

THANK YOU! WE COULD NOT DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

With the end of another year approaching, we are grateful to have you by our side.

With your support, Sophia has continued running its programmes and activities to support our children in Cyprus and Kenya.

With more than 2.000 sponsors in our [Adopt a Child Programme](#) and a large number of corporate sponsors in our [I Cook and I Offer programme](#) we have managed to support more than 4.000 children in 16 nursery and primary schools in Kenya and provide food daily to more than 1.300 children in 28 all day nursery and primary schools in Cyprus! This year we added two more primary schools to the programme.

This year we proceeded with the improvement and automation of processes of our Adopt a Child programme and commenced work on the redesign of our website, a project that is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2024.

We would like to take this opportunity to give you a brief overview of our actions and events that support our programmes for children in Cyprus and Kenya.

January 2023

We received a grant of €100.000 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus for the first phase of the construction of the new building of the Makarios Childrens Home, our orphanage in Kenya. The project is of critical importance to the children since it will contain, among others, study rooms, a library, a computer room, a room for the in-house nurse, a pharmacy and a medical examination room.

February 2023

Our team visited Kenya accompanied by Christos Tsentas, a civil engineer and volunteer of Sophia. Christos has taken over the project management and supervision of the works on all the buildings of the Makarios orphanage in Kenya. With his help and support we renovated the two existing dormitories.

March 2023

Medical mission to Kenya in collaboration with the Dutch organisation [MCC](#). MCC has been running medical missions for the last 12 years, offering medical care, medicine and vitamins to thousands of children in our schools and their communities. Children with more serious conditions were transferred to hospitals of their area for further care.

Mr Savvas Vladimirov, the Cyprus High Commissioner to Kenya, visited our orphanage in Nyeri.

The annual mission to the Turkana desert took place with Cypriot and Kenyan volunteers offering humanitarian aid as well as overseeing the food programme.

April 2023

Little Mercy (6years old) from the Makarios orphanage, accompanied by one adult, was flown to Cyprus for one month to undergo specialist medical examinations at the Otolaryngology Clinic of the Nicosia General Hospital. The examinations were carried out by Dr Andreas Anagiotos and a team of specialist doctors. The costs were covered by the State Health Services Organisation (OKYTY).

Chrysanthi Stavrou, an experienced special education teacher, gave Mercy free lessons and undertook the online support of Mercy in Kenya for the entire year.

June 2023

The architectural office of [A.F Modinos and S.A. Vrahimis](#) prepared the plans for the new building of the Makarios orphanage.

Marina Shacola presented the actions and activities of Sophia at the 2023 graduation ceremony of the English School in Nicosia.

Sophia received a grant of €20.000 from the Starbucks Foundation for the I Cook and I Offer programme.

July 2023

Concert “Thalassaki mou” by George Dalaras and Pantelis Thalassinos at the School for the Blind Amphitheatre for the support of Sophia.

Our team visited Kenya accompanied by Nicos Pattichis and Christos Tsentas. With their help the plans for the new Makarios orphanage building were finalised. Christos Tsentas took on the role of Project Manager and with the help of Anna Iacovou, MRICS, C Arb, the project was awarded to a local building contractor following a tender process. During our mission we delivered clothes, stationery and educational toys to the children of the Home.

August 2023

Commencement of work on the new Makarios orphanage building and demolition of the old building. The children were moved to another location for a week until the removal of asbestos was completed, as required by local laws. The old building was then demolished and the excavation works began.

September 2023

We celebrated 10 years of the I Cook and I Offer programme for our children in Cyprus with a special ceremony at the Presidential Palace. During the ceremony, the President of Cyprus awarded the sponsors of the programme in the presence of Cyprus government ministers, teachers, parents and children as well as the 36 cooks employed by the programme.

[Bank of Cyprus](#) remains the main sponsor of our programme, supporting 6 primary and 5 nursery schools.

Awards were given to Bank of Cyprus, Opap, Vasiliko Cement Works, Alphamega Hypermarkets, Hermes Airports, Petrolina Public Group, Thanos Hotels and Resorts, Argosy Trading, PwC Cyprus, Starbucks, Pamborides LLC, Kyprianides & Associates, Partners Communications, Cyprus Trading Corporation and Phileleftheros.

50 years Anna Vissi. A concert by our ambassador Anna Vissi took place in Larnaca, supporting Sophia for Children via an SMS fundraiser.

[Charalambides Christis](#) announced their support to Sophia by providing for free all the yoghurt needed for the I Cook and I Offer programme in Cyprus schools.

October 2023

Our Ambassador, the renowned singer Anna Vissi, visited the all day nursery and primary schools of Choirokoitia. During her visit, Anna cooked and sang to the children and had the opportunity to experience the I Cook and I Offer programme in action.

Running for Water! A team from [SIGG Switzerland](#) participated in the Sparkasse 3 Country Marathon and fundraised for the second year in a row, in support of Sophia and the Makarios Children's Home. With the help of SIGG, Sophia aims to make our orphanage Green with trees, fruit and vegetables for the children's daily consumption.

Our volunteer team participated in the last mission of the year, accompanied by [Galatia Pamboridis](#). Galatia baked different sweets and cakes with the help of the older children. All the children tasted the different sweets while also learning the art of baking.

November 2023

A team from SIGG Switzerland visited our Nicosia office and renewed their valuable support to Sophia. New limited edition bottles will be created exclusively for Sophia and will continue to be sold by [SIGG Switzerland online](#) as well as locally in our Mikromagazo, our stall at the Mall of Cyprus and by [SIGG Cyprus](#).

[KFC Bucket of Love](#). KFC continued to support the Sophia actions with this seasonal offer for the fourth consecutive year.

December 2023

The annual general meeting of Sophia was held, where the audited accounts of 2022 were presented and a new Board of Directors was elected.

Special Christmas cakes were created by Galatia Pamboridis, with the support of [G. Charalambous Group](#). All proceeds from the sales will be used for the support of the Sophia programmes.

Christmas party at the Sophia premises in Nicosia with handicrafts made in Kenya for the festive season. This is a programme which supports women in Kenya by giving them work while all proceeds from the sale of the handicrafts are used to fund our projects in Cyprus and Kenya.

Our Christmas handicrafts will also be available in the Nicosia Mall, My Mall in Limassol, Kings Avenue Mall in Paphos as well as the Mall of Cyprus in Nicosia, where our Mikromagazo is permanently present in the last 13 years.

The building works at the Makarios orphanage continue at a fast pace with a target completion by April 2024.

Our programmes and activities could not be possible without you, our sponsors, our volunteers and our supporters.

We wish you all happy holidays and a happy new year 2024!