At Iowa State University, Sororities and Fraternities come together to support community and embrace social sustainability through many philanthropic endeavors. They engage in philanthropic activities to demonstrate their commitment to community service, leadership development, and civic engagement. These organizations, deeply rooted in the concept of community and guided by core values, view philanthropy as a means of fulfilling their mission. They show their appreciation and gratitude for the community by organizing events and fundraisers that make a positive impact. These initiatives not only reflect their appreciation but also their dedication toward a sustainable future.

Live Green! had the opportunity to learn more about the philanthropic commitment and impact of sororities and fraternities at Iowa State University through connections with Alpha Chi Omega, Kappa Delta, Sigma Kappa, Alpha Gamma Rho, Alpha Phi and Delta Delta Delta. These six represent a sampling of the diverse considerations and approaches related to building and embracing collective support, involvement and appreciation.

**Alpha Chi Omega Ending Domestic Violence**

Nationally, Alpha Chi Omega supports domestic violence awareness. Alpha Chi Omega adopted domestic violence awareness as its philanthropy in 1992, as it is a global issue, particularly affecting women. Together, the goal is to combat unhealthy relationships and promote healthy ones.

Locally, Iowa State’s Delta Nu chapter supports ACCESS (Assault Care Center Extending Shelter and Support), a local shelter providing numerous resources for sexual abuse and domestic abuse victims, including a 24-hour crisis line, crisis response services, housing advocacy, criminal justice advocacy, civil legal advocacy, systems advocacy, community education and training, counseling, and support groups. Together, the goal is to combat unhealthy relationships and promote healthy ones.

The sorority’s choice to support ACCESS locally stems from the organization’s essential role in providing these critical resources. They are a non-profit that relies on funding to maintain their services, making the partnership with Alpha Chi Omega invaluable. The chapter actively raises awareness and funds for ACCESS and strives to educate the community about domestic violence awareness.

In achieving this, Alpha Chi Omega hosts philanthropy events each semester, with one significant event per semester being a requirement. In the Spring semester of 2023, they organized Alpha Chi Quesadillas, serving food and creating awareness about domestic violence on Denim Day. In the fall semester, they organized the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes relay race to challenge gender stereotypes and combat domestic violence. During these events, they raised almost $5,000 for ACCESS.

Members are required to contribute both financially and through volunteering, in support of their philanthropy. Each member is required to raise $25 or sell typically 5 tickets for $5 a piece. With the help of crowd change, their donations platform, they are able to raise a lot of money for ACCESS through advertising on social media. Additionally, members volunteer at least 10 hours of community service each semester through participating in events like Homecoming, Greek Week, and the Blood Drive, benefiting outside organizations and the community.
Every member of Kappa Delta actively contributes by volunteering for at least one “shift” during both philanthropic events. Additionally, this sorority encourages members to raise a minimum of $25 for KD Shakes and at least $100 for the KD Classic.

Within Kappa Delta immense pride is taken in being the Iowa chapter’s largest donor, underscoring the crucial role our philanthropic efforts play in funding essential programs, workshops, and awareness-raising initiatives for PCAI. Their flagship event, the KD Classic, is a source of particular pride, as it raised just under $16,000 this year. This generous contribution exemplifies their commitment to supporting PCAI’s mission and making a meaningful impact on our community.

Kappa Delta’s philanthropic endeavors serve multiple campaigns and initiatives, offering students the opportunity to support domestic violence awareness and education. Through these efforts, Kappa Delta supports Prevent Child Abuse America-Iowa Chapter, highlighting their commitment to the cause.

Through philanthropic efforts, Alpha Chi Omega has provided crucial funds to ACCESS, enabling them to continue their invaluable work. For more information on Alpha Chi Omega’s philanthropy, visit the Alpha Chi Omega website.

Kappa Delta has chosen Prevent Child Abuse America - Iowa Chapter as its designated philanthropic cause, a decision rooted in its enduring commitment to this cause shared by Kappa Delta chapters nationwide. In the year 2023, they organized two significant philanthropic events. The first was KD Shakes, a smaller initiative aimed at educating our local community about Prevent Child Abuse America - Iowa Chapter (PCAI) and highlighting Kappa Delta’s support for this chapter. The second event was the much-anticipated KD Classic, a large-scale golf outing held at Coldwater Golf Links during the fall season. People from across the Midwest gathered to participate in this event, showing their solidarity in supporting PCAI.

