



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

Wisconsin State Organization

Spotlight Wisconsin Projects

Donations Make a Difference

Alpha Iota

Contact: Laurie Marsh

Member driven donations are a part of Alpha Iota's meeting routine. In the Janesville community, it all begins with a desire to support those in need. Members are well aware that together they can make a positive impact on those who suffer from life's poverty like a lack of food, shelter, and lack of medical care.

Whenever members gather, there is a readily visible receptacle sitting out that designates the donation of that day. Local food pantries, a homeless shelter for children, the men's shelter addition, and specific needs identified by teachers in community schools are all on the list.

Alpha Iota members make a meaningful impact on the lives of others regularly as they unselfishly practice their dedication to their community.

Honoring Your School System

Alpha Upsilon Sigma

Contact: Joanne Hagen

Mark your calendars!!! American Education Week is scheduled for November 13-17, 2023. During this special week, Honor your area's public and private school systems' students, teachers, administrators, and all other school personnel.

What can you do? In the past, the members Alpha Upsilon Sigma took treats of all kinds to schools in the community for one day of the week. Our members would join together to cover the various schools. We included notes of thanks from our chapter and a flyer about what DKG is and contact information for some members.

Need a few more ideas? Go to,

https://www.educationworld.com/a_admin/admin/admin501.shtml

Remember, education gives our children the skills they need to be successful in life.

Genuine Spiritual Fellowship

Alpha Omega

Contact: Barb Albrechtson

Do you remember how you felt when you received a note telling you how much you are appreciated for the work you have done? I do, and so do the retired members of Alpha Omega chapter in LaCrosse.

Receiving a letter of gratitude is so valuable and those members of Alpha Omega chapter in LaCrosse make sure their teaching members are aware of this. One month each school year a non-working member of the chapter supports a working member, showing her how much she is appreciated. She chooses items she knows the working member will enjoy. It may be some flowers from the members garden, a gift card for a cup of the working members favorite coffee, or simply a note reminding the working member of the importance of her work.

Can you imagine how special you would feel if you were a working or nonworking member of the Alpha Omega chapter?

Craft and Cake Bake Sale

Pi

Contact: Julie Trafton

The project that all Pi chapter members look forward to and are involved in the most occurs in December. It is an online and in person craft and bake sale that raises money for their scholarships and other school projects. Members provide various crafts and baked goods members, invited friends and guests purchase for personal use or as gifts. Items for sale include canned apple pie filling, homemade cards, cookies, fudge, fabric purses, dish towels, scrubbies, and many other decorative items. "Sign-Up Genius" is used to guide members on the number of crafts and baked goods to have ready for the sale.

Teacher Mini Grant Project

Lambda

Contacts: Helen Nelson, Nancy Clausius, Wava Haney, and Carol Troxel

When we have our Silent Auction at the Christmas meeting, all profits from the sale go into the mini-grant fund. In the fall, we send information about the grant to teachers at all local schools, and inform them of the deadline for applications and the amount of the grant. Then a committee meets to decide on which applicant(s) and projects are the most deserving and educationally valuable. Winners are invited to our May dinner meeting where they describe and illustrate their project in action with a slide show or whatever means they wish to use.

Safety and Security

Phi

Contact: Linda Hansen

Phi met at the Midtown Police Station in Madison. Officer Lore Vang, a member of the Community Outreach and Resource Education Team, presented a well-received program focusing upon issues related to personal safety in the community and at home. Adequate time for Q&A enhanced the experience of attendees.

Fostering Success

Chi

Contact: Terry Schoessow, Tawney Latona, and Penny Burrall initiated the plan and Chi members participated in the "Fostering Success" project to make it successful.

We began with a goal of supporting students physically, emotionally, and financially who had aged out of foster care or were homeless. To accomplish this, we needed help from Ozaukee County Social Services Department and UW-Milwaukee. They identified students who needed support and had a strong desire to continue their education after high school. Thus the project was designed to serve two purposes: those county residents who were entering the job market and setting up an apartment, and those who were heading to higher education.

After meeting with county social workers to learn the needs of these young adults, we solicited donations of household goods, such as kitchen and bathroom supplies, from members. Our support helped two clients set up apartments. We pursued a DKG state grant for funds to purchase one chrome book and used chapter funds for a second one. The social workers kept the computers and used them as an enticement to encourage their clients to visit them while they developed job skills and learned to write resumes and perform research.

During the second year, we continued to collect household items and school supplies, but we expanded the initiative. The nearest public institution of higher learning was the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. We discovered they had an entire office dedicated to the students we were trying to serve. We worked with the director of that office to help provide financial literacy seminar grants, textbooks, and gas cards. We were successful in writing a second grant for this purpose.

While this was happening, the director contacted us to explain that her office also served homeless students, but she was unable to use our funds to help them because our grant specified students ageing out of foster care. Therefore, we created and received a third grant that included the homeless. Due to the pandemic, we have not begun to spend this grant, but it will be used for similar purposes.

