



Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated

A Public Service Sorority Founded in 1913

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SORORITY LAUNCHES AN ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

RIVERSIDE - The San Bernardino-Riverside Area Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated has launched a partnership this month with the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office, the Love Foundation, and other local community organizations to raise awareness and work towards the end of human trafficking in the County.

"Our Sorority is founded on social action," said Chapter President, Erica Shorts. "With that foundation and commitment to improving the health, well-being, and future of our communities, our Chapter is focusing our talents and resources to end the exploitation of our youth and adults through this form of modern-day slavery."

This month Chapter members, along with the Love Foundation, Project Fighting Chance, and the DA's Office held a career readiness workshop for young women participating in the Open Door program that provides supportive services for human trafficking survivors. With services provided by hairstylists Dee Dee Moore and Ama Wafer, and professional attire donated by the Love Foundation, the participating young women learned tips on how to present themselves for future job opportunities. They also received self-care products, learned about long-range planning, self-worth and value from Terry Boykins, Executive Director of Project Fighting Chance, and went through resume consultations and mock interviews, with Jacquelyn Rodriguez, San Bernardino County District Attorney Office's Public Affairs Officer, Lela Dennis of LD Consulting, Terry Boykins, and members of the San Bernardino-Riverside Area Alumnae Chapter.

The workshop successfully initiated Open Door's desire for future partnerships and opportunities to speak with survivors about public speaking skills, mental and physical health, government and civic education and advocacy, and more.

In partnership with the DA's office, the San Bernardino-Riverside Area Alumnae Chapter's Social Action Committee members are preparing an anti-human trafficking presentations to deliver to middle-school aged students and youth organizations to raise awareness and reduce victimization. In addition, to speaking engagements, the Chapter is committed to join and lead advocacy efforts for stronger local, state, and federal support for survivors and penalties for traffickers.

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Human Trafficking is both a global and local issue. Victims have limited economic resources, the trauma endured leaves emotional scars, adversely affecting mental health and physical health. Educational opportunities are often lost. The average age of entry is twelve to thirteen years of age, a child in middle school. The life expectancy of a sexually exploited minor is seven years. No child or neighborhood is immune. Victims come from all races, backgrounds, and cultures.

“It’s crucial that we as a community, including local organizations, businesses, school districts, law enforcement, churches, and governmental leaders come together to create and implement solutions to this pervasive societal ill,” added Shorts. “We look forward to working with anyone equally committed to ending human trafficking in San Bernardino County.”

Since 1959, the San Bernardino-Riverside Area Alumnae Chapter has served the Inland Empire through the Sorority’s Five-Point Programmatic Thrust: economic development, educational development, international awareness and involvement, physical and mental health, and political awareness and involvement.

For further information and to join in this initiative, email sbraacsocialaction59@gmail.com.

This San Bernardino-Riverside Area Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., is a non-profit organization that provides community service throughout the world. For more information visit our chapter website at www.sbraac-dst.org. You may also visit our national website at www.deltasigmatheta.org.

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