all THI ticketed events

Athena

Alexandra Abouezzi
Sydney Adams
Garyfallia Aidarini
Potoula Anagnostakos
Athena Arbes
Pashalis Baraklilis
Georgia Belesis
Athena Bisia
Ourania Bletsas
Lia Bozonelis
Eunice Buhler
Anna Cheokas
Konstantina Choros
Jonathan Christodoro
Christoforos Christofidis
Lefteri Christos
Sophia Constantinides
Sotirios Delimaris
Dimitri Deoudes
Nick Dermatas
Georgios Doulaveris
Kalliope Filax
George Fragkos
Katerina Giovanis
Zenonas Hadjicostas

Katerina Housos
Epameinondas Iliadis
Dimitrios Kallioras
Bill Karamouzis
Haritomeni Karavakis
Anastasia Karloutsos
Nick Kassanis
Constantine Katsarakis
Evangelos Konstantinou
Chrisovalanta (Xrisa) Koulouris
George Koulouris
Dimitrios Kyranos
Zachary Lountzis
Conrad Lucas
George Malliaras
Dimitrios Mano
Athanasios Manole
Alexander Marcopoulos
Christopher Marks
Aris Minaretzis Tsionos
Alexi Panagiotakopoulos
Alexea Papanicolaou
Alexander Papathomas
Ilias Pappas
John Pappas

Elianna Perdik
Olivia Petas
William Pilavas
Diana Poulimenos
Renos Savvides
Simos Simeonidis
Margarita Skourlis
Iphigenia Smaragdass
Maria Speridakos
George Stellas
Emmelia Stoddard
Theodora Tavridou
Christina Tenedios
Bill Tsadilas
Chris Tsiolis
Konstantinos Tsiourakis
Artemis Tsitsirakis
Alexandra Veletsis
Nicole Vournazos
Elizabeth Walton
Zacharias Xanthos
Byron Zanopoulos
George Zapantis



Plato

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|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| George Alisandratos | Marilena Hatoupis | Nicholas Otis |
| Athanasia Anagnostou | Stephanie Kacyonis | Georgios Ouzounis |
| Despina Anastasiou | George Mark Kailas | George Panagiotakopoulos |
| Yiorgos Antoniadis | Orestis Kaitezidis | Stratton Papakirk |
| Dimitris Antoniou | Charalampos Kalofonos | Antonis Paparis |
| Stella Argyrou | Nikolaos Kalteziotis | Melanie Pavlidis |
| Nikolas Arvanitopoulos Jr. | Aris Kangadis | Ugo Piovan |
| Niki Backos | Callia Karas | Dimitri Roumeliotis |
| Panos Balomenos | Peter Karas | Stefanie Roumeliotis |
| Zisis Blades | Irene Katopodis | Elsa Sahnas |
| Tefkros Bolanos | Evan Katradis | Aron Saltsidis |
| James Canale | George Kioussis | Elena Saviolakis |
| Nicolas Charalambous | Georgia Kollias | David Smiros |
| Gregory Chassapis | Nicole Kotsianas | Elvera Sofos |
| Stefano Dolomas | Athanasios Koutoupas | Marina Sofos |
| Maria Christina Dourida | Rigopoula Koutsoupakis | Patricia Stevens |
| Marissa Eliades | Sophia Lambropoulos | Fotios Stravoravdis |
| Anastasia Epitropou | Alexandros Lentovas | Yiannis Stroumbakis |
| Stefan Fakoukakis | Demetri Loukeris | Rania Svoronou |
| Konstantinos Flogaitis | Anastasia Luridas | Stef Trepekli |
| Andrianna Gasparis | Nicole Manouselis | Susan Trepekli |
| Margarita Gasparis | Marie-Ange Michaels | George Tsakonas |
| Nicoletta Gasparis | Tifani Mikropoulos | Asimina Tsirka |
| Ariana Gavrilidis | Joanna Moschos | Konstantinos Tzanetakos |
| Lexi Georgiadis | Angelos Moukas | Denny Vildiridou |
| George Giannopoulos | Alexandra Moustakas | Lia Wrenn |
| Chrysa Giordamli | Athena Moustakas | Christian Zanetis |
| Niko Hahalís | Matthaios Olma | |

