

**Bennettsville-Cheraw Alumnae Chapter Members**

***Bennettsville – Cheraw Alumnae Chapter of***

***Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.,***

***May Week Celebration***

***“Making An Impact in the Community: Building Relationships”***

**Officers**

Lynn Henry, President

Andrea McLeod, First Vice President Kimberly Dease, Second Vice President LaRhonda Alford, Recording Secretary

**^**Braber Spell, Treasurer Eunice Ray, Financial Secretary

**^**Dannie Blair Sergeant-at-Arms

Otelia Grace, Chaplain

**Members**

Debra Johnson Qushika Lucas

**^**Sandra Malichi

**^**Valerie Moore

Sheila O'Neil-Brown Gina Owens

LaShawn Palmer

**^**Vivian Patrick Daishanna Pearson Vanessa Pearson

LaShuanda Pegues

**^+**Lenora Powe

Margaret Quick Primus LiAsia Tillman

LaRhonda Alford Nickole Broddy Vaucheria Brown

Kayanna Cain Thomas

**^**Karen Clark April Davis Crystal Davis

Kimberly Dease

**^+**Beatrice J. DuPree

**^**Yolonda DuPree Callie Ellerbe Freida Ellerbe

**^**Nelvin Ellerbe Melani Green

***Sunday, May 28, 2023***

***4:00 P.M.***

***Grace Temple Church Fellowship Church 3008 SC-9, Wallace, SC 29596***

***Lynn Henry, President***

***Andrea McLeod, Program Chair***

Myah Woods O*’*Shawna Worrell

**^**Shanika Harrington-David Towana Hayes

Carmella Johnson

**^ Diamond Life**

**+ Charter Member**

pearls #frame #pearl - Transparent Frame Animated Border Gif, HD Png  Download - 1024x997(#4707464) - PngFindpearls #frame #pearl - Transparent Frame Animated Border Gif, HD Png  Download - 1024x997(#4707464) - PngFind

Purpose of May Week

**The International Awareness and Involvement** program is de- signed to provide assistance, relief and resources to developing countries; as well as fostering local advocacy for social injustices and helping those in need.

May Week is a national program of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. that was created at Delta’s second National Convention in 1920 at Wilberforce University. May Week is a week in May that is set aside each year for pro- grams, highlighting academic and professional achievements and the events which emphasize the importance of higher education in the community, es- pecially for Black women. Activities are created through the Sorority’s Five- Point Programmatic Thrust, which was established in 1955.

Our theme for our May Week is “Making An Impact in the Community: Building Relationships.” This afternoon, programs that the Bennettsville - Cheraw Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority will highlight are: Delta Academy Gems, EMBODI (empowering males to build opportunities for developing independence), Senior Citizens, Physical and Mental Health, Social Action, Jabberwock/scholarships are some programs that will be highlighted.

As we reflect on May Week 2023, let us be receptive to the academic and professional achievement of this sorority, the Bennettsville-Cheraw Alum- nae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc,

History of Bennettsville-Cheraw Alumnae Chapter

**Service Area: Marlboro and Cheraw, South Carolina – zip code**

**29520.**

Theme “Accelerate Change”

World Water Day 2023 is March 22nd. This year's theme is '**Accelerate Change**'. Every year PWW hosts World Water Day events in Honduras, Haiti and the United States, to help raise awareness and provide education about the global water crisis. This year our participation included our chapter's contribution of water, on 3/22/23 to the Bennettsville Commu- nity Easter Egg Event.

World AIDS Day, designated on December 1st, is an international day dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic. People around the world unite to show support for people living with HIV/AIDS and to remember those who have died from AIDS-related illnesses.

**Delta Doll Pageant**

The purpose of the Delta Doll pageant is to expose young girls ages 3-12 to an environment that fosters positive self-concepts and relationships.

