

## 2014-2015 Chapter Service Projects

**BETA - Sylvia Haver, President** - In an effort to emphasize and encourage reading for elementary students at Clinton Park Elementary in Clinton, Mississippi, the Beta Chapter participated in a Family Reading Night that was held on October 23, 2014. The theme of the chapter's booth was Community Heroes (fireman, post man, nurses, doctors and teachers). Members dressed in "hero" costumes and passed out reading packets to over 2men0 family night participants. At the booth, children were given the opportunity to color a community hero bookmark and hear chapter members read stories about community heroes. It was a great night of fun and inspiration!

**GAMMA - Janet Berg, President** - This year, Gamma Chapter chose the Lauderdale Baptist Association (LBA) as one of its service projects. The LBA provides services to less-fortunate people in our community. Members contributed much-needed canned food items that the Association distributes to needy families in our area. Several children's books were given as well. Additionally, Gamma members contributed items for a raffle which earned \$205.00 for the Crisis Center.

**DELTA - Ollie Crosby, President** - Delta Chapter has its monthly meetings at St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church in Collins, Mississippi. The church allows us to use their facility for meetings at no cost. As a result, we support their food pantry for the needy families in the area. Each member supports this project by donating canned foods at meeting. We also encourage member to bring nutritional food supplements, such as Ensure, for older citizens in the area.

**ZETA - Lauren Withers Olsen, President** - We are participating in the Pack-a-Bag project which is being organized by the Biloxi Public School District. Pack-a-Bag is a new program to help displaced children with emergency hygiene supplies and clothing. Students who have been removed from their parent's home often have nothing other than the clothes on their back when sent to the shelter! We are collecting the emergency hygiene supplies and clothing at each meeting and sending them through our liaison, Carole Deere.

**ETA - Debra Anderson, President** - Eta Chapter members donated items for new teachers to include markers, pens, pencils, paper clips, staplers, scissors, post-it notes, file folders, bags and snacks. Items were assembled by the Professional Affairs Committee and were distributed to new teachers in the district. Recipients received a contact point for Delta Kappa Gamma, Eta Chapter, and were followed up with members in the same buildings.

**THETA - Jennie Skinner, President** - In November, we collected books and then delivered them to Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital in Jackson, MS. We contacted the hospital personnel to insure that we bring the needed supplies for our next trip in the spring. In our regular meeting in March, we are collecting needed items and delivered them to the hospital. At the December meeting, we collect books for our local hospital. These books are dispersed to new mothers in an effort to promote literacy. As a part of this project, we provide items and support for our local women's home.

**IOTA - Dot Prestwich, President** - Iota Chapter has participated in 2 projects this year. Both projects serve the needs of teachers and students in our area. "Books for Schools" provides \$250 worth of literacy pieces for a selected school's library or teacher resource rooms. Book selection is chosen by the school librarian. "Teacher Happies" is Iota's second service project when small gifts are given to new teachers in the area schools in October and January. These gifts are provided by Iota members at the first meeting of our year then dispersed to individual teachers by Iota volunteers. New teachers, either beginning teachers or experienced ones, who are starting in a school for the first time receive these gifts. "Happy" gifts range from classroom tools and personal items to gift cards and food items.

**XI - Jeanette Thrash, President** - Xi Chapter supported the Christian Women's Job Corps in Philadelphia, MS. This program is a 16-week course that includes dinner, Bible study, job skills training, computer skills training and GED preparations. The program primarily targets the unemployed, underemployed, or

the homemaker who is trying to enter or re-enter the workforce. We provided gift bags to participants who completed the course. The bags consisted of small items that would be useful such as hand sanitizers, lotions, Kleenex, and flashlights. We also donated cases of water for dinner and Bible study times.

**PI - Cheryl Saffle, President** - Pi Chapter is promoting SEE (Support for early Career Educators) as our main project for 2014-2015. Selected members provided an overview about the purposes and benefits of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International to about 100 new teachers in Rankin, Scott and Simpson counties at the beginning of this school year. Several member volunteers are providing practical assistance to first-year teachers who are interested in mentoring and serving as encouragers, as well as spending time with them in the classroom. Identified SEE teachers have been invited to attend our monthly meetings as guests and have received "happies" and classroom supplies from their mentors. Pi Chapter has raised nearly \$500.00 through live auctions at selected meetings to purchase classroom supplies and DKG Overviews at New Teacher Orientation for 2015-2016. These auction items were donated by chapter members. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> service project is a continuation of last biennium's support of Project CHANCE (Community Helping Adolescents Navigate Challenging Environments) at the Rankin County Juvenile Justice Center in Pelahatchie, MS. Instead of monetary contributions, Pi Chapter members provided refreshments and served as hostesses for the Project CHANCE Graduation in fall 2014.

**RHO - Eva Guice, President** - Rho Chapter has two service projects - to support the "Schools for Africa" international project and the "Books for Preschoolers" project. We have provided one or two soup luncheons a year to raise funds for our Grant-in-Aid award and the first International project, Schools for Africa. We donated \$100 to the "Schools for Africa" project. Our "Books for Preschoolers" project involves the members donating hardback, age appropriate books to the local Head Start Center classroom libraries and paperback for the students at the local center. We donated 33 hardback books and 100 paperback books this year. A retired member delivers the books to the centers and reads a story to the students during her visits.

