



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® Hartford Chapter Tackles Childhood Hunger Over the Summer

Hartford, CT - Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.®, Epsilon Omicron Omega Chapter has made a significant impact this summer by continuing its fight against childhood hunger through the Childhood Hunger Initiative Power Pack (CHIPPTM) program.

“Realizing that the challenges of childhood hunger intensify when school is out and access to free or reduced-price meals is limited, our chapter expanded its efforts through the CHIPPTM program,” said Carolyn Thomas, project manager.

Originally designed to provide food during the school year, the CHIPPTM program was extended throughout the summer. Members of Epsilon Omicron Omega Chapter dis-

tributed Power Packs—bags filled with nutritious, non-perishable food—every weekend to participating children enrolled in summer programs at Women’s League Child Development Center and Community First School in Hartford.

The Power Packs are designed to ensure children return to school on Monday nourished and ready to learn. When the summer programs ended and some of the children faced a month of food insecurity before the start of school nutrition program, the AKAs made special provisions to cover the August gap. On the final day of the summer session at Community First School, AKAs prepared and distributed Power Packs containing enough food



Caption: Members of local AKA chapter, headed by Yvette Highsmith, center, pack 5,000 servings of food to support children in need at the close of the AKAs’ summer hunger intervention program.

to last the entire 30-day break—a total of 5,000 servings for 52 children.

“Our chapter is committed to uplifting our community through service,” said Yvette Highsmith, chapter president. “By providing Power Packs filled with nutritious food to elementary school

children, we are not only addressing food insecurity and easing the burden on families, but also supporting the health, dignity, and academic success of our children.”

Since the local launch of CHIPPTM in 2023, Epsilon Omicron Omega Chapter has distributed more

than 6,000 Power Packs, equating to approximately 56,000 individual food items to children and families across the Hartford area.

All Power Pack items are purchased, assembled, and delivered by AKA members and volunteers. The continuation and

success of this impactful initiative have been made possible by generous funding from Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, and support from the Hartford Stage and the Foundation for Educational Opportunities, Inc About Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® and the Foundation for Educational Opportunities, Inc.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® is the first Greek-lettered sorority established by African American college women, founded in 1908. With a rich legacy of service, the organization continues to address critical issues in communities through programs such as CHIPPTM.

The Foundation for Educational Opportunities, Inc., is an independent 501©3 organization founded in 1994 by members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.®, Epsilon Omicron Omega Chapter, to expand financial support for their award-winning community service programs.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT, CONNECTICUT STATE TREASURER’S OFFICE, AND BANK OF AMERICA HOST NATIONAL FINANCIAL AWARENESS DAY PANEL

HARTFORD, CT - Recently, Junior Achievement of Southwest New England, the Office of the Connecticut State Treasurer, and Bank of America held a special panel discussion in honor of National Financial Awareness Day, on Thursday, August 14, at the JA office in Hartford.

This free, in-person event will bring together local leaders, educators, and students to explore key financial topics such as early money management, first-time financial decisions, Connecticut’s eco-

nomical outlook, the rise of FinTech, and how to better prepare young people for long-term financial success.

Featured Panelists: • The Honorable Erick Russell, Connecticut State Treasurer • Joe Gianni, president, Bank of America Greater Hartford • Akilah Franklin, Educator, Weaver High School • Trinity and Cole, Junior Achievement Student Leaders.

“Financial empowerment starts with education,” said Connecticut State Treasurer Erick Russell. “Events like this broaden ac-

cess to financial tools and education for every young person in Connecticut and inspire the next generation to thrive.”

“Building financial knowledge early in life is critical to helping young people in our communities set and achieve their financial goals,” said Joe Gianni, president, Bank of America Greater Hartford. “In collaboration with our long-time partner, Junior Achievement, we look forward to hosting this panel discussion and continuing to help communities thrive by increasing access to fi-

ancial education.”

“This panel represents a meaningful step in bringing together public, private, and education sector voices,” added Jeremy Race, President and CEO of Junior Achievement of Southwest New England. “Together, we’re working to ensure students are equipped to navigate their financial fu-

tures with confidence.”

The event will take place at Junior Achievement’s Hartford office, located at 70 Farmington Avenue, from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Light refreshments will be provided. Space is limited and advance registration is required. Please RSVP to Donna Koch at dkoch@jaconn.org or register online.

Drive Safe. & Buckle Up!