Dunlap Community School Basic Needs Fund

Omicron

Contact: Nan Bunnow

Dunlap School is a K-6 elementary school with a diverse population of 310 students, 70% of which are economically disadvantaged. As a community school, the intent is to provide resources and services that enhance student learning, strengthen families and support healthy neighborhoods by reducing systematic barriers.

A Community Resource Center was established as a gathering place with a full-time Community Resource Coordinator. Our project provided seed money for the CRC (\$350 was requested and used to stock the Clothes Closet, \$250 for a school supply closet, and \$150 for snacks). Omicron Chapter also donated approximately \$40 worth of additional supplies, \$100 worth of additional winter jackets, \$40 worth of mittens and gloves, as well as \$20 for backpacks.

Our mission was to support and improve student achievement by addressing basic student needs. Our project supports DKG Purposes 1, 4, 6, and 7 to unite initiate, endorse, support, stimulate and inform. Our chapter purposes were to promote excellence in academic achievement and investigate opportunities for community service projects and implement where feasible.

The success of our program at Dunlap School inspired us to undertake another community school project at Jefferson Elementary School in Appleton. This time the need was for shelving and storage items in order to more efficiently manage the Community Resource Center.

Diane's Delicious Diner (Madison College), a learning environment

Phi

Contact: Linda Hansen

Reservations for a gourmet meal (\$25) prepared and served by culinary students at Madison College were made by about 20 of our Phi members and some friends. The date was chosen, November 8th at 12:00 and we were given directions for parking and room locations. The dining area had a wall of glass windows for diners to observe the food preparation. Students in the program alternated assignments (food prep/serving) 2 days during the weeks each fall that Diane's Delicious Diner was operating. We were told to engage in conversation with servers (details regarding the food choices, what they liked about a culinary career, etc.) and we were given evaluation sheets. Following the meal, the supervising chef who was the Culinary Department Head, gave a presentation and offered a tour for those that had time.

This was an effective method to involve students in their learning and prepare for a career. Servers were enthused and well prepared to explain their knowledge. We were all impressed with the quality and variety of careers the Technical/College schools offer today.

The project empowered members leadership skills.

Little Libraries

Alpha Gamma

Contact: Mary Salverson

Our chapter received an Action Grant in 2012 to build a “Little Library” and fill it with books. The materials needed for construction were wood, paint, roofing, and posts. Once construction was completed, members added books.

Members set up the first one at a trailer court outside of town that had a predominate Hispanic population of children who attended our schools. Since then, we have set up 3 more “Little Libraries” to promote reading for all throughout the year, particularly for school students during the summer since school libraries aren’t open.

Members donated books and maintained the library by recycling books weekly. Both the public library and school libraries have supported our endeavor by adding different levels of books that are being thinned from their resources.

After our first library, the chapter added 2 more libraries, one near the historical society museum and another at the large community playground and little league facilities. Other members of the community liked the idea and placed more “Little Libraries” in the community as well.

Now our “Alpha Gamma” is integral to the libraries with signage as well as adding book marks and stamps for the books.

There are a few ongoing concerns. Although the books seem to be returned after reading and many times other personal books have been added to the Little Library, at times the added books need culling. Also, storage of books has been a concern because it can put a little extra pressure on the chair or committee members.

TAPP (Teen Parent Program) Children's books

Zeta

Contact: Nancy Herman

This is the 3rd year of this Action Grant project and we will continue for our fourth year. The purpose is to promote children's literacy by providing children's books to a teen parent in the Green Bay Area Public Schools. Children's books, book bags and notes to teen parents from chapter members are the basic items included. The book bags are a special delivery of books to be used in conjunction with the classroom literacy unit.

Each TAPP student receives a bag with 8 age-appropriate books and educational handouts. Personal notes encouraging the teens to read to their child were written by members at the December chapter meeting and were included with the books. Bilingual and Somali books were essential to include as some students are new English Language Learners. The books enable grandparents to be involved in reading and learning English while honoring their heritage. Many of the students did not realize the importance of reading to their children, didn't have children's books in the home, nor did they have the luxury of purchasing books in addition to providing food, diapers, clothing, and essentials for their child.

First Book Marketplace is a nonprofit that specializes in educational equality. Because many of the TAPP students are low income, the resources of First Book offered books at a discounted price so more titles could be purchased. Community resources were also used. Titles not available from First Book were purchased from a local independent book store owner, who also assisted in the selection process. A community agency donated the book bags. All books have a label indicating the books have been provided by Zeta Chapter of DKG: "A Book to Help Grow Your Young Reader". The goal of providing the children's books is to help promote the love of reading and life-long learning for both the teen parents and their children.

Core Values for Chapter Programming

Theta

Contact: Leslie Bakkum

The focus of our 2022-2023 chapter meetings was each of the DKG Core Values developed by DKG Next 2019. Those core values are Collegiality, Professional/Personal Growth, Leadership, Philanthropy/Service, and Global Awareness. Those words simplify and reflect the Mission, Vision, and Purposes of DKG.