Additionally, funds are raised to support the sorority’s scholarship and public service programs. This year, the pageant was held on April 22, 2023, at the Marlboro Civic Center. Our theme was Girls Empowered. We had a great turn out and the girls did great! We started our kick-off in December to allow the girls to get fired up and to have enough time to raise funds. We had a total of 2 workshops to give the girls motivation and lessons about life. Our first workshop was on Bullying, being bullied, and conflict resolutions. Our second workshop was on How to Be a Good Co-Pilot in the home and helping parents. The winners are as fol- lows: 2nd runner-up, Miss Cynthia Cusack, 1st runner-up, Miss BriAsia Merriman, and our 2023-2025 new Miss Delta Doll is Miss Kaylyn Thomas! The girls were given gifts and a portion of their winnings to invest in themselves.

I want to take the time again to thank anyone here who was on my com- mittee.

**Biennial Scholarship 2023**

In order to apply for our biennial scholarship, students must meet our set criteria that is embedded in our application. This year, Danashia Cov- ington, Marlboro County High School and Jaliyah Douglas, Cheraw High School were the recipients of the scholarship.

After careful planning and working with several Deltas in the Pee Dee Re- gion over two years, on December 17, 1983, the seven hundred twenty-third chapter, Bennettsville-Cheraw Alumnae Chapter was officially chartered.

The South Atlantic Regional Director who later became our twentieth Na- tional President, Soror Bertha M. Roddy, performed the chartering ceremo- ny at the Valerie Motel, Patrick, South Carolina. Thirteen women decided that they wanted to make a difference in Marlboro and Chesterfield Coun- ties. They are Sorors A. Brown, B. DuPree, G. Gillespie,\* G. Gore, C. Hodge, J. Johnakin, L. Powe, L. Powe,\* O. Powe\*, M. Smith\*, J. Spears\*,

C. Streator, and V. Brown. With the leadership of seven presidents (Sorors

D. Blair, K. Clark, B. DuPree, Y. DuPree, J. Johnakin, L. Powe, L. Palmer,

B. Spell, and L. Henry currently), the Chapter has raised over $250,000 for scholarships through fifteen Jabberwocks. In its thirty-nine years of service, the Chapter continues to be recognized as a leader in public service.

\*Deceased

pearls #frame #pearl - Transparent Frame Animated Border Gif, HD Png  Download - 1024x997(#4707464) - PngFind

The ERT mission is to:

* Increase awareness about emergency preparedness activities;
* Provide steps for early response and efficient recovery;
* Provide resource support and guidance for sorority members and

communities impacted by natural or man-made disasters; and

* Provide effective and immediate communication strategies to fa-

cilitate and aid in preparedness and response.

Monthly Updates and information on how to respond when a dis- aster arises.

Sorors Remember to be: Be Safe!!!!

Remember to travel with your RED envelope/card, mask and COVID vaccination card. Proof of vaccination includes two vac- cines and at least one booster! You will need this for forthcoming Delta Sigma Theta events.

National Canned Food Month: To help support nutrition education and reduce nu- trition insecurity of low-income families, USDA’s National Institute of Food and Ag- riculture (NIFA) provides funding to the Supplemental Nutrition Education Program – Education (SNAP-Ed) and Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program

(EFNEP). During National Canned Food Month, celebrate with NIFA as we highlight a few federally funded programs aimed to help families obtain nutritional foods.

This is a contribution that is made every year to the community

through our different programs.

Communications Emergency Preparedness Tips

Emergencies can occur quickly and without warning, so planning is a crucial first step toward a calm and effective response. The Amer- ican Red Cross has worked with the U.S. Department of Transpor- tation/Federal Transit Administration and the American Public Transit Association to develop information to help you prepare for emergencies that arise during your commute.

