



Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

International Fatherhood and Mentoring (IFM) Newsletter



"A Mandated Program"

Fatherhood Initiative

Youth Leadership Conferences

Mentoring

Vol 12

Brother, You're On My Mind

July, August, September, 2025

No. 3

"Quarterly Publication of the International Committee on Fatherhood and Mentoring" ©
(Circulation 36,000 est.)

A Message from the Grand Basileus – Living Our Creed: Brother Ricky L. Lewis

Greetings Brothers, this is the day the Lord has made; let us Rejoice and be glad in it. I have just returned from Washington, D.C. having attended meetings with other members of the Divine – 9, our Congressional leadership, and East Coast Chapters.

Brothers, I need your help; our big challenge today is to embrace the values of what motivated our brothers 100 years ago. They saw obstacles placed in front of them; they saw injustice; they saw danger in the form of lynchings, racial bias, invalidation as citizens with rights guaranteed under the Constitution of the United States. Yet, they persevered.

I have concerns about how we are honoring those who fought to birth the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity – and believe me, they had to fight all the way.

First, the use of *social media* in today's world, is inevitable and encouraged. We must be conscientious and intentional about how we use it. How, when, where, and under what circumstances we choose

to use social media, can be a blessing or a curse! Please take care in the use of social media. Know that the choice you make in its use shall not be a curse upon you, your family, your future, or our beloved fraternity!

Second, as we seek to live our creed, *Friendship Is Essential to the Soul*, what does that mean to us? To what end – in the second 100 years of our fraternity – can we move together so that our progeny, 100 years from now, may say about us; *"those brothers in the 2020s, really saw into the future. They put in place an infrastructure that enabled us to continue to do great things such as: develop an economic system that was solid and sustained our institutions, history, culture, and literature."*

Omega today, is matching the enthusiasm, energy, strength, and vision of those brothers who gave our fraternity the boost it needed 100 years ago. Back then, it coped with rapid expansion, social and civil challenges, and most



importantly, engaged in bringing educational uplift to our people. **Let us begin now, to build an economy that accrues to the benefit of generations that will come after us.**

Our great and purposeful work for our communities and the nation continues. May our progeny be able to say: *"Through toil and turbulence, their faith in God and our precepts have made us revered world-wide!"*

Faternally,

Ricky L. Lewis
42nd Grand Basileus

WHAT'S INSIDE – FEATURES

What Living Our Creed Means: Bro Ricky L. Lewis...	p 1
Int'l Fatherhood and Mentoring Cmte.....	p 2
School-to-Prison Pipeline: Bro Raymond J. Bell.....	p 3
EDITOR'S Choice: Homage to Omega Mentors.....	p 4
Recommit, HBCUs Need Us: Bro Zebby Miles.....	p 5
Fatherhood: Bro Robert W. Fairchild.....	p 6
Brotherhood & Belonging: Bro Eric Johnson	p 7
Point of View: Clear/Present Danger: Bro C.A. Blunt...	p 8
When Eagles Fledge: Bro Larry Hammond.....	p 9
History Bears Witness: Chaplain Charles Clemons....	P10

DISTRICT STORIES

Dad and Me	p 12
Dinner Table	p 17
Fatherhood Greenhouse	p 20
Chess 4 Success	p 25
Youth Mentorship at NFL	p 29
Rise of a Champion	p 33
Houston Omegas	p 38
Dressing for Success	p 40
Passport to Manhood	p 44
PGG Back-to-School	p 48

District 1	p 11
District 2	p 14
District 3	p 17
District 4	p 20
District 5	p 26
District 6	p 29
District 7	p 33
District 8	p 36
District 9	p 36
District 10	p 39
District 12	p 41
District 13	p 46

International Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee

See the Website: <http://www.i-ylc.org>



Raymond J. Bell, Chairman
Fatherhood and Mentoring
raybell6h89@msn.com



Keith G. Pemberton
Vice - Chairman
k.g.pemberton@poyfs.org



Cyrill Weems
Vice - Chairman
weemscl@yahoo.com



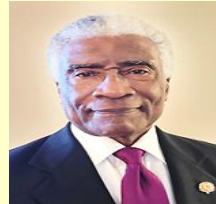
Robert W. Fairchild
Fatherhood Advisor
rfairchi@msn.com



