

Chapter Service Projects

Northern District

Alpha Chapter made Christmas baskets for all faculty and staff including bus drivers for Anderson Grove Head Start near Caledonia, MS. Each member brought various items to a Christmas meeting and they assembled the basket. Items included in the basket were: a Christmas card, Christmas coffee mugs, calendar date books, bottles of hand sanitizer, pencils, pens, and other school supplies, zippered coin purses, post-it notes, and a variety of candy. The baskets were hand delivered to the employees.

Eta Chapter raised funds with a Christmas raffle to support the Early Childhood Education Center in Tupelo. Funds were used to purchase underwear and long pants for 4 year old boys at the center. These items were requested because there is a constant demand for them when boys have accidents at school.

Iota Chapter has two projects. Mentoring and volunteer work is done with new teachers, and gifts are donated to their classrooms. Funds are raised to provide books to a different elementary school each year. An Author's Series is provided for the public and private county schools. A diverse group of families are invited to hear a children's author read his/her book.

Upsilon Chapter members bring a "Golden book" to each meeting. Labels are put in each book to explaining their chapter. The books are taken by the county hosting the meeting to distribute to a daycare or school in their county.

Phi Chapter has three projects this year. Pack a Purse involves packing new or slightly used purses with hygiene items and toiletries that are distributed to domestic violence victims by DHS. Two of the projects are centered on books. First year teachers are given \$50 Barnes and Nobel gift certificates to build their classroom libraries. The third project is the collection of books to be given to families who are served by the local food pantry.

Alpha Delta Chapter kept all DKG chapters informed of the needs of seventeen Kindergarten and First Grade classrooms destroyed fire at Batesville Elementary in neighboring Panola County. DKG Chapters along with local civic and church groups helped to replace education materials before the August start of school. Alpha Delta organized drop off stations, and collection and delivery of materials in the extreme heat of July.

Alpha Iota Chapter puts books into the hands of all 3 and 4 year olds in their county through their TwoCan Read Project. The chapter purchases books, labels them, develops parent informational flyers, and labels milk chugs that members have cleaned. They blitz all public and private preschool facilities by going in to read a book to the students, and giving each student a book, a flyer, and a milk chug. Students are encouraged to collect change in their milk chugs and take it to the public library for a new book. The children's library helps them distribute the books. The project is funded through DKG members, School Business Partnerships, School PTA's and an auction.

Alpha Kappa Chapter committees bring mostly school supplies to fill at least 2 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. These boxes are sent to underprivileged children in many countries.

Alpha Sigma Chapter supports the Early Childhood Books program at the local hospital by annually collecting books. The hospital distributes these books to new mothers to encourage early interest in reading by reading to their babies.

Alpha Phi Chapter includes 3 counties that collect magazines to organize and distribute to local nursing homes. They also have an international project, "Change for Change," where change is collected in a trunk. This donation of change is sent to UNICEF after the annual April meeting.

Alpha Psi Chapter collected school items and monetary gift cards for the area Batesville Elementary School that burned in July 2015. School supplies including books, math manipulatives, and wall and bulletin board materials delivered by Dr. Barbara McMillin to the designated location at the end of July.

Another ongoing project is Support for Early Career Educators where members serve as mentors, positive role models, and resource person to teachers with less than five years of experience. The mentors serve as 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. Each member chose a teacher or teachers to mentor throughout the year. The chapter recorded 61.5 service hours for this project.

The chapter collected school supplies, magazines and cookbooks to give to particular classrooms throughout the year. They also purchase books for donation to their area school county libraries in memory of deceased educators or in honor of retired educators.

Central

Beta Chapter partnered with art students from Sumner Hill 9th grade school to face paint and give out bookmarks for painting to encourage students to read at the Clinton Park Elementary Family Reading Night. Hundreds of children and their parents participated in the activities at their booth.

A second project was collecting supplies for the Ronald McDonald House wish list. Members traveled to the House and delivered the items to be used by patients and their families. They toured the facility and learned about the services that are offered there.

Gamma Chapter constructed fleece tie blankets at their December meeting to give to cancer patients at Anderson Hospital. Thirty blankets were distributed by 4 members of the chapter to chemotherapy patients and other patients.

Theta Chapter provided supplies to the children at Blair E. Batson Hospital throughout the year based on a supply list provided to their First Vice President.

Xi Chapter provides educational supplies and “goodie bags” for each woman who graduates from the Christian Women’s Job Corps. These supplies are well stocked at this time, so each member donated money for bottled water that was needed for these ladies. A chapter member will keep the water stocked throughout the year.

Pi Chapter’s members planned successful live auctions that raised funds for their two projects (S.E.E. \$500.00 and Project Chance \$775).

S.E.E. project provided classroom supplies, mentoring and support to new teachers.

Project Chance provides gift cards purchased by members as incentives for youth at Rankin County Juvenile Detention Center for Paul Bowen and Judge Broom to complete their programs and succeed in school.

Tau Chapter has 4 projects. These include: 1) Conducting a silent auction that raised \$75.00 for Schools for Africa. 2) Collecting and delivering over 100 children’s books for all ages to the Batson Children’s Hospital to a foster care organization. 3) Providing the chapter’s S.E.E. teacher, Christi Reynolds, with school supplies, a \$75.00 gift card, and pizza for a Christmas party. 4) Packing 30 shoe boxes with collected toys, etc. for Operation Christmas Child.

Alpha Chi Chapter members provide appropriate clothing for ladies who are applying for jobs after graduating from a program titled, “Simpson County Christian Women Job Corps.” They receive many benefits from training including self-esteem, how to relate to family and peers, and discovering and developing skills for a good job through Overflow Church and Kennedy Springs Baptist Church in Magee.