*Program Outline*

Welcome… Soror Renee McLeod

Invocation Soror Braber Spell

Purpose Soror Yolonda DuPree History of Chapter………………………………………..Soror Daishanna Pearson Introduction of Speaker Soror Renee McLeod

Speaker Dr. Fannie Mason

Entertainment Soror Karalda Perkins

***Bennettsville-Cheraw Alumnae Program Presentations:***

Delta Academy/GEMS… Sorors April Davis and Eunice Ray, Valerie Moore

EMBODI Sorors Dannie Blair, Margaret Primus

Entrepreneur Competition Brandon Blair

James E. Clemmons Community Service Award… Sorors Dannie

Blair, Callie Ellerbe Vivian Patrick

Senior Citizen’s Dinner Soror Yolonda DuPree, Freida Ellerbe Physical and Mental Health Soror Lynn Henry

ERT Soror Lynn Henry

2022 Jabberwock Scholarship Soror Andrea McLeod

Jabberwock Biennial Scholarship 2023 Soror Braber Spell

Red and White Ball… Soror Gina Owens

International Awareness Soror Lynn Henry

2023 Miss Delta Doll Soror Li ’Asia Tillman

Political Awareness & Involvement… Soror Braber Spell

***Presentation of Community Service Recipient Awards***

Marlboro County – Soror Sandra Malichi Cheraw- Soror Li ’Asia Tillman

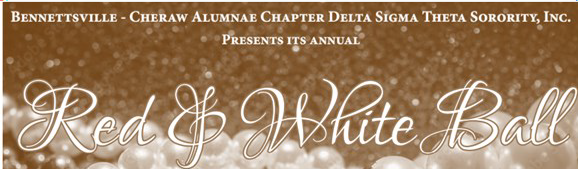
**Delta of the Year** Daishanna Pearson **Community Donations**

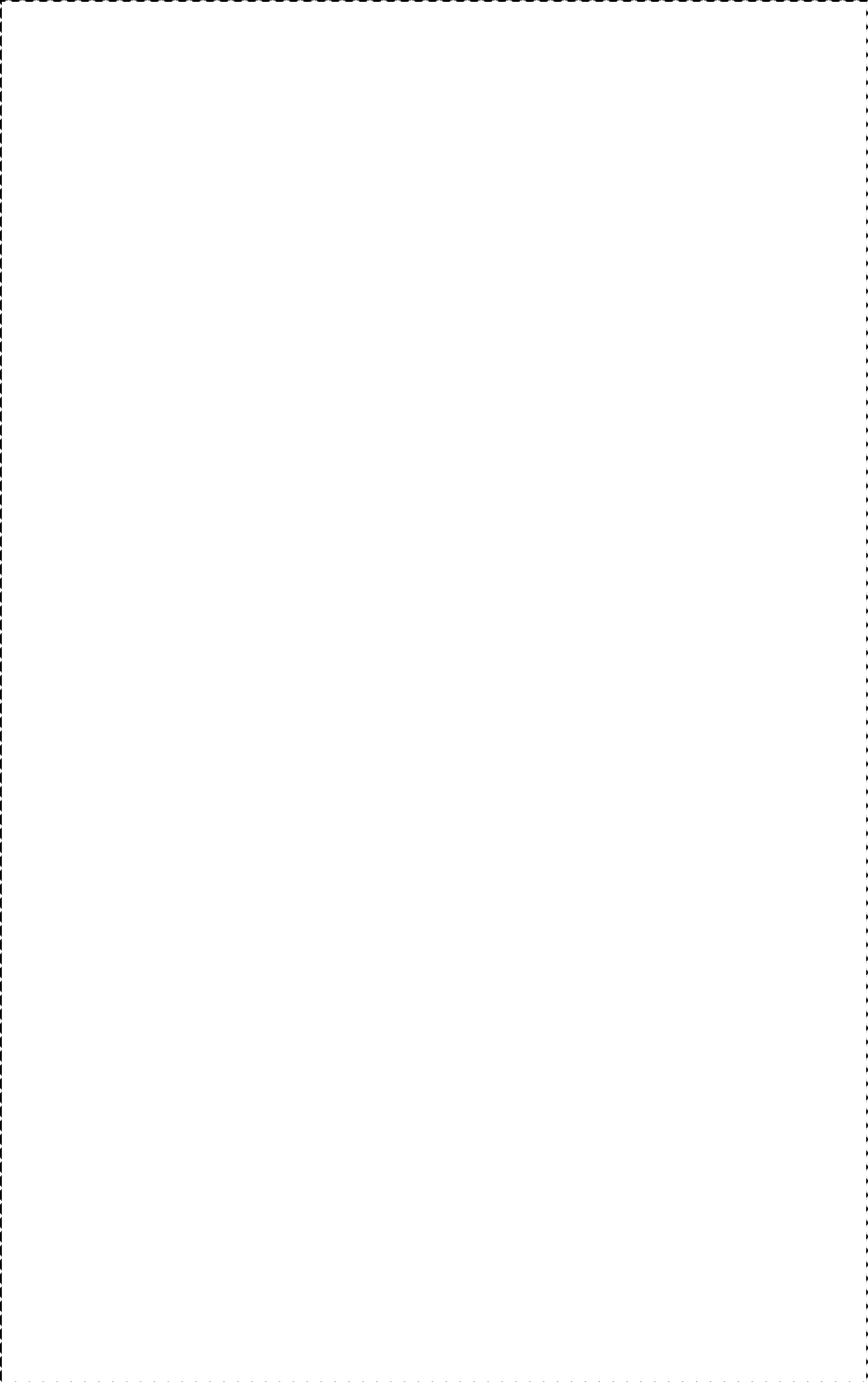
***Introduction of the Bennettsville-Cheraw Alumnae Chapter***

