

# GET ENGAGED

BE THE CHANGE!

ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY, INCORPORATED



On Saturday, Oct. 23, 2021, Omicron Phi Zeta Chapter partnered with The New Macedonia Baptist Church (TNMBC) in Washington, DC for their annual American Cancer Society (ACS) Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk/Run Resource and Fair to raise awareness about and funding breast cancer research. More than 170 walkers participated in the event. Omicron Phi Zeta chapter raised more than \$1,300 to donate to the ACS fund for this groundbreaking breast cancer research!

“As our congregation consists of numerous breast cancer patients and survivors – male and female - we believe this partnership with Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, Omicron Phi Zeta Chapter, to host the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Awareness Walk/Run and Resource Fair will bring attention, information, and awareness to fight this disease east of the river – a community we are

privileged to serve,” shared Reverend Patrick J. Walker, Senior Pastor of TNMBC. TNMBC sponsors a Breast Cancer Awareness Ministry that not only provides encouragement and spiritual guidance to breast cancer patients and survivors, but also provides homemaker services and transportation.

“The American Cancer Society is a vitally important resource for breast cancer patients and their loved ones. When I first got diagnosed, I was directed to the ACS website. The information on the website was clear, comprehensive, and useful,” shared Linda Fennell a of member of Omicron Phi Zeta Chapter and TNMBC. “This walk is very important because it will bring awareness to the importance of early diagnosis, treatment, and research. This walk generates funding so that research dollars can be targeted for women, especially African American women suffering from Triple Negative Breast Cancer. I could not think of another cause more worthy than the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer event,” declared Ms. Fennell.

Omicron Phi Zeta Chapter had several sponsors for ACS walk/run to include National Institutes of Health, Washington Hospital Center/Medstar Health, National Council of Negro Women, Washington Section, Office of the People’s Council, Top Ladies of Distinction, Washington, DC Chapter, District of Columbia Department of Health, Breast Care for Women, MOWPI, and members of local graduate chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha and Delta Sigma Theta Sororities, Incorporated. This Walk/Run was overwhelmingly successful and Omicron Phi Zeta is committed to continue Making Strides Against Breast Cancer!

On Oct. 23, 2021, during its annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk/Run, Omicron Phi Zeta Chapter partnered with the District of Columbia Department of Health (DOH) to educate residents of the District’s Wards 7 and 8 about COVID booster and vaccines and to administer one of the three FDA approved vaccines during a clinic at the New Macedonia Baptist Church in Ward 7.

“My sister called me and asked me if I was dressed so that I could come down here and get my booster shot,” said Ms. Bernadette Wells, a seven-year breast cancer survivor. “I was stressed about finding a location to get the booster, but today, it’s right here! I am thankful.”

According to the District of Columbia’s Vaccine Data, 61.2% of District residents are fully vaccinated while residents of Wards 7 and 8 are only 37% and 32% vaccinated, respectively. The chapter recognized that Wards 7 and 8 are not only the most economically and socially disenfranchised sections of the city, but these wards lack easy access to medical facilities and treatment. The chapter decided to address the low vaccinated percentages by bringing the clinic into the community to make it easier for residents to get vaccinated.

“It is very challenging to convince residents on this side of town to get vaccinated. At some past events, no one agreed to get vaccinated or only three people would get vaccinated. But today we administered a total of 17 booster and the first dose of the vaccines,” exclaimed a DOH technician. “We also educated 15 people about the coronavirus and each vaccine: Johnson and Johnson, Moderna, and Pfizer.”