One of their signature events is Alpha Chi Quesadillas, a successful spring semester tradition. They take pride in hosting this event, combining a meal with education about domestic violence awareness. In the fall semesters, events vary, such as Pizza Pie with Alpha Chi in 2022 and the recent Walk a Mile in Her Shoes relay race on October 4, which was featured in the Iowa State Daily. All these philanthropy events demonstrate appreciation for their peers, guests, and the community, as they work tirelessly to raise awareness and funds for a cause they deeply care about.

They also distribute brochures and information about ACCESS at their events, ensuring guests understand the importance of supporting domestic violence awareness and being educated about ACCESS’s services. Education about domestic violence is essential for college campus communities to recognize warning signs, understand how to discuss the issue, and know where to find resources. These efforts enable members to educate themselves and the community about domestic violence awareness and support survivors.
purposes within the community and among their chapter members. First and foremost, it reminds them of the privilege they have in supporting such a vital cause that directly affects our community. Additionally, these initiatives shed light on the substantial reliance that Prevent Child Abuse America - Iowa Chapter places on their contributions to meet its goals. This realization is reinforced when they invite a speaker to share their personal experiences and articulate how Kappa Delta’s support directly impacts their lives. Ultimately, their philanthropic efforts bring about a deep sense of appreciation within their community and among chapter members, motivating them to continue making a difference in the lives of children and families in need. For more information on Kappa Delta’s philanthropy, visit the Kappa Delta website.

Sigma Kappa Supporting Alzheimer’s Disease Research

Sigma Kappa does philanthropy a bit differently, as they support five different causes, represented by the acronym “SIGMA.” First up is the Sigma Kappa Foundation, which helps women from their chapter across the country by providing scholarship funds and emergency grants. Then there’s “Inherit the Earth,” a cause that gets their members working together to help the environment. Next is “Gerontology,” the study of aging, as they are supporters of the Alzheimer’s Association. Next is “Maine Seacoast Mission” is a cause close to their hearts, given that Sigma Kappa’s roots are in Maine, and they aim to assist local families in need. Lastly, “Alzheimer’s Disease Research” Sigma Kappa supports and is one of the nation’s leading private contributors to Alzheimer’s disease prevention, research and treatment efforts.

At their Iowa State chapter, Sigma Kappa hosts two main philanthropy events each year. In the spring, they have the Sigma Kappa Shake Shack, where they raise money for the Alzheimer’s Association. In the fall, this sorority puts on the Sigma Kappa Karnival to support the Sigma Kappa Foundation. On top of these significant events, members can also take part in smaller activities, like helping with highway clean-ups and participating in service events that assist the elderly and the community. One of their major annual commitments is the Ames Walk to End Alzheimer’s.

To keep their focus on service strong, Sigma Kappa expects members to attend and contribute to all of their philanthropy events, from selling tickets to helping out during the events. As a member, you also need to complete 15 service hours each semester. These hours can involve a variety of activities such as making cards for nursing home residents, joining in on trash clean-up projects or creating tie blankets.
Alpha Gamma Rho Advocating For American Cancer Society

Measuring the exact impact of their philanthropic efforts on such a widespread issue is challenging. Nonetheless, Alpha Gamma Rho believes that even making a difference in one person's life is a significant accomplishment. While they may not reach everyone globally, their aim is to profoundly impact at least one individual, recognizing the significance of this impact. With the overarching theme of appreciation, their philanthropic efforts highlight their commitment to sharing their abundance. It’s a reminder of the inequalities in society, motivating them to create opportunities for communal gatherings, fostering moments of joy and camaraderie among friends. For more information on Alpha Gamma Rho’s philanthropy, visit the Alpha Gamma Rho website.

Their philanthropic events put their members’ culinary talents to work, creating engaging and crowd-pleasing experiences. Each member contributes by volunteering for one-hour shifts during the event, using their personal networks, and selling tickets to raise funds for charity.

By supporting these various causes, they offer many ways to get involved and make a real impact. It’s not just added tasks to them, it’s an enjoyable experience where they get to see the positive impact they’re making. For more information on Sigma Kappa’s philanthropy, visit the Sigma Kappa website.

Photo Courtesy of Sigma Kappa

Photo Courtesy of Alpha Gamma Rho

Photo Courtesy of Alpha Gamma Rho

for the local hospital. A standout event in their philanthropic calendar is the Sigma Kappa Shake Shack in the spring. It’s a fun way for members to interact with the community, serving milkshakes, various fries, dine-in, and drive-through options. In their most recent event, they raised over $3,000 for the Alzheimer’s Association. Their October walk is another significant event, where community participation contributes to their impressive annual total of over $10,000.

