Sorors of the Dynamic and Historic EASTERN REGION,

We can’t thank you enough for taking time to share your successes over the last biennium through our website and H.E.R. Stories. We have truly welcomed the opportunity to shine the light on the profound impact that you have had on the communities we serve as you embody our theme of being “First to Serve. First to Lead. First to Empower.”

Thanks for the memories!

Yours in Delta,

Rosia Blackwell Lawrence
Eastern Regional Director

Faith Wade
Eastern Regional Representative
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COVID-19 doesn't mean that service to others is on hold!

On Monday, May 11, and Tuesday, May 12, Chester (PA) Alumnae Chapter President Dr. Angela Gilbert and chapter members, maintaining social distancing and state-mandated precautions, visited Delaware County Memorial Hospital in Drexel Hill, PA, and Crozer-Chester Medical Center in Upland PA, to bring more than 100 donated meals and mask extenders for frontline workers treating COVID-19 in our service area.

Thank you to all essential workers who are on the front lines during this global pandemic. We see you, and we appreciate you!
Quaker City Alumnae (QCA – Philadelphia, PA) Delta DEARS are seasoned Deltas who are always busy! This sorority year they have had frequent Delta DEAR luncheons and a special Delta DEAR Zoom meeting, attended QCA’s Technology Workshops, offered advice to the chapter, and participated in chapter programs. Perhaps of most importance, QCA’s Delta DEARS have “Service In Their Hearts.”

Chapter member Florence Oliver is the Co-Chair of Eastern Region’s Delta DEAR Committee and also a Golden Delta DEAR in QCA (she’s been a Delta for 50 years!). On behalf of QCA’s Delta DEARS, in October 2019 she contacted the Salvation Army’s Eliza Shirley House, a shelter for homeless women and families in Philadelphia, to see what services they needed. She was informed that this shelter was in desperate need of new towels and washcloths for its residents. Soror Oliver rallied the QCA Delta DEARS and they devised a plan to help this facility and thus, Project Linen Closet came to be. Project Linen Closet was launched in November 2019 and ended in January 2020. Over the three-month period, QCA Delta DEARS collected nearly 400 bath towels, hand towels and washcloths, along with monetary donations and assorted toiletries – all donated by sorors, friends and family, and the general public.

In January, QCA Delta DEARS gathered at Soror Oliver’s home for what they called a “Bundle Party,” where they bundled matching towels, washcloths and hand towels, using colorful ribbon, primarily red and white of course. The items were delivered to the Eliza Shirley House on Jan. 16, 2020. “These donations will be such a great help for us!” said Marie Ciarrocchi of Eliza Shirley House Shelter. “We cannot thank you enough!”

Inspired by this Delta DEAR service project, the QCA’s Toy Library Committee, which supports children five-11 years old, wanted to teach youth the importance of community service. Toy Library hosted an additional donation drive for the Eliza Shirley House, and collected items for “Blessing Bags” for the shelter’s residents. The children worked hard to assemble nearly 80 Blessing Bags, filling them with much-needed toiletries like toothbrushes, toothpaste, tissues, soap, and related items. The youth also created handmade, inspirational cards for the shelter residents, with adorable pictures and inspirational sayings like “You Are Loved.” Again, Eliza Shirley House was overwhelmed with the outpouring of love shown by Quaker City Alumnae Chapter.
January is Human Trafficking Month. Human Trafficking in the African American community is rarely talked about, yet our daughters, sisters, nieces and friends are lured into the web of human trafficking in plain sight. On January 15, 2020 the Trenton Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.’s International Awareness committee and the Kilmer School of the Trenton Public School System hosted a virtual book club reading of “Anybody’s Daughter” by Pamela Samuels Young. “Anybody’s Daughter” won the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Fiction and was a Top Ten pick by In the Margins, the best books for at-risk teens.

Ms. Samuels Young discussed the reality of human trafficking in the African-American community. “Anybody’s Daughter” is the story of 15-year-old Brianna, good student, a little curious about boys and the niece of the infamous Dre Thomas. She begins an online friendship with a young boy named Jaiden and agrees to meet him one day, only to be snatched by two unknown men. Brianna’s family, friends and teacher don’t believe that she ran away from home. They take finding Brianna into their own hands. More than 40 middle school students participated in the book discussion. Thirty-five books were donated by DonorChoose for the 7th- and 8th-grade English classes at the school. The students asked questions about learning the signs of a potential human trafficking relationship, how to support your friends in toxic relationships and who to ask for help. The students asked about her career as a writer and ways to self-publish a book.
On May 16, 2020, the Bronx Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. participated in a virtual March for Babies Walk as Team BXACDST at Orchard Beach, Bronx, N.Y.

The March of Dimes is one of the charitable partners of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. The purpose of the charitable partnership is to provide service and empower our local communities throughout the world. Bronx Alumnae Chapter members have participated in the March for Babies walk for five years. They raised more than $5000 last year, and $2637 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year, secondary to the COVID-19 pandemic, the March for Babies Walk and fundraiser was canceled and occurred only virtually. The March of Dimes encouraged each team leader to develop a virtual walk and hashtag #MFBStepUp, #marchforbabies to share on social media.

Team BXACDST leader Karen Skinner-Parkes with members of Bronx Alumnae Chapter raised funds through donations made on social media, and organized a social distance walk at Orchard Beach, Bronx, NY. Eleven members of Bronx Alumnae carried purple balloons and walked the boardwalk wearing their masks. They even performed the viral dance, Toosie Slide, as they walked the 1.5 miles. The public watched and gathered as these black women in red and white shirts walked through Orchard Beach shouting “we were marching for the babies.”

March of Dimes is an organization that through advocacy, education and research promotes the health and well-being of the newborn infant, preemies and mother during pregnancy. Every infant deserves to be born full term and healthy. Bronx Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc was there to support that mission.
Years ago, a simple criminal conviction may not have had the impact it has today, but a criminal conviction today may bar one from a number of opportunities. Expungement removes the stigma associated with having a conviction, and allows a person to move forward with their lives without having to disclose a prior conviction through the process of removing court and law enforcement records from public inspection.

On September 21, 2019 Baltimore Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter (BMAC) partnered with the Gamma Omicron Omega Chapter of Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Incorporated and a significant number of civic and community agencies to host its annual Expungement Resource Fair. The event was aimed at addressing the barriers that exist which prevent some of the City’s most valuable citizens from participating in employment, voting, and housing opportunities because of prior convictions. The annual Expungement Resource Fair provides on-site support from agencies to address these issues including The Maryland Legal Aid Bureau, which prepares and files petitions for the clients. Health screenings, voter registration, and mental health services were also available.

BMAC’s Political Awareness and Involvement Committee was at the helm of the event with the intent to support those individuals who have served their required sentences for the offenses committed, but find their criminal records have prevented them from re-entering society successfully. Pro bono attorney services from the Maryland Legal Aid Bureau, along with resource vendors, addressed many of the societal reentry hurdles that these citizens face. Among the vendors who supported the event and provided relevant materials were: Alcoholics Anonymous, American Civil Liberties, Baltimore Cancer Center, Baltimore City Fire Department, Baltimore City Health Department-Tobacco Free and BCHD HIV mobile testing, Baltimore City State’s Attorney’s Office, Center for Urban Families, Census Bureau, Enoch Pratt Library, Maryland Health Connections/Exchange and the Mayor’s Office of Civil Rights and Wage Enforcement among others.

The results of the event on the target audience, chapter, and vendors were notable and impactful. Of the 83 individuals who signed up for expungement services, 71 were processed with 253 petitions filed by the attorneys, with nine clients not processed with potentially non-expungeable offenses. These vendors provided health screenings and disseminated important literature regarding employment opportunities, housing, Census 2020, Consent Decree updates, and information regarding mental health services. The event, held at Our Daily Bread Employment Center each September, will be repeated in 2020, not only to support new citizens, but to make sure those whose voting rights have been suspended can be reinstated to enable them the opportunity to vote in the November general election.
While COVID-19 showed up like a thief in the middle of the night and changed our lives, as Matthew 24:44 states “be ye also ready,” the members of New Jersey Garden City Alumnae Chapter showed they were by responding to the needs of the community.

