

History

The Sigma Kappa Foundation has been an important part of Sigma Kappa for more than 48 years. With its spirit, vision, and direction, the Foundation plays a vital role in the continuing growth and success of Sigma Kappa. The Sigma Kappa Foundation was established in 1962 as a trust and incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in 1989.

Mission

The mission of the Sigma Kappa Foundation is to lead, educate and inspire Sigma Kappa members and society through educational programming and philanthropic endeavors.

Vision

Sigma Kappa Foundation will be a dynamic organization, pioneering innovative programs that answer emerging challenges facing women today and have a direct and positive impact on all Sigma Kappa members and their communities. By year 2012, Sigma Kappa Foundation will be:

- A leading organization committed to members of Sigma Kappa Sorority through its premier programming and fund development
- A name respected by our peers who seek our expertise
- Providing 100 scholarships at a minimum level of \$1,000 each
- A foremost provider of education and solutions to challenges facing college campuses
- “Making Alzheimer’s a Distant Memory” by creating a major funding stream to the national Alzheimer’s Association for research to find a cure

We Believe:

- Sigma Kappa Sorority and its members are our primary focus and responsibility
- Honesty and integrity are core to our actions
- Sisterhood and our heritage are cherished and celebrated
- Diversity of thought and embracing change are at the heart of our growth
- Accountability, transparency, and excellence are critical to serving our donors, our members, and our communities
- Volunteer commitment is essential to providing philanthropic service to benefit society

We Value:

- Transparency
- Accountability
- Our Donors
- Integrity and Ethical Behavior
- Our Members and Our Heritage
- Our Volunteers

We Support:

Scholarships

High scholastic achievement is a Sigma Kappa value supported by the Sigma Kappa Foundation. The Sigma Kappa Foundation encourages and supports the scholastic development of our collegiate and alumnae sisters. More than 50 scholarships are available each year to outstanding undergraduate and graduate members who exemplify Sigma Kappa's values of integrity, leadership, academic excellence and our commitment to service and sisterhood. **Nearly \$550,000 has been given to sisters since 1989.**

Sister to Sister Disaster Recovery Fund

Alumnae and collegiate members of Sigma Kappa directly impacted by the occurrence of a U.S. presidential-declared major disaster or emergency can seek short-term financial relief grants through the Sister to Sister Disaster Recovery Fund for up to six months following the declaration. Contributions to build reserve funds are accepted at year-round. **To date, sisters in need have received more than \$33,000 in relief grants.**

Educational and Leadership Programming

At the heart of Sigma Kappa is social, spiritual, and intellectual growth for every member. The Sigma Kappa Foundation provides funding for programs, resources and training designed to develop and empower tomorrow's leaders, such as speakers for convention and the College Officer Training School (COTS), the leadership consultant program, and the total member education program, *Promise*. **Since 1991, \$600,000 has been granted to the sorority for these efforts.**

Alzheimer's Disease Research and Gerontology Studies

Sigma Kappa has been devoted to the study of aging and the needs of the elderly for more than 50 years. Since its inception, **the Sigma Kappa Foundation has awarded more than \$1.5 million in grants and funds raised for Alzheimer's disease prevention, research and treatment efforts** while continuing to educate the public about this debilitating disease through work with senior citizens and care for the elderly.

Inherit the Earth

Members participate in delivering meals to the elderly, plan entertainment at care facilities, coordinate volunteer activities with senior centers, or work to benefit the environment through Sigma Kappa's "Inherit the Earth" project. **Sigma Kappa members nationwide provide more than 160,000 hours of philanthropic service annually.**

Maine Sea Coast Mission

In honor of Sigma Kappa's Founders who were from Maine, Sigma Kappa adopted the Maine Sea Coast Mission as its first philanthropy in 1918. Each year, members and chapters send gifts of toiletries, clothing and toys, and the Sigma Kappa Foundations sends thousands of dollars to benefit isolated islanders living off the coast of Maine who need food, shelter, comfort and medical supplies. **Over \$250,000 has been given to the Maine Sea Coast Mission through Sigma Kappa and Sigma Kappa Foundation.**

Educational Area Grants

The Educational Area Grant Program is a special initiative whereby the Sigma Kappa Foundation may make housing grants for educational spaces in Sigma Kappa chapter houses in accordance with IRS guidelines. The purpose of the Educational Area Grant Program is to improve the educational facilities available at eligible

chapters while relieving the college/university of some of the burden of providing study, library, and/or computer facilities.

Alumnae Heart Fund

The Alumnae Heart Fund was established to support our sisters in need. The purpose of this charitable program is to provide assistance to aid truly needy alumnae who are facing financial distress, emergency or crisis through aging, medical, natural disaster, or other severe personal or family problems. The Sigma Kappa Foundation continues to raise restricted funds to meet the endowment requirement so that emergency grants may be awarded.

Sigma Kappa National Headquarters

In 1989 the Sigma Kappa Foundation purchased the national headquarters building in Indianapolis, Indiana. The building houses Sigma Kappa Sorority, the Sigma Kappa Foundation, and the Sigma Kappa National Housing Corporation. The Sigma Kappa Foundation is responsible for all of the expenses associated with the building and its upkeep.

ANNUAL GIVING PROGRAM

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| Three Pearl Club | \$1,000+ |
| Two Pearl Club | \$750-999 |
| One Pearl Club | \$500-749 |
| Violet Club | \$250-499 |
| Circle of Friends | \$100-249 |
| 1874 Giving Circle | \$18.74 (collegians only) |

Mary Low Carver Society \$10,000
(cumulative unrestricted gifts payable at \$1,000 a year for 10 years)

Joan Reagin McNeill Society \$25,000
(cumulative unrestricted gifts payable at \$2,500 a year for 10 years)

The Golden Triangle Society

Recognizes members and other friends, corporation and advisory boards, or alumnae and collegiate chapters as one entity who contribute a restricted, outright gift of \$10,000 or more.

The Horizon Society

Honors members and other friends who have remembered Sigma Kappa through a planned gift, which may include a life insurance policy, bequest, annuity, or other life income instrument.