

## **CREATING A POSITIVE LIVING COMMUNITY**

### **FIVE TRAITS OF A POSITIVE LIVING COMMUNITY**

The quality of a community correlates to the degree of engagement and satisfaction individuals can draw from their interactions. We want to ensure that Alpha Sigma Phi/CLVEN housing encourages the creation and perpetuation of brotherhood in a safe and clean environment.

Involvement in a positive and encouraging community has a huge impact on individual self-awareness and fulfillment. Positive experiences with communities provide a support system for members and works to combat mental illnesses. They provide a sense of belonging and impacts retention within the Fraternity.

#### **1. Assist with Filling the House**

- Occupancy management is central to ensuring a positive culture and community. The culture within the house is not positive if no one will live there. In turn, if the property becomes a financial burden to residents and members, that also can hurt building a positive community. We should view living in the house as a privilege! The House Director can assist by ensuring the physical space is well maintained so that members want to live in and helping the Chapter President talk to members regarding the upcoming year.

#### **2. Set Clear Expectations**

- Achieving a positive community is not about setting a lot of rules. It is about working to encourage residents to fulfill their obligations. To do this, give residents an opportunity to set the expectations at the beginning after move-in. The more ownership the residents feel in setting expectations, the more likely they are to rise to the occasion.

#### **3. Promote Interaction Among Members**

- There is a variety of ways that a House Director can facilitate this, including weekly brotherhood dinners, promoting eating meals in common areas (versus bedrooms), having events with residents, and having brothers complete weekly chores together.

#### **4. Prioritize Effective Communication**

- Communication is essential for any community. It is important to establish how House Director and residents are communicating with one another, including issues, repairs needed, responsibilities, and announcements. Once established, that method should be maintained.

#### **5. Respect for One Another and the Physical Space**

- Respect for the physical space is important for the House Director, residents, and members of the chapter/provisional chapter. Members and residents should take pride in the house. Failure to take care of the physical space will result in members not wanting to live in. Additionally, the residents need to feel respected in their living environment. This may include establishing quiet/study hours and/or involving the Standards Board for any mediations that may be needed