

... Marriot Oak Brook in 2018.

A committee of dedicated volunteers has worked countless hours to bring this ministry to fruition for the benefit of our Orthodox community. In its first three years, the MHDF drew participants and dance troupes mainly from the Chicagoland area, northwest Indiana, and St. Louis. Our workshops have featured renowned instructors such as Dean Avdalas, Joe Graziosi, Aris Yortzidis, Jordan Elrod, and Sarantos Kaperonis. A digital resource library has been made available for the benefit of all our parish dance troupes of the Chicago Metropolis. A resurgence of the Greek Dance ministry of our parishes has already taken place with new troupes forming at St. John the Baptist, Saint Spyridon, St. Nicholas, and St. George.

Thanks to the guidance of Metropolitan Nathanael, the loving support of our parishes, the generosity of sponsors and friends from throughout our Metropolis, and now the generous grant by the Hellenic Foundation, the future of the MHDF looks very bright indeed. We pray the Festival will continue to be a valuable ministry in celebration of our Orthodox Faith and our cultural heritage for generations to come.