Sedric Myers
Special Projects
sedricmyers@msn.com



Ahmad Qawi
Big Brothers/Big Sisters Liaison
morpheus8dawg@gmail.com



George D. Taylor, EdD
Newsletter Editor/Publisher
geodtaylor@sbcglobal.net



Jerry Leftwich
Special Projects/IYLC
JerryLeftwich@yahoo.com



Eric E. Lindsey
1st District
ericelindsev@gmail.com



Matthew Stevens
2nd District
matt.stevens1@me.com



Michael Frazier
3rd District
frazier_mw@hotmail.com



Jehoshaphat K. Jones, PhD
4th District
jehoshaphatkjones@outlook.com



Julius Hill
5th District
juliushill89@yahoo.com



Warren T. Davis
6th District
wtdavis63@hotmail.com



Jonathan Gaines
7th District
7dfatherhood@gmail.com



Michael Graham
8th District
mike.graham1911@gmail.com



Sedric Myers
9th District
sedricmyers@msn.com



Cyrill Weems
10th District
weemscl@yahoo.com



George D. Taylor, EdD
12th District
geodtaylor@sbcglobal.net



Michael Robinson
13th District
mrobin12004@vahoo.com

~~~~~ NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE ~~~~~

December 15, 2025

4th Quarter 2025, Submit information for October, November, and December, 2025

Our Goal: Publish Information from Each District, Each Quarter

About:

Fatherhood, Youth Leadership Conferences, Mentoring, Brother You're On My Mind

geodtaylor@sbcglobal.net

All Through the Year, 2025; Let's Serve for Family, Faith, Friends, Community!

Circulation 35,000 est. Vol. 12

Fatherhood and Mentoring Newsletter

No. 3

Page 2

A Message from the Chairman, International Fatherhood and Mentoring

What Will I Do to Destroy the School-to-Prison Pipeline for Young Black and Brown Boys

By Bro. Raymond Bell,
International Fatherhood & Mentoring Chairman, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

AS FATHERHOOD AND MENTORING CHAIRMAN for Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., I see it as both a responsibility and a calling to dismantle the *school-to-prison* pipeline that continues to rob young Black and Brown boys of their futures.

This is not just policy work—it is personal. These young men are our sons, our nephews, our neighbors, and our future leaders. When systems fail them, we cannot simply stand by—we must stand up.

Through our mentoring programs, I lead initiatives that provide young men with something too many of them are denied: consistent support, affirming guidance, and someone who truly believes in their potential.

We teach discipline, but also dignity. Accountability, but also healing. These young men do not need to be policed—they need to be poured into.

In partnership with schools and community organizations, I advocate for alternatives to punitive discipline—like restorative justice circles, trauma-informed care, and culturally responsive education.

We work to train mentors and educators to recognize the impact of implicit bias and challenge the assumption that Black and Brown boys are threats instead of scholars, artists, engineers, or change-makers.

Our programs also connect fathers and male role models back into the lives of these young men—because presence matters. I'll push to restore the village it takes to raise a child, creating safe spaces where young men can speak freely, make mistakes, and grow without being criminalized.



**Brother Raymond Bell, Chairman
International Committee on Fatherhood and
Mentoring**

**“... if it was built by design,
absolutely it can be
dismantled by determination.”**

But the work of Fatherhood and Mentoring does not stop with mentorship. The District Chairmen and I use our platforms to

speak truth to power—at school board meetings, community forums, and national conferences—reminding people that **this pipeline is not natural**, it is intentional. And, if it was built by design, absolutely it can be dismantled by determination.

Omega Psi Phi was founded on the principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift. As a leader within this organization, I embody those principles by walking alongside our youth and fighting for a system that does not just prepare them for survival—but positions them for greatness. ///

Brother Raymond J. Bell, Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter, 6-89-H, LM #4473. Brother Bell, father of 3 children (2 sons and a daughter), was named Chairman of International Fatherhood and Mentoring by Brother Ricky L. Lewis, 42nd Grand Basileus. Indeed, Omega men build legacies!

My Homage to Omega Mentors

By Maverick Jeremiah Crane

Nashville School of the Arts, Class of 2028

ON A CRISP OCTOBER NIGHT in 2015, my six-year-old self waited in the tunnel of the West Virginia State University gym in a line of Omega Men. The famed “Omega Machine” parade was getting ready to enter, the crowd was loud, and I was seated on the shoulders of the “tail dog” (Thomas Hill, Theta Psi ‘93), the first step show I have ever participated in.

From a young age I always knew I wanted to be a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc; the colors, the boots and throwing up the hooks was something I have always wanted to be a part of. With a long line of Omega men in my family, the example was set a long time ago leaving little room for negotiation.

Attending the Omega Psi Phi International Youth Leadership Conference in 2024 and 2025 gave me the opportunity to interact with Mr. Ricky Lewis, Grand Basileus (Nu Mu ‘81), and the wisdom I gained from him was invaluable. Mr. Lewis told me to “invest 50% of all of my money in the stock market” and to “help the least of thee” in my community and always give back.

From Mr. Anthony “Eboney” Davis (Beta Gamma ‘87) I learned to keep God centered in my life, honor and listen to my parents/grandparents, focus on my education and goals, and choose my friends wisely. Last, he said to follow my aspirations and dreams and pray every day. Mr. Amir Shareef (Mu Rho ‘04), DR of 2nd District shared with me to “take pride in being the unicorn.” Likewise, Dr. Clarke McGriff (Mu Psi ‘74) taught me to remain optimistic and faithful in life.

The older I get, the more I am beginning to realize that *being an Omega man is so much more than boots and colors*. Omega is built on Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift.



As I am beginning to mature, life is showing me why these values are important.

Manhood: Growing up being a young Black man in America is not easy. From racism, mental health struggles and socioeconomic disparities, the fraternity has shown me to forget about what image America tries to paint on Black men. Advice from my mentor Mr. J. Ofori Agboka (Omicron Alpha Alpha ‘03), has taught me to always be comfortable with who I am, take care of my family and responsibilities, express my feelings, and see things through. That I am more than what people may think of me and that is what manhood means to me.

Scholarship: In today’s society and school environment, academics are not being prioritized as much as they once were. Almost every single Omega man that I have encountered has pointed out to me the importance of my education and how impactful being a scholar truly is. When I mention I play sports, they will point out how important being a student athlete is with student being first. During my weekly check-ins with Mr. Al Ringer (Eta Beta ‘82) throughout the school year, I provide an update on my grades, how my grades impact my choices in life and ensuring that I am prioritizing my education.

Perseverance: At my young age, I feel I have been through a few challenging

circumstances. The men around me push me to my full potential in the classroom, on the football field, or on the school and life stage. I am always pushed to keep going and be the best at whatever I do. **Dr. Theodore Robinson (Zeta Omega ‘00)** has supported me regardless of what I do or any mistakes I have made. School plays, football games, and any extracurricular activities; he has challenged me to use my full potential and continued to make sure I am putting one thousand percent into everything I do.

Uplift: When we uplift others through encouragement, support, or simply believing in their potential, we help them overcome challenges, build confidence, and strive toward their goals. I have learned that Omega is not only about self. Over the past year, the more I have connected to the men of Omega, my confidence has grown, I have accomplished a plethora of my goals, and I have become more conscious of my own personal growth. **Mr. Kevin Harris (Delta Mu Mu ‘10)** has emphasized me pouring into others in addition to me pouring into myself. Mr. Harris reminds me to make sure I always remain who God has called me to be.

WHILE THE OMEGA MEN IN MY LIFE (and so many more) have taught me the importance of each value above, my grandfather, **Rev. Roi Johnson (Nu Beta, ‘71)** has been the man who has both taught and embodied all these characteristics in one for me daily. I did not always understand what it meant when he came home in his suit, tie and Omega pin on his lapel, or the purple T-shirts he would wear around the house on weekends. I just knew he stood for something, and I wanted to be a part of whatever that something was. My grandfather never told me to be an Omega man; he became one and showed me what it meant to be. ///

Shout Out to HBCUs & Black Greek Letter Organizations (BGLO) Bringing Uplift

Recommit to Our Community: HBCU Support—There's Still a Need!

By Zebby Miles, President, Alumni of Lambda Epsilon Foundation, Inc.

My Brothers and Friends, welcome to the fall season of 2025! As we gather in fellowship, I hope you, your families, and all those in your circle are thriving in health and spirit.

The time for waiting is over. We can no longer sit on the sidelines while our communities, our HBCUs, and our young people need us most. Today's economy demands that we step up, pool our resources, and actively shape the future we want to seek.

OUR REALITY CHECK: Picture this: you're back on campus for homecoming, soaking in the nostalgia, the band, the energy. But look beyond the festivities – conduct your own "scouting report." Is your alma mater thriving, or struggling? Walk through the surrounding community. Are local businesses flourishing? Are the neighborhoods attracting prospective students, or sending them elsewhere? Be honest about what you see. Then decide to be part of the solution.

Our Forgotten Charge: Here's what we signed up for as alumni—maybe we need reminding:

- Represent our families, our alma mater, and ourselves with distinction,
- Become productive citizens who lift as we climb,
- Give back to the institutions and communities that raised our standards.

YET, THE NUMBERS TELL A SOBERING STORY: fewer than 20% of HBCU alumni provide financial support to their institutions, twenty percent – while our universities fight for resources, relevance, and the next generation.

That stops now!

Beyond Individual Success: Building Legacy – Education remains our pathway to generational wealth and community transformation. Whether it's trade schools, certifications, community colleges, or advanced degrees—we must champion learning at every level. Multiple income streams aren't just personal financial strategy; they're community development. But education means nothing without application.

We must engage with local boards, commissions, and civic organizations. If we're not at the table making decisions, we're on the menu being devoured.

ALEF: Putting Our Money Where Our Mission Is

Our foundation isn't just talking—we're walking. We've committed to:

- Growing our endowment from \$200K to \$1M to support Tuskegee University's \$300M capital campaign
- Contributing \$10K annually to campus infrastructure projects
- Investing \$10K yearly in local community initiatives



Last year, we funded repairs to the Baldwin Monument (*our space on campus*) and provided Booker T. Washington High School with a track timing system—enabling them to host events and generate revenue for the entire community.

This year, we are supporting dual-enrollment students with textbooks and potentially refurbishing basketball courts near the residence halls.



Brother Zebby Miles and Alumni of Lambda Epsilon Foundation, (ALEF) "Raising the Bar"

These are not massive donations that require deep pockets. They are strategic investments that show what's possible when we coordinate our efforts.

The Call That Can't Wait:

Government assistance is limited. High-dollar donors are few. But grassroots commitment? That's where transformation begins. That's how we prove to major donors that serious work is happening. Here's your assignment:

- Assess your alma mater and surrounding community honestly
- Connect with like-minded alumni and community members
- Contribute financially, no matter the amount—consistency matters more than size
- Engage actively in your institution's growth strategy
- Hold each other accountable for the commitments we make

THE BOTTOM LINE: We're not asking you to save the world overnight. We're asking you to remember that institutions and communities that invested in us deserve our investment in return. Your family needs this commitment. Your community needs this engagement. Your HBCU needs this support.

We're making progress. We're making a difference. But there's more work to be done. The question isn't whether we can reach the finish line—it's whether we're willing to run the race. ///

Brother Robert W. Fairchild, Fatherhood and Mentoring Advisor
Awareness, Advocacy, Partnerships, Celebration

BROTHERS IN TALKING WITH MANY OF YOU and reviewing the Newsletter, I've noticed an uptick in chapter participation in fatherhood and mentoring activities. I applaud and thank you for your engagement. We are having an impact in many areas and it has been received with many notes of thanks.

I would like to call your attention to one of the original tenets of Fatherhood and Mentoring which was **Advocacy**. This alludes to working to address and make policy changes to various laws. Our area of concerns are decisions that are made at the local, state, and federal government levels that negatively affect fathers and children.

Many policies have been made with the intent of solving various problems, however in many cases these decisions have had the opposite effect. Issues that arise in areas like child support, single parenting, bullying, courts that routinely favor mothers in custody cases, financial support for mothers which requires the father to be out of the house, lack of support for fathers who have custody, job training and lack of employment opportunities, and many other issues that yield negative results and require attention.

Many of the fathers and children that we work with have been negatively affected by these issues. Mental stress

and depression have been on the raise for both fathers and children in some instances leading to fatal results.

Your work with fathers and children gives you a good amount of insight into the negative impact these decisions have made on the wellbeing of the affected individuals. Your expertise and experience in the situations are valuable. In various locations around the country through advocacy brothers have worked with lawmakers to change some of these policies through the legislative process.

In our current political climate, it is important that we be alert and reach out to assist as we work with everyone. We find ourselves experiencing issues that will challenge the most stable mind and situation. Brothers you can have a significant stabilizing impact as we proceed through these challenging times. This brings me to the importance of voting. Again, considering the current political climate, voting, and electing the right people and advocating for change can make life better. You have the power, use it. ///



Brother Robert W. Fairchild
Fatherhood and Mentoring
Chief Advisor

Brother Fairchild

“It seems only a reasonable proposition...that, under the present system which produced our leadership in religion, politics, and business we have gone backwards toward serfdom or have at least been kept from advancing to real freedom, it is high time to develop another sort of leadership with a different educational system.”

“The program for the uplift of the Negro in this country must be based upon a scientific study of the Negro from within to develop in him the power to do for himself what his oppressors will never do to elevate him to the level of others.”

From the Book, *The Mis-Education of the Negro*, by Carter G. Woodson, 1933.

Fatherhood and Mentoring: Fatherhood is Belonging

Brother Eric O. Johnson, 1-11-LBB, LM #7792 * International Father's Day Committee

Brotherhood & Belonging - We Move Together



L-R: Brothers Dr. Christopher Ashford, Jason Holmes, Eric Johnson, Donnell Jacson, Judge John "JP" Howard, and Craig Reed

Brothers, I pray all is well with you and your families. In today's complex world, the concept of brotherhood transcends mere friendship; it embodies a profound commitment to supporting one another as we navigate life's challenges.

On August 30th, we convened an impactful afternoon filled with activities designed to foster connection and support among participating youth at the DC Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services. Under the guiding theme, "We Move Together," we opened the session with a heartwarming prayer, welcoming participants into a safe space where their voices could be heard and respected. Each youth shared their story and unique interests, breaking down barriers and building trust, a critical step in any mentoring relationship.

The **Kings Rising Mentoring Initiative** of Alpha Omega chapter, has exemplified this spirit of brotherhood and belonging, and our recent Module 3 program highlighted just how essential these themes are in crafting brighter futures for our youth. A significant highlight of our event was the powerful contribution of our guest speaker, Judge John "JP" Howard. With firsthand experience in the justice system, Judge Howard spoke passionately about the importance of having a support network, reinforcing how brotherhood

can guide individuals towards making positive choices. He reminded the youth that "no one makes it through this life alone," and that peers who lift one another help broaden horizons and create opportunities for success.

Moreover, our session was tailored to empower youth with resources and tools that emphasize not just survival but thriving. From mentorship pipelines to structured programs like the DC National Guard and Capital Guardian Youth Challenge Academy, we outlined numerous pathways for personal development. As Judge Howard aptly noted, belonging to a positive circle is instrumental in shaping one's identity and future.

The day concluded with an engaging trivia challenge celebrating local culture and history, reinforcing pride in our shared identity. This component also served to deepen relationships among the youths as they collaborated and cheered each other on.

