



# Jewel of The Mountain

SM-LAC  
MAGAZINE

FALL 2022



**PROMOTING  
SISTERLY BONDS  
AND CHAPTER UNITY**







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# PRESIDENT'S Letter

Dear Sorors,

I am pleased to present *The Jewel of the Mountain magazine* – year-end review, underscoring Stone Mountain-Lithonia Alumnae Chapter's accomplishments over the past sororal year.

Chartered in 1997, SM-LAC grew beyond 825 members last year- more than 10 times its original size. With that growth has come the ability to serve more members of the community and make a greater impact.

During the 2021-22 sororal year alone, SM-LAC organized 11 COVID-19 vaccination clinics and inoculated more than 1,000 community members; we observed World AIDS Day and offered free HIV testing to more than 200 DeKalb County residents; we mentored more than 200 scholars through our educational development series; we walked dozens of individuals down the path to financial freedom; and we educated the community about important political issues such as redistricting and preserving our right to vote.

On top of that, we found creative ways to fortify our precious sisterhood and remain connected, despite a lingering pandemic. Our collective commitment to sisterhood, scholarship, service and social action remained passionate and steadfast.

It was also a special year because we celebrated our 25th chapter anniversary in grand style with Delta's 24th National President Cynthia Butler-McIntyre as our special guest. We later capped off the year by bringing home the coveted, "Chapter of the Year" award from the 48th Southern Regional Conference!

As our mission states, SM-LAC is rich in sisterhood and transformative in service. May we hoist the "Jewel of the Mountain" even higher with each passing year!

Sisterly,

*Candace Hull*

President 2021-23  
Stone Mountain-Lithonia Alumnae Chapter



View SM-LAC'S 2021-2023  
Strategic Goals





# Chapter Awards & Highlights



## Sorority Awards & Recognition

2021-2022 Southern Region Chapter of the Year – "Extra Large"



## Community Awards & Recognition

2021 Boys & Girls Club of Metro Atlanta's Outstanding Community Partner of the Year



## Grants Received

2021 \$10,000 Kaiser Permanente Grant for Exemplary Volunteerism  
2021-2022 DREF Community Empowerment: Physical & Mental Health  
2021 DREF Community Empowerment: International Awareness & Involvement



## Step Show Championships

2022 Southern Region Stroll-Off 2nd Place Winner -- Block Party/Candyman



Legacy Luncheon  
Featured Speaker  
ΔΣΘ 24<sup>th</sup> National President  
Cynthia Butler-McIntyre







*Stone Mountain-Lithonia Alumnae Chapter*  
**DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.**

## MISSION STATEMENT

Rich in sisterhood. Transformative in service.

## VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to be a unified sisterhood that improves the quality of life in our communities for generations to come.

## CORE VALUES

Serve  
 Mentor  
 Lead  
 Advocate  
 Collaborate

## IMPLEMENTATION

- We surveyed the chapter and designated strategic planning facilitators to identify strategic priorities.
- The Executive Committee coordinated directly with committees to determine opportunities to align with strategic goals.
- Facilitators tracked progress and provided chapter updates during the 2021-2022 sororal year.

## MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- Demonstrate tangible outcomes for each strategic goal by May 2022.
- During the 2022-23 sororal year, demonstrate a quantifiable increase of tangible outcomes for each strategic goal by May 2023.
- Meet each strategic objective by May 2023.

# SM-LAC Year-End Review

## SISTERHOOD

- ✓ Created opportunities for small and targeted group interactions.
- ✓ Cultivated a welcoming environment for new chapter members and inactive sorors.
- ✓ Engaged sorors via fellowship and service opportunities.
- ✓ Established multiple recognition platforms for individual sorors.

## PERSONAL GROWTH

Empowered Chapter Sorors Through Increased Learning Opportunities

HELD  
**6** Mini Workshops

Hosted Grow with **Google** Résumé Workshop

**21** Jewel Academy LEADERSHIP Development Program Graduates

# Community Impact

*Integrated social action component into 5-point thrust programming, advocating for tangible outcomes.*



*Promoted culture and the arts for members of the community*



Held Art Auction

## EDUCATED

Members Of The Community On New PATHWAYS To *Lucrative* CAREERS



## EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Delivered Comprehensive YOUTH PROGRAMS

*throughout*

The Sororal Year, Incorporating Students

in *geographically*

UNDERSERVED Segments

of our *Service Area.*



Offered specialized youth events throughout the sororal year.



