



The Greek Star

The Voice of Chicago's Hellenic Community

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TGS Media, LLC

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The Greek Star (ISSN 1081-3616) is published weekly for \$50 per year, \$75 for two years, \$100 for three years, \$1 a copy, by TGS Media, LLC.

Periodicals postage paid in Chicago, Illinois and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Greek Star, 4732 N. Lincoln Ave., Suite 4, Chicago, IL 60625. ISSN 1081-3616

Address all manuscripts, materials, art, photos and advertising to the editor Diane Adam via E-mail at diane.adam@thegreekstar.com

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Children in Greece need our help



By Diane Adam

In 2002 "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" was a sleeper hit grossing \$241.4 million in North

America. We all know the plot and are reminded by the promo for the film "Love is here to stay...so is her family." Toula, played by Nia Vardalos struggles with her family's meddling but in the end they stick together: "My Family is big and loud, but they're my family we fight we laugh, and wherever I go, whatever I do, They will always be there!"

Fast forward to 2012 and there is a heart wrenching story taking place in Greece when it comes to family. And unfortunately this is not being played out on the big screen but in the everyday lives of Greek families. On Jan 9, the BBC ran an extraordinarily sad story: "The Greek parents too poor to care for their children." The article recounts how the "financial crisis has made some families so desperate they are giving up the most precious thing of all—their children." I grew up in a large, loving family and I was so shaken by this story. This is Greece and something must be done. Fortunately this weekend we can all take part in a special fundraiser to help the children in Greece. FilmHellenes, the not-for-profit corporation-sponsor of Greek Film Fest Chicago!, along with the

Pickwick Theater are hosting a fundraiser on Sunday, March 11, at 6:30pm, at the Pickwick Theater, 5 Prospect South, Park Ridge, IL, for The Smile of the Child Organization, a nongovernmental Community Home for abused and neglected children in Greece.

Come and enjoy a screening of the internationally awarded children's film THE FLEA by Dimitris Spyrou, which, among its distinctions, won first prize at the Chicago International Children's Film Festival in 1991. The film is about a 12-year-old schoolboy in a remote mountain village in the Peloponnese, who publishes and distributes a handwritten local paper called 'The Flea'. The film is in Greek, with English subtitles.

Admission is free, donations are appreciated and 100% of the proceeds will go directly to The Smile of the Child Organization. Nicholas Mirkopoulos, president of CineSpace Toronto and Chicago Studios, has generously offered to match your donation, dollar for dollar, providing three other businesses or individuals will also match his contribution. Musical performance by RYTHMOS.

The Smile of the Child (www.hamogelo.gr) protects children's rights and provides them with emotional and psychological support. A 10-year-old boy, Andreas, who suf-

FilmHellenes
Greek Film Fest Chicago!

and Pickwick Theater
C STORYTELLING
invite you
to a FUNDRAISER for
THE SMILE OF THE CHILD
Children's Organization in Greece

www.hamogelo.gr
presenting
the award winning film
the FLEA
by Dimitris Spyrou
Sunday, March 11, 2012
6:30 pm at Pickwick Theater
Park Ridge, IL
With Musical Performance by
Rythmos
100% of your Donation will go
to the children in Greece
THEY NEED OUR HELP
For further information
please call Zoe at (773) 225-9939

fered from terminal cancer created the Association back in 1995. Its objective is to support all children in Greece and Cyprus that may be in danger or whose needs cannot be met by their parent(s) or guardian. Their offices are in Athens, Thessalonica, Patras, Pyrgos, Halkida and Corinth. For more details visit www.greekfilmfestchicago.org or contact FilmHellenes Vice President, Zoë Itsoopoulos Borys at (773) 225-9939.

Bring your family! The children in Greece need our help!

Letters to the Editor

The Greek Star has a policy of publishing diverse views from its readers without necessarily espousing the writer's opinion.

Since 1904, The Greek Star has reported on all types of news stories and we welcome all opinions—those who are pro and those who are con. As with all newspapers, The Greek Star must use its judgment, not opinion in publishing a letter.

Some questions that are often asked: Do you edit letters? All letters must include name, address and phone number. Letters can be sent via email to the editor at diane.adam@thegreekstar.com. The Greek Star reserves the right to edit letters to fit our space. www.thegreekstar.com