Philanthropic Programs

By Sidney Gremillion Allen, ΨΨ, and Dolly Purvis Loyd, BΔ

During the postwar years and into the early 1950s, the sorority provided philanthropic work in the area of veterans' needs and concentrated most of its effort in veterans hospitals. The country was divided regionally, and equipment and volunteer services were provided by collegiate and alumnae chapters in the different regions.



The 1976 convention body voted to name Special Olympics as the sorority's first designated national philanthropy.

As this need began to diminish and while the sorority surveyed members to determine a new national endeavor, Alpha Sigma Alphas supported such services as fund drives for cancer, The March of Dimes and local charities.

The 1958 convention selected services to those with mental handicaps as the sorority's philanthropic project. Collegians and alumnae have supported this project wholeheartedly over the years. Members have made items of all descriptions for schools and centers, provided children with summer camping experiences and rendered volunteer services by the hour in countless communities.

Financial contributions over the years have made possible a scholarship in this field while helping to enlarge the general scholarship program.

The Philanthropic Fund, established by the sorority in 1926, provided the basis for the program as it has evolved. For years it was maintained through individual contributions and by annual contributions from each collegiate and alumnae chapter. During the 1940s through the early 1960s, a loan program for Alpha Sigma Alpha members was in effect. Loans were made from the Philanthropic Fund, repayable after graduation, interest-free if repaid within the specified time.

In 1967 the loan program was discontinued, and the scholarship program was revised and enlarged. This action was taken at the national convention that year in St. Louis. In 1995 the Philanthropic Fund was transferred to the ΑΣΑ Foundation and renamed the National Scholarship Fund as directed by a resolution passed at the 1994 national convention.

Special education scholarships, available to members and nonmembers pursuing graduate or undergraduate work in the field of special education, are an important part of the scholarship program, which also provides scholarships for Alpha Sigma Alphas who are pursuing graduate or undergraduate degrees.

National philanthropic projects

The 1976 convention body voted to name Special Olympics as the sorority's first designated national philanthropy. Special Olympics is an international program of year-round sports training and athletic competition for

children and adults with mental handicaps. Since the 1976, collegiate and alumnae chapters have given thousands of volunteer hours and financial support to the Special Olympics program.

At the 1990 convention, members voted to add the S. June Smith Center to the national philanthropic program. The center is named after Dr. S. June Smith, KK, in honor of her respected leadership in the field of special education. The center provides services free of charge to help children with developmental delays to grow to their fullest potential. The center's slogan illustrates its mission simply: "To find the gift in every child."



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Alpha Sigma Alpha chapters in the area provide hands-on volunteer services by working at the center and participating in fund-raisers. Chapters not located within traveling distance provide assistance through monetary donations.

For a complete list of scholarships and recipients, see page 507.

Philanthropic / philanthropies chairmen

1932-34	Genevieve Steele Leib, XX
1934-36	Dorothy Smelker Stockton, AA
1936-38	Ethel Tobin, ΞΞ
1949-52	Marie Winn Rice, XX
1952-55	Patricia Detrow Byers, KK
1955-60	Jacquelyn Phillips Carson, BΠ
1961	Helen Hooper Malone, BΓ
1962-63	Geraldine Smith, BΠ
1964	Bonnie Payne Koenemann, ZZ
1964-67	Sidney Gremillion Allen, ΨΨ
1967-70	Judy DeMasters Winter, ZZ
1970-72	Lonna McComas Hendren, AB
1972-74	Barbara Johnston, BΨ
1974-76	Sidney Gremillion Allen, ΨΨ
1976-80	Esther Kauffman Gatseos, BB
1980-82	Jane Marleen Davis, BY
1982-84	Paula Cyrus Foreman, PP
1984-88	Elaine Rahaim Fuerst, BΔ
1988-90	Silvana Filippello Richardson, ΓΛ
1990-92	Gretchen Erb Foust, ΓH
1992-98	Dolly Purvis Loyd, BΔ
1998-2000	Lori Muehlbauer Robinson, ΔK