Lists complete as of June 4, 2025

NEW LEADERS



THE HELLENIC
INITIATIVE
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thehellenicinitiative.org/new-leaders



New York City, New York, April 2024



Los Angeles, California, June 2024



Athens, Greece, July 2024



New York City, New York, December 2024



MANY BLESSINGS, and Giving Back

Elisa and Simos Simeonidis

They went to the same high school – the renowned Varvakeio in Athens – at the same time, had a few common friends, but never met. Years later, they are among the most distinguished scientists and biotech entrepreneurs in the Hellenic world. Along the way to success, they have been raising a family... and ‘giving back’ through endeavors like The Hellenic Initiative.

Simos Simeonidis’ biography spotlights his professional path: research at Harvard in Molecular Genetics, then from professor at Harvard Medical School to Managing Partner, CEO and CIO of Kos Biotechnology Partners, a venture capital firm and hedge fund. But it omits his intriguing life journey, as well as his inspiring partnership with his wife Elisa Konofagou, PhD. They are co-founders of Delsona Therapeutics, which is developing a revolutionary drug delivery platform Elisa is pioneering that uses focused ultrasound to reach brain tissue.

Another missing piece is their love for Greece. “At Kos we are starting a fund that will only be investing in Greece....reversing brain drain,” Simos said, and Elisa is delighted that the Greek government has pursued reforms and investments guided by “good advisors, mainly from the U.S. but also from Europe.”



Elisa Konofagou and Simos Simeonides, above, in 2001 in Boston a couple of months after they met.

Elisa Konofagou and Simos Simeonides, top, with their sons Philippos and Aris after an event at the Odeon of Herodes Atticus in Athens.



Their devotion to each other and their children is also touching. They know numerous scientist couples, but Simos noted that many times the wife sacrifices her career. He said, “that was never an issue with us – that is her calling, so we made it work. The international travel requires a lot of flexibility, coordination, and compromise” – even more with their two sons. “We split things down the middle... a small price to pay for having it all.”

For their generation, the contrasts are strong – he lost his father when he was young and was the first in his family to attend university. Elisa is a third generation PhD – but her grandfather’s background is remarkably similar to Simos’.

“I wanted to be a scientist....when my father passed away....my mother asked our family in Chicago to take me in. She said – ‘he’s a smart student and a good kid.... no problems....he eats whatever you put in front of him.’ As I grow older I understand more what these people did – they never met me, but they fed me, helped me get my first job, gave me money – they were really there for me. That makes me want to give back.”

He asked “how could we possibly do this?” of his very religious mother, whose “whole purpose in life was to take care of me and my sister.” She said, “God will help us.” But Simos was also very resourceful: from community college he transferred to Loyola, financing that by playing Division I soccer, serving as an R.A. for room and board and working odd jobs.

A Fulbright Scholarship got him to Columbia University for two Masters’ and a PhD. Then he was recruited by Harvard Medical School for a postdoc fellowship. “I pinch myself every day and ask ‘is this my life?’ I came from nowhere to attend three Ivy League schools” – he later got his MBA at Wharton after “serendipitously, I learned what a scientist could do with business knowledge in biotech....”

Elisa is a professor of Biomedical Engineering and Radiology (Physics) at Columbia University. Simos notes “Elisa’s grandfather Konstantinos Konofagos, a poor kid from Preveza, went to

Paris to study engineering....he became professor and then rector at the Polytechnic in Athens during the uprising in 1973... He was arrested for resisting the junta, but later Prime Minister Karamanlis made him minister of industry.” “Yes,” Elisa said. “Simos runs my P.R.”