With many families grappling with working from home and teaching their children, NJGCAC provided bountiful baskets of food for eight large families just in time for Easter for students in the Winslow School District.

“This untimely crisis has pushed some families to the brink. Unemployment has skyrocketed. Parents are facing layoffs and the children are home all day. We wanted to alleviate some of the stress by providing a holiday dinner and additional food for the days ahead,” said Traci C. Benjamin, President of NJGCAC.

On May 7, the National Day of Prayer, the chapter chaplain planned a soul-stirring virtual program. More than 86 people participated. The service included musical selections, a sermonette, along with prayers and scriptures for our children, our frontline and essential workers, our nation, and our finances. “When your community and nation are hurting and you do not know what to do, you have to turn to your faith,” said LaVonyia Wilson-Mitchell, Chapter Chaplain.

As the state moved into its ninth week of sheltering at home, the chapter’s Physical and Mental Health Committee hosted COVID-19, Mind, Body and Soul. The program featured the chapter’s physicians and social workers as panelists. Attendees learned about the virus, testing, coping, and protecting their mental health. “In these unprecedented times, people are looking for answers on how to balance work, life, family in what is our new norm. We wanted to be a resource to help,” said Zora Dees Brown, co-chair of the Physical and Mental Health Committee.

While COVID-19 is a global crisis, it brought the harsh reality that we are in fact fighting two pandemics – a virus and racism. The chapter’s Social Action Committee partnered with the Camden County East Youth Council and NJSC NAACP Youth Works Committee to host: Race and Trauma – Living Scared and Feeling Under Siege. The program came days after the tragic murder of George Floyd. The panelists included a chapter member who is a licensed counselor and Dr. George James, licensed therapist and “Today” show contributor. “Thank you for hosting this watch party. It is good to hear a conversation that I wouldn’t normally be privy to in this way,” said Lynne Cona, an attendee from Voorhees, NJ.

NJGCAC will continue to be an ally to the community as we weather this storm together.
On Feb. 29, 2020, the Paterson Alumnae Chapter held its annual fundraiser to raise money to award college scholarships to African-American students. In recognition of Black History Month, the theme for the brunch was, “Honoring Women of Color Who Have Made a Difference in History.” Each table was dedicated to a woman of color, which included a short biography and picture that served as the centerpieces. Some of the women who were celebrated included Mae Jemison, Deltas Dorothy I. Height and Lena Horne.

The highlights of the event included honoring five individuals or organizations who demonstrated leadership, commitment, and dedication to improving the environment; health and wellness; and education in Paterson.

- The Daisy P. Bates Youth Award was presented to Sidney Glisson, a senior at Passaic County Technical Institute, Wayne, New Jersey. She excels in her academics while participating in sports and various community service projects. She also serves as a mentor at various summer sports camps.
- The Florence Letcher Toms Community Service Award was presented to Youth Self Development, Incorporated for providing 20 years of educational support to high school students.
- The Ethel Cuff Black Excellence in Education Award was presented to Dr. Brenda Belmont for her dedication to teaching and learning. Dr. Belmont currently serves as the Executive Director of the Gilmore Memorial Preschool, Paterson, New Jersey.
- The Florence Letcher Toms Community Service Award (for Individual) was presented to Talena Lachelle Queen. She was instrumental in creating the first Poetry Festival for Paterson. She was named the first Poet Laureate for the city of Paterson and participates on the Paterson Grassroots Cultural Arts Commission.
- The Myra Davis Hemmings Delta Woman of the Year Award was received by Soror Shiricka Brown who serves as the current chapter treasurer, but also goes above and beyond the call of duty in exercising her commitment to Delta. She provides service to her community by improving the health and well-being of those in need as a case manager in her current position at a local hospital.

The celebration of Black History Month included the musical talents of African Drummer, Brother Jerome Hunter, and a dance presentation by Briyanah Joye-Brown. Brother Hunter also led the audience in an interactive demonstration and a short oral history of African dance. The day ended with a marketplace which consisted of raffling more than 50 gift baskets or gift cards with the proceeds going toward the chapter scholarship fund. The 2020 African American Heritage and Marketplace Brunch was a success and the chapter is grateful to have the opportunity to continue to provide academic scholarships to deserving students.
The Fort Washington Alumnae Chapter (FWAC), located in Southern Prince George’s County and Charles County, Maryland, fully understands the importance of being our Sister’s Keeper. The Chapter successfully launched the FWAC Clusters Program during Sisterhood Month in March 2020. With President Millicent Hawkins’s vision to promote sisterhood bonding through geographical proximity outside of formal chapter events and the Membership Services Committee’s theme of “Cultivating Our Connections,” this Clusters Program was designed for success. Promoting our National President’s idea to “Keep the Joy in our Sisterhood,” the program provided a forum for chapter members to build sisterly bonds, engage in social activities, and support one another during times of need. What happened? All became familiar with Deltas living in their community. They connected through walks, daily motivations, exercises self-care virtual sessions, and movie and GirlTrek Watch Parties.

The program’s goals were simple: 1) connect with Deltas geographically and generationally who have similar interests, 2) increase awareness of chapter members, and offer support during crucial time and needs, 3) strengthen the power and joy of sisterhood, and 4) to have F.U.N.!!

While the COVID-19 pandemic affected the ability to fellowship in person, the clusters instantly cultivated connections as a measure of encouragement and support. Led by liaisons and captains, the clusters made tremendous community impact such as:

- Mask distribution to the Greater Baden Medical/P.G. Hospital/Fort Washington Hospital to partner with Prince George’s County District 9 Councilman Sydney Harrison and Masks Across America to assist with the distribution of 2,600 masks.
- Provided 150 “Thinking of You” cards to Forestville Health Care Center residents seniors.
- Provided materials and sheets to make masks for Charles County Front-Line Responders and nursing home workers at the request of our Emergency Response Team Committee, which resulted in 6,000 masks to front-line responders.
- Partnered with the COVID 19 Capital Area Food Bank Drive collaboration with Gamma Phi Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, and served 1,500 families.

As a volunteer chapter initiative, with 60% of members participation of Divas, Dolls, and Dears, the FWAC Clusters Program continues providing sisterly bonding, social activities, and community outreach by tapping into its most precious assets – Our Sorors.

“Alone, we can do so little, and together we can do so much.” Helen Keller
Ready to Excel Reading Extravaganza and Book Fair

“I AM...” Promoting a Positive Self Image

The Tri-County (MD) Alumnae Chapter’s (TCMDAC) Arts and Letters Committee hosted the Ready to Excel: Reading Extravaganza and Book Fair on Saturday, March 7, 2020. The theme of the event was “I AM ...” Promoting a Positive Self Image. Children and parents from the community had an amazing time hearing from children’s authors Parker Curry and James Collier III who read excerpts from their books. They also enjoyed the interactive musical experience of The Uncle Devin Show!
The Prince George’s County Alumnae Chapter (PGCAC) of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated (DST) continues to change the lives of students in Prince George’s County, Maryland. The PGCAC Scholarship and Fashion Show Committees, in partnership with the Delta Foundation, Inc., awarded $85,000 to 28 deserving students in the county in March, 2020. The 2020 scholarship award amount brings the cumulative total amount awarded since the inception of the program to $1,319,500.00!

The Scholarship and Fashion Show Committees committed countless hours and effort on behalf of the students, proficiently scoring applications, effectively providing valuable resources and meticulously planning the 44th Annual Fashion Show and Scholarship Benefit, “Couture 1913.” This year, the student award recipients were to be highlighted at the sold-out signature Fashion Show event, co-hosted by the Delta Foundation, Inc., to more than 1,500 guests. As a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic and the stay-at-home orders mandated by the Maryland Governor, the Fashion Show live event was regretfully postponed.

The postponement of the live event did not prevent celebration of the praiseworthy students. In collaboration with the chapter’s Information and Communications Committee, a 28-day social media campaign was launched by the Scholarship Committee in May to celebrate the recipients. Each student enjoyed a “feature day” across the chapter’s social media platforms to applaud their accomplishments and to encourage them to continue to strive for greatness. Chapter members joined in the virtual celebration each day and extended the salute to the awardees by posting comments of encouragement to them on their day of celebration.

