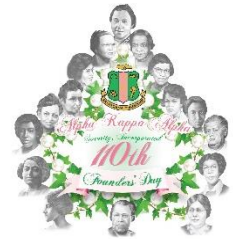


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**ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY RETURNS TO
WASHINGTON FOR
110TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**
*Nation's first African American sorority to showcase
community impact, rich history*



WASHINGTON, DC -- For 110 years, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® has committed itself to the ideals of sisterhood, scholarship and service in communities around the globe. From January 11 to January 15, 2018, several thousand members of the nation's first sorority founded by African American women will converge on Washington, DC for an anniversary weekend of community service, historical remembrance and sisterly bonding.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority originated January 15, 1908 on the campus of Howard University. The sorority's 16 founders, just one generation removed from slavery, created a sisterhood to emphasize scholarly pursuits and "service to all mankind." Five years later, Alpha Kappa Alpha was incorporated January 29, 1913, which facilitated the growth of an international service organization that now consists of 1,012 chapters and nearly 300,000 members -- instantly recognizable by their pink and green attire.

The anniversary weekend -- themed *Celebrating Our Legacy of Service and Sisterhood: Eleven Decades of Supreme Service to All Mankind* -- will include a pilgrimage to Howard University and community service activities throughout the Washington metropolitan area.

"As sisters in service, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority continues to realize the vision of our Founders and Incorporators," said Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson, International President. "They paved the way for leadership and philanthropy -- envisioned and undertaken by African American women -- in service to marginalized communities around the globe. We have stood on their shoulders for 110 years. We will cherish the mantle bestowed upon us for eternity."

On January 12, members will participate in a "morning of service" across the city. The projects are aimed to help youth in DC public schools, Howard University students, homeless women and children in foster care. Alpha Kappa Alpha members will donate and deliver:

- **1,000 stuffed animals for children served by DC Child and Family Services Agency**
- **535 backpacks with non-perishable food items to Powell Elementary School and Bright Beginnings child development center**
- **400 kits with personal hygiene products and undergarments to the Goodie Girl Bags Project for homeless women and women in shelters**
- **360 backpacks with books for middle and high school students attending The SEED School of Washington, DC**
- **110 bags of food for a "pop-up pantry" at Howard University**

The following day, January 13, Howard University will welcome Alpha Kappa Alpha “home” with a daylong commemoration that includes a tour and campus pilgrimage. Among the campus sites of significance to the sorority are a three-section stained glass window at Rankin Chapel; the Alpha Kappa Alpha Archives at Moorland-Spingarn Research Center; a marker memorializing the location of Miner Hall, the birthplace of Alpha Kappa Alpha; and the Alpha Chapter plot, a gathering place for sorority members.

“The anniversary celebration will be a time for reflection, rededication and remembrance. We will make a community impact and return to our birthplace,” said Buckhanan Wilson. “This is a moment 11 decades in the making.”

Members of the media are invited to attend. For more information, visit www.aka1908.com.

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