

Saint George Greek Orthodox Church
Greek Orthodox Youth of America Program (GOYA)
1101 River Road, Piscataway, NJ 08854

The **Saint George Greek Orthodox Church Youth Program (GOYA)** is open to all families of our parish and offers a wholesome environment where young Orthodox Christians can learn more and grow in our Faith, cultivate friendships and give back to the community at large through volunteering.

The following are some of the programs where our GOYA members can participate in and offer their time and effort.

Charity night: Once a month the youth members get together to prepare, organize and deliver food to Elijah's Kitchen in New Brunswick and the Men's Shelter in New Brunswick. The preparation, delivery and clean-up last approximately 3 hours.

Saint Basil Academy: Saint Basil Academy is a home for disadvantaged children in Garrison, NY. Our youth members devote three days – approximately 20 work hours - working on the grounds of the Academy. Cleaning dorms and buildings, landscaping, painting, organizing donations and helping with the laundry are some of the projects our young people work on.

Greek (Taverna) Night Fundraiser: Every year our GOYA organizes and hosts a fundraiser Dinner/Dance benefiting a different charitable organization. In the past years the Greek Nights benefited Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Research Foundation, Princeton Child Development Institute which provides treatment and education to children and adults with Autism, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and The Smile Train, an organization which helps children with "cleft palate" in underdeveloped countries, get corrective surgeries. This year's Fundraiser is for the locally based organization Embrace Kids, which helps families with seriously ill children by providing for non-medical needs and improving their quality of life. This endeavor takes approximately 8 hours from set up to break down and the amount of offered hours is up to the individual.

Home for the Elderly and Shut-ins: Every December the youth members visit a home for the elderly where they entertain, give gifts and spend time with the residents for one afternoon; usually 3 hours.

Saint George Greek Festival: This is the yearly fundraiser for our church Community, where our youth members help with the set-up, clean-up, cooking and organizing the week of the festival. The amount of work hours is up to the individual.

BRIDGES. Every year, during the month of December, the NJ Youth Commission of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis, organizes three Saturday "runs" where small groups of youth members of different churches deliver food, clothes and toiletries to the homeless of the Newark/Penn Station areas. The toiletries, clothes and food are collected and prepared ahead of time by the whole youth group. It takes 4 hours for preparation and 6 hours for the Saturday "run."