Soror Sandra Malichi

Acknowledgements/Closing Remarks Soror Renee McLeod

Soror Lynn Henry

pearls #frame #pearl - Transparent Frame Animated Border Gif, HD Png  Download - 1024x997(#4707464) - PngFind



**Guest Speaker**

Dr. Fannie Mason is from a small town, Lake View, South Carolina. She is the youngest of two children born to a single parent in 1956. Her mother left her with her grandmother, Fannie Reaves, when she was 9 months old. Being reared by a grandmother and in a share chopper family taught her many hard lessons and helped catapult her forward to work hard at obtaining and appreciating the importance of education. She was the first in her family to complete high school and the first to go on to college to earn a degree. After graduat- ing high school in 1974 from Lake View High she at- tended South Carolina State College where she graduat- ed Suma Cum Lade in 1978. She later obtained her first master’s from Francis Marion University in Ap-

As an organization of predominantly African Ameri- can women, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is uniquely positioned to impact not only the well-being of its membership, but also the families and communi- ties we serve. The Delta**Care** initiative is an internal wellness initiative under the programmatic thrust of Physical and Mental Health. It was created to promote

self-care through physical wellness, emotional wellness, and aware- ness/advocacy. Specifically, the Red S.H.O.E. challenge is the physical health component of DeltaCare that encourages members to engage in healthy behaviors. S.H.O.E. is an acronym for **S**elf-care, **H**ealthy **O**ptions, and **E**xercise. Virtual tips on Breast Cancer Awareness, National Wear Red Day, How to deal with stress during the pandemic, and self-care tips were done through out the year.

plied Psychology and her second Masters from South

The Bennettsville Cheraw chapter of Delta Sigma Theta held their annual senior citizen dinner on December 18,2022 at old Marlboro school com- munity center on December 18,2022. 152 guests were treated to dinner and gift bags through a drive thru.

Carolina State in Educational Leadership. Her love for learning afforded her the opportunity to seek knowledge from many institutions such as the Citadel, Costal Carolina and University of South Carolina as she continued to build her portfolio. She sees learning as never ending and this philosophy drove her to pursue and com- plete her PhD in Curriculum and Instruction from Cappella University.