As members of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, it is our duty and honor to continue to uplift and inspire the younger generation through initiatives like these. By reinforcing the values of brotherhood and engagement, we pave the way for a future filled with hope and success. Together, we are not just mentors; we are family, moving together toward greatness. ///



Brother Eric O. Johnson
International Father's Day
Committee

In Friendship,
Brother Eric "EJ" Johnson
International Father's Day, Chairman
Third District, Alpha Omega Chapter
Keeper of Records and Seal

**Just A Thought: The Evolution of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's
Achievement Week Program**

IN CHRONICLING THE EVOLUTION OF **Achievement Week**, we must begin by recognizing that our National Programs are extensions of the Cardinal Principles of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Page 65 of our Gill history book states that Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift are expressed and delivered through our annual celebrations of Achievement Week, Talent Hunt, Scholarship and Social Action.

On page 153 of the Dreer history book, it is revealed that in the early formative years of the fraternity, the brothers pondered what program they could pursue which would be national in scope. It is quoted that *"The brothers thought not just of themselves but of progress for the entire race."* The Cardinal Principle of **Uplift** strongly appealed to them as a premise going forward.

ENTER BRO CARTER G. WOODSON

As discussions continued about a satisfactory program or field of emphasis for the fraternity, the brotherhood admired the work their brother Dr. Carter G. Woodson was doing; *out of respect for his pioneering efforts, stressing Negro history was proposed as a national program.* The suggestion was met with almost instant approval.

Bro. Dr. Woodson, as the founder and director of the Association of the Study of Negro Life and History addressed the brotherhood at the 9th Annual Conclave in Nashville in 1920 and lamented in the neglect Negro's display regarding their own history, and implored the Fraternity

and college men to spend more time and attention to the study and dissemination of facts about Negro life and history.

OMEGA RESPONDED IMMEDIATELY by throwing the strength of the entire fraternity behind an effort to inform the Negro of his past, to inspire race pride and stimulate noble racial achievement. All chapters were directed by the Grand Conclave to institute an annual observance of Negro History and Literature Week in churches, schools, and public halls throughout their respective communities.

As a result, 1921 marked the 1st year of the fraternity's celebration of the campaign for the Study of Negro Literature and History and the success of that program was recorded by Bro. **Dr. William S. Nelson** in a detailed report of chapter observances.

ACCORDING TO DREER, on page 158, the fraternity directed the celebrations in 1921, 1922, 1923, and 1924. However, in 1922 Bro. Dr. Woodson had completed his work as Dean of West Virginia Collegiate Institute and began to devote his entire time to developing the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History and he expressed his desire to personally direct the Study of Negro Literature and History celebration.

**PART 1 of a 2
PART
CHRONICLE**



Brother Dr. Carl A. Blunt
32nd 1st Vice Grand Basileus, 2006-2010
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

THE 13TH GRAND CONCLAVE

At the 13th Annual Conclave in Washington D.C. in 1924, the fraternity, in deference to their elder brother Dr. Woodson, decided to no longer celebrate Negro History and Literature Week and in 1925 Bro. Dr. Woodson changed the name from Negro History and Literature Week to Negro History Week.

He changed the time of the celebration from April to February in honor of **Abraham Lincoln** and **Frederick Douglas**' birthday month. This was the beginning of Negro History Week as it was known until it was extended to Black History Month as we know it today.

The same year that Bro. Dr. Woodson made the name and date changes, the fraternity decided to expand the scope of its national program and celebrate Negro History Week annually during the first or second week in November.

At the 14th Annual Conclave held at Tuskegee, AL in December of 1925, it was revealed ...

**TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT
EDITION, JANUARY 1, 2026**

Brother Dr. Carl A. Blunt is an author, lecturer, and immediate past Board Chairman of the Omega Youth Leadership Academy.

The Fatherhood Journey – Through the Eyes of Age!

When Eagles Fledge: A Father's Flight

By Larry Hammond, Sr

In January of this year, Los Angeles was scarred by one of the most devastating disasters in recent memory. The Eaton and Palisades wildfires tore through Pacific Palisades, Altadena, and Pasadena, leaving hundreds of families displaced and homes reduced to ash.

My own family was evacuated for nearly two weeks. By grace, we returned home relatively unscathed—but the emotional toll lingered.

Amid chaos, I found unexpected peace in a place I never imagined: a YouTube livestream from the Friends of Big Bear Lake [located within the San Bernardino Mountains of Southern California]. It featured a live eagle cam, focused on a nest high in the trees overlooking Big Bear Lake. There, two eagle parents—Jackie and Shadow—were tending to three fragile eggs. I tuned in daily. So did thousands of others. It became more than a distraction; it became a meditation.

We watched as Jackie and Shadow took turns shielding their eggs from brutal snowstorms, sometimes buried in feet of snow, never wavering. Their devotion was unwavering. And when all three eggs hatched, we cheered. We watched them feed their young, defend the nest, and nurture life with a quiet ferocity.

THEN CAME HEARTBREAK: one of the eaglets did not survive a historic storm. Jackie mourned, visibly and

solemnly, before removing the little one from the nest.

But the story did not end there. The two surviving eaglets—later named Sunny and Gizmo by a local elementary school—grew stronger each day. We watched them stretch their wings, flap with purpose, and prepare for the moment every parent both dreads and dreams of: the day they would fly.

And on June 2, 2025, Sunny took flight. Gizmo followed days later. The nest, once full of life and movement, now sits empty—except for the breathtaking view of Big Bear Lake and the memory of what once was.



A FEW WEEKS AGO, I FOUND MYSELF on a flight from Los Angeles to Chicago, helping my youngest daughter move into her new place. In front of me sat two young girls with their father. They pulled out their iPads and started watching K-Pop Demon Hunters—a film my oldest daughter helped create.

I smiled. I thought of my son and his family, celebrating my granddaughter's birthday on a



Brother Larry Hammond, Sr.

Disney cruise. I thought of my daughter's new chapter in Chicago. And I realized something profound: My children have fledged. And they are soaring.

This is the reward of fatherhood. Not the accolades. Not the perfect moments. But the quiet victories—the ones that come after years of sleepless nights, hard conversations, scraped knees, and broken curfews. The ones that come when you've done the work, stayed the course, and loved them through every storm.

Fathers, hear me: the nest may feel chaotic now. You may be buried in snow, exhausted, unsure if your efforts are making a difference. But they are. Every moment matters. Every sacrifice counts. Because one day, your children will spread their wings. And when they do, they won't just fly—they'll soar.

So, cherish the grind. Embrace the struggle. And never forget: when eagles fledge, they don't just leave the nest—they rise to heights you helped make possible. ///

History Bears Witness to the Truth

Brother Charles “Chuck” Clemons, Jr., 12th District Chaplain

Cain and Abel, Christian Witness, and Today’s Challenge

THE BIBLE GIVES US SOBERING LESSONS about the power of sin and the responsibility of those who claim to follow God. In Genesis 4, Cain’s offering was rejected while Abel’s was accepted, stirring jealousy, resentment, and rage.

God warned Cain that “sin is crouching at the door; its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.” Yet Cain allowed that darkness to rule in his heart and killed his brother in the field. From the first family, Scripture teaches how powerful sin is and how it destroys life when left unrestrained.

Today, the tragic killing of Charlie Kirk bears a chilling resemblance to Cain and Abel. A man rose up against his fellow man, just as Cain did, and took life that only God has the authority to give. This echoes the truth that sin, unchecked by righteousness, inevitably leads to destruction. At the same time, it must also be remembered that Charlie Kirk himself, through his comments, debates, and public conversations, promoted not the pure gospel of Jesus Christ alone, but often the deadly and errant message of Christian nationalism.

This version of faith placed America at the center rather than the cross of Christ and echoed the lessons of Cain, whose heart was consumed by something other than God. Just as Cain’s jealousy corrupted his worship into violence, messages that elevate nation above the love of God inevitably plant seeds of division, resentment, and harm.

Biblical Christianity vs. Christian Nationalism

Here lies a crucial distinction: Biblical Christianity proclaims that

God’s kingdom is not of this world. Jesus did not die for America, Rome, or any nation, but for the world — “every tribe, tongue, and nation.” Christian nationalism, however, tempts believers to elevate one nation above others, blending the cross with a flag until the gospel of grace is twisted into a message of supremacy. This is not the call of Christ.

Christian nationalism has historically fostered idolatry of country and even justified racism, slavery, and segregation by cloaking them in misplaced theology. To believe America is God’s chosen nation above all is not only unscriptural but destructive, creating policies and attitudes that deny dignity to other people made in God’s image.

Free Speech and Responsibility

Our Constitution protects the right to free speech, but Scripture reminds us that words always bear responsibility. James wrote, “The tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness... with it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God” (James 3:6,9). The right to speak does not mean one is free from accountability before God or society for the harm words cause.

Misinformation, incendiary rhetoric, or speech soaked in hate can inspire Cain-like violence. True Christian discipleship demands speech seasoned with grace (Colossians 4:6), not fueled by bitterness.

Loving in Deeds and in Truth

In 1 John 3, the apostle reminds us: “We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers and sisters... let us not love with words or

speech but with actions and in truth.” This cuts to the heart of our witness.

Love is not proven by declarations of piety but by tangible

compassion—feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, defending the oppressed. Policies that deny medical aid to children overseas, that terrorize immigrants fleeing for safety, or that reinforce racial hierarchies stand in opposition to the gospel. Where is the love of God in a nationalism that sacrifices the vulnerable rather than protects them?

A Call to True Christian Witness

The American church has too often tolerated, even baptized, racism and nationalism, forgetting that God’s kingdom transcends borders. The blood of Abel cried from the ground against Cain. Likewise, the cries of those mistreated because of race, nationality, or unjust policies cry to God today. The death of Charlie Kirk reminds us of humanity’s brokenness and of the urgent need to reject hatred and violence at their root.

Now more than ever, those who name Christ must resist the lure of political idolatry, the sin of division, and the temptation to justify harm. Instead, we are called to live righteously and justly, to love in truth, and to bear witness that Jesus Christ is Lord of all—and His kingdom is built not on domination but on sacrificial love. ///

Brother Charles Clemons, Jr., 12th District Chaplain, author of “UNDIVIDED: A Biblical Response to What Divides U.S.,” 1st Edition,



Charles “Chuck” Clemons
12th District Chaplain

International Youth Leadership Conference: Detroit, More Than a Destination ...

Submitted by Brother Eric Lindsey

Detroit, MI – July 23–26, 2025 –

Four High School students from Boston, MA, accompanied by mentors from the Eta Phi Chapter, traveled to the 10th District to attend the International Youth Leadership Conference (IYLC) in Detroit Michigan

The conference began with students receiving words of wisdom and encouragement from Grand Basileus 42 **Ricky L. Lewis** and members of the Supreme Council. Their presence underscored the fraternity's firm commitment to mentoring the next generation of leaders and left the youth with guidance that will resonate long after the conference.

This expedition spanned three days of structured activities. Day 1 centered on the Youth Leadership Conference, where students took part in workshops on self-esteem enhancement, academic success, health & wellness, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and STEAM career pathways. Signature sessions such as Manhood 101 challenged young men to think critically about responsibility, integrity, and service. Day 2 featured the Omega STEM Program, giving participants hands-on exposure to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Students donned medical gowns and gloves to participate in a lamb's brain dissection, sparking curiosity about neuroscience and the human brain. This exercise was followed by a guided discussion on Chronic



Conference Hotel, Beautiful Downtown Detroit

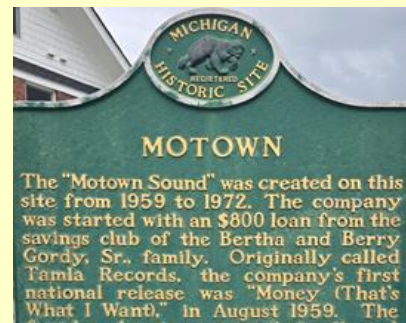
Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE) and athletics, connecting scientific research to real-world concerns about sports, head injuries, and long-term brain health. These sessions not only built technical knowledge but also encouraged youth to think critically about health, wellness, and

DETROIT was ...

"... a catalyst for a lifetime of leadership, confidence, and purpose..."

safety in their own lives and communities.

Day 3 was devoted to exploring the cultural richness of Detroit, with visits to the Motown Museum, the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, and the Detroit Historical Museum. These experiences grounded leadership lessons in the proud legacy of Black excellence and resilience.



Evening discussions fostered brotherhood and networking across districts, with Omega mentors sharing personal journeys, real-world advice, and encouragement. The presence of First District mentors ensured that every young man felt supported, guided, and uplifted. Group photos in front of Detroit landmarks, and alongside our beloved fraternal letters embodied the purpose of this Annual Youth Conference.

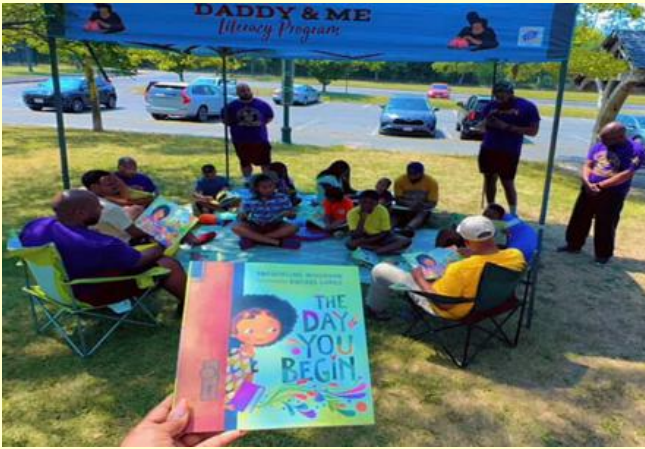
Students left Detroit not only with new skills, but also with a renewed sense of purpose. Several participants reflected that this was their first time traveling outside their home state, making the conference both an educational journey and a cultural awakening.

Mentors emphasized that leadership is not just about achievement, but about service, resilience, and the courage to create change.

The International Youth Leadership Conference remains one of Omega Psi Phi's most impactful initiatives. For the young men of the First District, Detroit was more than a destination—it was a catalyst for a lifetime of leadership, confidence, and purpose. ///

Eta Phi X Daddy & Me Literacy Program – Summer Beach Pop-Up Series

By Eric Lindsey, 2-23 Eta Phi



Photos L-R: Brothers of Eta Phi; Brother Eric Lindsey Eta Phi '23 reading the to his son Daniel; Author Brother Andres Martin, Alpha Upsilon '25

Boston, MA – This summer, the Eta Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., partnered with the **Daddy & Me Literacy Program** to host a joyful series of Beach Pop-Up Storytimes. Fathers, mentors, and children gathered along Boston's beaches to celebrate the power of reading and the role of fathers in building confidence and early literacy skills.

Under the Daddy & Me Literacy Tent, children sat with fathers and fraternity brothers as books like **The Day You Begin** by Jacqueline Woodson came alive. Volunteers—including Fraternity Brother Frantz Paillant, Iota Chi '20, who read from his inspiring book, **I Am Extraordinary**, engaged youth in interactive discussions about bravery, cultural pride, and the importance of being true to oneself. With the city skyline and Boston Harbor as a backdrop, the laughter and curiosity of children made these afternoons unforgettable.

The third Pop-Up session was especially meaningful as it was the highlight of the 2025 Boston Greek Picnic's Kids Zone, bringing together families from across all the Divine Nine organizations. This collaborative event

created a vibrant atmosphere where children, parents, and community leaders connected through storytelling, games, food, and fellowship.

A highlight of the day was the presence of Brother Andres Martin, Alpha Upsilon '25, visiting from the Second District, who led an interactive reading of his

book **HBCU Night**. His engaging style sparked conversations about history, tradition, and the importance of higher education, leaving a lasting impression on

both youth and parents alike.

Reading aloud to children is one of the most effective ways to support academic achievement. Research shows that children who are read to regularly develop stronger vocabularies, critical thinking skills, and self-confidence. Fathers modeling this practice not only foster literacy, but also deepen bonds that last a lifetime. As Eta Phi continues its Centennial Celebration, the chapter remains intentional about fatherhood initiatives that uplift families and communities. The Daddy & Me Literacy partnership is a powerful reminder that Omega men don't just tell stories—we live them, lead them, and pass them on. ///

Ready, Set, Row – Broadening Horizons on the Charles River

Jethro Kollic, 1-21 Eta Phi

Boston, MA – August 24, 2025 – The Eta Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., in partnership with **Omega Men in Action (OMIA)**, successfully hosted the Ready, Set, Row program at Community Rowing Inc. This exciting initiative was designed to expose

youth from our community to new experiences and opportunities.

Nine students, ages 8–18, participated in the event—each experiencing rowing for the very first time. Their

enthusiasm, courage, and willingness to learn turned the day into a powerful lesson in discovery, teamwork, and perseverance.

