Pi Phi Housing: Myth Versus Reality

The Fraternity Housing Corporation (FHC) assists with all Pi Phi facilities. But what exactly does FHC do to help? We’re debunking myths about Pi Phi housing and answering some of the most commonly asked FHC questions.

**MYTH:** “The Fraternity Housing Corporation (FHC) is a department of Pi Beta Phi and has been around since Pi Phi chapter houses were first built.”

**REALITY:** FHC was established in 2008 as a 501(c)(7) nonprofit corporation and has its own Board of Directors. While FHC works closely with the Fraternity, it is its own separate entity — just like Pi Beta Phi Foundation.

**MYTH:** “All 135 Pi Phi chapters have chapter houses that collegiate members live in.”

**REALITY:** Only 65 Pi Beta Phi chapters have a Chapter House Corporation (CHC) owned chapter house for members to live in. The remaining chapters live in either university-owned housing, such as houses or dormitories, or have meeting spaces, such as a suite. FHC assists with all Pi Phi facilities, regardless if the chapter has a house.

**MYTH:** “FHC manages the property and employees for all Pi Phi chapter houses.”

**REALITY:** FHC directly manages and acts as the CHC for 12 Pi Phi chapters. Managing these chapters includes hiring staff, purchasing furniture and maintaining facility finances. All other chapter houses are owned and managed by individual CHCs.

**MYTH:** “FHC only interacts with some CHCs, not all.”

**REALITY:** FHC assists and supports all CHCs, including more than 500 Pi Phi volunteers. FHC conducts volunteer training, provides online resources, conducts background checks for chapter employees, helps recruit CHC volunteers and approves all CHC fundraising efforts, when needed.

**MYTH:** “All newly installed chapters vote to become an FHC managed chapter, instead of having their own CHC.”

**REALITY:** Following the formation of FHC in 2008, each new Pi Beta Phi chapter shall automatically be managed by FHC, according to Pi Beta Phi Constitution & Statutes.

**MYTH:** “A CHC must perform a Housing Assessment once each year.”

**REALITY:** CHCs who own a chapter house are encouraged to perform a Housing Assessment every five years. The Housing Assessments identify potential property and liability issues and help CHCs plan for the future.

**MYTH:** “The Fraternity collects and reviews all CHC Annual Reports.”

**REALITY:** CHC Annual Reports are collected by FHC and are due on February 1 each year. For more details, contact FHC Housing Manager Jen Fetter at jen@pibetaphi.org.

**MYTH:** “CHC programming and training only occurs at Pi Phi’s biennial convention.”

**REALITY:** Beginning in Summer 2012, FHC will conduct CHC Summits to coincide with Pi Beta Phi’s Alumnae Leadership Summits. They will be held this year in Atlanta, Kansas City, Missouri, and Los Angeles. These events will include helpful workshops, speakers and networking opportunities with other CHC volunteers and local alumnae. Additionally, FHC will continue to host a housing symposium at each biennial convention.