



Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

Office of Ionian Village

Prepared for the National Clergy – Laity Online Congress
September 2020

The Ministry of Ionian Village

1) Overview of purpose of Ministry

The purpose of Ionian Village Summer Program is to provide our Campers and Staff with a life-transforming summer experience by bringing them closer to our Orthodox faith and exploring our rich Hellenic culture and history. We achieve this goal through a series of programs rich in travel, in worship, and in content.

Summer Camp: The summer camping program aims to build bonds for the campers and staff with their peers, their faith, and their shared Hellenic culture. We travel to sites of both religious and historical significance, not as tourists but as pilgrims, as people on a journey to learn more about our faith, our culture, and ultimately, ourselves.

IV On-the-Go: IV On-the-Go provides the opportunity for even more young people to interact with the amazing Ionian Village ministry right here in America. Just like at camp, participants will encounter our Orthodox faith in an up close and unforgettable way through an adapted program that aims to bring them closer to their faith, each other, and their heritage.

IV Next: IV Next features similar travel, religious discussions, and setting of the Ionian Village summer camp program, with the added layer of professional development. IV Next seeks to provide participants the opportunity to integrate their faith and professional lives with guidance and direction from successful members of our Church, as well as, solve the mystery of “what’s next?” in their lives after college ends.

Alumni: Throughout the year, IV works to evoke Greece, relive the experience, and provide engagement for Alumni. In addition to this engagement, we are preparing the proper protocols to receive the blessing to establish an Ionian Village Alumni Fund that will function as a critical strategic asset for the ministry.

2) Staffing - how many part time and full time - list names with brief responsibilities

Director of Ionian Village (Fr. Gary Kyriacou)

- Overseeing the office and executes all aspects of the summer program are considered
- Line of communication with partners in Greece
- Vision, goals for IV Next, Summer Camp, IV On-the-Go
- Overseeing Staffing needs, hiring/training Staff
- Managing the facility/facility staff and its needs throughout the year
- Setting vision for Alumni and yearlong engagement

Assistant Director (Konstantine Salmas)

- Institutional knowledge and onboarding of new Directors and employees
- Assistance with Director and Program Director duties
- Content development

Director of Programs (Alex Kuvshinoff)

- Managing the logistics and operations of the summer program in the States and Greece, as well as managing staff training process
- Planning & executing the programming for IV Next and Summer Camp
- Scheduling and organizing all aspects of IV On-the-Go events
- Managing the financial operations and budgets of the programs in tandem with the finance office
- Virtual content production
- Summer Staff and auxiliary staff training/development

Program Coordinator (Demi Kaitery)

- Managing our internal system CampMinder
- Main point of contact in America while the rest of the team is in Greece
- Responsible for organizing travel logistics to and from Greece for all programs with our partner Protravel
- Coordinates and executes departure and arrival days at JFK
- Handling all parent and camper forms, questions, staff applications
- Overseeing summer internship program
- Manages Ionian Village website, social media, marketing

3) Major accomplishments of 2019 and early 2020

May 2019 - March 31, 2020

Summer 2019:

- Successfully implemented our traditional IV summer camp program (350 participants) IV Next (39 participants)
- Balanced the budget and produced a surplus

Fall and Winter 2019:

- Executed 6 IV On-the-Go retreats in 2019/2020 season with approx. 205 participants (the rest are postponed due to coronavirus)
- Ran the IV2019 reunion with programmatic and financial success
- Executed the initial stages of IV2020 (staff hiring, registration, promotion)
- Initiated Adeia (Licensing) for camp

November 2019:

- Hired new Director - Fr. Gary Kyriacou



4) March 31-July 31, 2020

- March 31, 2020: Cancelled all summer programs for 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Updated the “How-to-IV” handbook on the process for program cancellations.
- Create relevant and long lasting virtual content on our website (mental health resources, staff activities/programming)
- Weekly virtual vespers
- Cancelled camp for 2020 - PR, refunding, writing the process for future teams if this situation ever arises again
- Accomplished campground licensing (αδεια)
- Strategic planning for transitioning IV to being a yearlong ministry that focuses on alumni engagement
- **ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT** became the top priority upon the cancellation of the 2020 Summer Programs, due to COVID.
 - Weekly Vespers were held online via ZOOM every Thursday evening
 - Each week former staff members were gathered by year.
 - Beginning with 2019 and worked our way down to 2011
 - Very well attended and each participant expressed a desire to continue to support the program in any way they could.
 - IV DECADES Reunion were digitally scheduled weekly
 - All former Directors were invited and encouraged to attend and participate
 - Fr. Costas Sitaras
 - Michael Pappas
 - Fr. Constantine Lazarakis
 - Fr. Jason Roll (unable to attend)
 - Fr. Evagoras Constantinides
 - The 2000’s met on July 16, 2020 on ZOOM
 - The 1990’s met on July 23, 2020 on ZOOM
 - The 1980’s met on July 30, 2020 on ZOOM
 - The 1970’s met on August 6, 2020 on ZOOM
 - The 2010’s met on August 11, 2020 on ZOOM
 - The vision and future of the ministry was discussed
 - Many participants shared heartfelt stories of their experience at IV
 - Emotional testimonials about the impact the ministry had on their lives
 - IV was the place many met their spouse



- IV is now seeing the second and third generation of camper participation from family lineage
- All generations expressed gratefulness for this life-transforming program that specifically caters to the faith development of our Youth by introducing them to our heritage and faith in a way unlike any other ministry of its kind.

5) August 1, 2020

- Ionian Village Administration furloughed because of Archdiocese budgetary focus

6) Goals for current year – POSTPONED (hopefully temporarily)

Focuses: Alumni, potential campers, fundraising

- Preparing the proper protocols to receive the blessing to establish an Alumni Fund to lower the price of summer camp for participants
- Alumni events and programs to engage alumni and increase donations
- IV family trip offering in the fall
- IV Holy week trip offering in the Spring
- Continually create relevant and long lasting virtual content on our website
- Sell out 2021 summer (12.5% drop, or 50 kids in 2019 attendance)
- Fill IV Next with 40 participants and give an improved program based on feedback from last year
- Redesign website to highlight new goals and vision

Please feel free to contact me, or any member of our administration team with any questions of for further clarification. Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Office of Ionian Village,

In the Service of Christ,



Rev. Fr. Gary Kyriacou
Director, Ionian Village