We know the strength of our chapter is our members. Our individual talents, interests, and experiences are very diverse. Members thought, "Why not use that diversity to expand our chapter programming and outreach?" To get the ball rolling, each Executive Board member volunteered to facilitate a planning team made up of chapter members. Each planning team planned one chapter meeting this year. To keep it simple, the Executive Board selected meeting dates and locations. The planning team was free to select the Core Value they wanted to address and "fill in the meeting details". We also included 2 chapter projects in the focus, "1. Self-sufficiency Grant-In-Aid Program to provide financial support for students at Western Technical College and UW-La Crosse (funding provided from Theta Chapter budget, fundraising and individual donations, and 2. Action Grant: Leveled Books for Little Learners (funding from Wisconsin State Organization and Theta Chapter budget."

Through this program, members were empowered to build leadership skills as they provided and promoted ongoing information about important DKG program initiatives.

Afghan Resettlement Literacy Project 2022

Gamma

Contact: Karoleen Glenzer

Our project supported the literacy efforts of the Marathon County Literacy Center as they began teaching newly arriving Afghan immigrants. The plan was to help the new arrivals learn English as well as how to read and write in their new language.

Dr. Martha Kronholm and Gamma members toured the school and classrooms and meet some of the students. Members contributed \$1,000 from the Gamma treasury. Dr. Kronholm also wrote an Action Grant to match this amount. We were awarded \$800. The money was spent on literacy materials at the school. In addition, we gathered as a chapter in a "Make It and Take It Workshop" to construct materials the teachers needed including, alphabet flash cards, phonics

materials and a complete set for "Making Words", which is a research-driven strategy for teaching reading (Patricia Cunningham). We also provided Dolch High-Frequency Word Lists and other basic materials.

The Center Director was thrilled with our efforts. We paid attention to the needs of our community as they related to education, literacy, and social issues. Then, did what we could do to help.

Food for the Mind

Alpha Eta

Dee Jacobs and Pauline Doucette

This project encourages children to read and keep reading by getting books in their hands that they can read on their own.

Members began this project in 2002 and they plan to continue it. Money needed was fundraised through the chapter and also provided by donations from the Lions Clubs, Women's Clubs and support from families in the community. Alpha Eta's budget is between \$500 to \$1,000 depending on the year.

Books were needed. The children had limited access to books because parents couldn't afford to buy them and don't frequent the library. Currently, our public and school libraries are struggling with the ability to fund new books. Chapter members and friends collect gently used books from various sales and provide new books at Christmas and Easter. We currently house the books at a vacant school in our area and at the pantries we service. Books are available for children at the local food pantries and other nonprofit places in the Northwoods. They are able to choose a book to keep each time they come to the pantry.

This project has expanded into other activities with the Boys and Girls Club as well as the Harvest Hoe Down. At the Hoe Down, we put blankets on the ground with books on them so that children could lay down and read. We let them take a book or two home with them at the end of the afternoon.

Members try to participate in all food pantry sponsored fundraisers. We get a lot of publicity at these activities. All books we provide have our Alpha Eta logo glued onto them.

Celebrating Diversity in our Classrooms: Speaker Series

Delta

Contact: Heather Thomas Flores

The purpose of this program was to share and celebrate the cultural and connective diversity found in our classrooms. For the speaker series, we needed multiple chapter members or an educator in the community who was willing to share their culturally responsive classroom activities. We needed a Zoom account to hold meetings both in person and online for those who were still observing quarantine and other Covid-19 restrictions. Meeting in person was optional, however the chapter always provided light refreshments when meeting in person. We had a minimal budget, which we spent on craft items for the "hands on" activities --if there were any for

the speakers, otherwise, we usually had individuals donate their time to the chapter and the chapter would provide refreshments. There was only one honorarium and that was for an out of state speaker.

Our chapter agrees we would have advertised the sessions more widely. We had amazing speakers who presented to 5 or 10 people. We would have loved to have more but somehow never got the work out in time and didn't have sufficient time to register or make arrangements to attend. This is something we would most definitely address in the future. Members now see we could have used them to attract prospective members.

Teacher Literacy Grant

Beta Alpha

Contact: Ellen Vermillion

The goal of this project was to provide current teacher/s with a financial grant to complete a literacy project in their classroom that they may not have the necessary funds to do with limited budget monies available. This project was required to promote literacy in the classroom. Teachers filled out an application explaining their project and the financial needs. Our chapter then evaluated the applications to determine which teacher/s would be granted funding. Each grant was \$150.00. We have tried to give two grants each year. Teachers must provide us with financial documentation and present their completed project to our chapter at one of our summer meetings.

We hope to generate possible interest in these teachers to become members of our chapter. At this time, we have not gained any new members through this project but will continue our efforts.