

Celebrating the

Beta Sigma Phi members celebrate the holidays in an array of festive ways. Read how they combine helping others during this time of giving and blessings with the joy of being together with our families and friends.

Texas Xi Chi Theta, Yocum presented gifts to an agency who cares for those mother and children left homeless during the holiday season. "I cannot provide pictures or names of the happy recipients, but I can tell you it was a joyful occasion when the gifts were delivered and opened. Holidays are particularly difficult times to be away from home, even when the home is filled with violence," writes Ginny Stafford, CEO of the agency.



Florida Beta Psi Master, Orlando celebrates Christmas AND moving up to a Master chapter. Congratulations, ladies!



California Delta Psi Master, Mt. Shasta helped to make Christmas a lot brighter for children at a local domestic abuse and crisis center. Thirty Christmas stockings were handmade by the chapter, filled with gifts and then distributed to the delighted children.

Nevada Theta Master, Reno sent International a very touching letter from shut-in member Pauline Hammersmith. In the letter Pauline told of how her cards from Beta Sigma Phi sisters during the holidays affected her. In part, Pauline wrote, "Please know that when the cards started coming I couldn't wait until the mail was delivered to see who wrote and from where. . Each one brings a smile and restores my faith in Beta Sigma Phi, friendship and the true meaning of Christmas. Thank you one and all."



Houston Laureate Alpha Iota members really know how to share and care. Their ongoing service project is helping battered women at a local shelter to get back on their feet. And during the holidays, the chapter donates to Wreaths Across America and attends a wreath-laying at a memorial cemetery. Remembering the servicemen and women, who will each receive a filled Christmas stocking for their children.

Holidays



Nevada Laureate Omicron, Nevada really surprised their Secret Sisters by picking out just the right toy for them. "We had so much fun unwrapping toys at our Christmas meeting, it was like being a kid all over again," says Laureate Omicron member Betty West. After the party all the toys were delivered to the local Toys For Tots program.

Ontario Preceptor Beta Nu, Newmarket members present a glad face to see for harried shoppers at the local mall. Once again, the chapter is wrapping presents for those in need of a little extra help. The proceeds go to a regional cancer program, a good cause to be sure. "When people see the sign at the mall, they know the donations

New York Xi Alpha Phi, Yorktown went shopping at a huge department store (think a red target) in support of Tots for Tots and a local family in need that they adopted. "Most of our children are grown so we all had such fun shopping for toys, it truly got us in the holiday spirit," says Xi Alpha Phi member Lynn Mills.



Missouri Laureate Gamma Upsilon, N. Kansas City's resident whiz with a needle, member Evelyn Burge, crocheted afghans for a Christmas service project. Her hands were tired, but her spirit was strong.



are going right to the hospital," says Preceptor Beta Nu member Yvonne Sandham. "It's pretty cool that way."

South Carolina Laureate Upsilon, Myrtle Beach gathered and decorated mugs with toiletries to go to CASA, an organization which advocates on behalf of abused and neglected children. "This is a project the chapter has done for years, and it makes Christmas worthwhile to see the faces of those less fortunate. Have a joyous Christmas," writes Laureate Upsilon member Joanne Kardoley.

Arizona Preceptor Beta Alpha, Lake Havasu City members met for their annual Christmas Secret Sister exchange and potluck dinner and meeting. "After exchanging gifts, who should appear with an arm load of presents, but our hostess, Bonnie Cossett. She had knitted each member a beautiful scarf and cap in assorted colors. NO two alike, which she had done during the year among her many other projects. She is our newest member of one year and very talented. This was a very generous and thoughtful gift. We are fortunate to have a sister like Bonnie in our chapter and we thank her. Even though we live in the desert, it does get cold her during the winter to wear scarves and caps," says member Stellene Matzdorff



Michigan Xi Epsilon Gamma, Charlevoix donated a whopping \$1,000 to local charities to help a disadvantaged single mom with Christmas presents and food for her children. They also donated to the Good Samaritan organization.

Colorado Xi Delta Zeta, Akron Otis is a small chapter who unfortunately has lost several sisters over the past few years. So member Bonnie Hall

wanted to do something special for the holiday Secret Sister exchange, because it is such a chapter favorite. "I wanted to do something that would bring a smile to all of our faces. I decided to do the Jeff Foxworthy's "12 Days of Redneck Christmas," she writes. "Which can be a challenge but with some help of dear friends I have accomplished this. I needed seven packages of chewing tobacco and as none of us smoke or chew, I wrote to the particular company mentioned in the song, thinking nothing ventured nothing gained. After a few emails one of their represen-



Mississippi Laureate Omicron, Greenville members provided a real life Christmas, with Santa included, for many happy children. The chapter looks forward all year long to celebrating the holidays and helping those less fortunate.



Also working with CASA during the holiday season is **Kansas Laureate Beta Lambda, Topeka** members (shown here) who volunteered to be docents at the annual Homes for the Holidays, a major fundraising event for CASA.

Akron, Ohio City Council participates in a Christmas tree festival every year sponsored by the area children's hospital. The latest creation was a tree titled *Shimmering Elegance*, topped with snowflakes and icicles. "Our tree was sold the first night," writes **Ohio Laureate Delta Psi, Akron** member Dura Barbour. "This donation and all others who participate in the festival contribute to the care and well being of the children and their families during their stay in the hospital."



Kentucky Epsilon Chi, Danville celebrated the Yuletide season with a big party with Secret Sister gifts and their favorite appetizer, plenty of good times and good food, an event that is looked forward to all year long.

Pennsylvania Laureate Zeta Lambda, Stroudsburg has a tradition of celebrating the holidays with a dinner with their spouses at a gorgeous lodge in Skytop, Pennsylvania. "It is a beautiful countryside and a great mean, we celebrate the camaraderie and the friendships shared," writes Laureate Zeta Lambda member Donna Straub.

tatives sent me seven packages so that we could fill them with the chewing bubble gum that kids use!" This addition met all the requirements and the sisters were surprised by all the accoutrements, including tube socks!



Ohio Preceptor Zeta Delta, Medina help to spread the Christmas spirit by decorating four dozen Christmas trees that were sent to our soldiers. "The tree decorating was done in conjunction with the chapter's 25th birthday party, and we celebrated all the fun and sisterhood we have had since 1983," write Preceptor Zeta Delta members. Happy Birthday and Merry Christmas, sisters!