Purpose & Impact: The goal of Ready, Set, Row was to broaden horizons by introducing participants to rowing—an activity not commonly accessible in their neighborhoods. Beyond physical skill, rowing demanded cooperation, rhythm, and trust. Students left the boathouse with more than a new sport—they gained confidence in navigating unfamiliar challenges while supporting one another.

Program Experience: The afternoon began with a boathouse tour and an introduction to rowing basics and safety. Once prepared, students transitioned to the barge for their first rowing experience on the Charles River. Guided by instructors, they rotated through rowing sessions, encouraging one another, and learning the importance of balance, timing, and persistence. The program concluded with a reflection circle, where students shared what they had learned and celebrated their accomplishments.

Highlights:

- Every participant engaged fully, demonstrating curiosity and resilience.

- The on-water rowing session was particularly memorable — it marked the first time these students rowed together on the Charles River.
- Students expressed excitement about learning something entirely new, reinforcing our mission of exposure, teamwork, and growth.
- Community Rowing Inc. provided a safe, structured, and empowering environment that amplified the day's success.

Looking Ahead: The Ready, Set, Row program reflects Eta Phi Chapter and OMIA's commitment to uplifting youth through mentorship, enrichment, and access to opportunities that expand their worldview. This single afternoon on the water showed the life-changing power of exposure—how stepping into a new space can inspire confidence, discipline, and hope.

We are grateful to our volunteers, to Community Rowing Inc. for their partnership, and to the students who arrived eager to learn and grow. Together, we created memories and momentum that will carry forward as we continue building programs rooted in service, uplift, and opportunity. ///

Iota Chi Supports First Annual Unity Football Clinic

Frantz Paillant, Iota Chi '20



Iota Chi - Unity Football Clinic

Boston, MA - On July 26, the Iota Chi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. was proud to support the first annual Unity Football Clinic — an inspiring day of community, mentorship, and athletic development. In partnership with Boston Parks & Recreation, Ron Burton Training Village, and Wolves Football, the event brought

together young athletes from across the city for a powerful experience both on and off the field.

The clinic featured high-energy drills covering both offensive and defensive fundamentals, with breakout sessions focused on position-specific techniques. From quarterback footwork and wide

receiver routes to defensive back coverage and linebacker reads, each young athlete received tailored instruction designed to sharpen their skills and boost their confidence on the field.

Beyond the X's and O's, the clinic served as a reminder of how sports can be a vehicle for leadership, discipline, and brotherhood. It was moving to witness the energy and guidance poured into each participant, who left the field not only with improved technique but with life lessons that will serve them long after the final whistle. This will be a transformative event for the city for years to come. ///

A Powerful Step Forward: Community Unites for Annual Fathers Walk in East Orange



East Orange, NJ — On Friday, September 19, 2025, a powerful display of community and commitment unfolded as fathers, mentors, and leaders walked alongside students to begin their school day. The annual Father's Walk, a national event celebrating paternal involvement, was brought to life through a landmark partnership between the City of East Orange, the East Orange City Council, the East Orange School District, and the men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Eta Pi Chapter.

From 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., these men served as visible role models, demonstrating their unwavering support for education and community pride, and sending a clear message to the city's youth: we are here for you.

The Importance of a Father's Footsteps

Research consistently shows that active and engaged fathers play a critical role in a child's healthy development. Children with involved fathers or father figures tend to achieve better academic, social, and emotional outcomes. This event was designed not only to foster stronger bonds between fathers and their children but also to strengthen the entire community by emphasizing social-emotional wellness and showing students the vast network of support that surrounds them.

Voices from the Community

Local leaders praised the collaborative effort and its impact on the city's youth. Brother Ted R. Green, Mayor of the City of East Orange, expressed his commitment to strengthening these essential ties: "Our children thrive when they know they are loved, supported, and surrounded by positive role models. When fathers, mentors, and community leaders show up, we send a powerful message that every child's future matters and that we are united in helping them succeed."

Brother Dr. Christopher Irving, Superintendent of Schools, highlighted the event's role in nurturing student success beyond the classroom: "Education is not just about academics—it's about nurturing the whole child. When fathers and mentors are engaged, students gain the confidence and encouragement they need to excel. The Father's Walk is a powerful opportunity to show our unity and the collective investment we are making in our young people."

Leadership in Action

The event was a testament to meticulous planning and dedicated leadership. Brother Eric Harrield led the coordination efforts, successfully bridging the partner organizations to achieve the day's goals. "Our efforts this year sought to bring out a total of 250 fathers at 10 elementary schools," Brother Harrield stated. Each participating father received a commemorative Father's Walk T-shirt, courtesy of Mayor Green, and a package of valuable community resources.

Matt Stevens, Chairman of the 2nd District Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee, commended the local chapter's dedication, adding: "This event is a cornerstone of our mission to promote the increased engagement of fathers in the education of their children. We are proud of the work the Eta Pi Chapter is doing in the City of East Orange." ///

A Strategic Vision for Fatherhood: 2nd District Unveils Key Initiatives for FY26

By Brother Matt Stevens, Chairman, Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee



On September 6, 2025, the 2nd District's Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee (FMC) presented a bold, strategic vision for the upcoming fiscal year. During the 60th Anniversary Brother Dr. James S. Avery, Sr., Shirtsleeve Conference, I had the honor of outlining the committee's goals and objectives, centering on four cornerstone programs designed to empower fathers, support families, and strengthen our communities. These district-wide initiatives—the *FY26 Status Survey*, the *Million Father's March*, the *Father's Resource Fair*, and the *Our Kids Read project*—will be the focus of our collective efforts in Fiscal Year 2026.

Four Pillars of Engagement and Support

1. FY26 Status Survey: Measuring Our Impact

To build upon past successes and gather critical data, the FMC, under a directive from First Vice District Representative Brother Leon Smith, will conduct its annual Mentoring Program survey. The initial FY24 survey provided a vital baseline, helping the district gauge program operations, demographics, and outcomes, with a 60% chapter completion rate.

For FY26, in collaboration with the Strategic Planning Committee, we have enhanced the survey to capture more robust data. Our goal is to increase chapter participation from 60% to 80%. Furthermore, we are collaborating with Brother Raymond Bell, the IHQ Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairman, to potentially share this survey format across the entire Fraternity starting in January 2026.

2. Million Father's March: Presence and Partnership in Education

The Million Father's March is a powerful national movement held annually on September 19th. Originally founded by the Black Star Project and now led by Father's Inc., the event calls for fathers and male role models to walk their children to school, fostering a vital connection with teachers and administrators from day one. While several chapters have participated for years, our objective for September 2026 is to establish this as a signature, district-wide event.

- Our Goal: To engage 25,000 fathers across the 2nd District in this pivotal activity.

3. Father's Resource Fair: Connecting Fathers to Opportunity

On the first Saturday of February 2026, chapters are encouraged to host a Father's Resource Fair, a powerful way to kick off Black History Month by investing in the future of our families. By partnering with local organizations specializing in health, childcare, financial literacy, and job assistance, these fairs will serve as a one-stop-shop for critical support services. In partnership with Father's Inc., chapters will receive QR codes linking directly to their website—a premier global resource hub for fathers.

- Our Goal: To distribute vital information and resources to 50,000 men throughout the district.

4. Our Kids Read: Promoting Literacy and Positive Representation

In partnership with the Baltimore-based **Our Kids Read Project**, the FMC will provide chapters with access to children's books featuring positive stories of African American families. This initiative builds on a successful 2025 pilot project in New Jersey, where ten chapters distributed 1,000 books to families via local barbershops. Jahmal Lake, President of Our Kids Read, noted, "Working with the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity has helped our organization get books into the hands of children."

- Our Goals: To distribute 25,000 books throughout the 2nd District in FY26 and expand to 100,000 books throughout the Fraternity in 2027. ///

THE BOOK DONATION

A Call for Support: Help Us Deliver Our Stories

While Mr. Lake generously donates the books, the cost of shipping and handling (\$2.00 per book) must be covered. To deliver 25,000 books across the district, we must raise approximately \$50,000. The committee is actively seeking grants, corporate sponsorships, donations, and in-kind contributions to meet this need. Your support is crucial to placing these important stories into the hands of our children.

Enhancing Mentor Effectiveness

Beyond these programs, the FMC is committed to equipping our mentors with the skills to navigate complex challenges. The presentation concluded with a series of role-playing exercises addressing common issues like drug use, violence, and poor academic performance.

Moving forward, each monthly FMC meeting will dedicate 20 minutes to reviewing a case study, providing our mentors with practical strategies for effectively guiding our youth.

Fiscal Year 2026 is poised to be an exciting and impactful time for the 2nd District Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee. I look forward to engaging with every chapter as we work together to consistently improve and uplift our communities.

To get involved, request a copy of the survey, or offer support for the Our Kids Read shipping fund, please contact:

Brother Matt Stevens

Phone: (973) 820-8999

Email: OmegaMentors@icloud.com

“These times demand clean men, of clear vision, of straight thinking, of unselfish doing. And every man must accept this challenge. Out of groups like ours, men who know and feel to the utmost Fidelity, Liberty, and Fraternity, must come to the world[‘s] absolution. Only by the bond of brotherhood, stronger than life or death, which shall grip harder and more securely as ever greater numbers feel the tie, shall the world at last stand unfettered of evil, because [we are] chained in real fraternity.” Ernest Everette Just

From the Book “With Faith In God and Heart and Mind: A History of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, By Maurice J. Hobson, Eddie R. Cole, Jim C. Harper II, Derrick P. Alridge, 2025.



3rd District: Brother Michael Frazier, Chairman, Fatherhood and Mentoring Virginia, Washington, D.C.



The Dinner Table:” Breaking Bread with the Bruhz”

L-R: Brothers James Harris, Myron B. McDaniel Third District First Vice District Representative, Shawn R. Lacey, 31st Third District Representative, Davy Smith III, and Michael Frazier



The Third District Fatherhood & Mentoring committee hosted their inaugural “Brother You’re on My Mind” (BYOMM) discussion on August 24, 2025, at the amazing restaurant “Traditionz” located in Petersburg, Virginia. The episodes titled “The Dinner Table: Breaking Bread with the Bruz,” was centered around two topics: Intergenerational Dialogues and Challenges within the Black Community, and Black Men and The Evolving Role of Mentorship and Intergenerational Support Systems. The episodes were hosted by Brother James Harris CEO of Men to Heal, and panelists Brother Shawn R. Lacey, 31st Third District Representative, Brother Myron McDaniel, Third District First Vice District Representative, Brother Michael Frazier, Third District Fatherhood & Mentoring Chairman, and Brother Davy Smith III, Third District International Youth Leadership Coordinator. The BYOMM event was filmed and edited by Brother De’Andre Henderson. ///





Brothers Myron B. McDaniel, Third District First Vice District Representative, Shawn R. Lacey, 31st Third District Representative, and Davy Smith III, Third District IYLC Coordinator

The Dinner Table is a Third District initiative of BYOMM that promotes open and honest conversations for essential personal growth, community building, and social change within the Black community starting with Black men, specifically, Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. The Dinner Table creates safe spaces to discuss a wide range of topics—including mental health, identity, relationships, systemic issues, and emotional well-being. These spaces foster understanding, resilience, and empowerment while challenging stigmas and stereotypes that often hinder authentic dialogue. ///



Brother Myron B. McDaniel, Third District First Vice District Representative discussing the importance of mentoring programs and their impact on society.

This groundbreaking event for the Third District and Fatherhood & Mentoring had a lively discussion from the panelists with different points of view that created shared knowledge and learning space while fellowshiping over a delicious home cook meal provided by Brother Sam and Denise Campbell, owners of Traditionz.

The discussion thread started with Brother James Harris providing historical context in Black men face with pervasive stereotypes of aggressive, unemotional, or hypermasculine. James moderated wonderful viewpoints that yielded dynamic discussions with Brother Shawn R. Lacey and Brother Myron McDaniel providing an

excellent perspective of stereotypes being rooted in discrimination that has been reinforced through media, law enforcement, and societal narratives.

The 60-minute podcast concluded with Brothers sharing diverse narratives and personal perspectives on navigating identity and masculinity across generations in the Black community. Additionally, Brothers unique angles on the evolving roles of mentorship and intergenerational support empowering, nurturing, and strengthen Black men was essential in fostering an inclusive and appreciative perspective on what it means to be a Black man today. ///



The Dinner Table: “Breaking Bread with the Bruhz”

Brother James Harris, Brother Myron B. McDaniel Third District First Vice District Representative,
Brother Shawn R. Lacey, 31st Third District Representative, Brother Michael Frazier, Brother Davy Smith III

Episodes may be viewed at the following url:
<https://tinyurl.com/thirddistrictbyomep1>

JAMES HARRIS, LPC
 MEN TO HEAL

www.mentoheal.com
 https://linktr.ee/men_to_heal
 804.229.4883
 mentoheal@gmail.com

<https://tinyurl.com/thirddistrictbyomep2>
www.mentoheal.com
 Instagram
 YouTube
 Book - Man Just Express Yourself
 LinkTree

The Cleveland Fatherhood Greenhouse Cultivates Bonds Between Fathers and Children

Submitted by Brother Jehoshaphat K. Jones, PhD



Cleveland, OH – On a hot day in July, Spectrum News met Omega Men and families at the Fatherhood Greenhouse. The new greenhouse is in the heart of Glenville; fathers and their children are not only planting seeds in the soil but also cultivating lasting bonds that grow stronger with each visit.

The Fatherhood Greenhouse is part of the Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative, directed by bro Al Grimes (14-25 Zeta Omega), who emphasized the importance of creating opportunities for dads to connect with their children. “Fathers can come on a regular basis, plant food with their children, bond with their children and be engaged in a constructive activity,” Grimes explained. Over 30 fathers and their families have beds located within the Fatherhood Greenhouse and the doors are open by appointment and each Saturday.

For bro. Perez Bryant (1-25 Zeta Omega) and his daughter, Paizley, the greenhouse has become a special place to nurture both plants and their relationship.

“We’re watching on them, caring on them, watching them grow,” Bryant said, reflecting on how gardening mirrors the role of fatherhood.

Paizley, beaming with excitement, shared that her favorite part of the greenhouse is simple but

meaningful: spending time with her dad. “Watching them grow from a little bitty seed to be a big grown up,” she said while describing her plants.

For Bryant, tending to the greenhouse with Paizley is deeply symbolic. “It’s sort of like my experience as a dad, watching her grow from a seed and giving her the love that she needs, the watering that she needs, and just watching her grow strong. Now we’re doing it for our plants,” he said.



Here’s Perez and his daughter – along with his some of his 2025 LBs [(Wayne McPherson and his son), Ameer Ward, Al Grimes, Grover Horne], and I’m on the extreme far left (Jones 5-96-EY).

The Fatherhood Greenhouse is made possible through partnerships with community organizations like Green Movement Glenville, whose executive director, Victoria Trotter, sees the greenhouse’s impact first-hand. “Our fathers need to bond with their children in safe spaces where we can heal, where we can have conversations, and I’ve seen those conversations,” she said.

The Fatherhood Greenhouse is more than a gardening project, it’s a living example of how nurturing, patience, and love can transform both plants and relationships. For families like the Bryant’s, the Fatherhood Greenhouse provides the soil where roots of love and growth run deep.

Link:

<https://spectrumnews1.com/oh/columbus/news/2025/07/11/cuyahoga-county-fatherhood-initiative-program>

A Labor of Love – Build a Strong Cleveland Community

