



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 8, 2013

### **WCU FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES SERVE THE COMMUNITY**

#### **West Chester, PA – West Chester University of Pennsylvania**

Over the course of the semester, fraternities and sororities at WCU have hosted philanthropic events that have fundraised close to \$33,500.00 and have donated more than 3,000 hours of service to the community. With more events to go this semester, the fraternity and sorority community is on track to double their philanthropic efforts of previous academic years.

Service to the community is one of the principles that fraternities and sororities were founded on over a hundred years ago. Throughout the years, these organizations have come to adopt causes to support on a national level, as well as members providing hand-on service to the campus and communities that host them.

At West Chester University, the 26 fraternities and sororities kick off the year helping with new student move-in efforts in the Residence Halls and regularly participate in the Borough Adopt-A-Block program. Throughout the year, each also contribute to the community-wide cause that benefits [Camp Dreamcatcher](#), a local camp for those infected and/or affected with HIV/AIDS.

However, it is the most recent success of individual chapter efforts is astonishing.

- Alpha Phi's Cardiac Arrest and Red Dress Gala totaled \$3,500.00 for their [national sorority foundation](#) and Cardiac Care, an organization focused on women's cardiac research.
- Sigma Pi recently held their 18th annual Sorority Showdown at West Chester University. The event consisted of a sorority pageant, a brother auction, and various raffles. Sigma Pi fraternity raised over \$2,000.00 for the local [Police Athletic League](#) in West Chester.
- Sigma Phi Epsilon raised \$4,500 for the [Make a Wish Foundation](#) through their program "Get Stoked," a day full of games, raffles, sales of baked goods, and participant sponsored laps around the track on South Campus.
- Delta Chi hosted a Haunted House where brothers live on High Street, targeted at benefiting the Borough community, \$1,200.00 will go to their national philanthropy, the [Jimmy V. Foundation](#)
- Delta Zeta hosted its annual "Turtle Tug" where teams participate in a Tug-of War competition, raising \$700.00 for its [national philanthropy](#) for speech and hearing impaired.

Phi Mu and Sigma Alpha Epsilon both have a national affiliation with [Children's Miracle Network](#), and do an incredible job maintaining a relationship with the [Children's Hospital of Philadelphia](#) by donating in kind materials like books and cards for the children as well as raising money. Sigma Alpha Epsilon will donate over \$8,000.00 this semester through their Paddy Murphy Week and Brother Auction event. Perhaps the most successful efforts come when students are personally connected, as in the case of DJ Matthews, the Community Service Chair for Sigma Alpha Epsilon. Money raised for CHOP is in memory of his cousin, Caroline Gallagher who passed away two years ago this November at the age of 15. She spent a week in CHOP's Cardiology Department before passing away. She also donated her organs, thus saving four lives.

The most successful individual philanthropy event of any WCU fraternity or sorority chapters is the Zeta Tau Alpha's annual 5K Run/Walk to benefit their national philanthropic cause: the [Susan G. Komen Foundation](#). This event has grown to hundreds of participants, raising a record breaking \$13,000.00 this past October.

In addition to raising money, fraternities and sororities donate their time. Phi Beta Sigma recently participated in the Philly AIDS Walk, Phi Mu, Sigma Pi and Alpha Sigma Tau donated 100 bagged lunches and other meals to [Safe Harbor](#), Delta Phi Epsilon volunteered at the [Cystic Fibrosis Cycle for Life](#) event in Philadelphia this past month, Sigma Gamma Rho initiated their national program on campus [Act Against AIDS Leadership Initiative](#), and Lambda Alpha Upsilon raises money and awareness for its national philanthropy, [Sickle Cell Disease Association of America](#).

Over the course of the next month, additional events will take place to add to the collective count of dollars raised and time volunteered. Phi Sigma Sigma will host “Minute to Win It” on November 13<sup>th</sup>, hoping to add to the \$300.00 already collected during their Rock-A-Thon benefitting their [national sorority foundation](#) which provides support to School and College Readiness. Delta Phi Epsilon will hold their annual “Deepher Dude” on November 20<sup>th</sup>, hoping to surpass last year’s total of \$5,300.00 to donate to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Alpha Xi Delta will have their “Xingo” event to benefit [Autism Awareness](#) on November 21<sup>st</sup>. The Black and Latino Greek Council will actively participate in the annual campus [WCU Sleepout for Hunger and Homelessness Awareness](#) on November 15, 2013.

This spring, the InterGreek Council will initiate a new partnership with “[Greeks for Good](#),” a collaborative grassroots fundraising platform that will enable chapters to keep better track of donations and do more education about the causes in which they are passionate about.

### ***Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life***

The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life is committed to enhancing student development and learning. Educational programs and leadership opportunities that focus on scholarship development, service to campus, character development, risk management and new member development are the cornerstones of our work. The office serves as a liaison with chapter members, inter/national organizations, advisors, regional officers, and alumnae/alumni and provides advisory support to governing bodies. The goal of the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life is to provide lifelong learning experience that supports the values of fraternity at West Chester University.

###

#### **Contact:**

Cara Jenkins

Director, Fraternity and Sorority Life

[cjenkins@wcupa.edu](mailto:cjenkins@wcupa.edu) 610-436-2117

[www.wcupa.edu/greeklife](http://www.wcupa.edu/greeklife)