Earlier in the sorority year and for the fourth consecutive year, the “Education Matters Summit” continued to be a signature program of the Scholarship Committee. Attendees received information relative to available scholarship funds, applying for financial aid, “Real Talk” from college students, and alternative pathways to careers. This Sorority Year’s Summit, themed “A World of Possibilities” provided valuable resources to more than 400 college-bound, trade school and entrepreneurial students and their parents.

Support and resources to students and parents in the county did not end with the in-person Summit. The Scholarship Committee continued to motivate the community through the newly launched “Wednesday Wise” Webinars. Hosted quarterly, attendees were able to join virtual presentations on a variety of topics. The final webinar was co-hosted with the PGCAC Physical and Mental Health Committee to provide support to those dealing with stress during the health crisis.
Fairfield County Alumnae Chapter has grown and matured. The chapter has a large number of Delta Dears and because of its growth they are spread out throughout the county covering four major cities and several towns. How do they communicate? Sure, there is the tried and true “telephone tree,” but information comes fast and furious and members need to be updated frequently. So, Program Planning and Publicity put their heads together and addressed how the computer has become crucial for conducting Delta business. They asked, What do they do for those technically challenged? The answer, Café Tech. Here was an opportunity to fellowship: Delta Dears would connect with new chapter members and share the wealth of their Delta experience and the new members would exchange their technical information to facilitate chapter communication.

A survey was sent to determine the best time and what information was needed. They were prepared to have a session after chapter meeting when the pandemic hit. Hence Zoom, the chapter had its first topic – How to access and participate in a Zoom video conference. They had their “coffee, tea and…”

The session was a hit and although everyone did not have access to a camera, most of the chapter’s active Delta Dears signed on, be it audio or video, to participate in their first virtual Chapter meeting. Their next event will focus on Google, Gmail, Google drive and its use by committees and they plan to use Zoom to continue the fellowship in the comfort of their chapter members’ homes.
Potomac Valley Alumnae Chapter (PVAC) and PVAC Fund, Inc. presented donations totaling $6,000 to Manna Food Center, Inc. for the COVID-19 Relief Fund. The donations were made in recognition of PVAC’s 35 years of community service and in honor of essential workers and volunteers. Accepting for Manna were Jackie DeCarlo, CEO, and Lorna Forde, member of Manna’s Board of Directors, and a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Manna Food Center, located in Gaithersburg, Md., aims to eliminate hunger in Montgomery County, Maryland. Through food distribution, education and advocacy, they are making strides on behalf of more than 63,000 county residents who experience hunger and food insecurity.

The members of PVAC Executive Board are: Alissa Bonner, President; Daphne Page-Reaves, First Vice President; and Chandra Walker Holloway, Treasurer.

The members of PVAC Fund, Inc. Board of Directors are: Diane Murray, Chair; Sheila Ogilvie, Treasurer; Karen Lawson, Recording Secretary and Immediate Past Chair; and Carolyn Thomas, member.
Staten Island Alumnae Chapter (SIAC) continues the “Legacy of Social Action” set forth by the Founders of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. as they remain focused on bringing voter education and awareness to the Staten Island community. In SIAC, the chapter utilizes a “boots on the ground” approach.

Throughout the sorority year, SIAC members echoed the mantra set forth by the chapter’s Social Action Chair, Michelle Akyempong, that “Every member should be committed, engaged and proactive in the chapter’s efforts to reach the community we serve.” They stressed the impact of the “VOTE” in all elections and that everyone’s vote should not just be limited to voting for the next President, but also toward local political seats, as that directly impacts the residents of Staten Island.

Despite SIAC’s small size, it has been able to develop different ways to mobilize its voter education plan. The goal was to answer the community’s questions and provide information. In the process of interacting with members of the community, the chapter discovered that many of the people they engaged were unclear as to their voting rights, which ultimately led to the chapter registering new voters.

The misunderstanding of individual voting rights was most prevalent during a voter education program that SIAC co-sponsored with the NYC Department of Probation. The initial efforts to provide voter education at Staten Island’s local probation office also led the chapter to register individuals who assumed that their prior legal issues made them ineligible to vote.

To further engage the residents of Staten Island, the chapter hosted town hall meetings, conducted door-to-door visits at NYC Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments and in order to reach more men of color, visited local barbershops. They also set-up informational tables at several local events, community centers, schools, and the Staten Island Black Heritage Family Day.

While SIAC does not do the work of Delta for accolades, it has been recognized locally for its efforts. NYC Councilmember Debi Rose of the 49th district, recognized SIAC at her annual Black History Month program held on Feb, 28, 2020, where SIAC was presented with a NYC Council Proclamation in “Recognition of (the) Chapter’s Community Service and Social Action Initiatives.” The recognition for the chapter’s work did not stop there. It also received the following awards: “Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition” from Congressman Max Rose, 11th District, “Certificate of Honor” from the Office of the Richmond County Public Administrator, “Certificate of Recognition” from the Office of the Public Advocate and “Certificate of Recognition” from the Office of the Richmond County District Attorney.
On June 20, 2020, the tiny but mighty sorors of the Apalachin Alumnae chapter stood in solidarity with sorority members across the globe for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated’s Day of Solidarity. In the spirit of the sorority’s beloved Founders and the many seasoned members and Delta Dears of their chapter with active histories of battles for Civil Rights, Equal Pay and Social Justice, Black Lives Matter and the current calls to Defund the Police, they called on the love of God that eradicates all evil and provides comfort to all those in need.

Just a few days after the chapter’s Meet the Candidates for Family Court Judge in the local area, 10 Apalachin Alumnae chapter members were masked and poised to pray as a group to ask for guidance and protection for the current Black Lives Matter global movement and communities of color. Members gathered in the driveway of the home of Social Action Chair and Delta Dear, Brenda Brown. The surrounding landscape was decorated with liberation flags and the colors of red, black and green, along with the names of the many lives stolen violently in unjust ways from Abner Louima in 1997 to Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Rayshard Brooks in 2020.

Chapter Chaplain and Delta Dear Sandra Love led with a powerful and inspiring call for God’s presence at the event and everyone’s deep understanding of how far and wide His love truly is. Member Stacy Marrow followed with a switch of style and cadence praying for her sisters in Delta who are taking action in so many areas for the benefit of Black and Brown lives. She also called for support of local chapter members on the frontlines of the current protest and for justice as those in the background and boardrooms take action.

Chapter members continued in fellowship for a short time discussing changes to polling locations and plans to work for the presidential primary that was held on June 23, 2020.
As the sorority comes to the close of the program year, who would have imagined that New Yorkers would be sheltering in-place. During this time, many have lost loved ones. Others have not been able to visit family and friends. Most have halted our in-person chapter meetings, programs and events. Legacy can be defined as something that is a part of Delta’s history. As New York Alumnae Chapter will be celebrating its centennial in 2021 as the first graduate chapter, the chapter decided to take time to reflect on why they became members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Here are reflections from five groups of mother-daughter members in the chapter.

My Mother, My Daughter, My Legacy

Soror Maxine said, “It was an honor to be initiated into Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., with my oldest daughter, Tuere. Not only were we initiated in New York Alumnae Chapter, the illustrious first graduate chapter but we also are line sisters. Years later my other daughter, Tamara, was initiated into the New York Alumnae Chapter in 2015. Delta was the answer and we have never regretted it.”

Soror Annette found that Delta is something that you “live;” you find yourself incorporating Delta’s values and standards in your life. Delta lifts Women to a higher level than what society equated a Black Women should be. “I saw role models in Delta for me at my age and I was very impressed. Soror Lynette was inspired by members of the New York Alumnae Chapter that she had interacted with while applying for a Pan Hellenic Scholarship.”

What pulled us to Delta was the strong, positive, like-minded, and educated women. The impact Delta sorors have made throughout history in areas of politics, entertainment, health, etc. The five-point programmatic thrust and commitment to the Black community.

“What drew us to Delta is as one of our Founders said years ago, ‘we choose to serve.’ Service is the rent we pay for living on this earth. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is an organization that calls its members to serve and care for our families, our communities, our nation and our world.” As a mother and daughter team in Delta, they are about service. Soror Joan is one of the “Sweet Sixteen” charter members of the Bronx Alumnae Chapter and Soror Monique is currently a member of the Regional Arts and Letters Committee.