Dr. Mason has had a long and productive career in education, serving in both South Carolina and North Carolina. She served 9 years as a classroom teacher; 12 years as a School Psychologist and 21 years in administration (Elementary, Middle and High). She has been honored as Teacher of the Year in Mullins School District; Administrator of the Year by the North Carolina Middle School Association; Ex- ceptional Children Director of the Year in North Carolina, Principal of the Year in Scotland County and was selected by the South Carolina State Department of Edu- cation as a Principal Specialist. In 2017 she was named Superintendent of Florence

4. However, she has had no honor greater than that of having her students and par- ents come to her and thank her for helping them over the years. She feels her pur- pose is to ensure every student can gain educational benefit for a better quality of life and to help them see the greatness within themselves.

Dr. Mason sees her greatest accomplishments as her two sons Jerry and Jeremy Ma- son. Jerry (43) a Section Chief with NASA and Jeremy (38) an UPS Employee. She is grateful that her sons have given her a dream come true, little girls to spoil. She has been blessed with 5 beautiful granddaughters and 4 handsome grandsons (one of which currently lives with her). “All of my accomplishments have been made possible by my Heavenly Father. My greatest training on Leadership comes from the Bible. God has ordered my steps because 35 years ago He led me to the Great- est Sorority Ever Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated! Isn’t God Good!” She is currently a member of Mount Olive Baptist Church in Mullins, SC where she served as Superintendent of School for several years. She is a Deaconess, a member of the Inspirational Choir, Sanctuary Choir, and Praise Team Choir. All in all, she is just a small time girl who is also a Delta Girl with an Awesome God.

Senior Citizens Dinner

In March of 1913, nearly six weeks after its founding,

several Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Founders

marched in the historic Suffragist March under the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. banner, the Sorority's first public act. Today, low voter turnout statistics highlight

the need to continue to identify ways to include opportu- nities for all citizens to exercise their voting power. Each of Delta’s programmatic initiatives has an advocacy

