

Michigan fraternity recognized for helping to reach \$1M fundraising goal for St. Jude

Oakland Press - September 16, 2022 #



As a chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon, Alma College fraternity Zeta Delta raised \$5,893 to help TKE reach their goal of being recognized as the first fraternity to raise over a million dollars in one school year for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. (Photo courtesy of Jack Cataldo)

Alma College's Zeta Delta fraternity was recently awarded for their fundraising and community outreach services during the 2021-2022 school year. As a chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon, Zeta Delta raised \$5,893 to help TKE reach their goal of being recognized as the first fraternity to raise over a million dollars in one school year for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. TKE member Danny Thomas founded St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in 1962. Since then, it has been the fraternity's main philanthropy.

Zeta Delta was one of six chapters nationwide to raise enough funds to be part of St. Jude's \$5,000 Club.

TKE is a national fraternity founded at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Ill. and has 213 chapters in colleges across the nation.

This past June, four members of Zeta Delta attended TKE's biannual conference in Houston, Texas and were presented with three awards: Excellence in Achievement for raising over \$5,000 for St. Jude's hospital; Excellence in Involvement for contributing 660 hours to campus and community service; and Excellence in Achievement for attending meetings and training to ensure safety during events.

Each year Zeta Delta holds fundraisers throughout the year in which all proceeds are donated.

Jack Cataldo is a junior majoring in finance and served as the chapter's president last year. This year he is serving as treasurer and hopes to double the chapter's fundraising efforts. "We track service hours, money raised, etc. The goal last year was \$4,000 and we surpassed it," he said. "This year our goal is listed as \$5,000 by TKE but as a chapter we set a goal of raising \$10,000."

For the past 10 years, Zeta Delta has held a car wash and barbecue at the fraternity house during the spring season as one of their major fundraising efforts. Another large push came at last year's homecoming

football game when the chapter held a Miracle Minute where members of the fraternity ran into the stands for two minutes collecting donations.

In addition to fundraising efforts, fraternity members also surpassed their goal of 400 community service hours during last school year.

Zeta Delta currently has 24 active members and has been a TKE chapter at Alma College since 1957. Many members serve at a local animal shelter while others provide service individually through their own efforts. "We are all passionate young men who are aspiring leaders of tomorrow and we want to give back to the community in any way we can," said Cataldo.

Since 2009 TKE has raised over \$7 million dollars for St. Jude and has pledged to donate an additional \$10 million dollars over the next ten years, making this the largest fundraising commitment made by any college fraternity.

For information about Zeta Delta visit, alma-tke.com. For information about Tau Kappa Epsilon visit, tke.org



Zeta Delta members Dalron Gray (from left), Jack Cataldo, Jacob Omans and Oshyn Carnes attended TKE's biannual conference in Houston this past June to receive awards for the fraternity's fundraising efforts. (Photo courtesy of Jack Cataldo)

#