



By donating, am I really making a difference?

Most definitely! Here's a quick feel good story for you: Thanks to the generous donations of our parishioners, last year, we were able to help a local family who had lost their home and who were living in a shelter in Washington, PA. While in the shelter, the couple's car had been stolen, and within the vehicle, was the husband's tool box. As if their situation wasn't dire enough, the man was unable to find work to support his family because he didn't have money to replace his tools. With the help of the AGAPE fund, he was able to purchase a new set of tools so that he could get back to supporting his family. See what a beautiful impact a simple donation could make!

I have an idea. How can I help/contribute?

If you'd like to see how you can help with our efforts, please reach out any of the following Agape Fund Committee Members: John Conomos, John Hoenig, Steve Krakora, Deno Pappas or Dianne Babb.



CONTACTS



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AGAPE FUND FAQS

ABOUT THE AGAPE FUND

The AGAPE Fund is one of the various tools in the church's charitable tool belt that it uses to provide timely assistance to persons in need, charitable agencies and church-related institutions, to foster and promote forms of parish outreach compatible with the teachings of our Orthodox Christian Faith.



When & Why Was It Created?

The concept of the fund had its origin and inspiration in years past from donations given to the priest to assist needy families. In 1981 through a motion of the General Assembly established the Holy Cross Agape Fund. Various categories of need were established to prioritize distribution, local needs, local appeals, national appeals, foreign appeals, special causes and miscellaneous needs. The driving force behind the fund was to establish a vehicle that could be used to channel funds from members and organizations to outreach causes within the Holy Cross Community and beyond.

Who Administers It?

While the parish priest administers and is responsible for the funds distribution, it is with the support and counsel of the APAGE Fund Committee to help to see that the principles of Christian charity are maintained. According to the Holy Cross Agape Fund by-laws, the committee consists of: two parish council members, two Holy Cross parishioners at large and one Holy Cross Philoptochos member.

WHERE does my donation go?

We are blessed in this community to have such a large and beautiful reach. You may be pleasantly surprised to learn that the APAGE fund gives to many, many things! When you donate to the AGAPE fund, your support manifests itself in many ways, including but not limited to: **food for needy families, rent and utility emergencies, youth scholarships, homeless shelters, and elderly assistance**, to name a few!

While an essential element of the AGAPE fund is to maintain confidentiality as to protect the dignity of those receiving assistance, your donation positively impacts the lives of not just your brothers and sisters in the Orthodox Church, but also to those throughout the Pittsburgh area, outside of the faith. Roughly 50% of the donations are distributed to parishioners, whereas the remaining funds are administered to the general local population in need.



How big of an impact DOES THE AGAPE FUND MAKE?

In 2017, the fund was able to disburse over \$30,000 in aid and support to those in need. For more information on disbursement specifics, keep a look out for future AGAPE Fund Reports.

WAIT doesn't Philoptochos do the same thing?

The AGAPE Fund and the Philoptochos Society compliment one another, and in many cases work hand in hand through various charitable efforts. While the Philoptochos Society does have larger funds and the ability to focus on more long-term campaigns, the AGAPE Fund due to its smaller size is able to focus on more short-term initiatives and/or immediate assistance needs. We as a parish are blessed to have both resources to support the needs of our community and beyond.

WHO contributes to the AGAPE Fund?

The AGAPE Fund sees donations come through via the following four major avenues:

- ✓ Memorial Donations
- ✓ The Holy Cross Ladies Philoptochos Society
- ✓ The Endowment Account
- ✓ General Donations

In addition, the AGAPE Fund can also be funded through your estate planning. In the past several parishioners bequeathed sizeable donations that allowed for the development of an Endowment Fund.

WANT TO MAKE THE DONATION SPECIFIC?

Not a problem! One of the great features about the AGAPE fund is that it serves as a great vehicle to either earmark donations and/or giving anonymously. Also, any time you make a donation to the Holy Cross AGAPE Fund, it's considered a tax-deductible donation! Win-Win!