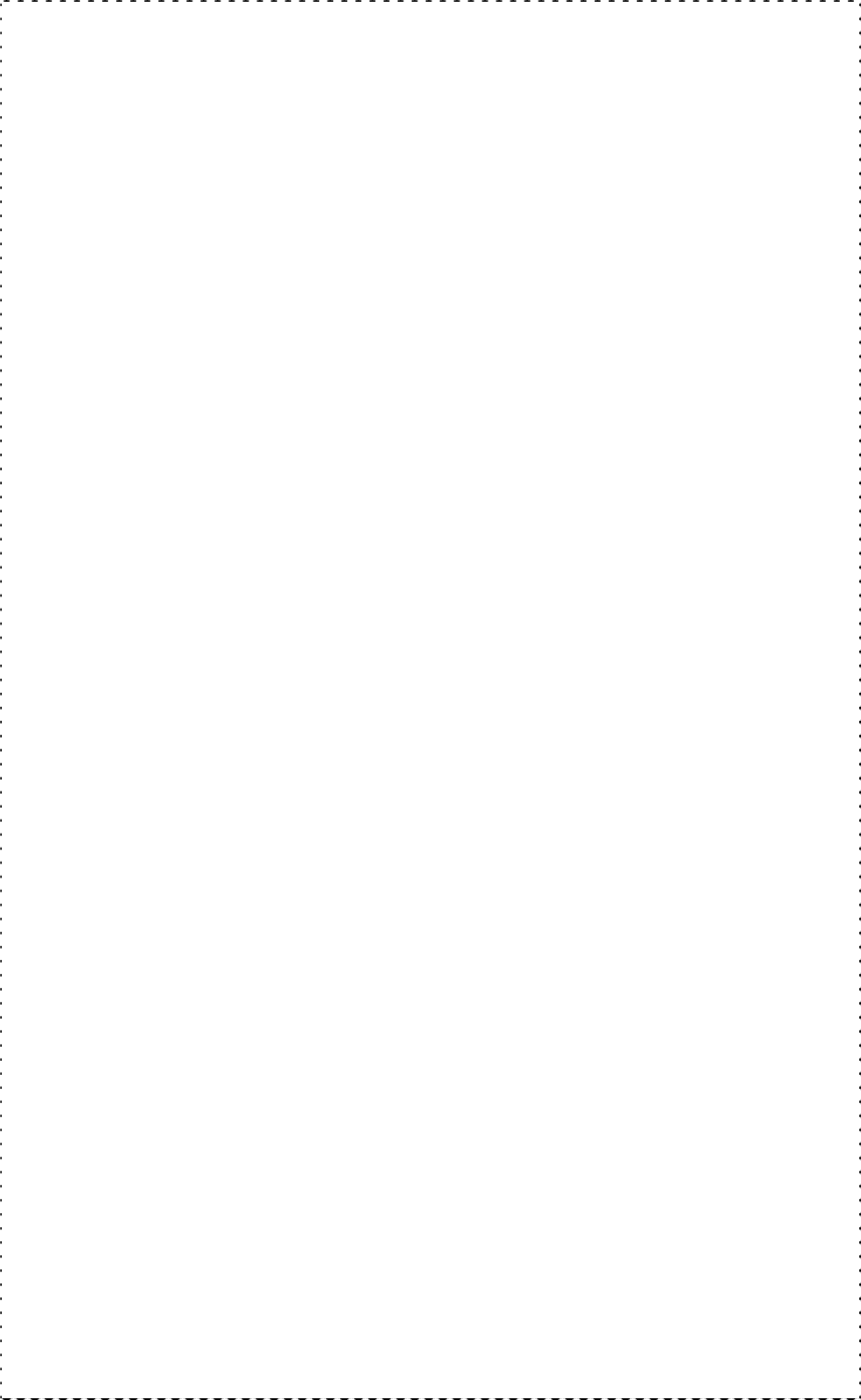
component that is implemented under the auspices of social action when it is appropriate or necessary to do so. Our Chapter participated in Delta Days at The Nation’s Capital, Delta Days at the UN, Virtual Divine Nine Legislative Day, and SC Delta Day at the State Capital.

Each year the Bennettsville-Cheraw Alumnae conducts an annual ball that is a way of

giving back to the community and raising funds for our community service projects.

The event is designed to network with the community and have fun making new friends. This year’s ball was held at the Bennettsville Community Center. There were well over 100 people in attendance.

pearls #frame #pearl - Transparent Frame Animated Border Gif, HD Png  Download - 1024x997(#4707464) - PngFind



**Cheraw Area Community Service**

**EMBODI**, Empowering Males to Build Opportunities for Devel- oping Independence, is designed to refocus the efforts of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, with the support and action of other major organizations, on the plight of African American males. Both informal and empirical data suggests that the vast ma- jority of African-American males continue to be in crisis and are not reaching their fullest potential educationally, socially and emo-

tionally. EMBODI is designed to address these issues through dialogue and recom- mendations for change and action. EMBODI addresses issues related to STEM education, culture, self-efficacy, leadership, physical and mental health, healthy life- style choices, character, ethics, relationships, college readiness, fiscal management, civic engagement and service learning. The school-to- prison pipeline, an epidemic that is affecting schools across the nation, finds too many our boys (especially) be- ing suspended, expelled, or even arrested for minor offenses. Therefore, the Ben- nettsville-Cheraw Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is address- ing this need through our EMBODI program which was previously called Summit

III. The program is designed to refocus the efforts of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority’s Inc., with the support and action of other major organizations on the plight of Afri- can American Males.

