2013–2017
Progress Report
Pi Beta Phi’s Partners in Service

The Literacy Fund at Pi Beta Phi Foundation plays a critical role in the success of Pi Beta Phi’s Read > Lead > Achieve initiatives. These initiatives include Champions are Readers, Arrow in the Arctic and Fraternity Day of Service. Grants from The Literacy Fund support Fraternity Day of Service Signature Events and FDS 500 including purchasing new books through First Book® to be distributed by Pi Phis across North America. Thanks to the donations to The Literacy Fund at Pi Beta Phi Foundation, the continuation and expansion of these imperative literacy initiatives is made possible.

First Book is a nonprofit organization providing new books, learning materials and other educational essentials to children in need. In June 2007, Pi Beta Phi and Pi Beta Phi Foundation announced its corporate partnership with First Book. Since this partnership began in 2007, Pi Beta Phi and First Book have donated more than 3.5 million books together to children and communities in need through innovative programs and impactful events.

In addition to partnering with First Book, Pi Beta Phi has joined with the Barbara Bush Foundation to help spread the love of reading, increase awareness about literacy, and engage in advocacy efforts. Pi Beta Phi is proud to be a founding member of the Voices for Literacy campaign, the newly created collaborative bringing together five organizations committed to literacy coordinated by the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy.

Sneak Peek

What have we accomplished as a Fraternity of volunteers since Convention 2013?
150 Years of Sisterhood and Service

Over 100 years ago, Pi Beta Phi established the Settlement School in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, which grew into Pi Beta Phi Elementary School. It was during the 1910 Swarthmore Convention that Emma Harper Turner proposed Pi Beta Phi find and maintain a school in honor of the 12 founders. This was the first national philanthropic effort of any National Panhellenic Conference organization. Pi Phi has continued with this legacy of Philanthropic Service to Others over its 150 years.

- Pi Beta Phi was solely responsible for formal education in Gatlinburg until the 1940s, and continued to provide educational and financial assistance until 1967.
- In 1967, Pi Beta Phi created the first Canadian philanthropy of the National Panhellenic Conference, Arrow in the Arctic.
- In 2003, Pi Beta Phi began Champions are Readers® (CAR) — a reading enrichment program that sends collegians and alumnae into local schools, afterschool programs and other organizations serving children as reading mentors.
- During the 2011 Convention, Pi Beta Phi launched Read > Lead > Achieve®, Pi Phi’s official philanthropic effort.
- Fraternity Day of Service Signature Events started in 2013. Each event brings 20,000 brand-new books to the host city for children in need.
- In 2013, the CAR program was revised to provide flexibility in serving children in preschool through third-grade and to allow for differentiation, which supports the varying academic needs of students in each classroom. Pi Beta Phi Foundation committed to fully funding all CAR program materials.
- In 2017, Pi Beta Phi not only celebrates its 150th year, but celebrates surpassing the goal of impacting more than one million lives through literacy service in four years!

Words from Barbara Bush

It’s such a pleasure to commend the women of Pi Beta Phi on their extraordinary work in service of a cause that has long been dear to my heart: literacy. The sorority’s commitment to improving the lives of North America’s children and families through literacy dates back more than 100 years, and continues today through its Read > Lead > Achieve® initiative.

Over the past four years alone, Pi Beta Phi sisters internationally have joined forces to impact one million lives through literacy. This report details their remarkable accomplishments, which include donating more than $4.4 million and 360,000 books, completing nearly one million hours of community service, and serving more than 24,000 elementary school students.

Thank you, Pi Beta Phi, for so generously channeling your time and energy into sharing the life-changing gift of literacy. You make me proud to be a Pi Phi!

- Barbara Bush, Former First Lady and Founder, Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy; Barbara Bush is an alum initiate of the Texas Eta chapter of Pi Beta Phi.
At Pi Beta Phi, we believe in the power of reading. For more than a century, we’ve committed ourselves to creating a more literate and productive society. We’ve changed with the times, but never shifted our vision. How has Pi Beta Phi honored this past while building for the future?

