



# 2024-25 FOUNDATION *Donor Impact* REPORT

Last year in this letter, we celebrated the success of Anchoring the Future, Delta Gamma's record-breaking \$58M+ campaign. But what do you do after you've raised *more money than any other fraternal foundation campaign*?

You keep going. You focus on mission. You focus on impact. You lead, grow and continue to do good!

This past year, thanks to you, the Delta Gamma Foundation continued to raise the bar for women's foundations everywhere.

Because of your generosity:

- Over 500 sisters received scholarships, fellowships and Crisis Grants to pursue their dreams and find strength in difficult times.
- 173 Service for Sight partners were supported through grants that expanded programs and resources for people living with blindness or low vision.
- Thousands of Delta Gammas participated in leadership development, health and well-being, and social responsibility training

through the Foundation's support of Fraternity initiatives.

Every dollar you give to the Delta Gamma Foundation makes a direct impact. And when you give to the Foundation, your generosity carries even greater weight — just 2% of all charitable giving in the U.S. supports women and girls. That means your gift to the Delta Gamma Foundation is part of something bigger, bolder and more transformative.

You are shaping the future of philanthropy. You are ensuring Delta Gamma remains one of the most impactful women's fraternal foundations in the world. And because of you, the future of giving is female — and it's bright.

With deepest gratitude,

*Jenn and Leslie*

Jenn Stuart Ragusa (pictured left)  
Zeta Lambda-UC Riverside  
Foundation Board of Trustees Chair

Leslie Loop Martin (pictured right)  
Gamma Rho-Wittenberg  
Foundation Executive Director



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# We grow because we can.

Delta Gammas expand each other's possibilities by funding undergraduate merit- and need-based scholarships, graduate fellowships and Crisis Grants, which were especially impactful this year due to wildfires in California.

Last January, wildfires ripped through areas around Los Angeles, destroying entire towns. Many of our sisters were impacted by this devastation, losing homes and businesses. Because of donors who have generously supported the Crisis Grant Fund, the Foundation was able to offer these sisters hope in their time of need.

Here is just one sister's story:

"The week of January 7 was probably the worst that Pacific Palisades has ever known. Our community watched on international television as everything we have known, loved and created burned to the ground. I have never felt so helpless, so broken. But, throughout that week, I never felt alone.

Community saved me at that time, and continued to in the aftermath. While my home still stands, it is severely smoke-damaged. Everything inside my home, from memorabilia to carpeting and bedding, to kitchen-ware, was destroyed. My family had nowhere to go, because most of our friends had lost their homes in the fire as well. My parents and sister left with the clothes on their backs and whatever they were able to grab from the house.

Delta Gamma came as a saving grace for my family and me. I was not alone throughout the week of January 7. Not only were sisters in my chapter also from my hometown, but many are also lifelong friends whom I met in middle and high school in the Palisades. Our incredible president, who had only come into the position a week before, stood so strong

as she guided all 200+ members to safe conditions, as well as encouraging those of us affected by the wildfires to apply for the Delta Gamma Crisis Grant.

Delta Gamma became yet another community that saved me. The Crisis Grant was able to pay for a month of housing for my family as we tried to figure out insurance and government claims. The next few years are going to be tough on my Palisades community, but I am so fortunate that I have other communities, like Delta Gamma, to fall back on."

**Words genuinely cannot express my gratitude to Delta Gamma. Thank you for giving me a community to lean on, uplifting me, and reducing my family's financial anxieties during the most difficult of times.**

Crisis Grants provided a total of \$30,000 to eight sisters whose lives were impacted by the California wildfires, helping them cover urgent needs and begin the recovery process.

Giving back to the sisterhood that has given her so much is a big part of **Ximena Munoz's, Eta Rho-UC Merced**, life. She supports chapters as a staff member for Delta Gamma Office of Housing. Prior to stepping into this role, Ximena was a Collegiate Development Consultant and also a Delta Gamma Foundation scholarship recipient. Most recently, Ximena received a graduate fellowship from the Foundation to pursue graduate studies in higher education administration at California State University, Fullerton.

"Being a first-generation student pursuing higher education isn't easy at times, but having Delta Gamma to empower me in this way is more than I could have ever asked for. I love being part of a sisterhood that values education and creates a culture for women to be successful. I feel inspired by the women in our sisterhood every day."



Scan here to hear Ximena talk about the difference a graduate fellowship has made in her life.