She said that at school “there was an emphasis in science, and we had very good teachers” but the life changer was going to the U.S. My father won an Eisenhower Fellowship and my mother an Onassis Fellowship. I went to Boston in 1984 – I made friends.... and played baseball.” When she was asked at age 12 “what do you want to do with your life” it threw her for a loop. “We don’t do that in Greece.” She was drawn to medicine, but her mom emphasized the family’s engineering tradition. “She took me to MIT and we were welcomed by a Greek professor – there are so many brilliant Greeks in the sciences. He showed me a bulletin. In a very small font I saw the words ‘biomedical engineering’... I never heard of that, then I thought ‘oh my God! That’s my calling!’”

They finally ‘really met’ in 2001 on line in the Harvard Medical School cafeteria – introduced by ‘Kyria’ Tasia, who worked there. Only when they started going out together with friends did they realize they were in high school together.

THI Board Member Drake Behrakis introduced Elisa to THI. “He invited us to the Gala in New York,” Simos said, Elisa adding, “it’s such a great way to bring together people from all kinds of backgrounds. Simos was inspired by the people he met and the great philanthropic efforts, and we have contributed ever since. After all these years away from our ‘Patrida’ it’s our way of giving back for what was given to us.



*Simos Simeonidis with
THI friends Peter Poulos,
Artemis Kohas, and
Yannis Sianis at the inau-
gural Lord Byron Circle
event.*



IT'S EASY TO GIVE When You Love So Much

Niki Yannakis and Yianni Tentomas

Niki Yannakis and Yianni Tentomas share similar backgrounds. Hellenes with islander roots – mainly from their beloved Cephalonia – they were born and raised in Montreal and nurtured in Hellenic values with a profound love for Greece.

After distinguishing herself in a ten-year law practice, Niki stepped away from law to raise their two boys – but she was also instrumental in helping Yianni lay the foundation for Nature's Touch, which was started by Yianni in the basement of their home in 2004 and is today the largest frozen fruit company in the world.

Their success with Nature's Touch has fueled their passion for philanthropy, with a particular dedication to their Hellenic roots. Their introduction to The Hellenic Initiative was serendipitous.

Niki says, "I had read about THI several years back, and I was very impressed by the initiatives the organization had undertaken. I was equally impressed by the founders, their individual accomplishments, and their dedication to the collective THI vision. I knew instantly that I needed to jump onboard."

But before fully committing, Niki wanted to experience THI firsthand. "Over the years I became more and more impressed with the work being done by THI but I still chose to support their endeavors anonymously

until I was absolutely sure that all participants and members were truly committed. Attending the THI Galas and accepting invitations to various gatherings reinforced everything I admired about the organization....When we were invited to join the Lord Byron Circle and we saw how like-minded and focused everyone was, we knew that this was where we needed to be – joining THI felt like a homecoming."

Niki credits childhood trips to Cephalonia for her passion. "It was absolutely imperative that my sister and I go to Greece in the summers when we were little – I haven't missed many summers and neither have our children."

Yianni notes, "I only went to Greece three times as a child, but all my friends were Greek – for Greek Montrealers, the assimilation factor was very low. I met Niki when we were 19, then we went to Greece together in our twenties. I am a history buff and always very proud to be Greek, but I credit Niki for introducing me to Greece properly and in helping me appreciate being Greek."

Yianni says his sense of pride was heightened in 2004, the year of the Athens Olympics and Greece's Euro soccer championship. It was also the year their first son was born and the year he started Nature's



“Over the years I became more and more impressed with the work being done by THI but I still chose to support their endeavors anonymously until I was absolutely sure that all participants and members were truly committed. Attending the THI Galas and accepting invitations to various gatherings reinforced everything I admired about the organization....When we were invited to join the Lord Byron Circle and we saw how like-minded and focused everyone was, we knew that this was where we needed to be – joining THI felt like a homecoming.”

Niki Yannakis

Touch. “It was truly a milestone year.”

The path to his own company began with Yianni knowing the importance of academics, and he had a penchant for chemistry. “I really enjoyed chemistry and figured that a chemical engineering degree from a reputable university would lead to a good job and secure a good living. I was right.”

