

On the Social Action Front

BETA, DELTA ALPHA SUPPORT CHARTER ACADEMY



Archon Roland Burris, Sire Archon Guy Summers and Archon Donald Steward with representatives of Urban Prep Academies

Archon Oscar Johnson of Delta Alpha Boulé, Northern Illinois, and Archons Roland Burris and Donald Steward of Beta Boulé, Chicago, have been instrumental in helping the Urban Prep Charter Academy for Young Men in the Englewood community by overseeing donations of more than \$10,000 as of December 17, 2008. Urban Prep Charter is the nation's first charter public high school for boys and the first and only such school for boys in the state of Illinois. Both boulés also have an ongoing interest in the schools many growth-promoting activities.

Urban Prep Academies is a nonprofit organization founded in 2002 by a group of African American leaders in the fields of education, business and community service – a group that has more than 200 combined years of experience with urban

and suburban, parochial and public schools, as well as with community colleges and major universities. Urban Prep was born out of this group's experience working with and supporting an independent high school that serves young African American men. Building a positive school culture helps promote positive self-esteem and high achievement, and one way to foster such a culture is by holding students accountable to live by the Urban Prep Creed; recited each morning as a group, the credo of ... "We believe in ourselves. We believe in each other. We believe in Urban Prep", has been embraced by the entire school community.

*Archon Jesse Brown
Grapter, Beta Boulé*



Seated: Archons Everett White, Steven Bowman, Gomez Charleston, Rafael Lee, Roland Burris, Donald Steward, William Cousin, Daryl Jackson and Jesse Brown

DELTA SIGMA FIGHTS CHICAGO YOUTH HOMELESSNESS



Chicago's Third Ward Alderman Pat Dowell, Archon Dwight Floyd, Archon Eugenia Pauling and her daughter Shelby attend the groundbreaking for the new Teen Living Programs facility.

South Suburban Chicago's Delta Sigma Boulé has turned its attention to fighting a tragic problem in our community that often goes unnoticed: youth homelessness. Delta Sigma's Social Action Program is supporting Teen Living Programs (TLP), an agency in Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood that assists homeless youngsters. The organization helps these young people move off the streets and into self-sufficient lives filled with hope and opportunity. And Delta Sigma Archons are leading the charge, serving in leadership, board and advisory roles with TLP and leveraging more than \$100,000 in donations for the South Side agency over the past eight years.

When we picture the face of homelessness, we don't always see a young or African American face. Yet 1.5 million youths in the United States experience homelessness annually, and a surprising number of them are African American. Young people end up on the street for a variety of reasons: the jealousy of their mom's boyfriend, their parents' desperate drug addiction, their family's inability to support them and their younger siblings. And sometimes they leave because of intolerable abuse, and their belief that the streets will be safer than their homes.

In Delta Sigma's hometown the picture is no less bleak: Nine thousand Chicago-area youths between the ages of 13 and 21 experience homelessness in any given year, and on any single night the number is nearly 2,000. Yet there are barely 300 beds in Chicago dedicated to these young people.

Since 1976 TLP has been making a difference in more than 500 young lives every year. With the opening of its new residential facility in March, the agency now has the capacity on any given night to house forty-two youths. Approximately 160 young people each year live in one of TLP's three residential programs: an emergency shelter for minors, a transitional-living program for those ages 18 to 22, and a permanent-housing program for graduates. Hundreds of other young people

are supported by TLP's homelessness-prevention program in schools and by its street-outreach program.

But TLP provides so much more than a bed. The organization also helps youths who are homeless build independent, satisfying lives. The program gives them the tools they need to succeed: employment, educational and recreational support; training in independent life skills; mental and physical health care; nutrition counseling; culinary training; and after-care support. One resident referred to TLP as "the best thing that ever happened to me. They are like angels."

Some of these "angels" take the form of Delta Sigma members. Archon Gerald Pauling, TLP's board president, explained why the Boulé selected TLP as the beneficiary of its Social Action Program: "We chose TLP because it is committed to making a permanent difference in the lives of homeless youths and committed to achieving long-term results. Teen Living Programs holds itself to a much stricter standard than many service providers we considered." Archon Pauling continued, "In fact, when I started working with TLP, they established a vision of becoming a national thought-and-practice leader in moving young people from homelessness to permanent independence – and they have been making steady progress toward that vision ever since. People all over the country know about TLP, its successes and its positive youth-development philosophy."