Beta Alpha Chapter supports Camden Elementary in Madison County through a project created by chapter member, Principal Fannie Green, titled “Books on the Bus,” which puts a box of books on each bus for students to read on their long, rural ride to and from school each day. Principal Green has seen better reading test scores and better bus behavior from the students on the buses.

Southern

Delta Chapter’s project is the “Food Pantry.” This project that stores and supplies food items and drinks is located at St. Elizabeth’s Episcopal Church. The chapter is able to assist the Red Cross, Homeless Shelters, Community Service Centers and Soup Kitchens. They also provide Senior Citizens of the community with Ensure, Boost Glecina and water. They have been helpful and supportive in their community during the tornado and severe storm season.

Zeta Chapter is involved in a joint project with Biloxi Junior High National Junior Honor Society. They are collecting library books at their September, November, December, and January meetings for a school in the Mississippi Delta where students are not passing the 3rd grade state reading test.

The chapter has given soap and air fresheners for the women's staff restrooms at 5 target schools in the delta. They will also give sweet treats to 9 new teachers who have less than a year's experience for American Education Week. Each nine weeks the members will send sweet treats to these teachers.

Rho Chapter members are in year two of collecting books and labeling them with the Chapter's and the Center's names at each meeting. The members have delivered approximately sixty books this year to the Franklin County Head Start. When time permits they read to the students at the center.

They also held a soup lunch that raised \$100 for the Schools for Africa Project.

Sigma Chapter is busy with many projects including donations to Bac Pac Ministries and food bank, judging reading fairs, working with Sea Perch Project, mentoring new teachers, giving books to a school library, providing scholarships to PRCC education majors, helping with distribution of materials for school fund raisers, helping with registration of students, administering DIBELS test to K-3rd grade students, and helping teachers get rooms ready for the new school year.

Psi Chapter purchased school supplies based on new teachers "wish lists" from several schools. These new teachers attended a "Teacher Shower and Luncheon" in their honor at the chapter's September meeting. Each guest was introduced, shared about themselves, and were presented with their bag of supplies. These new teachers understand that they can call on chapter members as needed.

Omega Chapter members brought one or more items to their September meeting that would be helpful to a teacher in the classroom. These included pens, pencils, markers, highlighters, notebook paper, notebooks, paper clips, and hand sanitizers that were divided between 3 gift bags for distribution delivered by a member from each county (Jefferson Davis, Lawrence, and Walthall) to a selected teacher in her county.

Alpha Alpha Chapter has two projects. 1) The chapter collects books and distributes them to the elementary schools in George County. 2) The chapter members give food or money to purchase food for the Petal Children's Task Force. The food is distributed to needy families in the Petal area.

Alpha Beta Chapter is mentoring two new teachers this year. The members purchased coats for students who needed them in these teachers' rooms. The coats were delivered to the teachers. Other coats have been purchased to deliver as needed.

Alpha Gamma Chapter along with WCU-School of Education faculty members and Excel by 5 Coalition members walk alongside the WCU/PDK float in the parade and hand books instead of beads to excited children (infants to middle schoolers). The chapter hopes that this "Book Giveaway" will become an annual event. This is their fifth year to spear head this community-wide effort to encourage the love of reading among area children in order to increase literacy.

Alpha Theta Chapter chose seven McComb School District teachers to mentor through their Support for Early-Career Educators project. Members have provided these teachers with school supplies from their "wish lists," visited teachers' classroom every few weeks, met with teacher and listened to their concerns and offered advice, and modeled lessons in the teachers' classrooms.

Alpha Lambda Chapter supports the “Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen” established in 1982 and owned by the United Christian Outreach, Inc. in Pascagoula. Approximately 190 people who are homeless, jobless, or just “down on their luck” eat a free meal at this establishment daily. The kitchen volunteers also deliver meals to shut-ins; this service is suspended now due to lack of funds. The members have collected and donated restaurant sized cans of food and portable prepared foods to “Our Daily Bread.”

Alpha Xi Chapter works closely with the Early Childhood Initiative, Excel by 5, Moss Point Certified Community. Excel By 5 is a state wide process with forty communities currently involved at candidate or certified status. This group works to develop Early Childhood Leaders through grass roots certification process focusing on Community Development, Early Care and Education, Family and Parent Support and Health/Safety.

This chapter provides resource materials for the Moss Point EB5 Family Resource Center, volunteers at EB5 community events and some members serve on the Moss Point EB5 Coalition.

Alpha Omicron Chapter is mentoring 8 new teachers during this biennium by making them feel welcome and helping them enjoy the teaching profession as the career path they have chosen. Members are 1) helping with new teacher orientation providing pertinent information about the schools and grade appropriate communications, 2) collecting and sharing supplies, materials, and ideas that are helpful, 3) listening to innovative ways they have learned to use technology and new research based concepts. 4) giving Wal-Mart gift cards to purchase classroom materials, 5) and continuing to assist these teachers.

Alpha Rho Chapter challenged its members to donate \$1 for the “Schools for Africa” project. They raised \$14.00 that was sent to the appropriate people.

Alpha Upsilon Chapter is supporting Early-Career-Educators and enhancing their first teaching experience. Their Educational Excellence Chairman recognized two guests, Rachel Hall and Karli Renz as new teachers. Each lady was presented huge bags of school supplies purchased by the chapter members. The members are supporting these new educators by e-mailing, telephoning, and meeting with them to discuss teacher ideas and strategies, sending them gift cards and financially supporting Rachel Hall’s mission trip to Haiti.