**Our unwavering literacy service commitment:**

**Pi Phis believe in the power of reading**

We believe reading transforms us, creates leaders and is vital to achieving our potential as individuals and as a society.

**Pi Phis draw on our heritage of more than 100 years of literacy service to foster a lifelong love of reading.**

**Pi Phi is a Fraternity of volunteers**

We are more than a group of friends – we are a Fraternity united to promote a lifelong love of reading.

More than 1 MILLION lives impacted since the 2013 Convention!

- **250,000 books** donated through FDS500
- **18 cities** served and **360,000 books** distributed through Fraternity Day of Service Signature Events
- **166,667 community service hours** given by alumnae clubs in since 2014
- More than **24,000 children** served through CAR
- **164,448 hours** of literacy service by collegiate members and 405,778 total hours of community service by collegiate women

**Our century of service**

Pi Phis draw on our heritage of more than 100 years of literacy service to foster a lifelong love of reading.

**The Story of Four Years**

**THE IMPACT OF READ > LEAD > ACHIEVE**

The story of four years:
The Power of Reading

QUOTES FROM BOOK RECIPIENTS

‘Mom, look — I have my own books. Now I can read them to my friends.’

“Your wonderful selection will make it possible for us to give students books to take home to share with young siblings. We also plan to form book clubs so that students could read the same book and talk about – just like adults do.”
- Book distribution recipient

“Thanks again! You all are inspiring my first graders to become lifelong readers!”
- CAR Classroom Teacher

“One little boy told his mom, ‘Mom, look — I have my own books. Now I can read them to my friends.’ It’s this excitement and pride in owning books that will keep him going back to books again and again, developing successful habits for reading, school and life.”
- Pi Phi reading volunteer

“Thank you so much for the wonderful books! The students and teachers were delighted and so excited to receive them.”
- FDS500 recipient
How Can I Become an Advocate?

THE LITERACY ADVOCACY PROJECT
Presented by Pi Beta Phi Fraternity for Women in partnership with the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy

Pi Beta Phi believes reading always has been – and always will be – a powerful step toward a life of enduring impact. One out of four children will grow up unable to read; that’s one too many. This highly interactive training program is designed to prepare you to be an advocate for literacy in your community. The program will explore all aspects of literacy advocacy — why it’s important, how you can impact and what is needed to become a change agent as well as consider the factors that contribute to improving literacy. At the end, all participants will leave prepared to tell their literacy advocacy story in a compelling manner. Come prepared to roll-up your sleeves, tackle this important issue and go home ready to change a life forever.

Upon completion of this training, participants will know:
- High impact statistics related to literacy in the United States
- Why it is critical to advocate for literacy
- Five ways to get involved or get others involved in literacy advocacy
- The three most effective strategies that produce intended results
- How to access resources for literacy advocacy

Program Dates
Atlanta: September 21
Phoenix: October 6
Seattle: October 13
St. Louis: November 9
Washington DC: November 14

Registration will open by August 15! For more information on these exciting events and to learn about Pi Phi’s advocacy efforts, visit www.pibetaphi.org/literacyadvocacy.

Elizabeth Clarke Helmick Literacy Endowment

Established by Pi Beta Phi Foundation with a lead gift of $2,250,000 from the Fraternity, obtained through the proceeds of the Gatlinburg land sale, the Elizabeth Clarke Helmick Literacy Endowment serves as an ever-lasting tribute to Pi Beta Phi’s philanthropic commitment to literacy. The goal of the fund is to support Pi Beta Phi’s literacy initiatives in perpetuity. And given such a goal, the fund bears the name of Michigan Alpha Elizabeth Clark Helmick, the Pi Phi who lead her sisters into Gatlinburg, Tennessee, for a project that would evolve into the philanthropic cause of Pi Beta Phi: the promotion of literacy that leads to a lifetime of success. Learn more and support the fund by visiting www.pibetaphifoundation.org

PARTICIPATE. DONATE. ADVOCATE.