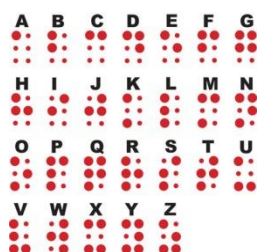


Chapter Project Information - Gamma Alpha and the Community

Gamma Alpha demonstrates we are Key Women Educators, “United in Purpose” through our commitment to our Delta Kappa Gamma sisters and our service to others. Although we have worked with other organizations, we are now concentrating our efforts on three organizations.



Seedlings Braille Books for Blind Children has become an important organization Gamma Alpha supports. *Seedlings* is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization dedicated to increasing the opportunity for literacy by providing high quality, low cost Braille books for children. In 1984, when Debra Bonde founded Seedlings, Braille materials were scarce and expensive. Her goals were to increase the availability and lower the cost of Braille books for children in order to promote the children’s literacy skills

and the love of reading. In 1985, the first year of book production, Debra made 221 books in her basement office. By 1990, Seedlings was producing 5,000 books per year, which precipitated its move out of Debra’s basement and into the Bentley Center in Livonia, Michigan, and eventually to our present location on Farmington Road in Livonia. In 2003, with a small staff and a group of loyal volunteers, Seedlings produced 18,700 Braille books and articles, with a grand total of 169,976 since 1984, equaling over 8 million pages of Braille!

Gamma Alpha members volunteer at *Seedlings Braille Books for Children* and work closely with the founder of this non-profit organization. An important part of *Seedlings’* mission is to increase the opportunity for literacy for blind children as well as exposing sighted family members to Braille materials. In 2008, Gamma Alpha presented a project to DKG Educational Foundation and Seedlings received \$1500 grant for the “Hooray for Braille” project. The funds purchased materials for early intervention kits for visually impaired preschool children. Representatives will distribute the kits to families of visually impaired preschoolers from ROPARD (The Association for Retinopathy of Prematurity and Related Diseases). ROPARD works with newborns, preschoolers, and toddlers who are visually impaired. By reaching the families of visually impaired children when they are preschoolers, we believe “Hooray for Braille” early intervention kits can have a tremendous impact on the children’s future literacy skills. Gamma Alpha chapter assists and cooperates with the *Seedlings* organization in supporting, encouraging, and improving the education of visually impaired preschool children. We volunteer Braille binding books, volunteering our time at Bowling for Braille fundraising event, and coordinating their Christmas card sales.



Beverly House for Young Girls and Sumpter House for Pregnant Teens are two community service projects Gamma Alpha sponsors. We collect personal hygiene supplies, back to school supplies and clothes. We make summer fun bags for the girls and purchase winter coats and hoodies. We sponsor outings to the corn maize, Greenfield Village, Wayne Recreation Center, lunch, and mani-peds. Each August, the girls come to

Geneva Presbyterian Church in Canton and make personal no sew blankets with our members. An annual baby shower is held for the teen moms and moms-to-be.



Kids 4 Afghan Kids is a non-profit organization that seeks to establish schools and address health conditions for Afghanistan children and their families. It was started in 1998 by a group of 6th graders in Northville, Michigan. The program is officially called the 'Multi-Ethnic Afghan Schools and Humanitarian Assistance' and has raised over \$100,000 toward their efforts.

So far a 6-room school, a medical clinic, a guest house, a community well, and a bakery/kitchen have been built for persons living in Wonkhai Valley, in the mountains 3 hours southwest of Kabul. The school building was originally designed to house 150 students and six teachers were hired. When it opened in March 2001, 465 students showed up the first day of school. Currently, the school has 16 teachers and 650 students. In addition, 40 orphans currently live at the school facility. Because of cultural issues boys and girls attend the school at separate times. Fund-raising is currently under way to build an all-girls high school.

The director of the *Kids 4 Afghan Kids* program, Khris Nedam, is the teacher behind the project. Nedam taught school and lived in Afghanistan in the early 1990s. For her work, she received a 2007 National Award for Citizen Diplomacy. Khris Nedam addressed the Sarasota World Affairs Council in April, 2014.



Gamma Alpha makes a yearly monetary donation to K4AK. We also make and serve soup for the "Empty Bowls" fundraiser every other year.

Society Service and Recognition

- Gamma Alpha holds a Holiday Auction each year. The proceeds of the auction are used to support our Grant-in-Aid Awards for early career women educators and our community service projects.
- Gamma Alpha makes a chapter donation to Members Supporting Members Fund, Schools for Africa, and we make baskets for the Fall Workshop and State Convention auctions.
- Gamma Alpha has earned awards at the State Level including:

Award of the Rose
President's Award
Attendance Award
Yearbook Award
Chapter Newsletter Award