Alpha Gamma Rho’s chosen cause for their fall philanthropy campaign is the American Cancer Society. This fraternity picked this cause because October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which aligns with their goal to actively support the fight against all kinds of cancer in the United States. Their fall philanthropy event, “Agger Fries,” revolves around fried food items, as the name suggests. The menu includes delicious options like Culver cheese curds, fried Oreos, fried pickles, and various types of fries. This philanthropic tradition has continued for several years, staying true to its original mission.

Their philanthropic events put their members’ culinary talents to work, creating engaging and crowd-pleasing experiences. Each member contributes by volunteering for one-hour shifts during the event, using their personal networks, and selling tickets to raise funds for charity.
Alpha Phi Advancing Women’s Heart Health

Alpha Phi is dedicated to supporting the Alpha Phi Foundation, which focuses on improving women’s lives through philanthropy and cutting-edge research in women’s heart health. Alpha Phi understands that heart disease affects women differently than men, so it’s crucial to inform people about the specific signs, symptoms, and aspects of heart disease in women.

In the spring, this sorority hosts an event called Mac and Phi’s, where everyone in the community can join to enjoy mac and cheese and learn about women’s heart health and the work of the Alpha Phi Foundation. In the fall, they organize the Red Dress Gala, an elegant gathering for their friends and family. This event features a knowledgeable speaker who shares insights on women’s heart health, a formal dinner, and opportunities for donations.

Their members work hard to raise funds for the Alpha Phi Foundation through community events and to spread awareness about women’s heart health to as many people as possible. Alpha Phi’s fundraising efforts have enabled them to make significant contributions to the foundation, supporting research and education on women’s heart health and raising community awareness.

Since the signs and symptoms of heart disease vary among individuals, it’s vital to educate people and fund research to ensure they can recognize it. Among their philanthropic events, they take great pride in the Red Dress Gala, their primary fundraiser for the Alpha Phi Foundation. Each year, they achieve remarkable success thanks to the generous support of their members, families, friends, and the community. As a chapter with over 100 women, they value health while understanding that one in five women faces heart disease. That’s why they remain dedicated to raising funds and increasing awareness for the Alpha Phi Foundation, which supports women affected by heart disease. For more information on Alpha Phi’s philanthropy, visit the Alpha Phi website.

Delta Delta Delta Aiding St. Jude Children’s Hospital

Image Courtesy of Delta Delta Delta
Delta Delta Delta is passionately dedicated to supporting St. Jude as their primary philanthropic cause. All their fundraising and efforts are channeled towards St. Jude, aimed at helping children and families affected by severe illnesses and cancer. This sorority’s core values revolve around making a positive impact, lending support, and raising funds for noble causes, and this commitment drives their consistent hosting of philanthropic events for St. Jude.

The sorority and fraternity community plays an essential role in fostering a spirit of philanthropy on college campuses and beyond. As they strive to give back, they not only enrich the lives of those they support but also empower their members to become responsible, compassionate citizens who understand the power of service and community engagement. Their commitment to philanthropy is a cause for appreciation, not only by their members but also by the countless individuals and communities that benefit from their generosity and dedication.

For more information on the Sorority and Fraternity community and the philanthropies they support, visit the Sorority and Fraternity Engagement website.

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Tri Delta’s philanthropic endeavors, beyond fostering chapter unity, also raise awareness about their capacity to contribute positively to the wider community. They have a deep connection with St. Jude, and their tireless fundraising efforts reflect their selflessness and gratitude for their own blessings while helping children in need. For more information on Delta Delta Delta’s philanthropy, visit the Tri Delta website.

Their philanthropic events are thoughtfully designed to focus on supporting St. Jude’s mission. In the fall, they team up with Buffalo Wild Wings for a fun event. In the winter, they hold “Sincerely Yours,” where members write heartfelt letters to seek donations from friends and family. One of the key highlights of their philanthropic work is “Sincerely Yours,” a letter-writing campaign. It’s a source of great pride for the chapter, as all members come together to craft these heartfelt letters to request donations. This event is not only a major fundraiser but also offers a touching experience when St. Jude patients share their stories. In the spring, they organize “Mac Attack” in collaboration with Tau Kappa Epsilon, featuring mac and cheese, games, and more. St. Jude Week also sees smaller fundraisers leading up to a major event. Every member is encouraged to sell tickets, toward securing community awareness and participation.

For more information on Delta Delta Delta’s philanthropy, visit the Tri Delta website.