



My Legacy of Philanthropic Service - Alumnae Organization

Fraternity Value: Philanthropic Service to Others

Time: 20–30 minutes

Suggested Facilitator: Alumnae Organization President or other member

Goals:

- To encourage members to share their personal experiences engaging in philanthropic service.
- To encourage members to take part in service opportunities.
- To allow members to reflect on the philanthropic impact they can have through Pi Beta Phi.

Room setup/materials needed:

- Make sure you have enough room for participants to sit comfortably as a large group as well as space for small discussion groups.
- Download the optional PowerPoint presentation, which accompanies this seminar called, “My Legacy of Philanthropic Service optional PowerPoint.” It can be found on the Pi Beta Phi *Leading with Values*® website.
- Computer or laptop and projector with a large screen. If these are not available, think about printing the PowerPoint slides for participants to use during the seminar.

Getting Started

Talking points are indicated with a callout bullet (☛). Please use these as speaking guidelines, but be sure to jazz up the presentation with your own personality. Facilitation instructions are indicated with an arrow (➤) and serve as hints you might find helpful when administering the material. Most importantly, have fun!

Instructions

➤ Introduce the activity:

- ☛ Hello and thank you for being here today. To get started, think about the following questions:
 - Have you ever wondered the impact and legacy you have had or will have through your service and dedication to Pi Beta Phi?
 - Whose lives will be forever changed through the impact made by Pi Beta Phi?
 - Why do we participate in philanthropic service and why is Philanthropic Service to Others a core value of Pi Beta Phi?
 - How can you help plan and be more involved in philanthropic service?
- ☛ Through our discussions today, we will seek to answer these questions.

→ Advance to slide, “Barbara Bush.”

- First, I would like to share with you a quote from Barbara Bush — former United States First Lady and Pi Beta Phi, “Giving frees us from the familiar territory of our own needs by opening our mind to the unexplained worlds occupied by the needs of others.”
- Now, find three to four friends sitting near you and form a group. Once you have found your group, we will move forward.

A Philanthropic Legacy

→ Once members have found their groups, advance to slide, “Philanthropic Legacies” and please continue.

- Bill Gates, Mother Teresa, Oprah Winfrey, John D. Rockefeller and Jane Addams are several men and women whose names should ring a bell. Through religion, sports, entertainment, business or general compassion for others, these people have made philanthropic service and giving a natural and consistent part of their lives. But why? Why do we feel the need to give of our time, energy, money and other resources?

→ Advance to slide, “Albert Einstein.”

- Albert Einstein said, “It is every man’s obligation to put back into the world at least the equivalent of what he takes out of it.” As a group, take a few minutes to talk about what you believe philanthropy is and what it means in terms of being a member of Pi Beta Phi. Also, talk about philanthropic service opportunities you have had either through Pi Beta Phi or other organizations and how those have impacted you.

→ Give each group four to five minutes to discuss their thoughts and then bring the groups back together and continue.

- At this time, let’s have a few people share what they think philanthropy means by being a member of Pi Beta Phi or through other outside experiences.

→ Call on a few people to share then advance to slide, “Pi Beta Phi Founders” and continue.

- Pi Beta Phi’s founders outlined the following goals in our constitution: to, “cultivate sincere friendship, establish the real objects of life and promote the happiness of humanity.” They continued, “the object of this organization shall be the advancement of its members in the most delicate yet strong friendship, mental assistance in all matters, endeavoring to dispel the gloom from the lives of all around them, to ... [exert] an influence of virtue and charity throughout all [acts], also to enable any member to follow the dictates of her own conscience knowing that she will be upheld and encouraged independence. Anything within the bounds of Morality shall receive the commendation of her sisters” (A Century of Friendship in Pi Beta Phi, 1968, Page 12).
- Founder Margaret Campbell stated the 12 founders organized “first, for the good times, and second, because they intended to help an extremely poor family of Monmouth and felt that they could do so much better if they were organized ... among the things recorded by the chapter in their efforts to do good were: ‘That first

winter we bought the coal and paid the rent for a poor man's family.' From other chapters: 'the distributing of \$5 among the poor'; the giving of benefits for charitable purposes; [and] benefit performances for local library funds" (A Century of Friendship in Pi Beta Phi, 1968, Page 65). It is believed that these may be some of the first organized efforts of what we today call philanthropic service.

- From the time the words, "promote the happiness of humanity" were written, Pi Beta Phi women have dedicated their lives to leaving a legacy of service to others. Philanthropy was certainly on the mind of our members when they voted to establish the Settlement School in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, at a time before any other fraternity or sorority had its own philanthropy or made philanthropy a cornerstone of its organization. In addition, Pi Beta Phi established Arrow in the Arctic when no other National Panhellenic Conference group had even considered a Canadian philanthropy.

➔ Advance to slide, "Pi Beta Phi Philanthropists."

- A few prominent examples of Pi Beta Phi women who have exemplified this value might include:
 - Ima Hogg, "The First Lady of Texas" and a Texas Alpha. Ima's family became wealthy quickly through the oil industry and Ima dedicated her life to giving to others.
 - Carrie Chapman Catt, suffragist and Iowa Gamma, said "To the wrongs that need resistance, to the right that needs assistance, to the future in the distance, give yourselves."
 - Amy Beihl, California Alpha, was a Peace Corps worker murdered in South Africa, serving those in need.
 - Vida Peene, Ontario Alpha, was a cultural leader in Ontario, Canada, and holder of Order of Canada's Service Medal.

- So what does philanthropic service accomplish and why do you think these women dedicated their lives to serving others? Take a couple minutes to discuss your thoughts in your group.

➔ Give each group two to three minutes to discuss their thoughts and then bring the groups back together and continue.

- Now, let's have a few people share what they think philanthropic service seeks to accomplish and why these prominent Pi Phi women spent their lives serving others.

➔ Call on a couple people to share then advance to slide, "Dr. Seuss" and continue.

- Each year on or around March, 2, we celebrate Pi Beta Phi's Fraternity Day of Service, which coincides with Dr. Seuss's® birthday. Dr. Seuss once said, "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." ("The Lorax," Dr. Seuss) Philanthropic service is often about what members of Pi Beta Phi can accomplish when coming together with the purpose of serving others. But, as evidenced by these Pi Beta Phi women, philanthropic service can be a part of your personal mission and goals, just as it is to Pi Beta Phi. Take a couple more minutes with your group to discuss the type of impact and legacy you want to leave through your dedication and service to Pi Beta Phi.

Final Wrap-Up

- Give each group two to three minutes to discuss their thoughts and then bring the groups back together, advance to slide, “Winston S. Churchill” and continue.
 - Winston S. Churchill once said, “We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”
- Advance to slide, “*Leading with Values.*”
 - So I’ll leave you with the questions we asked at the beginning of this seminar.
 - Have you ever wondered the impact and legacy you will leave through your service and dedication to Pi Beta Phi?
 - Whose lives will be forever changed through the impact they have by members of Pi Beta Phi?
 - Why do we participate in philanthropic acts and why is Philanthropic Service to Others a core value of Pi Beta Phi?
 - What are some philanthropic opportunities that are unique to our alumnae organization? What can we do to advance these initiatives and/or brainstorm on new opportunities we could explore?
- Thank everyone for participating in this seminar.