This year and for the previous five -seven years, we have been fortunate enough to have the assistance of four collaborative/mentoring groups (Alpha Phi Alpha Fra- ternity, Cicero Holdings, LLC, Men of Grace of Grace Temple, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity) to assist/support us in our efforts. Darrell Campbell supports our efforts financially, for the Entrepreneur Projects and activities of EMBODI.

This year, boys participated in the annual round-up, Daniel Johnson, a former EM- BODI member who has graduated from college and who is seeking law school, was the speaker. Other activities included attending a college football game between SC State University and A&T University, Greensboro, NC, Voter Registration, Conflict Management, Black History games, playing basketball, Defy Amusement, Soft Skills, fishing, bowling, exploring various restaurants, and our annual round-up of present and former members, and entrepreneur conversation (getting ready for the competi- tion). Boys are also given incentives for good grades and discipline. As a part of our mission, we will continue to remember one of our distinguished mentors, James E. Clemmons, by awarding two worthy young men with an award during May Week 2023. Next year, our group will award a James E. Clemmons Scholarship.

During the 2022- 2023 year, we continued our quest to keep our two- mile stretch, adopted highway, clean and free of liter. We donated funds to two health facilities (one in Cheraw and one in Bennettsville). We also gave back to the community by donating can goods to people in the community, which is a community/church event of Grace Temple Fellowship Church.

Dennis Rivers is the pastor of The Atmosphere Church in Chesterfield, South Carolina. He has been in minis- try for almost two decades and has been in several roles that lead him to be the pastor that he is today. Those roles included singing in the choir, becoming a junior usher, junior trustee, and a mu- sician. During his time as a musician, he traveled to various services and

revivals with his pastor and began to

love ministry even more. This is how he knew he wanted to take ministry to another level and become a pastor himself one day. He is now the pastor of his very own church for almost a decade now where he does various acts of kindness, charity, and delivers the word. His acts of charity go throughout Chester- field County. A few acts of his charity range from holiday drives, several school supply giveaways, clothing drives, and much more. Pastor Rivers contributions during the pan- demic were very abundant. Wal-Mart donated a food truck to his church in which he held a food giveaway for the church and community, a shoe drive, and he later had a collard green givea- way…just to name a few. He is a thoughtful individual who works hard for his church and his community. He is the type of individual who would give his last to a person in need. This in- cludes doing pro bono work for his clients through his business, 3Dimensions Tree and Landscaping. His career in landscaping began as a child with his father. He imagined doing this type of work on a larger scale and turned it into a career after finish- ing his business degree. He is a very selfless individual who works day in and day out to ensure his clients have all their de- mands met and that his church members are taken care of. Pas- tor Rivers is a great pastor and pillar in the community.

pearls #frame #pearl - Transparent Frame Animated Border Gif, HD Png  Download - 1024x997(#4707464) - PngFindpearls #frame #pearl - Transparent Frame Animated Border Gif, HD Png  Download - 1024x997(#4707464) - PngFind



The Delta Academy and Delta GEMS had their annual kick

-off meeting. The theme was, The Awakening: Power, Pur- pose, and Progression. The guest speaker was Ms. Cynthia Ford, Author of **“Dream Like a Queen.”** Ms. Ford used

the theme, The Awakening: Power, Purpose, and Progres- sion to communicate the following words of encourage- ment: Never Stop Dreaming, Keep your cup full and draw from it, Always wear your crown (keep your head up),

November 2022: Participants went to Swamp Fox Theatre to see Black Panther

**Marlboro County Community Service**

**The Lord had placed this desire to feed the needy on our hearts around eight years ago. In 2016, we visited the Community Kitchen of Myr- tle Beach and spent some time looking at their operation. That same year, we established our 501©3 tax exempt status with the IRS and our Non-Profit Religious Charity with the state of South Carolina. We had made a vow to the Lord that we would not solicit any funds or donations until we had a building suitable for preparing and serving meals.**

**For two years, we looked and prayed over many different buildings, but none became availa- ble. Then, in late summer of 2018, we attended a series of sermons at the beach which were**