Ironically, THI Board Chairman Andrew N. Liveris was president of his division – Specialty Chemicals – when Yianni was hired as an engineer at Dow Chemical – but they never met. He did, however, encounter Liveris’ predecessor as Dow CEO and Chairman, William Stavropoulos. As successful as Yianni was at Dow, he said, “I always had a desire to do something on my own” – so he went back to Montreal and worked as a GM for a frozen fruit trading company. That added to his commodities selling and account management experience.

“I realized frozen fruit was trending; consumers were buying blenders and making smoothies and I felt that I could do a better job and offer a far better product than what was available on the market for the consumer.” Niki noted that “Yianni’s knowledge of chemistry and his experience in industry are at the very core of providing consumers superior, healthful

products and in making Nature’s Touch a leader in food safety.”

The need to start their own company is in many ways linked to their Greek heritage. “The Greek diaspora has always been resilient and entrepreneurial – it’s in our genes. I combined that drive with the knowledge and problem-solving skills incumbent on an engineer – this gave me credibility and an advantage,” Yianni said.

And there is a Greece connection – Nature’s Touch buys peaches and cherries from Naoussa in northern Greece and has recently opened a food safety office in Athens.

Niki and Yianni are very proud to be contributing members of THI and the Lord Byron Circle. “We have met some really incredible people – seeing very accomplished Greek-Americans of the third and fourth generation who are so engaged and passionate about helping Greece and fellow Greeks is most impressive, they inspire us to be more engaged. Greece has given us so much, its only right that we give back and help create opportunities for future generations. We look forward to continuing this journey ‘oli mazi’.”



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| Marina Orphanides | Kaliope Parthemos | George Raskovic |
| Nicholas Otis | Christina Pashou | Jim Reichert |
| Konstantine Ouranitsas | George Patrikis | Katherine Relle |
| Matina Ouzouni | Eleni Patsalis | Christopher Rendon |
| Olga Paizi | Carolyn Pech | Miriam Rendon |
| Christen Paleologos | Chris Pepes | Rigas Rigopoulos |
| Helen Pampafikos | Elianna Perdik | Kyriaki Rizos |
| Alexi Panagiotakopoulos | Theodora Myrto Perdikari | Kristin Romanias |
| Fotios Panagiotakopoulos | Petros Perselis | Jean Roque |
| Demetrios Panagiotou | Love Peters | Filimon Roukoutakis |
| Artemis Panagopoulou | Elektra Petrakis | Dimitri Roumeliotis |
| Alexia Panayiotou | John Petrakis | Dimitrios Roumeliotis |
| Maria Panayotou | Dimitris Petropoulos | Katerina Roumeliotis |
| Nicholas Pantel | Carmelina Petrou | Stefanie Roumeliotis |
| Savvas Pantelides | Alexis Phili | Emma Rouse |



\$499 and below (continued)