Soror Lynnae became intrigued with the sorority through a high school friend, who subsequently became a member in her sophomore year. Her friend lauded the sorority and its values. Soror Dominique was drawn to the sorority because of her mother. She stated that most of the dynamic women in her early years were all members, so it never really seemed like much of a question.

In interviewing these sorors, the same words were used: common ambitions, passionate, role models, principles, guidance, impact, values. These are meaningful words that we can incorporated into everyday life. We are proud of the history of our chapter and its members.
During an unprecedented time in our country’s history, Wilmington (DE) Alumnae Chapter (WAC), Delta Sigma Theta, Sorority, Inc. (DST), organized to inform, connect to resources and advocate for Delaware citizens. The chapter brought state agencies and community organizations together to provide a series of Coronavirus town hall virtual forums on March 28, April 11 and 25, May 9 and June 6. Each two-hour session had an average viewing audience of 300-350. The social media platforms were Webinar and Facebook Live.

A phenomenal partnership with Dover, Middletown (DE) and Sussex County Alumnae Chapters of DST provided timely information during the worst pandemic the world has faced. The collaboration also included The First State Chapter of the National Medical Association, Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League, and the Interdenominational Ministers Action Council of DE (IMAC). The objective was to empower Delaware communities of color by delivering COVID-19 education, and economic updates. Experts from various state agencies provided comprehensive COVID-19 implications on health, safety, testing, educational continuity, economic and vulnerable populations.

Each town hall opened with Alicia Keyes’ YouTube video, “Good Job” as a musical tribute to frontline heroes. Sarah Harrison, Chapter First Vice President, served as moderator for each forum. She eloquently led discussions followed by question–answer sessions. This ensured the voices of Delaware citizens were captured and responded to in a timely and informative manner. Stephanie Toland-Mayo, Chapter President, opened each forum by graciously welcoming the community and thanking all partners, collaborators, panelists, and community participants. She acknowledged them for their genuine interest in empowering communities during this health crisis and time of economic uncertainty. Various religious leaders opened each session with words of spiritual guidance and well-being for all communities.

Various State of Delaware and other leaders participated, including The Honorable Lisa Blunt Rochester, U.S. Congresswoman; The Honorable Bethany Hall Long, Lieutenant Governor, who participated in every forum; The Honorable Stephanie T. Bolden, State Representative; Dr. Susan Bunting, Secretary, Department of Education; Cerron Cade, Secretary, Department of Labor; Dr. Kara Odom Walker, Secretary, Department of Health and Social Services; Claire DeMatteis, Commissioner, Department of Corrections (DOC) and Dr. Avele Maduka-Ezeh, Medical Director, DOC. Panelists included Dr. Janice E. Nevin, Health Care CEOs/President, Christiana Care; Dr. Jay Greenspan, Nemours-AI duPont Hospital, and hospital leaders from Kent and Sussex Counties. Participants offered their views and expertise by providing up-to-date statistical accounts and the racial impact on Delaware citizens. State agencies also provided updates on plans to ensure nursing homes, prison systems, detention centers, homeless shelters and others were protected.

Paraphrasing the words of singer Alicia Keys for the ladies of WAC, Dover, Middletown (DE) and Sussex County Chapters of DST, “Good Job! Good Job! The world needed you NOW! Know That YOU Matter.” Sorors! Good Job! Good Job!
Saluting Our Delta PEARLS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE INAUGURAL COHORT OF THE EASTERN REGION DELTA PEARL PROGRAM 2020

Asia-Lige Arnold
Holly Brown
Valencia Carter
Regina Carter
Kasey Edwards
Sharon Hardesty
Marella Holmes
Brooke Holmes
Tracey Howard
Terri Jackson
Catherine Knox
Lynn Lofton
Linda Miller
Stacia Shields
Fatima Robinson
Kama Elle Walcott
Monica Watkins
Vikkie Wilkinson
Lora Williams
Wanda Woodruff
Linda Wyatt-Simpson

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<th>COMMITTEE MEMBER</th>
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<td>Zena Alvers-Cleveland</td>
<td>Rockland County Alumnae</td>
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<td>Monique Cephas</td>
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<td>Nyikisha Cleveland</td>
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<td>LaKisha Grant-Washington, EdD</td>
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<td>Debra Thomas</td>
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<td>Monica White, EdD</td>
<td>New York Alumnae</td>
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Keeping Joy In Our Sisterhood

Total reclaimed: 1,527
July 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020
Scholarships Awarded 2019-2020

$172,000  Maryland

New York  $112,350

$80,000  District of Columbia

New Jersey  $52,300

$42,304  Pennsylvania

Connecticut  $16,500

$3,500  Delaware

Total: $478,954
Reactivations

2019-2020

Epsilon Gamma
Penn State University

Nu Rho
Salisbury University

Pi Eta
State University of NY
Binghamton

Xi Nu
Rutgers University
New Brunswick

Xi Pi
Albany NY Citywide

Expansions

Epsilon Phi
University of the Arts
LaSalle University

Epsilon Pi
Brooklyn College
Medgar Evers College

Epsilon Tau
Monroe College
Initiated into our glorious sisterhood through Central Jersey Alumnae Chapter (CJA) in the Spring of 2018, Soror Grace Nelson Williams is a Sergeant with the Port Authority of NY/NJ Police Department and a soldier in the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. As an essential worker responsible for maintaining law and order in the country's largest city, Grace has encountered unimaginable and unprecedented daily challenges in the epicenter of the virus. As communities across the country struggle to contain the COVID-19 outbreak, Soror Nelson Williams remains on the front line also responding to societal problems. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused exaggerated increases in domestic violence and mental health issues while introducing new issues like violation of social distancing regulations.

Unable to work remotely, Sergeant Nelson Williams is required to be on the frontline every day, risking uncertainty, her safety, and her health. Soror Nelson Williams defies the negative perception often associated with police officers, especially those working in large metropolitan areas. Assigned the daily task to enforce laws, investigate and prevent crimes, arrest criminals, and render aid to people in distress, Soror Williams Nelson approaches every person she encounters on "the beat" - suspects, victims and witnesses alike - with dignity, compassion, understanding and yes, GRACE, in addition to decency, civility, diplomacy, and respect. Soror Nelson Williams is most needed and best understood in the midst of sin, suffering and brokenness. When not enforcing laws, fighting crime and protecting citizens, Soror Nelson Williams is intimately involved in raising her great-nephew. Two years ago, she was thrust into the role of motherhood when her then pregnant niece was tragically shot in the head. The catastrophic injury left her niece fighting for her life and that of her unborn child. After months of intense hospitalization and medical attention, a healthy baby boy was born; but his mother continues to suffer from life altering effects of the injury and remains incapable of caring for her son. Although having never given birth to her own children, Soror Nelson Williams's innate nurturing maternal instincts instantly went into overdrive. She has taken on the virtually endless, selfless sacrifice of her own wants and needs for the wants and needs of her nephew. As a "surrogate mother," Soror Nelson Williams works hard to provide a stable, loving environment and endeavors to ensure that he is loved and cared for and equipped with the knowledge, skills and ability to thrive. Additionally, she plays a significantly supportive role to her niece who continues to fight to overcome the challenges of her injuries.

True to her name, Soror Grace is a woman of poise, elegance, goodwill, and honor. A community advocate, she is known for her dependability, effectiveness, creativity, leadership, and unselfish support to various community outreach organizations, programs and activities. She has proven to be consistent and unwavering in her efforts to uplift her community and lend assistance to any persons or cause geared toward positive change.

May God continue to bless Grace’s steps during the COVID-19 pandemic!
A Delta Shero Among Us: Soror Carla Brown has continuously exemplified the core values of our Sorority through her personal commitment to service during the COVID-19 pandemic. She exemplifies courage and service during this crisis and has gone above and beyond her profession and duties. Soror Brown lives her life in a manner rooted in the words of Soror Shirley Chisholm: “Service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on this earth.”

