

THE PHOTA



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

Fraternity and Sorority Service Trip to Memphis, Tennessee



The inaugural Fraternity and Sorority Life Spring Service Trip took place March 1-7, 2015 with 18 participants traveling to Memphis, TN with one mission in mind: serving others. The trip participants worked with the Mid-South Food Bank located in the heart of Memphis. The Mid-South Food Bank was established in 1981 with the intent of having one centralized place for donated food to be sorted and packaged and then sent out to local food pantries in the surrounding area. There, the students sorted over 22,000 lbs. of food, packaged over 14,000 lbs. of food and sorted over 11,000 lbs. of rice, totaling 39,166 meals able to be distributed to the 300 local food pantries in need of food.



The participants were then able to work with Alpha Omega Veteran Services Inc. to hear the stories of individuals who have risked their lives for our country. Alpha Omega Veteran Services Inc. offers both transitional and permanent residential housing facilities provided for veterans across the country in need of assistance with reintegrating back into society after serving in the line of duty. Here, each of the students were able to spend time hearing the stories of a few individuals' time serving the country and their struggles with reintegrating and getting back on their feet within society. Additionally, the group attended a Grizzlies basketball game with a few of the veterans to further hear their stories and get to know them in an informal setting.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 8: #ValpoDay and CanStruction

April 16: Life After College at 7pm

April 17: UPC Concert – American Authors

April 18: Rebuilding Together

April 26: SongFest and F&S BBQ

April 30: Fraternity and Sorority Awards

While in Memphis, the group took a day to connect to the rich history of fraternity and sorority life by visiting the National Headquarters of three different organizations located in Memphis: Chi Omega, Kappa Delta, and Pi Kappa Alpha. Each organization provided a tour of the facilities, introduced the staff, and provided a brief introduction to the history of each organization. The group was also able to tour the campus of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and visit the Civil Rights Museum.

Overall, each student appreciated the opportunity to meet one another and make new friends, reconnect to history, and serve the Memphis community. Each member greatly enjoyed their time on the trip and is looking forward to what next years' service trip has in store!

Chapter Spotlight:

Lambda Chi Alpha

Valparaiso University student and Lambda Chi Alpha brother Logan Mulvihill, founder of BridgeMe Youth, conducted an inaugural “Crib-a-Thon” donation event to raise cribs for infants and families in need. After a three week campaign between Feb 9-27, 2015 with a goal to raise enough money to purchase 30 cribs, BridgeMe Youth and Lambda Chi Alpha ended up exceeding their goal by raising \$1,600 to purchase 32 cribs for the Family & Youth Service Bureau, which donates the cribs to local mothers and infants in need.

Mulvihill started the campaign after 11 months of establishing BridgeMe Youth as a recognized non-profit. With the help of his fraternity, Lambda Chi Alpha - Iota Sigma Zeta chapter, Mulvihill was able to gain attention for the event by having his brothers help promote its cause. “What inspired me to start Crib-a-Thon was knowing that infants are in need and I have the opportunity to make a difference” said Mulvihill.

After the BridgeMe Youth’s first successful campaign, Mulvihill was thankful to the Valparaiso University community saying “having these cribs will greatly impact the community by giving infants a safe and comfortable place to sleep.”



Sharing the Good News



Eric Smith, a sophomore member of Sigma Phi Epsilon has worked to establish a new entity within the fraternity and sorority community on the Valparaiso University campus. GUARDS: *Greeks United Around Respect and Discussion of Sexual Assault* is an organization of students who are coming together to advance the conversation and the awareness of issues related to sexual misconduct and sexual assault. Specifically, this organization will be working under the supervision of the Panhellenic and Interfraternity Council’s to provide training, development, education, prevention and advocacy on this very important topic.



The GUARDS kick-off event was held on March 24, 2015 with over 150 fraternity men and sorority women in attendance. GUARDS also sponsored the viewing of the documentary “It Happened Here” and is inviting fraternity men and sorority women to take the “It’s On Us” pledge (visit www.itsonus.org for more information).

GUARDS will continue to develop relevant programming and outreach opportunities for fraternities and sororities to be active in the prevention of sexual assault at Valparaiso University.



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

Contact:

Rachel Sturdevant or Caleb Liptak

Panhellenic and IFC Vice Presidents of Public Relations

panhellenic.publicrelations@valpo.edu or ifc.publicrelations@valpo.edu