Cleveland, OH – Monday September 1, 2025, more than 100 Brothers representing the Phi Theta, Phi Sigma, Beta Beta, and the Great Zeta Omega Chapters marched shoulder to shoulder during the 53rd Annual 11th Congressional District Community Caucus - Labor Day Parade and Festival in Cleveland, Ohio. The theme for the parade was “Empowering Our People.” Omega’s presence reflected not only a celebration of labor and community, but also a collective commitment to civic responsibility, social action, and family.

Brothers adorned in royal purple and old gold lined the streets, as we carried out a mission that was both urgent and impactful: registering citizens to vote! Along the parade route, teams of Brothers engaged with residents, distributed voter registration materials, and provided critical information on upcoming elections. For many community members, these encounters served as a reminder of the power of the ballot and the importance of making their voices heard.

The initiative extended beyond voter registration. Brothers also emphasized voter education, and family advocacy. Brothers also focused on mobilization, ensuring that citizens understood their rights, polling locations, and key deadlines. Our collective efforts represent Omega’s ongoing role in strengthening democracy by preparing families and communities not only to vote, but to vote informed.

In the way peculiar to Omega, Brothers were ‘marching’ and ‘hopping’ in unison, the four Chapters

embodied Omega’s Cardinal Principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift. The demonstration of unity underscored the Fraternity’s belief that civic engagement is essential to building stronger families and thriving communities.



Moreover, at the end of the parade route, Brothers gathered at Luke Easter Park and partnered with over 100 women of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (Greater Cleveland Alumnae Chapter) to cookout and serve food to the community. The 11th Congressional District Community Caucus - Labor Day Parade and Festival was more than a celebration, it was a labor of love, reinforcing Omega Psi Phi’s enduring legacy of leadership, advocacy, and service.

By combining the joy of community with the seriousness of civic duty, the Brothers of the 4th District reminded Cleveland that when Omega mobilizes, communities are empowered, and democracy flourishes. ///

Mentoring Matters: 4th District Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee Partners with College Now!



The flyer for the College Now Greater Cleveland Mentoring Program features a dark green background with white and yellow text. At the top left, there are two circular photos: one of two men standing together and another of two women smiling. The College Now and AmeriCorps logos are at the top center. The title 'MENTORING PROGRAM' is in large, bold, yellow letters. Below it, a paragraph states: 'Since 2011, the College Now Mentoring Program has paired volunteer mentors with nearly 4,500 Northeast Ohio college students receiving our scholarships. Many students are first-generation college students with demonstrated financial need.' The flyer is divided into two columns: 'REQUIREMENTS' and 'PROGRAM IMPACT'. The requirements list: College degree, Commitment to student for length of college, Ability to connect online, and Desire to pay it forward. The program impact lists: 94% of College Now mentees continue from their first to their second year of college, and 70% of College Now mentees graduate on time, compared to 41% nationally. At the bottom, a dark green bar contains the text '2 EMAILS A MONTH • 3 MEETINGS A YEAR • 2 LIVES CHANGED'. Below this bar are contact details: a phone icon with '216-635-0268', an email icon with 'mentoring@collegenowgc.org', a website icon with 'collegenowgc.org', and a QR code.

MENTORING PROGRAM

Since 2011, the College Now Mentoring Program has paired volunteer mentors with nearly 4,500 Northeast Ohio college students receiving our scholarships. Many students are first-generation college students with demonstrated financial need.

REQUIREMENTS

- College degree
- Commitment to student for length of college
- Ability to connect online
- Desire to pay it forward

PROGRAM IMPACT

- 94% of College Now mentees continue from their first to their second year of college.
- 70% of College Now mentees graduate on time, compared to 41% nationally.

2 EMAILS A MONTH • 3 MEETINGS A YEAR • 2 LIVES CHANGED

216-635-0268 • mentoring@collegenowgc.org • collegenowgc.org

Fraternity, Inc., and College Now are shaping futures, one student at a time.

Why College Now? College Now Greater Cleveland is the oldest and largest comprehensive, community based college access organization in the United States. The organization works to increase postsecondary educational attainment in Northeast Ohio, which positively impacts the economic vitality of the region and improves the lives of the people who live here. Since 2011, the College Now Mentoring Program has paired volunteer mentors with nearly 4,500 Northeast Ohio college students. Many of these students are first-generation college-goers with significant financial need. The impact has been remarkable:

- 94% of mentees continue from their first to second year of college.
- 70% of mentees graduate on time, compared to a 41% national average.

The Commitment: The program is designed with busy professionals in mind. Mentors commit just a few hours a month - typically two emails per month and three meetings per year (with most interactions happening virtually). This flexible structure ensures that Brothers can make a meaningful impact while balancing their own family and career responsibilities.

The Benefit: Participation strengthens both mentor and mentee. Brothers not only help students achieve their academic and career goals but also experience personal and professional growth. In doing so, Omega continues its legacy of uplifting communities and fostering future leaders.

Take Action (Any Qualified Member of Omega Psi Phi can be a Mentor)

Brothers are encouraged to apply and learn more:

- Website: www.cngc.org/mentor
- Application: [Apply Here](#)
- Contact: mentoring@collegenowgc.org 216-635-0268

Cleveland, OH – On September 10, 2025, Brothers from across the Mighty 4th District gathered to learn more about the **College Now Greater Cleveland Mentoring Program**.

The presentation underscored how Omega men can extend their service beyond the Fraternity by investing in the futures of young people pursuing higher education. Among those in attendance were 4th District Brothers Sammy Spann, Keith Jordan, Johnnie Gavin, Ronald Walker, Zachary Hill, Walter Ratcliffe, Estéban Hayes, Christopher Shropshire, Maine Prince, Jerry Leftwich, and Dr. Jehoshaphat Jones.

Brothers that came to learn and implement in other Districts were 9th District Brother, John Cooper and 3rd District Brother, Price Dave. Each Brother received follow-up information, resources, and an invitation to share this opportunity with others who were unable to attend. Together, the 4th District of Omega Psi Phi

4th District Brothers Unite for the 10th Annual Sickle Cell Anemia Parade and Health Fair



Warrensville Heights, OH – On September 12, 2025, the Brothers of the Mighty 4th District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., proudly joined the Sigma Psi Alumni Association and the men of Zeta Omega Chapter at **Daniel E. Morgan K-8 School** for the 10th Annual Sickle Cell Anemia Parade and Health Fair. This vibrant community event brought together families, students, educators, and civic organizations with the shared mission of raising awareness about sickle cell anemia while promoting holistic health and wellness.

Mrs. Sanders was posted at the front of the spirited parade around the school community, where youth and adults walked in solidarity to highlight the importance of health equity and disease awareness. Anchored at the end of the parade, the Warrensville Heights City School District High School band marched, danced, and played uplifting tunes for the community! Following the parade, the school campus was transformed into a lively health fair featuring educational exhibits, wellness screenings, and opportunities for families to connect with trusted community organizations.

Among the featured vendors included Fathers Against Violence, whose presence emphasized the role of strong fathers and mentors in reducing violence and promoting safe, thriving communities. Phoenix Mental Health Services provided resources and support to address

critical mental health needs, ensuring that families know help is available and accessible. The Great Zeta Omega Chapter's Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Committee was able to sign up 20 families for their upcoming program that kick-off Saturday, October 4, 2025. In addition, the women of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. contributed their signature service, offering health information and community uplift to participants of all ages.

The 4th District Brothers engaged directly with students and families, sharing the fraternity's commitment to uplift through mentorship, education, and advocacy. Their participation underscored Omega Psi Phi's ongoing dedication to addressing health disparities and building stronger, healthier communities.

As the 10th Annual Sickle Cell Anemia Parade and Health Fair ended, the collaborative spirit among all partners stood as a powerful reminder: when organizations unite in service, we not only raise awareness, but also provide tangible resources that strengthen families and inspire hope. The 4th District Brothers remain committed to supporting this important cause and continuing their work in the spirit of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift. ///

Celebrating Fatherhood, Family, and Friends – A Chapter's Celebration



Twinsburg, Ohio – On September 14, 2025, from 10am until 8pm, the Great Zeta Omega Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., hosted a vibrant community celebration at Glen Meadow Park in Twinsburg, Ohio. The event brought together over 60 Brothers, along with their wives, children, and extended families, for an afternoon dedicated to honoring the spirit of fatherhood and the bonds of family.

The atmosphere was filled with laughter, music, and the aroma of a community cookout. Zeta Omega Brothers initiated in 2023 (15 T.I.S.O.R.) and 2025 (23 S.O.R.A.R.) sponsored the event, manned the grills, and served the older Brothers.

During the cookout, our children enjoyed games, and activities designed to promote teamwork and joy. Families sat together under the pavilion, sharing food, stories, line dancing and reflections on the importance of strong friendship, and fatherhood in shaping both households and communities.

Beyond fellowship, the celebration carried a deeper purpose: to reinforce Omega's commitment to uplifting families and serving as role models for the next generation. Chapter leaders emphasized the need for intentional fatherhood, mentorship, and unity. Several fathers shared personal testimonies about the impact of being present and engaged, highlighting how their involvement at The Ginn Academy strengthens not only the youth but also the larger community fabric.

By creating spaces where families can connect, the Great Zeta Omega leads the way on how Brotherhood extends beyond the Fraternity. We know our service is connected to building healthier, and stronger communities.

As the sun set over Glen Meadow Park, the event concluded with a renewed sense of unity and purpose. Fathers, mothers, and children alike left encouraged, reminded that when families thrive, communities flourish and Omega stands firmly at the center of that effort. ///

Omega Chess 4 Success: Building Young Minds and Stronger Communities in Linden

By Brother Maine Prince



Columbus, OH – In the heart of Columbus’ Linden community, an innovative initiative is transforming the way young students approach learning, discipline, and self-confidence. Spearheaded by Brother Leon Peacock (Theta Psi – ’83), the **Omega Chess 4 Success** program has become a dynamic force in mentoring and fatherhood, guiding children toward higher-order thinking, improved behavior, and long-term academic success.

Brother Peacock, a visionary deeply committed to education and community uplift, views intellectual development as essential as athletics or the arts. He introduces students to chess not merely as recreation but as a tool for life—fostering patience, focus, and critical thinking. In Linden-area schools such as East Linden Elementary and Linden STEM Academy, the program engages students who might otherwise be overlooked in traditional classrooms.

Chess as a Vehicle for Growth: At its foundation, Omega Chess 4 Success builds on the principle of fluid intelligence—the ability to reason quickly, solve problems, and think abstractly. Brother Peacock frames this as creating the “Obama Effect,” a model of intellectual excellence and leadership for young African American students. By teaching chess alongside mentoring, the program develops reasoning, memory, persistence, and responsibility, which carry over into academics.

Students learn that every move requires foresight and strategy, mirroring real-life decisions. As Brother Peacock emphasizes, chess teaches young people to “think before you move,” encouraging self-control and long-term planning over impulsive action.

Mentorship and Fatherhood in Action; A cornerstone of the initiative is its focus on mentorship and fatherhood. The program actively involves fathers, elders, and mentors who serve as role models on and off the chessboard. Retired teachers, professionals, and even postal workers volunteer their time, reinforcing intergenerational learning and community bonds.



By engaging fathers directly, the program bridges gaps in family and community life. These men do more than teach the rules of chess—they model accountability, integrity, and resilience, offering values young people need to thrive. Omega Chess 4 Success thus embodies the Fatherhood Initiative’s call for men to be “brother’s keepers” in their neighborhoods.

A Culturally Grounded Approach: What makes the program distinctive is its culturally responsive design. Brother Peacock incorporates African-centered symbolism, including Adinkra and Sankofa imagery, into specially designed chessboards. This approach affirms cultural identity, connects students to a heritage of scholarship and perseverance, and offers a narrative of possibility and pride in a community often defined by deficits.



Measurable Impact and Future Goals; The impact is tangible. Students in the program show improved classroom behavior, higher test scores, and reduced vulnerability to negative peer influences. By creating safe spaces for critical thinking and mentorship, Omega Chess 4 Success helps close achievement gaps in reading and math, while countering the cradle-to-prison pipeline that disproportionately affects young men of color.

Brother Peacock envisions expansion into additional Linden schools and eventually across the Columbus district. His long-term goal is not only to develop stronger students, but also to cultivate leaders who will reinvest in their communities as mentors, educators, and professionals.

Conclusion: Omega Chess 4 Success demonstrates that transformative change can grow from a simple, ancient game. Through the leadership of Brother Leon Peacock, students in Linden are learning to think several moves ahead—on the chessboard, in school, and in life. Blending mentorship, cultural pride, and cognitive development, the program exemplifies how Omega men are uplifting the next generation. ///

Theta Iota Chapter, Holds Community Cookout & Back-to-School Supply Giveaway



Jackson, TN – The **Back-to-School** event was held on Saturday, July 26, 2025, from 11:00 AM until 4:00 PM at the JCM (Field House), 332 Lane Avenue, Jackson, TN 38301.

Theta Iota served community youth and families at this event by providing fun-filled activities with essential school supplies as they prepared for the new academic year. More than 800 people attended this year's event.



According to Theta Iota, the turnout reflects the strength, unity, and care within the community as evidence by the smiles on the children's faces as they received backpacks, supplies, and enjoyed food and activities truly underscored the spirit of brotherhood, service, and uplift that Omega Psi Phi Fraternity represents.

In Jackson, TN, Theta Iota Chapter is building a brighter future for the youth and ensuring they are equipped with the tools they need to succeed.

Once again, thank you for standing with us and helping make this outreach effort a remarkable success. We look forward to partnering and serving with you in future events. ///

Gamma Phi Chapter Commits to School Community



Gammi Phi Chapter at HG Hill Middle School after another successful endeavor

Gamma Phi Chapter made a powerful impact on the first day of school at H.G. Hill Middle School, setting a tone of encouragement and enthusiasm for the year ahead. Spearheaded by the Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee that is led by Brothers Bennett, Hill, and Ray. The chapter greeted students with heartfelt welcome. As students arrived, they were met with energetic cheers of

“Welcome back,” “Have a great year,” and “We are here to support you.” The brothers' presence created an atmosphere of excitement and motivation that was felt throughout the school. Faculty and staff expressed their gratitude for the support and positivity brought by the fraternity.

Gamma Phi Chapter reaffirmed its commitment to the school and community. Brothers are ready to assist in any way possible to help students succeed both academically and personally. Returning mentees from last year's **Rites of Passage Program** were particularly excited to reconnect with the brothers. This marks the beginning of what promises to be another impactful year of mentorship, guidance, and growth. With this enthusiastic kickoff, the Gamma Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. continues to demonstrate its dedication to uplifting young minds. ///

NFL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TRAINING CAMP: EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP FOR DADS

The Legendary Fifth District of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee co-hosted with the NFL Alumni and the New Life Center of Nashville an educational workshop for Dads. NFL Alumni members discussed football and fatherhood experiences. The facilitator of the event, Mr.

Robert Taylor, founder of New Life Center, led an exciting afternoon of activities on several traits of a good father. His approach of incorporating everyone in the room led to some sincere bonding and sharing. All who attended were very pleased and look forward to our November 15th session. ///

GAMMA PHI WELCOMES STUDENTS ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

