# Theta Phi Alpha® FOUNDATION OVERCOMING CHALLENGES FOR A BETTER FUTURE



OUR VISION EVER LOYAL COMMITMENT EVER LASTING SUPPORT 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



#### Letter from the Foundation Chair

Hello Theta Phi Alphas and Friends,

It seems like just yesterday that we shared our annual report with you. As we get ready to begin another year, it is our pleasure to share within these pages where our journey has taken us this year and how we use your donations to support our membership.

We want to start by thanking you for your continued support of our mission. When the Foundation was started in 1959, its purpose was to provide scholarships for our members as, at that time there were not the opportunities for financial assistance that we have today. While the Foundation continues our original mission and purpose, we have expanded to supporting the Fraternity, as well as assisting members with our Disaster Relief Grants.

The directors of the Foundation are committed to working with the Grand Council through the Foundation's "Setting a New Direction" efforts. We know that investing in our future as an organization is how we can ensure that Theta Phi Alpha continues to remain a relevant organization for generations to come. We will be sharing more information with all of our donors in the coming months on how you can get involved. Continued support for educational programming for all our members and the technological infrastructure to support the delivery of those programs remain a focus of the organization.

Thank you to our outgoing director, Kathleen Sullivan, Alpha Gamma, who gave many years to the Theta Phi Alpha Foundation, advancing our mission. We are excited to welcome a new Director, Jennifer Jacob, Kappa, to work with fundraising and donor development. Additionally, we have created new engagement opportunities with the creation of an ambassador position with the Foundation. We hope that you will join us in welcoming these new volunteers to the organization.

We know that there is "Strength In Numbers," and you, our donors, continue to show us that as we continue our everlasting support of our membership. We are grateful for your ever-loyal commitment.

Yours In the Bond of Sisterhood,

Becky Dixon McLaren Chairman Theta Phi Alpha Foundation Kristin Windeshausen Henkenius National President Theta Phi Alpha



## SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT

#### "The Transformative Power of Scholarships and Sisterhood."

In the heart of our commitment to education and fostering a sense of belonging, the Theta Phi Alpha Foundation is delighted to share the impactful journey of Surina Birk, a student whose experience epitomizes the transformative power of scholarships and sisterhood. Surina, reflecting on her unique path, shares, "Growing up, I was surrounded by boys. I never had sisters, and I never truly felt that I belonged anywhere."

When Surina discovered the inception of the first Greek Organization at her university, Theta Phi Alpha, she felt a mix of excitement and hesitation. However, upon meeting her future sisters, she experienced a profound realization: "I found my place, my home. I went from having zero sisters to 34 within a couple of hours." The support and camaraderie she found within the chapter provided a haven for personal and academic growth.

Surina's journey, shaped by her Theta Phi Alpha experience, exemplifies the importance of scholarships. As she notes, "Without my sisters and Theta Phi Alpha, I would not be where I am today." The scholarships provided by the Theta Phi Alpha Foundation not only ease financial burdens but also create a supportive environment where individuals like Surina can thrive, fostering a sense of belonging and empowerment. Her story echoes the profound impact that scholarships and sisterhood can have on the lives of college students, reinforcing our dedication to supporting the dreams and aspirations of our extraordinary community. The Foundation proudly gave 10 scholarships totaling \$14,000 during the 2023 academic year.

#### **Scholarship Recipients**

\$3,000 Clarissa Ove, Alpha Psi Selma Gilday Scholarship

\$2,500 Bianca Huerta, Delta Nu Amelia McSweeney Scholarship

\$1,500 Surina Birk, Delta Nu Mildred Connely Scholarship

\$1,000 Sara Cavalier, Beta Epsilon May C. Ryan Scholarship

\$1,000 Jessica Schafer, Delta Lambda Eva Stroh Bauer Everson Scholarship

\$1,000 Katie Montini, Beta Chi Dorothy Caughey Phalan Scholarship

\$1,000 Paige Innes, Alpha Psi Otilia Leuchtweis O'Hara Scholarship

\$1,000 Katie Turner, Beta Delta Helen Ryan Quinlan Scholarship \$1,000 Madelyn Quinn McGowan, Delta Kappa Katrina Caughey Ward Scholarship

\$1,000 Kathleen Nolan, Alpha Psi Camilla Ryan Sutherland Scholarship

2023 Annual Report

#### SPONSOR THANK YOU

A generous amount of gratitude for the Alpha Nu Memorial Scholarship Fund, Alpha Gamma Scholarship Fund, Sigma of Akron Memorial Scholarship Fund, Wearers of the Guard of Honor, the General Scholarship Fund, and the Amelia McSweeney Scholarship Fund endowed in memory of Megan Beck, Beta Omega, and Stephanie Coonan, Beta Beta.

Without these sponsors, our scholarships would not be able to enrich the lives of those who need them most.

Thank you!

#### **COLLEGIAN AND PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT**

This past year, Theta Phi Alpha Foundation has been proud to assist the fraternity with its continued effort of "Setting a New Direction". We continued to use donations towards providing academic and NGLA scholarships, philanthropic donations, and maintenance of various technology and databases.

Theta Phi Alpha Foundation was also fortunate to help with providing grants to the fraternity to ensure that the current collegiate membership was provided with experiences and programs to benefit the continued growth and development of the current membership across the country. We thank our donors who graciously contributed to these causes through your donations. To show our gratitude, we wanted to highlight some of these experiences and opportunities that we were so excited to help take part in in 2023.