Soror Brown serves as the Executive Director/Principal Officer of the Charles A. Walburg Multi-Service Organization which, under the leadership of Soror Brown, provides service to seniors 60 years and older to promote healthy living and to prevent unnecessary institutionalization. Amongst its many services to seniors, the Walburg center helps to ensure that frail aged New Yorkers receive adequate nutrition. Many people have the notion that executive leaders sit in their office, behind a desk all day. When COVID-19 hit, our senior citizen population was not only more susceptible to the virus, but also were at risk for losing much needed social services as organizations, and its volunteers, scaled back. This threat only increased as New York quickly became the epicenter for COVID-19. But in the midst of crisis—Soror Brown’s energy and commitment were magnified.

Prior to COVID-19, Soror Brown led a team, staff and volunteers, to deliver about 700 meals a day to seniors in the Washington Heights and Harlem sections of New York. Since the pandemic, the service has increased to approximately 900 meals per day—a 30% increase! Her ability to increase meal delivery by almost 30% on a daily basis is impactful and a testament to Soror Brown’s commitment to go above and beyond.

To sustain the services to meet the growing needs, Soror Brown orchestrated a plan to increase volunteers. But not just any volunteers, Soror Brown has recruited volunteers from the Divine Nine Organizations, uniting sorority and fraternity members on the common ground of service. Soror Brown onboarded volunteers, ensuring that “her seniors” were greeted with kindness and compassion, and inspired each one by sharing what the delivery meant to those they would encounter. In her words, “Any time you can give, any time you’re blessed to give, it’s a wonderful opportunity... And to know that we’re considered essential means that we are absolutely needed, where we’re providing comfort, we’re providing food, we’re providing safety”.

When you look up the word SHERO, you find the definition - a woman admired or idealized for her courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities – in North Manhattan Alumnae Chapter when we look up the word SHERO we see Soror Carla Brown. Serving a population that often goes unnoticed, ensured their safety and nourishment, but it’s bigger than that, it provided comfort to their families and a uniting inspiration of hundreds of New Yorkers looking to serve.

Soror Brown’s unwavering commitment in the midst of crisis is to be applauded and we salute her.
Soror Tina Hall is a United States Major Army Officer and Combat Lifesaver in the Army National Guard. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, she has been a first-responder and Military officer stationed on the frontlines in South Florida. As a first responder and Military Officer, Soror Hall has encountered unprecedented challenges, and in response, has taken unprecedented actions to keep herself, other officers, and our communities safe in the midst of COVID-19.

Soror Hall’s newest mission has become supporting the state of Florida’s COVID-19 response with trained and equipped service members who are ready to engage and defeat this invisible enemy. “My current mission is to provide assistance and aide to the citizens of South Florida. Whether it is administering the COVID-19 test or working inside Feeding Florida’s food bank warehouse facility, sorting, inventorying, packing and palletizing food. For over 20 years, I have worked in disaster response for hurricanes and other natural disasters. This pandemic has been disastrous,” says Soror Hall.

Major Hall’s duties and responsibilities include the coordination of setting up Community Based Test Sites (CBTS). This is a multi-agency effort and included support from: Florida National Guard, Miami-Dade County, Broward County, Florida Department of Transportation, Florida Division of Emergency Management, Florida Department of Health, Florida Highway Patrol, and Quest Diagnostics. There are several essential tasks in establishing each CBTS. Major Hall organizes with several agencies to complete the tasks of providing personnel, supplying food, water and supplies to service members, directing traffic through the lanes, and scheduling training for additional Combat Lifesaver Courses. She mentors and calms several junior enlisted soldiers and Officers during her COVID-19 deployment.

Additionally, Major Hall follows up on the State and County Testing Sites, where she currently looks after 22 testing sites in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Major Hall truly believes in her mission, which is to support the State of Florida and the Department of Emergency Management, to help manage this crisis in whatever capacity they ask. “With our training knowledge, experience and discipline we are being asked to operate these CBTS’ in support of the state. We have great soldiers, ready, well trained and well equipped to do this. I only pray to be brave, for there is much to dare, Sorors.”

Prior to COVID-19, Soror Hall continued to be devoted to the work of Delta. Soror Hall facilitated a project entitled, “To Her, With Love,” where chapters across the entire Tri-State made care packages for women in the military. She has been involved both at a National and Regional Level, serving on the Nominating Committee and Membership Services Committee, respectively. Soror Hall is truly a hero among us, both personally and professionally. She has dedicated her life to serving our country and helping others.
During this coronavirus pandemic, the Philadelphia Alumnae Chapter had Sorors that worked on the front-line in the medical field. One Soror in particular is, Soror Regina Canty, who serves as a member of a special team of Nurse Anesthetists and Anesthesiologists at Temple University Hospital. The team adapted to extremely difficult situations and schedules. Soror Canty worked 12 hour rotating shifts, including weekends. She displays a quiet, gentle, nursing spirit and collaborated with other medical disciplines to manage COVID-19 positive patients. Her responsibilities included assessing and evaluating patients in medical/respiratory distress and responding to crucial time sensitive airway emergencies. Her team intubated patients to enable them to receive oxygen and sustain life.

Soror Canty’s mission began with the organization of areas converted to temporary isolation rooms. Her team was challenged with frequently changing gloves, gowns, masks, and protective face shields after exiting or entering a room and participating in numerous after hour Zoom meetings.

While medically taking care of patients, she provided emotional support, listened to their life stories, held numerous hands and shed many tears. Soror Canty is disheartened to see the devastation and suffering in our disproportionately affected community and the toll on coworkers caused by this debilitating and deadly coronavirus. She witnessed patients and coworkers break down crying and feeling extremely overwhelmed.

Soror Canty is well aware of the necessity of good physical and mental health to properly and safely care for others and herself. Outside of work she graciously welcomed encouraging words and guidance and participated in the Chapter’s Inspirational Wednesday’s Word sessions of inspiration and encouragement presented by the Chaplain’s Council members. She tuned into the Eastern Region Webinar and the Fort Bragg Area Alumnae virtual panel discussion on COVID-19. She’s been exercising consistently as well as participating in Philadelphia Alumnae stroll sessions. She corresponded with family, church members, Sorors and friends in need of assistance because their loved ones were affected by COVID-19. She became a needed resource to many Sorors that had questions about the disease.

Witnessing patients being discharged on this life changing pandemic journey has been emotionally rewarding. Soror Canty states “There is no greater reward in life than to purposefully and positively contribute to the well-being of our communities. The sacrifices and inconveniences of this assignment didn’t compare to the gratification of serving my community. The COVID-19 pandemic allowed me the opportunity to continue compassionately serving my community in a slightly different role. I’m truly grateful for this assignment.”

Soror Regina Canty consistently displays “Joy in our Sisterhood, and Service in her Heart.”
“Robin is one of the strongest and most giving people I know. Her heart is so much bigger than her tiny 5-foot-2-inch frame would make you believe. When my husband was in the hospital, Robin helped calm my fears by reviewing all the symptoms and walking me through what the doctors were saying. She even offered to drive the 3.5 hours to come and make sure we were okay. I am not sure how I would have gotten through that experience without her. The thing is, there are countless stories like this of Robin lending her time, her gifts and even her finances to so many. I can only pray that God restores to her all that she gives to others.” -Soror Dana Brown-Mims

Soror Robin A. Thompkins, RN, MSN, CNOR, CRNFA, is a Surgical Assistant. Over her career, she has supported spinal, orthopedic, bariatric, gynecological, robotic, and laparoscopic surgeries. At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Soror Thompkins’ skills led her to be asked to move to the front lines, first as a Safety Agent. In this role, Soror Robin is responsible for ensuring the safety of frontline doctors and nurses, and, by extension, the public, by certifying that PPE equipment is being properly worn and disposed of.

As the pandemic continued, she was again asked to be on the front lines, moving to an all COVID-19 ICU where she provides direct care to COVID-19 stricken patients and their families.

While in these roles, Soror Thompkins is still assisting with emergency surgeries, including COVID-19 patients. Soror Robin is a living example of the Cardinal Virtues we hold so dear. Whether she is in the operating room, ICU, extending care to family, friends, sorors, or her community, she is tireless in her commitment to sharing her time, her gifts, and her compassion.