Promoted scholarship opportunities for graduating seniors throughout our service area.

Held **42** for Enrichment Sessions

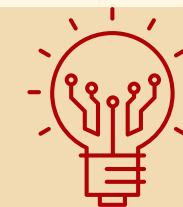
**200+** Youth Initiative PARTICIPANTS



## STRATEGIC PARTNERS

**Increased** Strategic Partnerships to Maximize COMMUNITY IMPACT

## Jewel of the Mountain



## DIGITAL STRENGTH

LEVERAGED TECHNOLOGY TO HELP ACHIEVE CHAPTER SERVICE GOALS AND EXPAND COMMUNITY OUTREACH!





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# SISTERHOOD

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## Promoting Sisterly Bonds and Chapter Unity

**S**tone Mountain - Lithonia Alumnae Chapter is rich in sisterhood! Topping off the sororal year with more than 825 chapter members, SM-LAC continually assesses and responds to the needs of its members. Through a series of targeted events and initiatives, SM-LAC cultivated a welcoming environment for existing and new chapter members and inactive sorors.

### Reclamation Events

On Sunday, October 24th, SM-LAC proudly welcomed 17 sorors home to our chapter and hosted many more at the "Rouge Reclamation Brunch: Nurturing Our Violets." We filled the day with sisterhood and love as we served our sorors a delicious brunch surrounded by gifts that included African Violets. We helped sorors establish their roots and learn about our chapter history. They then planted their seeds of growth towards becoming engaged and committed chapter members. We truly witnessed our sisterhood grow in numbers and love.

Duly-initiated sorors looking to come back home joined SM-LAC virtually on January 14th for our third annual "HOMECOMING RECLAMATION EXPERIENCE!" Our HBCU-themed virtual event was filled with fellowship, laughter, and fun. Sorors participated in a series of homecoming-themed activities including a virtual "Stroll on the Mountain."

### Annual Prayer Breakfast

Our 12th Annual Prayer Breakfast was held on February 26, 2022. This free, virtual gathering was a morning filled with uplifting prayer and inspiration delivered by SM-LAC's own Tiara McGrew, and Kenyata Smiley, and Soror Hope Sims Sutton. The theme was, "Whatever God Gives You!" (I Corinthians 12:4-11)

# Celebrating 25 YEARS!

Unified in Sisterhood, Scholarship, Service, and Social Action

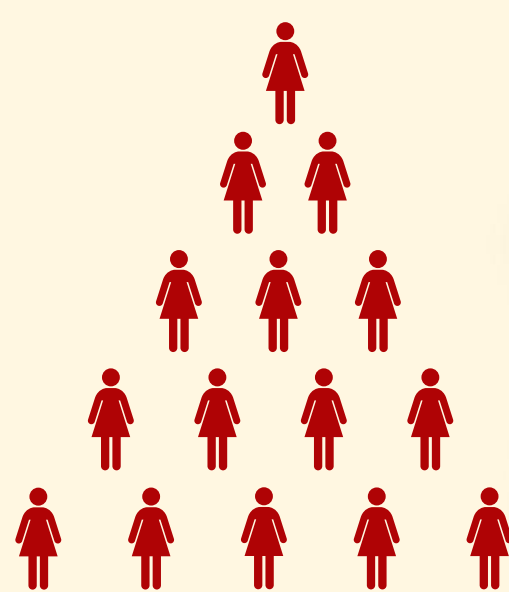
# 825 + MEMBERS

*SM-LAC cultivates a welcoming environment for new chapter members and inactive sorors.*



