

THE PHOTA



The Phota (the Greek word for lights) is a publication of the Valparaiso University Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils



Fraternities and Sororities Give Back During Valparaiso University Day of Caring

On Saturday, September 20, 2014 the fraternity and sorority community along with many other on-campus student organizations participated in the annual Valparaiso University Day of Caring, a community outreach project that is in partnership with the United Way of Porter County. The day consisted of multiple community service projects benefiting the greater Porter County area.

All 13 chapters in the fraternity and sorority community participated, with a total of 218 members giving three or more hours of service. Chapters were assigned locations to help with projects ranging from Lakeshore Paws, Indiana Dunes and Lake Street National Parks, Rebuilding Together, A Positive Approach to Teen Health, and Opportunity Enterprises Pack-a-thon. Projects included cleaning kennels, cleaning up the lakeshore, building a wheelchair-accessible ramp, and stuffing race packets for the Chicago Marathon.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 3: *IFC Brat Fest, 6pm*

October 3: *Order of Omega Applications Due, 5pm*

October 4: *Kappa Kappa Gamma "Kapture the Flag"*

October 5: *Phi Kappa Psi Kyle Carson 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament*

October 11: *Valparaiso University Homecoming 2014*

Throughout the course of the day, the fraternity and sorority community donated more than 600 total hours of community service.



Chapter Spotlight:

Pi Beta Phi

Members of Pi Beta Phi Fraternity for Women have begun the new school year by providing service to the community as well as doing philanthropic work to directly benefit First Book, the Pi Beta Phi national philanthropy that promotes literacy.

In September, members of Pi Beta Phi participated in the Valparaiso University Day of Caring. The women completed a project at A Positive Approach to Teen Health, a center that “seeks to make a difference in the lives of youth by supplying them with the facts to make choices that will lead to a healthy future.” The women helped pack over 1,000 bags filled with incentives such as flyers, pens, and folders for PATH’s student program, Horizon.

Crystal, the PATH office manager and the rest of the PATH staff were thrilled to have the help from Pi Beta Phi, and invited the women to come back and volunteer at the center again in the near future!

The first philanthropic event of the 2014-15 school year was the annual Pi Beta Phi “Pi Fest.” This year, the women gathered on the Harre Union West Lawn and were ready to be pied! In addition to the pieing, there was a pie-eating contest, music, and bean bags for people to enjoy. “It was a great way for the Valpo Greek Life to come together and promote a great cause--our personal philanthropy,” said sophomore member Gabriela Pecenka. Pi Beta Phi had a great turnout for the event thanks to the wonderful support of the Valparaiso fraternity and sorority community and the University.



Alumnae members of the Valpo Pi Phi chapter are also providing an excellent example of philanthropy. Amanda Rychtanek, a Class of 2013 alumnae from Valparaiso University was recently profiled in *The Bow: The Pi Beta Phi Foundation Newsletter*. Amanda has made a commitment to the Pi Beta Phi Marianne Reid Wild Society for Planned Giving, and was featured in the newsletter. She believes in the leadership opportunities available to women through the Pi Beta Phi Foundation and states “knowing that other sisters will be supported because of my planned gift was motivation enough for me.”

Pi Beta Phi is eager for the rest of the school year and having more philanthropy events, as well as attending other chapter’s events around campus.

Sharing the Good News

Sigma Pi Fraternity

At the Biennial Convocation for Sigma Pi Fraternity, the Beta Tau Chapter at Valparaiso University received the 900 Club Award for achieving over 900 points out of 1000 in efficiency!



Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia

Alumni brother Justin Thompson-Gee was nominated for and received a 2014 Upper Midwest Emmy Award for weather broadcasting, and his news station, KAALtv also received an Upper Midwest Emmy!



Have a story to share in the next issue of *The Phota*?

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