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Eleni Sakellis | Claudia Southcott | Helen Trahanas |
| Joan Sakkas | Angelica Spanos Reardon | Alex Trikaliotis |
| Marie Salame | Basilki Speros | Sofia Tryfonopoulou |
| Brent Salt | Dimitrios Spyropoulos | Bill Tsadilas |
| Eleni Saltos | Fotine Stamatelos | Natalie Tsaketas |
| Aron Saltsidis | Alexia Stamatiou | George Tsakonas |
| Miriam Samos | Theodoros Stamelatos | Ioanna Tsamasfyrou |
| Xenia Vagianni Sampsoni | Christina Stampouloglou | Clelia Tsansizi |
| Christina Yialamas Sanchez | Effie Stathaki | Julia Tsaoussis |
| Katerina Sanoulis | Panagiota Stathakos | Christiana Tsentas |
| Alexia Santourian | Debra Staup | Peggy Tsiamis |
| Arianna Sartzetakis | Symeon Stavrakas | Eleana Tsiamtsiouris |
| Vanessa Savas | George Stavropoulos | Vasileios Tsianos |
| Georgi Savevski | Mary Ellen Stefanou | Chris Tsichlis |
| Elena Saviolakis | Tim Stefanou | Alexandria Tsikouras |
| Abraham Saxionis | Stella Stephanopoulos | Sophia Tsilerides |
| Nicolette Scott | Patricia Stevens | Dr. Lydia Tsioli |
| Eleni Sehremelis | Kim Stevenson | Chris Tsiolis |
| George Sehremelis | Emmelia Stoddard | Stella Tsirka |
| Olivia Serpico | Dimitra Stratopoulou | Jonathan Tsiroyannis |
| Aris Sevastianos | Fotios Stravoravdis | Kira Tsougarakis |
| Anna Sfakianaki | Yiannis Stroumbakis | Angeliki Tsoumpariotis |
| Steven Sfikas | Stelios Stylianou | Alex Tsouvalas |
| Nancy Sheerin | Alexandra M. Svokos | Charles Tumazos |
| Alveen Shirinyans | Rania Svoronou | Theodore Tymowski |
| Christoforos Siakkas | Evelyn Sweeney | Deanna Tzanopoulos-Tzanis |
| Melina Sideratos | Nicholas Syris | Dr. Evangelia Tzika |
| Georgia Sideris | Lambros Syrmos | Deonisia Urso |
| Nikolaos Sidiropoulos | Daniel Tarlas | Leontios Vafeiadis |
| Gail Siegel | Theodora Tavridou | Theodore Vakrinos |
| Dimitri Sigounas | Athanasios Teodosiadis | Constantine Valanos |
| Stephanie Sikaras | Vasili Tettonis | Eleni Valanos |
| Anna Anila Sinani | Maria Theochari | Stelios Valavanis |
| George Sitaras | George Theodore | Frank Vardaros |
| Dimitri Skambas | Maria Theodore | Nicholas Vardinoyannis |
| Laura Skandalis | Ilias Theodoropoulos | Yannis Varellas |
| Sofia Skliros | Penelope Theodoropoulos | Aikaterini Vartholomaïou |
| Ekaterini Y. Small | Georgios Theophanous | Alexa Vasilakos |
| Iphigenia Smaragdas | Vassili Thomadakis | Nicole Vasilaros |
| David Smiros | Chrysanthé Thomatos | Christiana Vasilas |
| Vasili Sofiadellis | Anne Thomopoulos | Nicolette Vasiliou |
| Elvera Sofos | Harold Thornton | Angela Vasilopoulos |
| Ritsa Sophocleous | Ioannis Tomazos | Sophia Vassilakidis |
| Marisa Soteropoulos | Dan Tomi | Mary Vaxevanopoulou |
| Georgios Sotiropoulos | Gus Toulatos | Filippos Veizades Stavrou |
| Veneta Sotiropoulos, PhD | Spyros Toulatos | Eve Velmahos |



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| | | |
|-------------------------|--|-----------------------|
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| Andrea Verdiales | Tina Vouyiouklis | Alex Yiantzos |
| Denny Vildiridou | Nomikos Vrontos | Roula Christina Zacca |
| Anastacia Villis | Lucille Wagschal | Nina Zachariades |
| Jason Vinansky | Ava Waldman | Carolyn Zacharias |
| Minoas Vitalis | Dana Waldman | Stamatia Zafiriou |
| Chrysostomos Vitsikanos | Stella Walkey | Noula Zaharis |
| Dionysi Vlachos | Waterford Group Charitable Foundation | Dino Zaharopoulos |
| Stephan Vlachos | Sam Weintraub | Zaina Zaki |
| Peter Vlitas | Andrea Weiser | Andreas Zakos |
| Elias Vokolos | Elli Natassa Xanthopoulou | Vasiliki Zakou |
| Eleni Vorvis | Christopher Xanthos | George Zimmar |
| Aristotle Vossos | Dimitri Xanthos | Demetrios Ziozis |
| Theologos Voudouris | Christina Xenos | Frank Zisa |
| Nikki Voulgaropoulos | Georgia Xerakia | Patricia Zoggas |
| Nectarios Vouloumanos | Eftelpe K. Xistris | Mary Zouvelos |
| Nicole Vournazos | | |

List complete as of April 2, 2025

Please reach out to info@thehellenicinitiative.org if you see a listing that needs to be changed.



THI Vision / Mission Statement

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

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