**entitled “all in”. I knew immediately that those sermons were directed to us. We had a perma- nent location at Lakewood Campground that was preventing us from being “all in”. We put it on the market for sale immediately and on October 31, 2018, we were given our current build- ing, courtyard, and rear parking lot free of charge.**

**We began “gutting” the building on Nov 1, 2018 as it had not been occupied in approx.. 40 years. Courtyard had not been occupied since the 1960’s and the roof had collapsed onto the concrete floor. All of the work on the Kitchen and adjacent courtyard was done by volunteers except for the tile floors and the metal roof. God sent us 12 volunteers – we never called any of them! We have 12 plagues on the wall in our dining room honoring those 12 men. We began serving meals on 05/01/2019 and the courtyard was completed by the end of 2019.**

**While the men were renovating the structures, Anne was busy lining up volunteer teams to serve. We served meals inside until Covid 19 forced us to provide “to go” plates. Fortunately, by that time, we had the courtyard equipped with a covered structure with large patio heaters for the cold days, and large industrial fans to keep a breeze flowing in the warmer days.**

**We serve meals Monday through Friday from 11:15am to 12:30pm. We are currently averaging 185 meals served each day. We have volunteer teams from churches, (both black and white congregations), the police department, Marlboro County Administration, which includes the County Library and the Sheriff’s department, Rotary Club, Domtar Industries, Marlboro Elec- tric Cooperative, and Anne’s 1968 classmates. When we are at full capacity, we have 20 teams that serve same day once a month, and five teams that serve the same 5th day, which is about every third month. We currently have only one vacant date.**

**The first of May 2023 was our four-year anniversary and we have now served over 120,000 free lunches! We operate with a 100% volunteer staff (including Anne and Myself) and have no em- ployee payroll. We have not requested any government funds, nor have we completed any gov- ernment grant requests. We operate solely on donations from individuals, churches, business- es, industries, and a few philanthropic organizations.**

**When we served in our dining room, we provided a devotion prior to the meals. Now, that we**

**are serving to go plates, we place a scripture in each box, and some teams will write “Jesus loves you” on the outside.**

**We certainly give God the glory for everything that has been done through the Community Kitchen. Our sign above the front door entrance, has the following scripture on it which is our theme for the Kitchen: James, Chapter 2, verses 15-16 “Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. “If one of you says to him, Go, I wish you well, keep warm and well fed, but does nothing about his personal needs, what good is it?”**

**Roger and Anne Griggs**

December 2022: Christmas Social

January 2023: January workshop: An Art Lesson was taught by Soror Pearson. She assisted the youth with materials to paint a design using dif- ferent color mixtures and brush strokes. The participants used their crea- tivity to create a beautiful canvas picture.

February 2023: A financial literacy workshop for members of Delta Academy and Delta GEMS was The guest presenter was Ms. Rochelle McRae, Personal Banker at Wells Fargo Bank Laurinburg, N.C. Ms.

McRae discussed the importance of banking and the five most im- portant banking services. The purpose of this workshop was to encourage participants to save money, learn the importance of budgeting and to make good decisions based on wants and needs.

March 2023: Members of the Bennettsville-Cheraw Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. sponsored tours to the International

Civil Rights Museum and North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in Greensboro, N.C. Saturday, March 4, 2023.

April 2023: Members of the Bennettsville-Cheraw Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. sponsored a Creative Arts, Crafts, and Design session at their Delta Academy and Delta GEMS . The guest pre- senter was Mrs. Sheila Swift a retired Elementary Visual Arts Teacher from Scotland County School District. She emphasized the importance

that patterns, colors, and designs play when choosing from different fab- rics. Participants designed necklaces using colorful beads and rib-

bons. Delta Academy and GEMS participants selected fabrics to tie on their heads and around their hips. In closing, Mrs. Swift led participants in a dance routine to celebrate the richness of their culture.