The brothers of the Comma Phi Chapter Fatherhood and Mentoring Committed led by its chair, Brother Michael Bennett, Base the Students at H.G. Hil Middle School a great enthusiastic welcome as they arrived at their first day of school. With shouts of welcome back, have a great school year, we're pulling for you, and we are here to support you, the brothers of Gamma Phi set a level of

excitement throughout the entire school. The faculty and staff were very grateful for the brother's presence. We let all know that we would do all we can to assist in any way we can to help students succeed. Our mentees returning from last year's Rites of Passage Program were excited to see the brothers as we make plans for another great and successful year. ///

Psi Tau Supports Homeless through the Church Under the Bridge Ministry

Lexington, KY – On August 3, the brother of Psi Tau chapter of Omega Psi Phi came together to provide services to the homeless community in Lexington, KY. Working with the organization **Church Under The Bridge**, brothers provided food, fellowship, clothing and support and a word from God provided by Brother Deacon Claude Christian of First Baptist Church Bracktown in Lexington to all who were assembled.

It was a very humbling experience as some of us grew up with some of those we now served. Brothers make every effort to remember Matthew 25:40, *The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." The chapter has committed to working with the program fully twice a year along with several individual brothers who provide services and assistance throughout the year.



Psi Tau Chapter making a difference in the community

very Sunday, Church Under The Bridge comes together in Downtown Lexington to love God and to love their neighbors. We begin with worship, teaching, and prayer. This is followed by a powerful display of Christ's love with a free hot meal, a packed lunch bag to go and many services; i.e. medical and

case management, prescriptions, bus tokens, hair stylist, and various types of clothing and personal needs.

The Church Under The Bridge has made a real impact on many of its guests. One woman has enrolled in night school and a man with a master's degree has left the streets and is helping other homeless people. Another homeless man has also turned his life around and is serving burgers at McDonald's. Several of Church Under The Bridge guests have returned to the work force and back to complete their education. Church Under The Bridge has based its ministry on "extending a welcoming and loving hand to people who have been rejected by others, just as Jesus taught and commanded us to do." ///

35th Annual Terry Looper Basketball Camp

Murfreesboro, TN –

The sound of bouncing basketballs and excited chatter filled Patterson Park Community Center on Saturday, July 26, as the Terry Looper Basketball Camp celebrated its 35th anniversary. For more than three decades, the camp has been a summer staple in Murfreesboro, using the game of basketball not only to sharpen athletic ability but also to instill values that last a lifetime.

Founded in 1990 by former Cascade High School coach Terry Looper, who is also a founding member of the Pi Gamma Gamma Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., the camp has stayed true to its mission: providing free, high-quality instruction to local youth while emphasizing discipline, teamwork, resilience, and sportsmanship.

This year, more than 50 young athletes, ages 5 to 18, arrived bright



Omega men, camp participants, and Vanderbilt players and coaches after another successful camp

and early for a fast-paced, three-hour session packed with drills, competitions, and hands-on coaching. They were guided by Omega men and supported by players and coaches from Vanderbilt University's basketball teams, who brought an added spark of inspiration as role models. Each camper received individualized attention tailored to their skill level, ensuring both personal growth and plenty of fun.

The camp's commitment to accessibility continues to be one of its defining features. By remaining free of charge, it ensures that any

child with a love for basketball has the chance to participate. Campers left with more than just improved jump shots, they also received camp t-shirts, basketballs, and awards recognizing their efforts.

For Brother Looper and the Omega men, the day was about much more than the scoreboard. It was a celebration of hard work, friendship, and joy, emphasizing the camp's deeper mission of uplifting and empowering youth. As it looks ahead to its 36th year, the Terry Looper Basketball Camp remains a cornerstone of the Murfreesboro community, continuing its proud tradition of nurturing not only future athletes but also future leaders. ///

Dad's Lounge

Brothers from the Pi Gamma Gamma and Eta Psi Chapters of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., joined forces with the Ladies of the Upsilon Psi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., on Saturday, September 6, 2025, to assist them with hosting their annual Baby AKAdemy Community Shower at the Lentz Public Health Center. The event, designed for new and expecting parents, provided vital resources, guidance, and support through a network of community partnerships and referrals.

The Omega men were instrumental in helping with set-up, providing organizational support, and serving as mentors in the "Dad's Lounge." This dedicated space offered fathers-to-be a chance to connect with experienced men



Brothers in the Dad's Lounge serving young fathers and providing mentorship.

who shared insight on fatherhood, responsibility, and family leadership. Their presence added a unique dimension to the event, ensuring that expectant fathers felt seen, supported, and prepared for the journey ahead.

The collaboration between the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., highlighted the power of service-driven partnerships, uniting two historic organizations in their shared commitment to strengthening families and building healthier communities. Parents left not only with essential baby supplies but also with encouragement, knowledge, and a stronger sense of community support. ///

The Mighty 6th District

Chairman, Brother Warren T. Davis, 3-12-AO

North Carolina Chapters:

Phi Chi Chapter Scores Big with Youth Mentorship at NFL Preseason Game



Concord, NC – District North - The Phi Chi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., based in Concord, NC, recently hosted an unforgettable mentorship outing by taking their mentees to an NFL preseason matchup in Charlotte between the Carolina Panthers and the Cleveland Browns. For the young men in attendance, it was more than just a game it was a front-row seat to possibility. This experience blended excitement with empowerment, as mentees soaked in the energy of a live professional football game while engaging with mentors who are deeply committed to their personal growth. The outing exemplified the fraternity's dedication to building character, confidence, and community

through meaningful exposure and shared experiences.

Later, the group stepped into the world of live theater, experiencing the magic of Broadway at Blumenthal Performing Arts Center. For many, it was a first-time



encounter with the power of storytelling, performance, and cultural enrichment. Through these diverse experiences, the brothers of Phi Chi Chapter continue to reinforce their commitment to holistic development exposing young men to both the excitement of sports and the sophistication of the arts. These moments help broaden perspectives, spark ambition, and build lasting relationships rooted in trust and encouragement. ///

Tau Gamma Gamma Chapter Cumberland County Kicks Off 2025–2026 School Year with Community Spirit



Fayetteville, NC – On Monday, August 25, 2025, Cumberland County officially launched the academic year for 2025–2026. To help support the occasion and demonstrate strong community support for education, members of the Tau Gamma Gamma Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. greeted students at Westarea Elementary School with high-fives, fist bumps, warm smiles, and uplifting conversations.



Their presence helped energize the campus and reminded both new and returning students that they are surrounded by a community that believes in their

success. The fraternity's outreach is part of a broader commitment to mentorship, service, and educational empowerment.

The men of Omega Psi Phi didn't just show up they showed out. Dressed in their purple and gold signatures colors, they lined the entrance of the school with enthusiasm and encouragement, creating a welcoming atmosphere that set the tone for a positive

school year. Their engagement reflected the fraternity's cardinal principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift. ///



Beta Chi Chapter: Etiquette, End-of-Year Banquet

Fayetteville, NC – On Wednesday, July 23, 2025, the Brothers of Beta Chi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, INC. -proudly partnered with the young men of Greater Life of Fayetteville for their, marking the culmination of their summer program. The Brothers arrived ready to serve as role models and mentors, immediately assisting the mentees with tying ties, buttoning jackets, and ensuring they were properly dressed for this special occasion.

The banquet provided the perfect backdrop for meaningful interaction. The Brothers sat and dined with the young men, engaging them in

uplifting conversations about leadership, education, and making positive choices. This intentional time together helped the mentees see firsthand the importance of confidence, professionalism, and character.

After the meal, the group broke into smaller mentoring sessions. Each session focused on valuable life skills such as proper dress, good manners, respect for self and others, maintaining a positive attitude, and the power of self-confidence and positive affirmations. The Brothers also shared personal stories of perseverance and success, showing

the young men that their goals are achievable with dedication and discipline.

The event was a resounding success, leaving the mentees inspired and empowered. The young men gained practical tools for personal growth, while also building strong connections with mentors who are committed to their success. The Brothers of Beta Chi Chapter look forward to continuing this partnership, reinforcing their mission to guide, uplift, and prepare the next generation of leaders through mentorship and brotherhood. ///



Charlotte NC – On Monday, August 25, 2025, members of the Pi Phi Chapter Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative Committee proudly continued their commitment to community engagement by welcoming students back to Druid Hills Elementary School. Arriving bright and early at 7:00 A.M., our brothers stood ready to greet each child with enthusiasm, encouragement, and a warm smile.

As the “sleepy-eyed” students made their way into the building, they were met with high-fives, cheerful greetings,

and words of motivation to kick off the school year. This annual tradition reflects Omega Psi Phi’s dedication to uplifting youth, fostering positive relationships, and being visible role models in our communities. The Pi Phi Chapter remains steadfast in its mission to support educational excellence and fatherhood engagement through meaningful mentorship and presence. Here's to a successful school year ahead! ///

South Carolina Chapters:

Chi Chi Chapter: Strengthens Community Ties in Kershaw County



Saturday, June 28, 2025, Brothers of the Chi Chi Chapter, SC part of the Mighty 6th District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., continued their legacy of excellence, courage, and brotherhood by deepening their partnership with organizations across Camden and greater Kershaw County. In a major support show for local families, the Chi Chi Chapter joined forces with the **Kershaw County Back 2 School** organization to distribute essential school supplies.

Students received bookbags filled with paper, pencils, pens, markers, highlighters, notebooks, folders, pencil pouches, and glue tools that empower academic success and ease the financial burden on families. Recognizing the challenges posed by economic shifts and tightening budgets, the Chi Chi Chapter remains steadfast in its belief that learning never ends. Their commitment to keeping children safe and educated reflects the fraternity's enduring values and its dedication to building a stronger, more resilient community. ///

Men's Day Out with the Titans of Omega Male Academy

Sigma Pi Chapter – Mighty 6th District

Atlanta, GA – On September 29, 2025, Sigma Pi Chapter hosted its annual Men's Day Out—an unforgettable mentoring and fellowship experience for the youth in our Titans of Omega Male Academy.

A charter bus carried 20–22 Titans and about 25 fraternity brothers to Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, GA, for the NFL matchup between the Falcons and the Commanders. **For many of the young men, this was their first time traveling outside of South Carolina** and their first time attending a professional sporting event.

The experience included photo opportunities with Atlanta Falcons cheerleaders and group pictures at the Roddy White statue, creating memories the boys will carry for years to come.



The Titans who participated represented schools such as North Aiken Elementary, Leavelle McCampbell Middle (Graniteville), Midland Valley High (Graniteville), and North Augusta Middle (North Augusta, SC). Some young men also came through the Brothers and Sisters Program sponsored by Ms. Charonica Pope.

We are grateful for the continued support of the Mighty 6th District, led by **District Representative Brother Cedric M. Luckey**, and Supreme Council officers under the leadership of our **Grand Basileus, Brother Ricky L. Lewis**. Special appreciation goes to our Chapter Basileus, Brother Nathaniel Dicks, whose vision birthed the Titans of Omega program and whose unwavering support allows us to keep changing the lives of young men. ///

The Rise of a Champion

Submitted by: Bro. Barrette Walker

Georgia - State FMC Chairman

Brunswick, GA – State of Georgia High Jump champion, born and raised in the coastal area of Brunswick, Georgia. Ryion has become a force in the high jump. He has won numerous awards while in high school. Winning the high jump at the City of Brunswick meet against cross-town rival Glynn Academy High School with a high jump of 6'8".

This was the start of a conversation about the high jumper from Brunswick, Georgia. He would later go on to set the State of Georgia high record with a high jump of 7'3". Well, now Ryion was known around the State of Georgia. In his senior year, he was invited to the Nike trials in Eugene, Oregon. That's when Brother Barrette Walker and members of Lambda Tau Chapter were asked to provide support to ensure Ryion was able to attend the Nike trials in Eugene. Through the cardinal principle of uplift and community support, Ryion was able to place sixth in the nation at the age of 18.

Now he is known around the United States of America. Ryion would graduate from Brunswick High School and take his talent to the University of Georgia. Through



perseverance, Brother Walker, members of Lambda Tau Chapter, and the local community would provide Ryion with the essential needs to attend the University of Georgia. Competing at the Auburn Tiger Track Classic, he would high jump 7'5" in his second year at Georgia, winning the high jump event.

Later that year, Ryion would win the Southeastern Conference high jump championship with a high jump of 7'6". Ryion will once again travel to Eugene, Oregon, to participate in collegiate nationals, showcasing to the United States of America that he is the best high jumper in the country for 2025. ///

Uplift of Undergraduate Scholars.

Submitted by: Bro. Cameron Simmons
Florida - State FMC Chairman

The Brothers of the Sigma Delta Delta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. recently had the privilege of engaging in a meaningful and impactful conversation with the youths at the Boys and Girls Club of Delray Beach.

During this inspiring session, they emphasized the critical importance of staying committed to their education, encouraging them to remain in school despite any challenges they may face.

The brothers spoke candidly about the value of fighting through adversity and maintaining a strong belief in themselves, sharing their own personal stories and experiences to illustrate that true success is often the result of perseverance, determination, and resilience.

In addition, they took the opportunity to explain the core values and mission of our fraternity, highlighting why giving back to the community and uplifting those around us is a fundamental part of who we are. The goal



was to inspire and motivate these young individuals, reinforcing the idea that they have the power to overcome obstacles and achieve greatness. Ultimately, inspiring the next generation to reach their full potential and contribute positively to society is at the heart of everything we do.

Uplift of Undergraduate Scholars.

Submitted by: Bro. Cameron Simmons
Florida - State FMC Chairman

Beta Alpha joined Lanier High School, our adopted school, for the Class of 2025 Senior Day Picnic at the Jackson Public Schools Environmental Learning Center. Brothers assisted with food service and helped lead a day full of fun and first-time experiences. Students enjoyed horseback riding, water games, volleyball, baseball, fishing lessons, and a slip-and-slide, while also exploring farm animals and gardens of fresh vegetables.



This celebration not only honored graduating seniors but also highlighted Beta Alpha's commitment to education, mentorship, and investing in future leaders.

Day of Service: Omega Sparks Youth Mentorship

Submitted by: Bro. Dee Pogue
Alabama - State FMC Chairman



Omega Sparks made a powerful impact before God during their Prayer Walk through the Gladlane, Gay Meadows, and Club view neighborhoods in Montgomery, AL. A special commendation goes to Senior Spark O'Kevion Suggs (Alabama Christian Academy) for leading prayers over schools, students,

and teachers. (Attached Prayer). Our team also contributed by providing the Sparks golf cart, which supported walkers unable to participate due to disabilities. The cart was driven by Spark Joe Klein Reed (Booker T. Washington Magnet HS). ///

8th District: Brother Michael Graham, Chairman, Fatherhood and Mentoring

Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota

Best Days Are Ahead

Brother Mike Graham (LM), FMC-Chair (8th) District
mike.graham1911@gmail.com

This Quarter the Home of The Heavyweights-Mighty 8th District, saw a lot of Brother/Family/Community fellowship. Several chapters across the district held:

1. Family Fellowships
2. Community Blood Drives
3. Back to school supply giveaways
4. Private fundraisers to support the various FMC initiatives across the district

*Summer is always a fun/owt time in the 8th and gives Brothers a chance to have strong family fellowship which is always a great time!!