**SIGMA - Stacy Baudoin, President** - Donations to Battered Women's Shelter and children in the shelter, food bank, judged reading fairs, worked with Sea Perch Project, mentored new teachers, provided books to school library, scholarships for GED test at the county's three Career and Technology Centers, and informed members of the many programs available to the students.

**TAU - Judith Isouhood, President** - To support literacy, our chapter collected children's books from each member to send to the children of prisoners. We have 4 service projects out of our 6 chapter meetings. They are as follows: 1. Pass the Purse (April) to benefit the State Emergency Fund; 2. New teacher mentoring (September) - We adopted one or two teachers and supplied Pizza and Drinks for the Christmas class party. We also collected school supplies and added a \$75 gift certificate to a school supply store for each of the two new teachers. This spring we plan to contribute to the class by either reading to the class or providing an activity for the class; 3. Operation Christmas Child (October) - We collect several shoe boxes with Christmas gifts; and 4. Collected books for children of prison inmates (February). The chapter also sponsors efforts to raise funds for Grant-in-Aid; a Silent Auction for Schools for Africa; and Valentine Swap (February) to benefit International World Fellowship fund.

**UPSILON - Debra Brewer, President** - Upsilon Chapter is made up of the following counties: Alcorn, Prentiss, and Tishomingo. We cover a large area so our service project must be mobile and easy to complete. We collect "Golden Books" at each meeting and usually we collect about 30 books per meeting. The county that hosts the meeting selects a pre-school, nursery or day care in their area to deliver the books to. Each book has a label from Upsilon Chapter and a message to the parents to read the book to their child or children. We feel this is a good way to introduce our chapter to communities and inspire parents to read with their children.

**PHI - Jamie Houston, President** - PHI Chapter of Zeta State took on three service projects this year. 1 - "Pack a Purse" - Slightly used or new purses are filled with toiletries and other hygiene items to donate to a local shelter or Department of Human Services office that serves domestic violence victims. 2.

New Teacher Classroom Libraries - We provided first year teachers in our local schools with \$50 gift cards from Barnes and Nobles Bookstore to help them build their classroom libraries. 3. "Books for Children" - We collected books to be given to needy families served by the local food pantry.

**CHI - Tiffany Brantley, President** - Our chapter gives multiple children's magazine subscriptions to our children's shelter. This year we adopted senior angels from our convalescent home. Members brought items to be given to seniors at Christmas. We will also be collecting toothbrushes and books to donate to the children's shelter in February. In April, we will begin a project to provide support to early career educators. We will be collecting items for welcome packets that will be distributed at the beginning of the 2015-16 school year. Throughout the school year, we will provide support and mentoring to these new teachers.

**PSI - Michele Mills, President** - We chose to provide books and book bags to the Harrison County Shelter. The shelter takes in families that are trying to escape an abusive situation. Sometimes, these families enter the shelter with just the clothes on their backs. We provide the shelter with book bags, school supplies and books for children. We also donate books for the adults that may enter the facility too. This provides a small comfort to the adults and children that they serve.

**ALPHA ALPHA - Beverly Hesterman, President** - One of our service projects is "Read Across America" at our local elementary schools. We leave books at these schools after we read them so they can be added to the class room. Another project was collecting food for Petal School District to help with their local food bank.

**ALPHA BETA - Bettie Fore, President** - We support *Homes for Hope*. A home for children located in Purvis, Mississippi that is supported entirely by donations. Not only do they provide for children up to the age of 18, they also provide for them to get job training beyond high school. We have provided school supplies and snacks for them. Next year, we hope to provide tutoring in math and science when it is needed.

**ALPHA DELTA - Janet Conley, President** - Alpha Delta chapter collected children's books for a new school/tutoring center in our community. These books will be used to expand their library. Our hope is that many children and families will enjoy these stories for years to come.

**ALPHA THETA - Winona Dykes, President** - The Alpha Theta service project for 2014-15 is the Excel By 5 Resource House in McComb, which serves our community as well as Kennedy Early Childhood Center, PRVO Headstart, and other local childcare centers. Members volunteered at the center where kindergarten classes, Headstart classes, and other childcare centers visit frequently as well as parents. Literary events, parent training, health fairs, and professional development for teachers are held at the Resource House also known as The Kennedy Club House.

**ALPHA IOTA - Suzanne Brasfield, President** - Each spring and fall, members visit every preschool and child care facility in Clay County, read a book to the 3-4 year olds, and give each child a book to keep, contributing over 400 books each season. In addition, the children are invited to collect pennies and nickels in a milk jug, and then visit Bryan Public Library to pour their change in the giant bottle and select another book of their own. They may get a book as often as they like. IN this way, the children learn that books have value and become partners with chapter members to keep the Two Can project going for the next group of pre-school children. Over the past three years, Alpha Iota Chapter has distributed almost 4,000 books to pre-school children in West Point and Clay County. The name of the project, Two-Can Read, captures the belief of these local educators that every child who has a parent or another adult to take the time to read to her/him every day will be more likely to become an independent reader in first grade.