At Officer Leadership Training 2023 at the University of Maryland at College Park, Theta Phi Alpha Foundation assisted with bringing Bonny Shade of Bonny Shade Speaks LLC to speak to collegian members. Bonny Shade's mission is to end sexual violence, empower women, and build better communities. As a sorority woman, Bonny emphasized to the members who attended OLT that experiences in Fraternity and Sorority Life depend on the community we build and the membership we bring in. Bonny spoke to several experiences that she went through as a collegiate sorority woman as well as sharing stories about students she worked with as a Fraternity/Sorority Life Advisor. Her message was clear and strong to our collegiate membership: Reevaluate what you want to see come into the organization and be a champion for those relationships. Bonny's message of sisterhood, values-based recruitment, and community building to ensure Every Loyal and Every Lasting membership was a wonderful message.



#### **COLLEGIAN AND PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT**

After Bonny Shade's powerful message, collegiate members were presented with a new recruitment tool to get started. Phired Up Productions will be used by collegiate membership to help grow the fraternity. Collegiate members will be able to use programs such as ChapterBuilder to assist with their recruitment needs. ChapterBuilder offers assistance with maintaining potential new member leads, tracking recruitment milestones on potential new members, and assessing recruitment efficiency. This tool can help move the fraternity's recruitment forward in their continued growth.

In August, Chairman Becky McLaren joined Kathryn Hartmann, Executive Director of Theta Phi Alpha Fraternity. and Kristin Henkenius, National President of Theta Phi Alpha, at the Foundation For Fraternal Excellence conference. While there. FFE spoke about their new project: Amplifying Sorority Campaign. The Amplifying Sorority Campaign is focussing on helping sororities grow their communities while facing the challenges that students in higher education are facing every day. From the summer of 2023 until 2026, the Amplifving Sorority Campaign is conducting research in ten different areas to highlight the value of sorority membership to higher education students. This includes bringing members in, retaining members, and assisting members with marketing their sorority experience when they look into entering the workforce. This campaign offers assistance to our collegiate members by providing assistance and information to help members of all stages in their sorority experience. Theta Phi Alpha Foundation was proud to partner with Theta Phi Alpha Fraternity in donating towards this campaign.

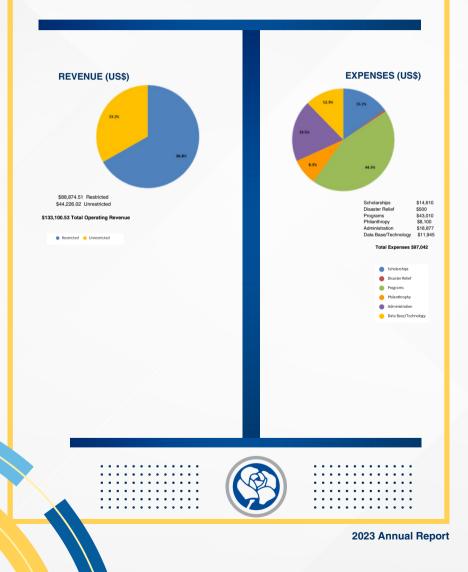


#### THANKS TO OUR DONORS!

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The Directors of Theta Phi Alpha Foundation wish to offer another heartfelt thank you to our gracious contributors this year. Without your continuous support, we would not have been able to assist with bringing these programs, as well as others, to the fraternity and collegiate members. We look forward to continuing work that we are passionate about to make experiences more engaging, powerful, and connected for collegiate and alumnae members in 2024.

#### FINANCIAL RESULTS: FISCAL YEAR 2022 – 2023



## THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING JENGA BLOCKS

While traveling to Officer Leadership Training at College Park, Maryland, a game of giant Jenga was picked up to bring down to the Theta Phi Alpha Foundation room as a way to add a relief for the collegiate students in attendance when they needed a reprieve from their learning tracks. The Jenga game turned into much more than simply a reprieve. It turned into a conversation and connection point during OLT.

The Jenga blocks are now marked by different chapters and the members who attended OLT. The Grand Council signed a block, the Theta Phi Alpha Foundation directors signed a block, and alumni volunteers found their blocks as well. The Jenga tower serves as a point of connection where alumnae and collegians can find each other while signing their chapter's blocks and discuss the chapter as they remember or see it now.

The Jenga block tower will continue its travels to Convention 2024 where it waits for new signatures and more memories to be shared. If you are traveling to convention, please consider stopping by the Theta Phi Alpha Foundation room to make your mark on the tower!





Rebecca "Becky" Dixon McLaren Alpha Mu, Chairmar



Valerie Vertin Thomas, Alpha Nu, Treasurer



Jenniker Dunn Jacob Kappa, Director of Development



Lucy Holmes-Higgin, Alpha E. Director of Scholarship



Kristin Windeshausen Henkenius Alpha Pi, National President

Alpha®



Rachel Feldberg Flansburg, Delta Alpha, Director of Collegians

Rebecca "Becky" Dixon McLaren, Alpha Mu, Chairman Valerie Vertin Thomas, Alpha Nu, Treasurer Lucy Holmes-Higgin, Alpha E, Director of Scholarships Rachel Feldberg Flansburg, Delta Alpha, Director of Collegians Jennifer Dunn Jacob, Kappa, Director of Development Kristin Windeshausen Henkenius, Alpha Pi, National President

## MISSION

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Theta Phi Alpha Foundation enriches Theta Phi Alpha sisters by providing resources for scholarship, philanthropy, and education through charitable giving.

The Foundation also uses Crowdchange to make it easier to find our fundraisers, or for chapters and alumnae associations to create their own fundraisers. Find us on Crowdchange!

Theta Phi Alpha Foundation, as a 501(c)3 charitable organization, has a Gift Acceptance Policy to document our practices and to ensure that we work within our mission and vision.



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