This quarter was also a good opportunity for chapters across the 8th to strategize their plans for the Fall 2025 months and to strengthen each chapter's respective FMC programming. With schools reconvening and

students needing to get off to a great start, it is imperative for the brothers of the 8th to have strong Mentoring and Academic support for our young scholars and for our "Brother's" as well. Mentoring is always a win, especially when the Brothers who are mentoring have been mentored to be the best version of a true Omega Man and a true Family Man that loves God.

Peek at some of the memories captured of brothers being great mentors and pillars in the community. The 8th District embraces our duty and honor in being one of the upper echelon community builders across the states that comprise the Home of The Heavyweights!!!

Enjoy the memories captured and shared with you! ///

9th District: Brother Sedric Myers, Chairman, Fatherhood and Mentoring

Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas

Troop 242: A Weekend of Service and Brotherhood

by Sedric Myers



Houston, TX – Troop 242 Scouts, leaders, families, and community partners came together for a weekend that highlighted both the spirit of service and the legacy of Scouting.

Community Cleanup – Messengers of Peace Project:

On Saturday, August 16, 2025- WABC Troop 242 partnered with the Nu Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. through its Adopt-A-Street program to lead a community cleanup along Scott Street between

Ruth Street and South MacGregor Way. Together, 25 Scouts and 10 adult leaders, joined by fraternity brothers and community supporters, cleaned 2 miles of roadway and collected 8 bags of trash and debris.

The cleanup not only restored pride and beauty to the neighborhood but also strengthened bonds between youth, families, and community leaders. This initiative earned recognition as a Messengers of Peace project, showcasing how acts of service by Scouts can inspire peace, unity, and positive change. ///

All Through the Year, 2025; Let's Serve for Family, Faith, Friends, Community!

Eye on the Eagle Draft – Building Future Leaders



Following the cleanup, the troop celebrated its Eye on the Eagle Draft, a tradition marking the transition of new Scouts from the Panther Patrol into their permanent patrols: Buffalo, Tuskegee, Swamp Angel, and Zulu. This exciting moment symbolizes growth, leadership, and the beginning of their journey toward the rank of Eagle Scout.

The presence and encouragement of the Nu Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity at both events highlighted the importance of mentorship and collaboration. Their partnership embodies the principle of lifting as we climb, ensuring that young men see positive examples of leadership and service in action.

A Lasting Impact: Through service and celebration, Troop 242 demonstrated that Scouting is about more than merit badges and campouts—it is about building leaders, stewards, and change-makers. With the continued support of families, the Nu Phi Chapter, and community partners, the future of our Scouts shines brighter than ever. ///

Community Cleanup-Messengers of Peace Project - August 16, 2025

By Sedric Myers



Houston, TX – As part of our ongoing commitment to service and global citizenship, **WABC Troop 242** organized a Community Cleanup Service Project in partnership with the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Nu Phi Chapter “Adopt-A-Street” initiative. Scouts, parents, leaders, and community volunteers came together to restore pride and beauty to our neighborhood by removing litter, debris, and overgrown brush along Scott Street between Ruth Street and South MacGregor Way.

Scouts learned the importance of caring for the environment, protecting natural resources, and working together to create a cleaner, safer, and healthier community for all residents.

The project was more than just picking up trash—it was about building unity, responsibility, and stewardship. Over the course of the project, participants collected and disposed of multiple bags of trash, improving the appearance and safety of the area. The effort strengthened relationships between Scouts, families, and community members, and served as an example of the Scouting spirit of service and leadership in action.

This initiative reflects the heart of the Messengers of Peace program, showing how small acts of service can create ripples of positive change, inspire others, and contribute to building a more peaceful and sustainable world. ///

Houston Coalition of Omegas Hosts 4th Annual Youth Leadership & STEM Conference

Submitted by Sherwin Johnson and Michael Guillory



Houston Coalition of Omega Psi Phi
Fraternity, Inc. (12 Chapters)

Houston, TX – September 20, 2025 – The **Houston Coalition of Omegas**, representing 12 chapters of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., successfully hosted its 4th Annual Fall Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) and **OMEGA STEM** Event at Booker T. Washington High School.

Over 100 students in grades 7–12 from across the Houston Metroplex participated in a dynamic day of leadership development and hands-on STEM learning.

Morning breakout sessions focused on Faith, Fitness, Finances, and Future, while the afternoon featured a Drone Aviation workshop designed to spark innovation and critical thinking.

Hosted by the Theta Chi Graduate Chapter and **supported by 7 graduate and 5 undergraduate chapters**, the event launched the 2025–2026 mentoring and Omega STEM programming year. This year's theme, "Lifting as We Climb," reflected Omega Psi Phi's mission to empower youth through education, leadership, and community support.

"We wanted these young people to leave inspired and equipped to lead," said Courtney Williams, Chairman of the 2025 YLC. "Their enthusiasm showed we made an impact." Special thanks go to Dr. Carlos Phillips, II, Principal of Booker T. Washington High School, for providing the venue and support, as well as local sponsors, volunteers, and mentors whose contributions made the event a success.

Click here for more photojournalism:

<https://adobe.ly/3IbEXd8.///>

10th District: Brother Cyrill Weems, Chairman, Fatherhood and Mentoring

Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin

Rho Mu Mu: Omega Mentoring Youth Retreat

By

Bryan Morrison, Rho Mu Mu Chapter



Chicago, IL – Once again, the brothers of the Westside Chicago, Illinois chapter, Rho Mu Mu took the youth in their mentoring program to a remote off-site retreat to make a long-lasting impact on the lives of the young men they so dearly care about.

The retreat experience included a three-day stay at a resort full of fun and developmental activities nearly two hours away from the City of Chicago. The goal of the retreat was to expose the mentees to a new and focused environment supportive of team building and to cultivate learning of life skills.

The brothers escorted nearly twenty young men ranging from ages 14 to 19 years old away from their daily environment and provided education, activities, navigational tools, and encouragement for the current situations they are enduring and for their future encounters and endeavors.

The mentors conducted multiple skill development and learning sessions over the three days. The sessions focused on topics such as Emotional Intelligence, Goal Setting, Financial Literacy, Life Choices, Dinner Etiquette, Hygiene, Dealing w/Depression and even Career Options.



Retreat activities included Wall/Rock Climbing, Basketball, Volleyball, Camp Fire Networking, Zip-lining, Exercising, Personal Grooming, Playing Board Games, and multiple meals that both helped to manage youth energy while also creating opportunities for much needed team building between mentee-to-mentee and mentees-to-mentors.

The young men were out of their element with many of the activities but they remained committed to trying new things that most of them

eventually enjoyed and wanted to keep participating in as they got the hang of it. The young men overcame things they did not know they had to overcome from a both a physical and emotional perspective.

The youth retreat not only helped the mentees grow, this experience was very inspirational and allowed an opportunity for the brothers/mentors to grow as well. It also gave the everyone an incredible chance to develop a deeper bond with each other. This year yielded a higher number of mentees and mentors in attendance. The chapter is expecting to grow the numbers of as the retreat grows.

Brothers Bryan Morrison, LeVar Trotter and Al Taylor led the efforts on this year's retreat and provided guidance, support, testimonies, and Uplift to the young men in attendance during those three days. The men of Omega Psi Phi, Fraternity Incorporated thank God for the opportunity to be of Service to these young men and pray we say or do something to support the positive trajectory in the lives of the young men in attendance at the retreat.

Link to retreat video:
https://youtu.be/T_n3voxUeI4?feature=shared

7th Inning Stretch: Undergraduate Coaching for the Future

By Rodney Vakunta- Epsilon Theta

University of Wisconsin – Madison Epsilon Theta chapter's Brother Louis Hilson stepped up to the plate and volunteered as the head coach for the Black Men Coalition of Dane County's youth baseball league. This incredible organization provides a safe and supportive environment for children aged 4 to 12 to learn and play baseball. Brother Hilson dedicated his time and energy to coaching the Triple-A team, guiding young athletes aged 10 to 12.

Brother Hilson's coaching went beyond teaching the fundamentals of baseball. He created a supportive and encouraging atmosphere where every child felt valued and empowered. His passion for the game was contagious, inspiring the young players to develop a love for baseball and a strong work ethic.

Through Brother Hilson's guidance, the Triple-A team not only learned the technical aspects of baseball but also developed important life skills such as teamwork, sportsmanship, and perseverance. Brother Hilson's dedication to these young athletes is a testament to his commitment to making a positive impact on the community. ///



Brother Hilson pictured helping with concessions

Dressing for Success: Epsilon Theta's Suit Drive Empowers Madison Students

By Rodney Vakunta- Epsilon Theta



The University of Wisconsin-Madison Epsilon Theta chapter launched a remarkable initiative to empower students in the Madison community. Through a series of suit drives, the chapter collected and distributed over 100 suits, pants, and other essential clothing items to students from local schools, specifically, Toki Middle School, Wright Middle School, and East High School.

For many of these students, the suit drive marked their first opportunity to own professional attire. The initiative provided them with more than just clothing; it instilled a sense of confidence and prepared them for future success. The students were thrilled to receive the suits, which they eagerly planned to wear to school dances and other formal events. But more importantly, the suit drive offered them a glimpse into the world of professionalism, teaching them

the importance of dressing for success.

Beyond the tangible benefits, the suit drive also boosted the students' self-esteem. The act of selecting and trying on professional attire instilled a sense of pride and accomplishment, empowering them to present themselves with confidence.

The Epsilon Theta chapter's suit drive was a resounding success, leaving a lasting impact on the lives of many Madison students. By providing access to essential clothing and fostering a sense of self-confidence, the chapter demonstrated its commitment to empowering the next generation and making a positive difference in the community. ///

Recap of the 2025 Northern California Area Omega Gents Camping Trip

By Brother Bro. Jeffery Douglas Jr., 2-1995-IM
Northern California Area Representative



together, the tone was set for a weekend of growth, bonding, and empowerment.

Throughout the weekend, we engaged in:

- Workshops focused on academics, manhood, empowerment, and perseverance.
- Athletic activities that build teamwork and discipline.
- Group conversations are designed to strengthen self-worth and resilience.

These experiences equipped our Omega Gents with tools and resources to carry into the new school year, instilling in them a vision of excellence and responsibility. As Omega men, we recognize that structure, consistency, and love are critical in shaping the minds and spirits of our youth. These young kings carefully observe how we speak, how we lead, and how we stand tall in the face of adversity.

By showing up with intention, we model manhood rooted in strength, compassion, responsibility, and integrity. In a society that too often challenges their identity and underestimates their potential, we offer something different:

- Hope through presence.
- Confidence through action.
- Direction through love.

This is the essence of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. uplifting our communities, guiding the next generation, and being a stabilizing force in an ever-changing world. The Northern California Area Chapters remain dedicated to this mission, and this year's camping trip stands as a testament to our collective commitment to the uplift and preparation of our young Black men. ///

NorCal - The Brothers of The Massive and Progressive 12th District Northern California Area Chapters of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., successfully hosted the Annual Northern California Area Omega Gents Camping Trip from August 1–3, 2025. The trip was held at Anthony Chabot Campground in the hills of Castro Valley, California.

Our heartfelt gratitude is extended to Committee Chairman Bro. Dennis Buckner and the dedicated committee members from Theta Pi, Sigma Iota, Delta Iota Iota, and Epsilon Xi Chapters. Your tireless planning, sacrifice, and commitment to excellence ensured that this year's experience was impactful and unforgettable.

This camping trip was not just a weekend getaway; it was a *transformative experience* for the 35 young men from across Northern California who joined us. From the moment we set up tents and shared our first meal

Phi Iota Chapter- Inspires at Big Brothers Big Sisters Roundtable

By Bro. Andrew “Herc” Davis
9-Xi Delta Delta-92 (That Year)



Bro. Andrew “Herc” Davis-Business Development Manager

Phoenix, AZ - On Saturday, August 30, 2025, Bro. Andrew “Herc” Davis proudly served as a panelist for the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona (BBBSAZ) Roundtable Dialogue. This recurring series brings together professionals from diverse industries to share their stories with youth ages 12–18 (“Littles”) and their mentors (“Bigs”). BBBSAZ’s mission is to expose participants to a variety of career paths, real-world experiences, and the many shapes success can take.



The “Big” and “Little” now 8/2025 — and then 9/2025

During the discussion, Bro. Davis spoke about his personal and professional journey as a Business Development Manager, offering insights into perseverance, relationship-building, and staying focused on long-term goals. He joined an inspiring



BBBS Roundtable Panelists

lineup of panelists representing fields such as software engineering, nursing, speech pathology, women’s health, heavy equipment technology, and entrepreneurship. Together, they encouraged Littles to explore opportunities aligned with their passions and to believe in their potential.

For Bro. Davis, the invitation was especially meaningful. He has been an active mentor with BBBSAZ for more than nine years, paired with his mentee Gavin since Gavin was a second grader. Today, Gavin is entering his senior year of high school, and their enduring bond stands as a testament to the power of consistent guidance and encouragement.

Reflecting on the event, Bro. Davis shared that investing time in young people is both a responsibility and a privilege: “When we open doors and share our stories, we give them a vision of what’s possible.”

The Roundtable Dialogue exemplifies how collaboration between mentors, professionals, and community organizations can inspire the next generation of leaders—helping youth imagine bright futures and equipping them with tools to achieve them. ///

Rho Nu Nu at the 2025 National Urban League Youth Leadership Summit

By Kevin Smith, Basileus



Behind the business tour with students

San Diego, CA – From July 14-20, 2025, I had the honor of representing Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Rho Nu Nu Chapter, as a community partner and chaperone at the National Urban League's Youth Leadership Summit in Cleveland, Ohio. Under this year's theme, "The Future Is Ours: We Don't Wait, We Create", more than 300 young leaders from across the country gathered for a week of transformative learning, leadership development, and personal growth designed to equip them for the challenges of college, career, and life.

Immersive Learning and Community Engagement: During our time in Cleveland, students and chaperones toured sponsor-hosted businesses spanning technology, manufacturing, and financial services. We also visited the iconic Cleveland Browns NFL stadium.

Highlights included:

- A student led talent show celebrating creative expression and confidence
- Citywide scavenger hunts that fostered problem solving and collaboration
- The "Perfect Pitch" competition, where aspiring entrepreneurs presented business ideas to a panel of judges for scholarship awards

Upholding Omega's Cardinal Principles: Though only three students from San Diego Urban League



Bro. Smith, Janee, Deuce, Brittlnl, Tony at Cleveland Browns Stadium

were in attendance, I connected with hundreds of peers from diverse Urban League affiliates. Everywhere I looked, I noticed Omega, and Omega men who were exemplifying our cardinal principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift:

- **Manhood:** Mentors led workshops on ethical leadership and self-respect
- **Scholarship:** Academic success seminars emphasized college readiness and career planning
- **Perseverance:** Panel discussions showcased stories of overcoming adversity
- **Uplift:** Community service projects which showed us the power of giving back

It was especially gratifying to stand alongside Brother Nate Phillips (Beta Gamma '89) and Brother D. Baker (Psi '04) as we were able to hop during a portion of the talent show. Gratitude and Next Steps: I extend heartfelt thanks to Urban League San Diego for awarding this opportunity and to our sponsors for investing in tomorrow's leaders.

As Basileus, I remain committed to forging pathways for youth in our community. I invite Brothers to continue to volunteer and be a bridge builder for our youth. ///

Passport to Manhood

Delta Pi Chapter



L-R—Bro. Wayne Greer, Bro. Clifton Brown, Josiah Bickerstaff, Recipient of special recognition of participation award (Middle) and grandmother, and Bro. Willis Jenkins.