**14**

Crisis Grants  
for members  
in extreme need  
totaling

**\$50,000**



**385**

Merit-Based  
Undergraduate  
Scholarships  
totaling

**\$816,988**



**26**

Merit-Based  
Graduate  
Fellowships  
totaling

**\$120,029**



**126**

Sisters Helping Sisters:  
Need-Based  
Scholarships  
totaling

**\$315,000**



## Sisters Helping Sisters: Need-Based Scholarships Celebrates 20 Years!

This scholarship program, founded in 2005 by **Carlene Moore Ellis, Delta Iota-Georgia**, as a response to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. It has grown from a crisis fund to assist members who were losing homes and campuses as a result of the natural disaster into a need-based scholarship fund that helps collegians reduce their student loan debt. We celebrate the more than 2,000 need-based scholarships that have been awarded over the past 20 years. Be sure to look for a feature of Carlene and this program in the Winter *ANCHORA*!





# *We lead because we should.*

By investing in collegians, you're helping members flourish as their authentic selves, providing education in leadership development, health and well-being, and social responsibility, and building a brighter future for DG.

When our collegiate officers lead with confidence and authenticity, they inspire others to put more good into our philanthropy, Service for Sight, their chapters and their communities.

This is the idea behind Anchor Academy, a leadership training program for Delta Gamma chapter executive officers, held every other year since 2013. The program provides attendees the opportunity, soon after they've started their role, to explore their own unique leadership strengths. They learn to hone professional capabilities necessary for their role, understand

the importance of cooperation and collaboration between chapter officers, all within a supportive and empowering context. This past year, because of gifts to the Loyalty Fund, the vp: Foundation from 136 chapters was able to attend one of the three Anchor Academy sessions. Collegiate officers consistently rank this educational and training experience positively, and they value the opportunity to connect with other officers from Delta Gamma chapters similar to theirs in size and make-up for idea sharing, problem solving and sisterhood.

***“It was an invaluable weekend to reaffirm the ‘why’ of the Delta Gamma Foundation and bring new fundraising and service ideas back to my chapter. It will also keep me motivated and remind me what brought me to this position — to do good.”***





Top: Lewis Institute; Bottom: Dawson Institute

“

**I learned to accept the strengths that I have. I can be a leader here and now with qualities I already possess. Being confident in myself will create positive change in my chapter. Thank you for supporting women like me.**

- Lewis Institute Participant

”

Each year, unrestricted gifts to the Delta Gamma Foundation help fund Fraternity Training and Programming that focuses on Social Responsibility, Health and Well-Being, and Leadership Development. These cutting-edge initiatives are vital to our collegians' growth and chapters' success.

Last year, the Foundation funded:

**Lewis Institute**

**Dawson Institute**

**Act with Intention:  
Health and Well-  
Being Series**

**Collegiate  
Development  
Consultant Program**

**Anchor Academy**

**Anchored in Courage:  
Xcelasone New  
Member Program**

**Anchored through  
Adversity: Mental  
Health Programs**

**Hope Serving**

**\$1,103,631**

granted to the Fraternity for  
Training and Programming





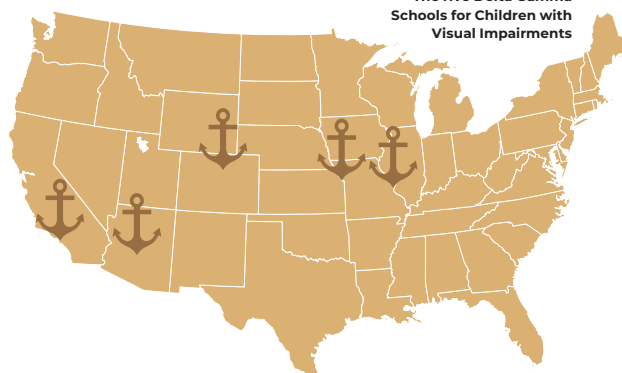
# We do because we are Delta Gamma.

Since 1936, Delta Gammas have been stewards for sight, advocating for sight preservation and helping redefine the path for access, education and opportunity for people living with blindness or low vision.

Individual members, collegiate chapters and alumnae groups have shown consistent and loyal support of our philanthropy, Service for Sight, and the five Delta Gamma Schools for Children with Visual Impairments. Through service and fundraising, members enrich the lives of people living with blindness and low vision.

This past year, the Foundation was able to greatly increase its Service for Sight grant amount to the Schools thanks to a tremendous \$2 million gift from Pat Hughes. This gift, the single largest gift ever directed to Service for Sight, is in loving memory of his wife **Mary Ellen Pigott Hughes, Beta-Washington**. Both Pat and Mary Ellen have been generous supporters of education throughout their lives, and this gift will continue this legacy with a source of sustained funding for Service for Sight.