**ALPHA KAPPA - Donna Hopper, President** - Alpha Kappa Chapter helps to support Christian Women's Job Corps which is a 10-week "school" which gives women necessary skills for entering or re-entering the workforce. Our members volunteer in various ways: we donate gently-used business clothes, office supplies and monetary donations. Several members also donate their time, such as one

member donates time to teach a resume writing skills class, as well as time working with each lady individually on their resumes. Another member created a computer curriculum fitting the specific job needs in Work Processing and teaches this class for two hours each week. Two members donate time helping these ladies complete their assignments in the computer lab. One is a back-up teacher for the computer teacher. Another member organizes mentors for each of the ladies who meet with their mentee once a week for encouragement and prayer. Many members have helped to bring meals as each day of class is full of participants. CWJC is operated totally by volunteers and is free to all participants.

**ALPHA LAMBDA - Mary Trichell, President** - Our chapter chose to have a can drive and donation for one of the local charities, *Our Daily Bread*, located in Pascagoula. This charity, sponsored by United Christian Outreach, feeds the homeless, unemployed and older people unable to feed themselves due to financial limitations. They have noon meal deliveries to homes in Pascagoula, Moss Point and Gautier. A hot, noon meal is served at their physical facility in Pascagoula seven days per week. *Our Daily Bread* is operated from donations of money, canned food items, meat vegetables, disposable serving trays, and plastic utensils. For the first time in 25 years, deliveries were suspended this summer due to a lack of donations. Alpha Lambda felt that this was a very needed and worthy charity for our efforts. We collected over 30 restaurant sized cans of food at our September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. They were delivered that same day to *Our Daily Bread* by Chapter President, Mary Trichell and Honorary member, Sonya Smith.

**ALPHA XI - Debby Renfroe, President** - Alpha XI continues a long term project with Moss Point's "Excel By 5" coalition." We provide monetary, material and volunteer resources as well as mentoring for child care center teachers. Each month, an art activity, is conducted in the "Excel By 5" art room located in the family Education Center. Pre-K classes from 5 centers attend with their teachers. Alpha XI members plan and facilitate this activity modeling teaching techniques and a story time related to the art project using MS State Standards for Threes and Fours.

**ALPHA OMICRON - Susan Bonnette, President** - Our Chapter Service Project is our New Teacher Mentoring project. We have adopted seven new teachers for this school year from schools where chapter members are employed. They were invited to join us at our October chapter meeting, where members offered advice, tips, and answered questions and concerns expressed by the new teachers. Each new teacher was presented with a gift card to help with the purchase of classroom supplies. The chapter will continue to provide support and follow-up with these new teachers throughout the school year.

**ALPHA SIGMA - Sandi Jackson, President** - The Alpha Sigma Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International decides to make our annual service project about promoting literacy. We supported the Early Childhood Books program at our local hospital. The hospital distributes books to new mothers to encourage them to read to their babies. Our members believe that providing books for children and their mothers is an excellent way to introduce an interest in reading at an early age.

**ALPHA UPSILON - Kathleen Drummond, President** - This year our chapters' service project was to support Early-Career Educators and enhance their first teaching experience. All of our members purchased school supplies and materials that may new teacher could use in their classroom and brought them to a meeting. Baskets, provided by our president, were filled with these items. During the meeting, our Educational Excellence Chairman recognized two special guests, who were entering the field of education and presented each of them with a basket running over with supplies. The chairman also asked our retired members to sign up to mentor these early career educators in the classroom and many did.

**ALPHA PHI - Nancy Parkerson, President** - This year we have adopted the DKG International project, *Change for Change*, where we collect donations from each member to support "Schools for Africa." At each meeting, every member puts their change into a trunk. The project has been named *Trunk for Change*. At the end of the year, donation to UNICEF will be sent to International.

**ALPHA CHI - Shawna Mangum, President** - Alpha Chi members donate appropriate dress clothing for ladies as they graduate from the Simpson County Job Corps. They are able to wear this clothing on their job interviews.

**ALPHA PSI - Sherrill Settlemyres, President** - Alpha Psi's project this year was focused on Supporting Early Career Educators. Members served as mentors, positive role models, and resource persons. We assisted early educators with five or less years of teaching experience. At the initial meeting, members signed up to mentor teachers by being a listening ear, turning negative into positive, phoning, emailing or texting to check on them, visiting classrooms, volunteering to assist and providing necessary resources in the classrooms. As a whole group, members brought in teaching supplies to be distributed to needy, underprivileged students. An additional whole group project was to bring in magazines with recipes or cookbooks for a local teacher who had requested the items for her Family and Consumer Sciences class. Each member then chose a teacher or teachers to mentor throughout the 2014-15 school year. The final report shows our chapter's results of 61.5 hours.

**ALPHA OMEGA - Wanda Sanford, President** - Early Career Educator Project: Members collect and bring teaching supplies to each meeting to be distributed to new teachers, along with messages of encouragement.