Working in the ICU is a daunting experience under “normal” circumstances, but since COVID-19, when daily death rates have risen significantly, it must feel extraordinarily disheartening. Soror Thompkins has consistently risen above the challenge, continuing to provide loving support to those in her care.

Understanding the fear and uncertainty isolation can bring, Soror Robin can often be found sitting with her patients, talking with them, holding their hand, and alleviating their fears. In response to restrictions on visitors, she uses her personal cell phone to connect patients with loved ones, providing critical connections.

Restrictions often mean that critically ill patients die alone- but not on Soror Thompkins’ watch. Sadly, she has personally experienced the tragedy of loss, however, she has used these experiences to shape the type of care she provides. She stays with patients as they transition so they are not alone in their final moments.

Soror Robin’s generous spirit is demonstrated in every aspect of her life. Recently, Soror Thompkins learned that due to the shutdown of K-12 schools, children in her district were no longer receiving breakfast and lunch. She sprang into action, using her own time and resources, personally prepared and delivered over 50 meals for children in her community! These are just a few of the many examples of Soror Robin’s servant’s heart. She is an inspiration to her two daughters and son, her family, friends, peers, Sorors, and community!
Soror Andrea Faust-Asomani, a three-time graduate of Howard University, has been practicing Dentistry for eleven years. Married with two young children, she continues to selflessly serve on the frontline despite the extreme infectious nature of COVID-19. Doctor Faust-Asomani has sacrificed her normal daily interaction with her family to keep them safe. She has not hugged or been able to show her customary physical loving affection in months. This is extremely difficult for her and her family, as her typical affectionate nature, personality, and disposition are very demonstrative with physical acts of love.

Soror Faust-Asomani exemplifies what it means to serve, and her passions are rooted in giving back. She volunteers beyond her profession and incorporates her children in any appropriate volunteer activity to teach them from an early age the importance of service to others. She demonstrates service in her community, church, work, and in Delta.

Soror Faust-Asomani is a charter member of the Montgomery County Chapter of Continental Societies, Inc. where she volunteers supporting dental screenings and developing the welfare of underprivileged children. Since the chapter’s inception, she has led the children’s Oral Health Project educating more than 100 children on the best practices of dental care, hygiene, and promoting STEM and college readiness. Additionally, Soror Faust-Asomani is an enthusiastic volunteer at her children’s school. She is an active member of St. Augustine Catholic Church and lends her time toward food donation, sorting and other distribution drives.

At work, Dr. Faust-Asomani goes above what is required and volunteers to help with the COVID-19 efforts. She realized the need and stepped up. The clinic where she works is a key testing site for the upper northwest area of Washington, DC and services over 104,000 patients. The majority clientele is Black and Hispanic and live at or below the poverty level. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Faust-Asomani has been on the frontlines servicing this vulnerable population.

Dr. Faust-Asomani spends her days testing, triaging clients, and servicing clients with urgent healthcare needs. She continues to perform emergency dental surgeries and assists clients with their growing needs, including helping women in abusive relationships get the services they require. Dr. Faust-Asomani has said her goal is to keep people out of pain – physical and emotional.

She is the Washington DC Alumnae Chapter’s Corresponding Secretary and serves on the Journey to Wellness, GEMS, International Awareness, Community Mobilization, Social Action, and Minerva Circle committees. She doesn’t just sign-up to work on a committee, she actually works on the committees. She is present and working at every chapter event and activity. It is a chapter running joke to frequently comment, “You can’t be on everything!” but somehow she manages to do just that.

Known for her sisterly attitude and proactive manner in which she reaches out to everyone, it is ordinary for her to send a text, personal card, call, and/or visit sorors and friends. She is the first to say, “Yes” to help and the last to leave. She relates well with all generations with her kindness, genuine heart, and authentically kind deeds. She, indeed, is a true frontline soror.
Activist. Educator. Author. Mother. Sister. Soror. Cynthia Turnquest-Jones has been the consummate advocate for the betterment of the African American community. In her capacity as the Social Action Chair of Westchester Alumnae Chapter, Cynthia developed our long-standing partnership with Moms Demand Action, bringing attention to the impact and effects of gun violence. It was Cynthia who pushed for the chapter to conduct our Cyntoia Brown-Long program on sex trafficking and its prevalent rise of occurrences in Westchester County.

Westchester County was originally classified as the epicenter of the start of COVID-19 in New York. Soror Turnquest-Jones was alarmed to learn of the significant amount of children, in her own backyard, without devices since school closing on March 17, 2020. Soror Turnquest-Jones is an educator for the New York City Department of Education and believes that education is key to success and isn’t a privilege but an inalienable right to ALL children. Therefore, Cynthia addressed this presenting problem by initiating Operation Tablets for Students where the chapter and community contributors were able to distribute over eighty brand new tablets “gifted” to the students of the Graham School, Columbus School, and those who were in transitional housing at WestHelp and WestHab in Mount Vernon, NY on May 14, 2020.

During this pandemic, there has been a rise in arrests, violent confrontations, and inconsistency in how social distancing measures are addressed in New York within minority neighborhoods. During the weekend of May 9 - 10, the NYPD issued 51 summonses, including 43 in city parks. On May 11, 2020, Cynthia participated in the Pandemic Brutality Rally held at Foley Square in New York City to bring attention to this issue. Soror Turnquest-Jones is also an author. Cynthia is in the process of launching her first book series “Annie Goes...” where the main character, Annie, does extraordinary things such as bringing awareness to the importance of wearing a mask for one’s personal health. Soror Turnquest-Jones conducted The Fourth Annual “Let Girls Learn Day” on May 16, 2020 on “Zoom Chat” where girls in grades 1-6 were invited to have exciting conversations about the importance of healthy choices, education, and reading.

Soror Turnquest-Jones, for over five years, has been a contributing writer to Black Westchester Magazine where she has put the spotlight on many socioeconomic issues affecting people of color in Westchester County and the Tri-State area of New York. On May 23, 2020, her piece on the Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in children (MIS-C) Cases In Westchester (http://www.blackwestchester.com/breaking-news-mis-c-case-in-westchester/) brought awareness to this syndrome and its effect on Jorden Hutchins, a young boy and resident of Mount Vernon, NY who is fighting for his life against this virus.

Cynthia is the Founder of Tha Brown Urban Mother Partnership. Cynthia is a quintessential worker who prefers to be in the background and does not look for any accolades. She has always put her commitment to her community, the city of Mount Vernon, and Westchester County, at the forefront in all that she does.
Dr. Shirley Jackson Whitaker has been on the front lines of healthcare in Western Massachusetts for more than twenty years, serving as a physician as well as hosting a weekly health radio program on WTCC, 90.7 FM, on the campus of Springfield Technical Community College.

When the Coronavirus hit the Springfield, MA community, Dr. Whitaker sprung into action by using technology to reach the public with important Covid-19 information. Dr. Whitaker hosted a weekly "talk show" on Facebook to educate community about COVID-19: Once the WTCC radio station was closed due to Covid-19, Dr. Whitaker immediately moved her popular health radio program onto her Facebook page and offered weekly "Honey, we have to Talk! A Covid-19 discussion" at lunchtime. Hundreds of people tuned in over the course of the series!

Dr. Whitaker served as a presenter, sharing her expertise for the Springfield Alumnae Chapter's May Week "Coffee, Conversation and Covid-19" virtual town hall, where more than 50 participants attended live and more than 1,000 people watched the replay on Facebook.

She offered daily support to two Springfield Alumnae Sorors whose father was hospitalized with Covid-19. (Sadly, he passed away in May after a valiant battle.) Dr. Whitaker called the sorors on a daily basis to check in and also helped the family to better understand the medical reports the family received.

In addition, she offered to make masks for sorors in need. Dr. Whitaker reached out to sorors to make sure they had masks, and if they didn't, she made them one and sent it to them!