The five Delta Gamma Schools for Children with Visual Impairments



Left and top right: Members of Gamma Kappa-UC Santa Barbara at Blind Children's Center

Bottom right: Mr. Pat Hughes (left) with Shenea Strader, Eta Iota-Nevada, Reno; Aleesa Ross, Gamma Xi-Texas Tech; and Mr. Doug Campbell, spouse of Roberta Campbell, Beta-Washington.



In addition to the national Service for Sight grants received by the Delta Gamma Schools for Children with Visual Impairments, Delta Gamma alumnae and collegians visited two of these schools last year as part of Hope Serving, Delta Gamma's service-learning experience. In January, a group visited Foundation for Blind Children in Phoenix, AZ, and in April, a second group served at Delta Gamma Center in St. Louis, MO.

By participating in Hope Serving, members are able to gain intergenerational connections, develop their learning and critical-thinking skills through hands-on service and community engagement, and grow as civil and social justice leaders all while doing good.

One participant said of the week-long trip:

**“Hope Serving has forever changed my mindset, renewed my passion for Service for Sight, and ignited a spark about the importance of supporting our Delta Gamma Foundation so that we can continue to do good.”**



## DID YOU KNOW?

In 2024, the Board of Trustees established a Service for Sight Advisory Committee comprised of DG volunteers and industry leaders in the field of blindness to advise the Foundation on trends and opportunities for collaboration and growth in the areas of service, fundraising and grants.





Each year, the Foundation awards Service for Sight grants to over 50 organizations that work in the field of blindness.

The Retina Foundation has developed a new and groundbreaking screening protocol for young children. Early detection of strabismus (unaligned eyes) and amblyopia (where one of the eyes is weaker) is vital, but screening devices are costly and often geographically unavailable. With a Service for Sight grant from the Foundation, the Retina Foundation developed a parent questionnaire using machine learning that works as effectively as a screening device. When used together with a screening device, this approach greatly reduces false positives, making screening for young children more accurate, affordable and accessible. Thanks to donors' gifts, more cases will be detected early, resulting in better long-term care.

From vision screenings to guide dogs, summer camps to white cane training, and support for families to education, gifts to Service for Sight fund an array of initiatives creating better outcomes for others. To see the full list of Service for Sight grants, go to **[deltagamma.org/DonorImpactReport](https://deltagamma.org/DonorImpactReport)**.



**\$925,000**

in Service for Sight grants to **56** national organizations that share our sight-related mission, including...



**\$100,000**

to each of the five Delta Gamma Schools for Children with Visual Impairments



**208,620**

service hours logged by collegians and alumnae



Collegiate chapters and alumnae groups are key to the Foundation's success and our ability to do good for others. Collectively, these groups held over 600 fundraising events in support of the Delta Gamma Foundation last year.

## Mums Sale | Wichita alumnae chapter

What began as way to fundraise for Service for Sight and the Delta Gamma Foundation during the pandemic has turned into a fun yearly tradition. The Wichita alumnae chapter held its fifth annual mum sale this past fall and surpassed their goal by selling 241 mums! Proceeds from the event benefited both the Foundation and Heather's Camp, a summer camp for children living with blindness created by **Heather Mueller, Gamma Upsilon-Wichita State**. The group raised over \$1,500.



## Anchor Bowl | Alpha Phi-British Columbia



Alpha Phi-British Columbia launched a new signature fundraising event, Anchor Bowl, last fall. Not only did the chapter engage 18 teams of student and alumni organizations across campus in yard games and other activities, but they also raised over \$3,000 for Service for Sight! Vp: Foundation, **Jessica Wei**, planned the event, and **Caoimhe McElroy**, director of newsletters, designed a one-of-a-kind tactile trophy featuring braille that was awarded to the winning team.



**\$1,792,553**

fundraised by collegiate chapters



**\$191,753**

fundraised by alumnae groups



**\$510,456**

directed to local nonprofits sharing our Service for Sight mission



# Thank you, **FOUNDATION DONORS!**

Each and every gift to the Foundation matters. To see the full impact of giving in fiscal year 2024-25, including donor recognition, grantee organizations, scholarship and fellowship recipients, and more, scan the QR code or go to **[deltagamma.org/DonorImpactReport](https://deltagamma.org/DonorImpactReport)**.