Tacoma, WA – The Brothers of Delta Pi, the Tacoma Ques had a graduation ceremony on June 18, 2025 for the young men in the **Passport to Manhood** Program which was a testament to the dedication and growth these individuals have shown.

Throughout the program, they engaged in discussions and activities designed to foster character development, leadership skills, and positive behavior. From learning about responsibility to understanding the importance of integrity, these young men have embraced the values necessary for becoming well-rounded individuals.

Passport to Manhood represents more than just a program; it symbolizes a commitment to shaping future leaders of tomorrow. By providing a structured environment for boys to explore and understand what it means to be a man, the program empowers them to make positive choices and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

Through mentorship and guidance, these graduates have not only gained valuable life skills but have also formed lasting relationships built on mutual respect and support.

The Passport to Manhood program was expanded to provide opportunities for our youth to experience key areas outside their direct geographical locations. In conjunction with the **Pearl Foundation of Puget Sound**, we were able to transport boys and girls to the Museum of Flight in Seattle, Washington, and the Museum of Glass in Tacoma. Through these field trips, students were able to experience real life applications to

concepts taught in their classrooms and through the Passport to Manhood program.

In addition to the Passport to Manhood Program, the chapter also participated in a flag football league which was led and coached by Brother James Dubose. Bro. Dubose not only taught and modeled the fundamentals of the game of football, but also mentored boys and girls in the principles of being part of a team and hard work.



As we celebrate the achievements of these young men, we also recognize the importance of ongoing support and encouragement. The lessons learned in the Passport to Manhood Program and our newly founded Flag Football team, will continue to resonate throughout their lives, serving as a foundation for success in both personal and professional endeavors.

With determination and perseverance, these graduates are poised to make a positive impact on the world around them, embodying the principles of manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift instilled in them through this transformative program. ///

Fathers, Brotherhood, and the Power of Community: Working Together for the Future of Young Ernest

By Brother Alex Diaz 4-24 Xi Nu Nu



Left to Right: Bro. Eric Henson 9-24 Xi Nu Nu, Bro. Alex Diaz 4-24 Xi Nu Nu, Mr. Wakaluluma Sadiki Mahilu (Mr. Deo), Mr. Ernest Sadiki, and Bro. John Bacon 3-24 Xi Nu Nu.

Phoenix, AR – The role of a father extends far beyond simply putting food on the table. Fathers are called to be teachers, emotional anchors, role models, and guides who help shape the next generation. Yet even the strongest dads sometimes need encouragement and support themselves. Recognizing this, the brothers of the Iconic Xi Nu Nu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. in the West Valley of Phoenix, Arizona, live out the principle of “lifting as we climb” by standing alongside fathers and families in their community.

One such father is Mr. Wakaluluma Sadiki Mahilu (Mr. Deo). Born in the Democratic Republic of Congo, he relocated his family to Arizona in search of safety, opportunity, and a brighter future for his children. Mr. Deo has poured himself into raising his family, and now his son, Ernest, a high school senior, is approaching a

crossroads, wondering whether to attend college, enlist in the military, or pursue another path.

In what can only be described as a providential encounter, Brother Alex Díaz (Spring '24, Xi Nu Nu) met young Ernest and began a conversation about life, dreams, and possibilities. Realizing Ernest could benefit from broader perspectives, Bro. Díaz enlisted the help of his line brothers, John Bacon and Eric Henson.

Bro. Bacon, a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps, and Bro. Henson, a Navy veteran with a decade of service and a career in law enforcement, brings a wealth of experience and mentorship to the table. And Bro. Diaz, Senior Pastor of the King's Well Church and a doctoral student, who serves the Avondale community as a minister.

Together, these brothers are coming alongside Mr. Deo and

Ernest in a practical and intentional way, offering tutoring, connecting Ernest with job opportunities in the community, and challenging him to think creatively about his future so he can see his full potential. Through regular meetings with father and son, they have helped develop a concrete plan of action for Ernest's next steps.

A father's role is foundational: he is a stabilizer, guide, and model of character. His impact, positive or negative, often echoes across generations. A father who is present, loving, and consistent lays a framework of trust, identity, and resilience for his children.

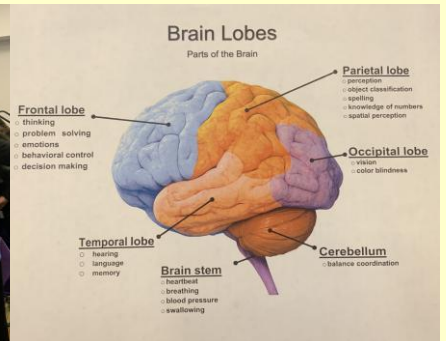
This is what “lifting as we climb” looks like in action: fathers being honored, young men being mentored, and a community being strengthened through the power of brotherhood. ///

13th District: Brother Michael Robinson, Chairman, Fatherhood and Mentoring

Bahamas, Bermuda, Canada, China, Dominican Republic, Germany, Ghana, Hawai'i, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Panama, South Korea, St. Croix, St. Maarten, St. Thomas, United Arabs Emirates, United Kingdom

Brother Michael Robinson Represented Lambda Xi: 2025 Moses C. Norman Leadership Conference

By Michael Robinson



Photos Clockwise from the top left: Brother Michael Robinson pictured with youth during the community service event at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. High School in Detroit; Youth at the Youth Leadership Conference studying the different parts of the brain; Description of parts of the brain; Brother Michael Robinson serving on the question and answering panel during the IHQ Fatherhood and Mentoring information session.

13th International District – Brother Michael Robinson proudly served as a delegate for Lambda Xi Chapter during the 2025 Moses C. Norman Leadership Conference, held July 24–27 in Detroit, Michigan. His participation reflected both dedication and leadership as he engaged in a series of impactful youth-centered events and panel discussions throughout the weekend.

The conference kicked off early Thursday morning with the Omega Youth Leadership Conference at the Huntington Convention Center. The event energized youth attendees with a live DJ and an interactive meet-and-greet icebreaker, fostering new connections. Led by Brother Keith Pemberton, youth from across Omega's districts were introduced to leadership initiatives before

breaking into focused group sessions.

Later that morning, Brother Robinson joined volunteers for a Community Service Social Action Project at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. High School. More than 100 students from Detroit-area schools, along with college students from Alabama State University, attended the event. Educational booths highlighted critical topics such as bullying, social media awareness, and civic engagement.

On Friday, Brother Robinson attended the Omega STEM session, where students explored the complexities of the human brain. From brain functions to the dangers of Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE), the session sparked enthusiastic discussion among youth eager to understand how science connects with them

everyday lives. Immediately following, Brother Robinson was honored to serve on the Fatherhood and Mentoring Panel at the Portside Ballroom.

Invited by Brother Raymond Bell, Chairman of the International Headquarters of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee, Brother Robinson contributed to a lively question and answering session. Discussions included the upcoming rebranding of the national fatherhood and mentoring initiative to "Omega Uplift," a move intended to unify programming and increase funding opportunities across all districts.

In the evening, he participated in the "Brother You're On My Mind" event, a powerful session focusing on mental health and emotional wellness among the Brotherhood.

The initiative, born out of personal tragedy and first introduced in 2017, has become a cornerstone of Omega's commitment to mental health. The session emphasized creating safe spaces, recognizing the lasting effects of the pandemic, and supporting one another through honest dialogue.

To conclude Friday's full schedule, Brother Robinson attended the International High School Talent Hunt Program, showcasing the extraordinary abilities of young artists from across the country. The event celebrated creativity, confidence, and cultural expression supported by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Brother Robinson's involvement at the 2025 Leadership Conference reflects the Lambda Xi Chapter's enduring commitment to service, mentorship, and the development of future leaders. His engagement in these initiatives underscores Omega's mission: lifting as we climb. ///

13th International District Promotes Welcome Back to School

By Brother Michael Robinson



13th International District - As the new 2025-2026 school year begins, the brothers of the 13th International District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., extend their warmest wishes to students of all ages for a safe, productive, and successful school year.

Whether a student is stepping into a classroom for the very first time, transitioning into middle or high school, or beginning the exciting journey of college, this season marks a significant milestone. The return to school brings a mix of emotions, from the joy of reuniting with friends and the anticipation of new experiences, to the understandable nerves that can come with change and uncertainty.

This time of year, serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of preparation, perseverance, and a positive mindset. The Brothers of the 13th International District encourages students to embrace the opportunities ahead, stay focused on their goals, and build a strong foundation for the year to come.

To the families, educators, and mentors supporting these students, your guidance and encouragement are invaluable. Together, we can ensure that every student, regardless of age or stage, begins the school year with confidence, support, and hope.

Here's to a year of growth, achievement, and excellence!

Proud father, Brother Brandon Robinson of Theta Rho Chapter with his son Colin Robinson on the morning of his first day of school. He is a 9th grade student at Stuttgart High School in Stuttgart, Germany on Panzer Kenserne.

PGG Supports Families: Back-to-School Bash and First Day of School Activates

By Brother Anthony Polk



The children of Phi Gamma Gamma Chapter in Kaiserslautern, Germany starting the 2025 – 2026 School Year.

Kaiserslautern, Germany - The Brothers of Phi Gamma Gamma ensured children in the Kaiserslautern community began the year with confidence and the supplies they needed by partnering with the Divine Nine to host a Back-to-School Bash at Ramstein and Kaiserslautern High School, donating backpacks, notebooks, pens, and other essential school items to local families.

The event brought together parents, students, and community members for a day of celebration and preparation. Phi Gamma Gamma's donation effort reflected the chapter's commitment to giving back, helping ease the financial burden of school readiness

while putting smiles on the faces of children eager to learn.

In addition to the **Back-to-School Bash**, the brothers of Phi Gamma Gamma were actively involved with their own children and in the broader Kaiserslautern community. Brothers walked students to classrooms and transitioned their children to college dorms to ensure a smooth welcoming start to the year.

Through these efforts, Phi Gamma Gamma continues to strengthen community ties, invest in future generations, and highlight the importance of starting each school year with both resources and support. ///

Eta Iota Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Welcomes Students on First Day of School

By Brother Alaric Gardine



Photo 1- L to R: Brothers Tyrone Sackey Jr., Melake Whyte, David Delgado, Jimmy Warren, Clint Ferris and Quincy Lewis. Photo 2 - Brother David Delgado and Brother Jimmy Warren welcoming students back to school. Photo 3- Brothers David Delgado, Clint Ferris and Jimmy Warren welcoming parents and students back to school.



St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands - On August 13, 2025, the spirit of community and service was alive and well at Lew Muckle Elementary School in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. As students, parents, and staff arrived for the first day of the new academic year, they were greeted by eight proud brothers of the Eta Iota Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

With warm smiles and uplifting words, the fraternity brothers stood at the school's entrance, offering encouragement and a sense of belonging to all who walked through the doors.

Their presence marked more than a kind gesture. It was part of a broader initiative called D.A.D.S. (Dedicated Achievement Demonstrates Success). Bring Your

Child to School Day, an annual tradition led by the Virgin Islands Department of Education.

This initiative promotes stronger family engagement and sets a positive tone for the school year by involving male role models from the community.

The brothers of Eta Iota Iota, represented not only fathers and grandfathers but also godfathers, uncles, brothers, coaches, mentors, and civic leaders. Their participation reflected the fraternity's ongoing commitment to uplifting youth and serving the community.

Lew Muckle Elementary, home to 422 students from prekindergarten through sixth grade and supported by approximately 34 full-time teachers, was filled with excitement

and anticipation as the new year began. The visible support of community leaders such as the members of Omega Psi Phi helped reinforce the values of education, mentorship, and unity.

For the brothers of Eta Iota Iota Chapter, this day was a powerful reminder that presence matters. Their involvement helped reinforce a message that every child deserves to start the school year knowing they are supported not only by their families and educators but by a wider circle of caring adults in their community.

As the school year unfolds, the impact of that welcoming moment will continue to resonate, setting the tone for a year filled with growth, learning, and connection. ///

Brotherhood in Action: Lambda Xi Back-to- School Supply Giveaway

By Brother Marcus Shepard



Brothers of Lambda Xi Chapter with members of the Republic of Korea Divine Nine, Eastern Stars and Masonic Organizations at the Back to School Give Away held at Humphreys High School.



Photo L – Brother Marcus Shepard and Brother Clint Carmichael handing out school supplies to youth. Photo R – Brother Marcus Shepard, Brother Clint Carmichael, and Brother Troy Warren handing out school supplies to daughter and her father.

South Korea - August 9, 2025 - The Lambda Xi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. ensured that no child started the school year empty-handed, reaffirming its mission of service and uplift by providing school supplies to students of all ages.

The back-to-school supply giveaway, held in partnership with the local Divine Nine and Masonic organizations, took place at Humphreys High School parking lot on Camp Humphreys Army Base.

Families stationed at Camp Humphreys and nearby areas received essential academic

materials such as notebooks, folders, binders, backpacks, and more.

More than a distribution event, the day offered an opportunity for members of Lambda Xi to engage with the community on a personal level. Fraternity brothers connected with students and parents, offering encouragement and practical academic tips to spark excitement for the new school year.

“We want every child to walk into school feeling confident and prepared,” said Vice Basileus Eugene Gibbs. Event coordinator Brother Marcus O. Shepard added, “Education is the foundation of

opportunity, and we are here to make sure our youth have the tools they need to succeed.”

The event supported hundreds of students and brought much-needed relief to parents facing the financial burden of back-to-school expenses amid ongoing economic challenges, including rising prices and inflation.

This giveaway was a powerful reminder that the men of the Lambda Xi Chapter remain deeply committed to scholarship, service, and responding to the needs of their community. ///

Lambda Xi Chapter Supports Student Success with Annual Backpack Giveaway

By Brother Michael Robinson



Lambda Xi Chapter Keeper of Records and Seal Brother Randy Artis presenting purple backpacks to high school senior Phoebe Nicotine and Bradley Miller at Humphreys High School on Camp Humphreys Army Base.

South Korea – As the school year kicks off with renewed energy and anticipation, the Brothers of Lambda Xi Chapter are proud to continue their tradition of giving back to the community and supporting academic achievement.

In a meaningful effort to promote educational readiness, the chapter hosted its annual backpack giveaway for the third consecutive year.

This initiative provided free backpacks filled with essential school supplies to two outstanding high school seniors at each of the following Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) schools:

- Humphreys High School on Camp Humphreys Army Base
- Osan Middle High School on Osan Air Base
- Daegu Middle High School on Camp Walker Army Base



Photo Top – Brother Theodore Turner with Assistant Principal Dr. Kimberly Kelly, and Principal Mr. Willard Clites presenting purple backpacks to high school senior Aliksru Adadchi Sigrah and Denali Clites at Daegu Middle High School at Camp Walker Army Base.

Photo Below – Brother Jamar Meadows (Major 3BCD-K Military Intelligence) and Brother Clarence Burse (13th District Publications Officer) presenting purple backpacks to high school senior Alicia Ford and Artleandro Clemons at Osan Air Base.



By equipping students with the tools they need to succeed, the Lambda Xi Chapter aims to ease the financial burden on families and encourage academic focus and motivation among recipients.

As students, parents, and friends prepare for a successful school year, the Lambda Xi Chapter remains committed to uplifting and supporting the community through service and scholarship. Together, we are helping students start strong and stay prepared for the challenges and opportunities the year may bring. ///

Friendship is Essential to the Soul!