



# BRIEF

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

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Civic engagement is an important aspect of living out the preamble of Delta Chi. This BRIEF encompasses best practices and ideas for community service and philanthropy events. It is important to distinguish between philanthropy and community service. Below are definitions of each:

- **Philanthropy** is the act of raising money or donating items to a specific charitable cause or group of people in need.
- **Community Service** is the act of doing hands-on volunteer work to benefit a local community agency or cause.

## COMMUNITY & UNIVERSITY PARTNERS

Delta Chi believes in the importance of serving others and giving back to the community. Identifying a local service partner is an important step for your chapter/provisional chapter to build lasting, positive relationships within the community. Establishing a partnership with a local organization can not only increase your visibility on campus and within the local community, but it can also create a sense of identity and pride among members.

First, determine the cause or area you would like your chapter/provisional chapter efforts to benefit. Then, think about how you can involve a community partner to maximize your input. Consider collaborating with your community partner to provide education on the goal of their agency and get them involved in the planning process prior to engaging in volunteer service work. Below are some common philanthropic and community-based organizations that are typically present in most communities:

Boy Scouts of America  
YMCA  
Special Olympics  
United Way  
Red Cross

American Cancer Society  
Habitat for Humanity  
Big Brothers/Big Sisters  
Boys and Girls Club  
Gift of Life Marrow Registry

You can also consider participating in campus-wide philanthropic events that benefit the local community. This could include Relay for Life, Up 'Til Dawn, and Dance Marathon. Many colleges and universities also offer an alternative fall/spring break trip that is service-oriented. Your chapter/provisional chapter or individual members can be involved throughout the year and have a lasting impact on your community.

## WEEK OF SERVICE

In accordance with Delta Chi's founding date on October 13, the Fraternity recognizes a week around this date of each year to be the week of service. All chapters/provisional chapters are encouraged to host at least one community service event during this week and report their efforts to IHQ. When identifying an event and beneficiary organization, consider the needs of your local community. For chapters/provisional chapters that have fall break or midterms during the Week of Service, you can plan an event the week before or after the official week and IHQ will recognize them.

Typically, the time around Founders Day is also marked as a Day of Giving for the Delta Chi Foundation. There may be unique ways to incorporate philanthropic giving to the Foundation along with the Week of Service activities.

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## SERVICE IDEAS

Once you have identified a local service partner, there will be opportunities for hands-on volunteer work that can tremendously help a community-based organization. In general, volunteer time is of great benefit to these organizations because they may not have full-time staff dedicated to the services they provide. Below are some examples of community service ideas, depending on the identified service partner:

- Adopt a highway or portion of a road and keep it free of litter
- Help to prepare and serve meals at a local shelter or treatment facility
- Work at a local animal shelter or wildlife center for animal socialization, cleaning cages, and feeding animals
- Sort food donations or assist with distribution at a local or campus food bank/pantry
- Sort book donations or assist with an event (ex. story hour) at a local library
- Spend time at a nursing home for assistance with resident activities or meals
- Clean up a park, local playground, or nature trail
- Host a non-partisan voter registration drive

You should also consider participating in campus-wide events or service days that may be organized by your campus. Often, there will be an office that is responsible for community engagement that helps to organize these events or that can be of assistance in identifying local partners that are in need of volunteers.

## PHILANTHROPY IDEAS

Donation via a philanthropy effort can be in the form of monies or goods. Below are some ideas to donate goods to a philanthropic entity:

- Host a toy drive for local children and families in the area, or partner with an entity like Toys for Tots during holiday seasons
- Develop care packages for military service members
- Collect school supplies or age-appropriate books for local children
- Have a non-perishable food or clothing drive for a local shelter or food bank, based on their needs or desired items
- Host a blood drive
- Create a donation drive for dog/cat food, toys, bowls, leashes, etc. for a local animal shelter based on their needs or desired items.

A wide variety of events can also raise money for philanthropic causes. You should do your best to correlate the event with the cause, and to ensure that the event aligns with Delta Chi's risk management policies. Below are common event ideas:

- Benefit concert / dance
- Car wash
- Athletic or e-Sports tournament
- Benefit dinner with a keynote speaker
- 5K Run / Walk
- Trivia contest
- Talent show
- Karaoke night or Lip Sync battle
- Food fundraiser

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## RAISING MONEY FOR THE V FOUNDATION

In 2006, Delta Chi established a formal partnership with the [V Foundation for Cancer Research](#). Chapters/provisional chapters are encouraged to host philanthropic events to raise money for cancer research through the V Foundation.

These events should focus on educating attendees and the campus community on the importance of donating to cancer research. Each chapter should host at least one philanthropy event per year to raise funds and awareness for the V Foundation.

In addition, through the V Foundation, Delta Chi hosts a [Bracket Challenge](#) annually, open from January 15 - April 15 to align with the Men's NCAA basketball tournament. Chapters/provisional chapters are encouraged to participate and invite family and friends to donate to their chapter team. During the International Convention, the Fraternity will also host regular fundraising efforts for the V Foundation through activities like a basketball pop-a-shot tournament as a reference to the Bracket Challenge.

For support on working to fundraise for the V Foundation, contact Emileigh Cockrum, Coordinator of Chapter Services ([ecockrum@deltachi.org](mailto:ecockrum@deltachi.org)).

## UTILIZING CROWDCHANGE©

CrowdChange© is an online fundraising platform available to all Delta Chi chapters/provisional chapter at no cost. To use the platform, visit [deltachivfoundation.crowdchange.co](http://deltachivfoundation.crowdchange.co) and click "Start a Fundraiser" button. From there, follow the steps to enter the event information. You can also create tickets, registration, sell merchandise and showcase event sponsors.

Within the platform, there is an opportunity to create personal and team fundraising pages for your members and event attendees. For a detailed guide, use the [CrowdChange How-To Guide](#), found on the Delta Chi website.