One indicator of TLP's progress is the many invitations that TLP staff members regularly receive to speak to fellow service providers at national and regional conferences to explain their program model, philosophy and methods. The real proof of TLP's success, however, is in the numbers. The following outcomes (averaged from the past four years) for TLP's participants demonstrate the agency's dedication – and effectiveness – in helping young people achieve independence:

- 85 percent of TLP youths who are minors are reunited with their families or placed in other safe and stable housing
- 65 percent of TLP youths secure and maintain stable housing for at least six months after leaving the program
- 75 percent demonstrate standard competencies for living independently
- 80 percent secure employment while living in one of TLP's residential programs
- 65 percent enroll in formal education or career-advancement training
- 60 percent know how to manage their physical and mental health with the help of health professionals

Behind the numbers, of course, are individual youths with individual stories of success. Take Kevin, for example: Five years ago he came to TLP feeling there was nowhere for him to go. At Belfort House he "met a whole family I didn't even know about, people who embraced me with open arms." While at TLP, he graduated from high school, started college and landed a job. Today Kevin is a supervi-



Preston Pugh, Cedric Thurman, Teen Living Programs youth participant James, and Archons Gerald Pauling and Michael Hall

son at the University of Illinois Medical Center and is studying to become a massage therapist. "I still have dreams," he says. "As a TLP alum, I want to help young people who are homeless to understand that this is not the end for them. They need to know there are people who care about them and want them to succeed. There are new beginnings they cannot even imagine."

These "new beginnings" are possible only with the generous support of friends like Delta Sigma. A true philanthropic partner, the *boulé* has contributed or leveraged an astounding \$125,000 to Teen Living Programs over the past eight years, and more than \$40,000 in 2008 alone. Through the annual golf outing and black-tie gala, as well as the presence of *boulé* members in leadership positions within the TLP community, Delta Sigma continues to play a critical role in the success of the organization. Archons Gerald Pauling, Andre Hughes, Dwight Floyd and LaMorris Perry were critical in leveraging a recent \$5,000 year-end gift from the *boulé* to go toward both TLP's capital campaign to build a new residential facility and the agency's general operations.

With the support of generous friends like Delta Sigma, TLP will continue to be one of the most effective agencies of its kind. If you would like to make a contribution or learn more about Teen Living Programs, please visit its Web site at teenliving.org or call (312) 568-5700.

*Archon Ronald Lee
Grapter, Delta Sigma Boulé*



Archons Andre Hughes and Gerald Pauling, and William Hughes (father of Archon Hughes)

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BETA GAMMA AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

Recognizing the importance of supporting and mentoring the next generation of leaders, Beta Gamma Boulé, Jackson, Mississippi, held its Annual Scholarship Banquet on February 22 at the prestigious Capitol Club atop the Capitol Towers building. Five graduates from area high schools were presented with college scholarships in recognition of their high academic honors during the past four years. Each graduate will enroll as a freshman at a major college or university such as Vanderbilt and the University of Mississippi beginning in the fall of 2009.

Archon Reginald Rigsby introduced the graduates and their parents or guardians to the Archons of Beta Gamma. The students spoke briefly on their career goals and identified the college or university they will attend. They also responded to topical questions of interest and fielded questions by the Beta Gamma members and their wives. Archons were asked to give words of wisdom to the students.

A sumptuous feast was served, and a photo session followed.

*Archon Pieter Teeuwissen
Grapter, Beta Gamma Boulé*

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ATTENTION GRAPTERS

Submission Deadlines for The Boulé Journal 2009 - 2010

Number	Issue	Deadlines
Vol. 73 #4	WINTER 2009	09/15/09
Vol. 74 #1	SPRING 2010	12/15/09
Vol. 74 #2	SUMMER 2010	03/15/10
Vol. 74 #3	FALL 2010	06/15/10

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ALPHA BETA DAUGHTER RECEIVES HONOR

Dr. Maria T. Poindexter, the daughter of Archon Charles L. Poindexter and Archousa Judith O. Poindexter of Richmond, Virginia's Alpha Beta Boulé, received the Distinguished Faculty Award from the School of Continuing Studies at the University of Richmond for 2007–2008.

Poindexter is a graduate of Springside High School for Girls in Philadelphia and Temple University. She received both her master's and doctoral degrees from Pennsylvania State University. Archon Poindexter was inducted into Alpha Boulé of Philadelphia in 1984 and joined Alpha Beta Boulé in 1998. His daughter's achievement was recognized at Alpha Beta's recent meeting.

*Archon Charles A. Brown
Grapter, Alpha Beta Boulé*