Dr. Whitaker is a member of the Springfield Alumnae Chapter, where the chapter president is Willette H. Yarbrough Johnson.
Dr. Debora Whitehurst-Brown, a member of the Prince George’s County Alumnae Chapter (PGCAC), is very humble and caring soror with a heart of gold; she gives of herself freely with nothing expected in return. In her role as an Obstetrics & Gynecology specialist, she is on the frontline at the hospital dealing with the devastation and impact of the coronavirus pandemic. She is confronted several times a week with the fear of being exposed to this potentially deadly virus. She has accepted the challenges related to the COVID-19 crisis with resilience and courage.

As is her nature, she has gone above and beyond the call of service and duty, Dr. Whitehurst-Brown collaborated with individuals and organizations in Prince George's County to stress the importance of wearing a mask and to practice social distancing while in public. After several conversations, the concept of a "Food Drive and Mask Distribution Project" evolved with a commitment to distribute food and masks to the citizens of Prince George's County. Dr. Whitehurst-Brown (Anne Arundel Medical Group) is one of several partners providing food and masks to residents in the county through a food and mask pick-up at Reid Temple A.M.E. Church and several other senior centers throughout the county.

The first event took place at Reid Temple A.M.E. Church in Glendale, MD in partnership with World Central Kitchen, Prince George's County Police Department, Anne Arundel Medical Center and Doctor's Community Hospital. Approximately 600 meals, 1,200 masks and literature on coronavirus were distributed to individuals and families in Prince George’s County. This outreach endeavor enabled Dr. Whitehurst-Brown and the other partners to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus within the community by stressing the importance of wearing a mask and to practice social distancing in public.

Dr. Whitehurst-Brown has been consistent with her service in the sisterhood, serving as a member and former Co-Chair of PGCAC’s Physical and Mental Health Committee. She has shared many opportunities for partnerships with her network to assist PGCAC with executing our Physical and Mental Health community service initiatives throughout the county.

Dr. Whitehurst-Brown and PGCAC have continued the “Food Drive and Mask Distribution Project" throughout Prince George’s County. In collaboration with several community partners, they have provided monetary donations for nonperishable food items, bagged lunches and other needed supplies, as well as 647 masks to five designated facilities that provide services to the less fortunate individuals within Prince George's County: Arbor Terrace Senior Living Facility, Community Crisis Services, Inc., Fish of Laurel, Inc. / Elizabeth House, Heart Fields Assisted Living at Bowie and Reid Temple A.M.E. Church - Senior Services, Inc. Her motto "Service with a Purpose" ..... has always been her mission in life and she prays that God will continue to protect our nation and the world during this crisis.
Being on the frontline is nothing new for Soror Floria Colbert-Rodgers, a 2018 initiate of the Quaker City Alumnae Chapter. She has served in the Philadelphia Police Department for 21 years and as a sergeant in the traffic division for the past seven. Soror Colbert-Rodgers consistently leads her officers with integrity and grace.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, her unit was one of the first and the hardest hit in the city, losing one of her lieutenants from the virus. Soror Colbert-Rodgers immediately purchased products to sanitize her district and protect her officers, giving them tips and trainings on how to maintain safe but effective work procedures. In the midst of the pandemic, the city of Philadelphia experienced peaceful protest and unruly looting in the wake of the death of George Floyd. When looters began attacking many city businesses, Soror Colbert-Rodgers first thoughts were how to keep her officers safe, while maintaining order with the civil unrest that plagued the city.

Despite concern from her family and friends, Soror Colbert-Rodgers knew the importance of her job and her oath to protect the citizens of Philadelphia. Knowing the risk, she selfishly continued to work tirelessly to serve the community. Public service is truly in Soror Colbert-Rodgers‘ heart as the safety of others is always on the forefront of her mind.
During the COVID-19 pandemic, Soror Marsala Lee has exhibited exemplary service as she has worked tirelessly and selflessly to educate, empower, and advocate for vulnerable communities in Delaware. She currently serves as the Co-Chair of Wilmington-DE Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc’s Physical and Mental Health Committee. In her role, Soror Lee assisted in leading the development and implementation of a Statewide Coronavirus Virtual Town Hall Series. The town halls provided the community with public health updates and discussed COVID-19 implications and resources in the following areas: Health & Safety, Unemployment, Economics and Small Businesses, Education, and Vulnerable Populations. Soror Lee also advocated for vulnerable communities by assisting with drafting letters to local politicians and governmental leaders demanding more COVID-19 data transparency, equitable access to testing, and COVID-19 mitigation resources. The town halls and letters successfully achieved the following statewide improvements: collection of COVID data by race, ethnicity and age, focus on the lack of testing and treatment in the Delaware prisons, focus on the disparities in virtual education resulting from inequities in access to equipment and internet, increase in the number of free testing sites in underserved communities. She also coordinated the delivery of 180 meals to local healthcare providers at four local hospitals. These meals were catered and delivered by a minority owned franchise.

Soror Lee is a family medicine physician and the Director of the Harrington Value Institute Community Partnership Fund at ChristianaCare in Delaware. In this role, she serves as the lead physician at a school-based health center, coordinates an internship program for premedical students from underrepresented backgrounds, and conducts community-based research. During COVID-19, Soror Lee conducts virtual telemedicine visits to screen, triage, and test patients with symptoms concerning for COVID-19. She is always cheerful and willing to assist Sorors and their families with guidance on how to navigate the healthcare system.

In efforts to combat COVID-19 health disparities, Soror Lee partnered to develop an effective community engagement plan to reach African American communities. In addition to conducting specialized COVID-19 webinars for the faith leaders, barbers, and stylists, Soror Lee’s team also provided them with educational resources and print materials that were culturally relevant for an array of health literacy levels. The Barbershop and Salon Conversations training webinar series provided all with detailed information regarding COVID-19 symptoms, transmission routes, risk factors, and testing sites. They were eligible to receive masks and face shields, disposable capes, sanitation supplies and educational materials. Soror Lee is devoted to continuing to work to decrease COVID-19 disparities and to improve the wellbeing of her community.
Through the unprecedented pandemic of COVID-19 Soror Selvena Brooks-Powers has risen to the occasion to ensure the safety of her Queens Alumnae Chapter, her Queens community, and all New York residents. As a community leader and activist with a long-standing history in civic engagement and philanthropy, she saw the devastating impact of COVID-19 on New York City (NYC), the epicenter of the pandemic, and quickly acted by way of education, collaboration, prevention, and advocacy.

Leveraging virtual platforms and partnerships with numerous experts to educate the community, she developed a COVID-19 series to promote wellness & prevention and held webinars highlighting the effect of COVID-19 and its impact on: Home Schooling, Domestic Violence, Disparities in Communities of Color and the 2020 Census. Moderating multiple webinars surrounding COVID-19 she undoubtedly has reached hundreds across NY state.

To strengthen the impact of education and resources in the Queens community Soror Brooks-Powers enlisted the support of medical providers, clergy, elected officials, educators, and clinicians. She obtained PPE equipment for funeral homes, hospitals and community health clinics; and was a major advocate to bring testing centers to the underserved area of Southeast Queens. Through these collaborations and relentless demand for resources, she was instrumental in bringing testing centers to the Southeast Queens community, including Far Rockaway.

Driving prevention to help flatten the curve, she partnered with a major manufacturer and obtained ~50,000 masks (surgical, KN-95, N-95) for members of the community, medical staff, hospitals, and nursing facilities. Acknowledging the dire need to protect those over 65 years of age, she ensured the most vulnerable residents were provided with masks and worked with the Queens Alumnae Emergency Response Team to provide masks to every Delta DEAR within the chapter. She ensured medical personnel such as doctors, nurses, EMT/EMS workers were provided with N-95 masks benefiting St. John’s, Queens, Jamaica, and Elmhurst Hospitals, all which cater to underserved communities in Queens.

In the area of advocacy, Soror Brooks-Powers fought for hospitals and health care facilities to receive PPE equipment and relief. She worked with community leaders to launch a Senior Testing Day at the Joseph P. Addabbo Family Health Center and drove partnership with the Queens Alumnae Chapter and Nourish Spot restaurant to provide healthy meals to first responders. She is working with NYC elected officials to create a bill and pass legislation to increase testing and detection in under-served communities (i.e. Southeast Queens and Far Rockaway). Through multiple petitions, she is pushing to increase the volume and reach of testing sites in addition to co-authoring a bill to assist minority owned businesses and help provide economic relief to unemployed homeowners.
Soror Nikoa Evans-Hendricks currently serves as a founding board member and Executive Director of Harlem Park to Park (HP2P), a social enterprise of 250+ entrepreneurs committed to cultural preservation and small business development in Central Harlem. As a restaurant owner in the community, as well as Co-Founder and Executive Director of HP2P, she felt the impact of the COVID19 citywide shutdown immediately. Her restaurant Ruby's Vintage, housed in the building were our very own Soror Ruby Dee lived in her early years, had the difficult task of telling their employees that they would close on March 16, 2020. Soror Evans-Hendricks stated that many of the staff in our restaurant have families they support with their wages and had anxiety and fears about how they would feed them, especially with their children home all day due to school closures and no school breakfast, snacks and lunches to supplement their meals during the day. Hospitality workers go above and beyond to take care of our Harlem customers every day by providing great service, friendly atmospheres, great food and drinks and inviting venues. Soror Evans-Hendricks realized there was a need to take care of the Harlem hospitality workers who take such good care of the community we serve, every day in the local restaurants. Instead of focusing on how her restaurant would prevail through this crisis, she turned her attention to the workers she had to let go and her community. It takes a selfless person to realize that their efforts should be outwardly focused.

After a discussion with Brown-Forman/Jack Daniel's, HP2P was able to launch the Harlem Food Pantry with funding provided by Jack Daniel's to provide groceries for hospitality workers on a weekly basis. As executive director of HP2P, the decision was made to provide a bag of groceries to the furloughed and laid off restaurant workers, so that they could help feed their family for a week. There are families that have been coming to the pantry every week to pick up a bag and have shared with us that the food they receive through the program has been the only food they had to eat for the week. Knowing that the food pantry has helped mothers and fathers during this quarantine, by providing nutritious food that they may not have otherwise had to feed their children, is immensely gratifying. On June 23, 2020, after 10 weeks of providing food for the community, the Harlem Food Pantry assembled and handed out its 440th and final grocery bag this week at Ruby's Vintage Harlem.

Soror Evans-Hendricks has exemplified compassion to those less fortunate, purity in her generosity and dedication to helping others. She has provided fellowship to her New York Alumnae Chapter sorors, showed temperance in her daily lifestyle. In conclusion, she has shown faithfulness to a cause, or belief and demonstrated continuing loyalty and support to the 250+ entrepreneurs that are part of HP2P.
Nassau Alumnae Chapter Soror Angela R. Jourdain epitomizes the phrase “Not all superheroes wear capes.” Soror Jourdain, who obtained her Doctorate in Public Health in 2019, is a Registered Professional Nurse, working on the front lines as a Nurse Leader in not only one, but two tertiary care healthcare organizations to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Soror Jourdain has served as a volunteer with the Nassau County Medical Reserve Corps since 2009 and served during other crises such as Hurricane Irene and Superstorm Sandy. She willingly contributed to helping her community once again for the 2020 pandemic. Soror Jourdain volunteered close to 100 hours at the Department of Health COVID-19 Information Center, helping to answer over 21,000 phone calls. Her volunteerism provided knowledge, hope, and resources to those in need of assistance.

In April 2020, she tested positive for COVID-19 and remained in quarantine with her family for 15 days. Soror Jourdain displayed resiliency after her recovery from COVID-19 and returned to the front line. She enthusiastically donated her plasma on June 13, 2020, at the New York Blood Center, to help others recover.

Soror Jourdain worked with Fidelis Managed Care to address a severe shortage of personal protective equipment for frontline workers. She secured a donation of 500 surgical masks to St. Barnabas Hospital in the Bronx, an under-served community that had the third-highest number of COVID-19 infections in New York State. Additionally, Soror Jourdain secured a food donation from Caribbean Food Delights to help supply fresh, hot pizza, which fed over 100 frontline healthcare workers.

As the Co-Chair of the Health and Wellness Committee, she assisted in bringing an innovative initiative to Nassau Alumnae Chapter titled “Sorors, Y’all Alright?”, a weekly support group for chapter sorors during the pandemic. Additionally, she served as a panelist for the P.A.M. Project, which aims to protect the mental health of mothers, and the Digital Health Forum for the Jamaican Diaspora Northeast, which targets Caribbean communities in the U.S. and Jamaica, W.I. Both events reached over 8,000 viewers.

Soror Angela Jourdain continues to demonstrate courage and nobility during this pandemic by serving patients and communities. Her service has impacted individuals locally and across the globe. Being fearless of the unknown, her efforts to answer the call to help others during a time of uncertainty was done without hesitation and desire for recognition.
Soror Cindy Flowers has approached each day during the pandemic with a warm and loving heart, focused on helping the community the Morristown Alumnae Chapter (MAC) serves, all while coping with the anxiety of unemployment and showing courage as one of her parents battled the possible fatal effects of COVID-19.

As co-chair of MAC’s Program Planning and Development Committee, Soror Flowers has shown great resolve and no dereliction in her responsibilities. Everything MAC had been doing prior to the pandemic, Soror Flowers found a way for MAC to continue to do despite stay-home orders and social distancing guidelines.

Prior to the pandemic, under the coordination of Soror Flowers, MAC served meals regularly at the Table of Hope soup kitchen in Morristown. With the soup kitchen temporarily closed due to the pandemic, Table of Hope resorted to mobile delivery of meals to families in need. Without missing a beat, Soror Flowers also shifted gears to ensure MAC continued to address food insecurity by supporting Table of Hope and other organizations with food donations. Soror Flowers also solicited chapter members for donations of toiletries and money.

MAC typically walks in the annual New Jersey AIDS Walk in May. This year MAC had to participate virtually, and Soror Flowers made sure MAC did not disappoint. As a result of her organizing skills, MAC raised $850, the second highest-performing team in Morris County, exceeding its goal by $350.

Concerned for the elderly population and their susceptibility to COVID-19, Soror Flowers quickly went into action and mobilized MAC members to donate toiletries and snacks sufficient to fill 100 care packages. This alleviated the need for the residents to leave the facility to purchase such items.

Soror Flowers represents MAC as a member of the Diversity Coalition of Morris County. When the coalition had to abandon its plans for an outdoor fair in July due to the pandemic, Soror Flowers convinced coalition members that a virtual event would be just as successful. As part of her contribution to the coalition thus far, Soror Flowers has produced a video that shares information about MAC and its accomplishments.


Soror Flowers kept service to community a priority even while experiencing a potentially dark season in her personal life. Not only did she persevere, she did so while selflessly caring for others and ensuring MAC played an essential role in serving its community during the pandemic.
FRONTLINE SHERO: TERESA SAMUELS

When asked what motivates Soror Teresa Samuels at this difficult time for those working in the healthcare field, she simply stated, “Being a nurse is not just a profession, it is a passion.” A native of Norristown, Pennsylvania, she drives to Allentown, Pennsylvania, appropriately 96 miles each day for work, and spends over $300 a month in fuel/tolls to serve the very vulnerable population of our community. With the outbreak of the covid-19, Soror Samuels’ duties have been modified to address the public health concerns of the residents and the nursing home personnel. This shero has been assisting with the daily COVID-19 screening of employees, care of covid-19 residents, and infection control education related to COVID-19 and other infectious disease processes.

The passion that Soror Samuels shows in her professional life, is prevalent too, in her work with the Sorority. Teresa’s nurturing, even-tempered nature, patience, and kind heartedness is a marvelous gift that she shares with the chapter. Her desire to become a member of our glorious sorority, aligns with her passion for community service. Soror Samuels serves as the 2nd Vice President for VFAC. She is a meaningful contributor to chapter committees: Fundraising, Membership, Delta Academy and Delta GEMS. She previously was the chair of our youth programs and previously co-chaired Social Action.

For 15 years Soror Samuels enjoyed working in respite services where she gave other foster parents time to go away for the weekend or overnight. She was a foster parent for ten years, mothering to the most challenged/troubled teens.

Teresa Samuels has always been a “giving soror” of her time, talent, and energy. This shero should be saluted for her commitment to help individuals in special care, especially at this critical period of our history and for her continual service in the sorority.