## Held 2

*Reclamation Events*

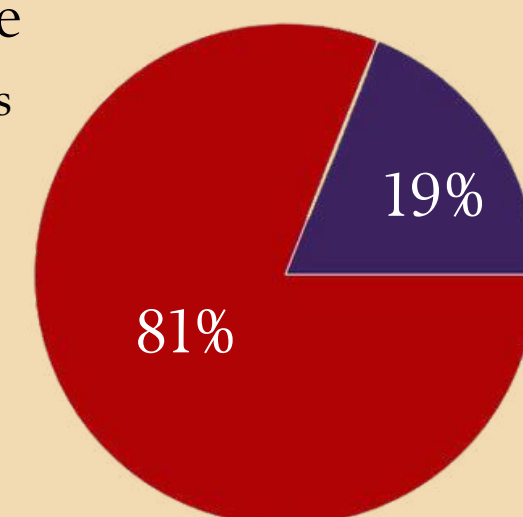


## 17

Sorors RECLAIMED

Participation Rate

■ Chapter Members  
■ Visitors



## 294

## PARTICIPANTS

Attended Our Annual Prayer Breakfast

*We have multiple recognition platforms for individual sorors.*



## 3

ANNUAL  
Chapter Awards

Highlighted  
FOUR Collegiate  
**SORORS** via  
Social Media

60+  
Sorors  
RECOGNIZED  
during Chapter  
Meetings

Awarded **THREE**  
**Service**  
Challenge Awards



## *Paris in the Springtime*

SM-LAC's Delta Dears enjoyed, "Paris in the Springtime" on Saturday, April 30, 2022. This Delta Dear Signature event had all of the elements of a great time: good fellowship, food, and fun! Dressed in the latest styles, the Delta Dears experienced the Parisian shops of Louis Vuitton, Dior, and Chanel, to name a few!! Orchestra Noir provided stellar entertainment through string renditions of seamless melodies that celebrated the cultural achievements of African American musicians. The carved brisket was the most talked about, as our sorors described the dish as "melt-in-your-mouth tender!!" A great time was had by all, and the fashion show was the highlight of the evening, with Soror Rachel Zeigler being crowned the Delta Dear Couture Queen.

## *C.O.R.E. Initiative*

On April 24, 2022, SM-LAC hosted the inaugural C.O.R.E. Initiative, with an emphasis on the Collegiate Orientation Reclamation/Retention Experience. Collegiate Affairs, in collaboration with The Protocol & Traditions Committee, provided a forum for our newly-transitioned sorors from collegiate chapters to be paired with alumnae mentors and build upon those sisterly connections. Certified trainer and seasoned leader Soror Bethaney Coleman Willis served as the event speaker and provided pearls of wisdom for each participant.







Jessica Fields



Patrick Elaine Ross



Pamela Harris Jenkins



Kim Brannan-Sykes



Glory Appleberry Villavasso

## Chapter Recognition

### Chapter Awards

SM-LAC ended the 2021-2022 sororal year on a high note by acknowledging two extraordinary sorors who received Stone Mountain-Lithonia Alumnae Chapter's highest honors for their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

**D**r. Jessica Fields, was presented with the Pinnacle Award, which is SM-LAC's highest honor for accomplishments within the chapter, and for epitomizing what it means to be a Delta. Additionally, in her role as a Sam's Club pharmacist, Dr. Fields led countless community vaccination efforts against the coronavirus, which resulted in her also winning the chapter's Fortitude Award for external accomplishments outside of Delta.



Finally, we congratulated Patrick Elaine Ross, winner of the Spirit Award, for being a constant cheerleader and supporter of all things SM-LAC.

### Service Challenge

This sororal year, SM-LAC celebrated our 25th Chapter Anniversary. One of the ways we celebrated was with a service challenge called 25/25/2500. The goal was to complete 25 chapter service projects (we actually completed 38 service projects). Each member was challenged to complete at least 25 hours of service, and collectively, the total service hours for the chapter would equal 2,500 hours of service to the community. SM-LAC exceeded the goal with almost 3,000 hours of service.

The top three Community Service Champions are:

**1<sup>st</sup>** Pamela Harris Jenkins  
273.5 *Service hrs.*

**2<sup>nd</sup>** Kim Brannan-Sykes  
177 *Service hrs.*

**3<sup>rd</sup>** Glory Appleberry Villavasso  
110 *Service hrs.*



**Sterilization Supplies**

Check chemical indicator, integrate strip  
Self seal envelope paper, pouch  
Filter paper, need in steam  
Indicator test pack

Transfer good load  
Sterilization wrap  
Autoclave tape

*Sterile only*  
Sort autoclave load into treatment  
trays by instrument use

**Surgical**

Scalpel, introducer, dilator  
All light handle covers (use sterile &L)  
Replacement blades (scalpels/cutters)  
Sutury and suture force

Scalpel head  
Catheter catheters  
Radiography catheters

*Sterile only*  
Sort surgical steel by stainless steel lot

**Sutures (Expired)**

Boye  
Chronic gel  
Monocryl  
PDS  
Softek  
Suture needle  
Vicryl

Endoknot  
Plain gel  
Prolene  
Polyorb  
Ethibond  
Ligating loop  
Surgipro

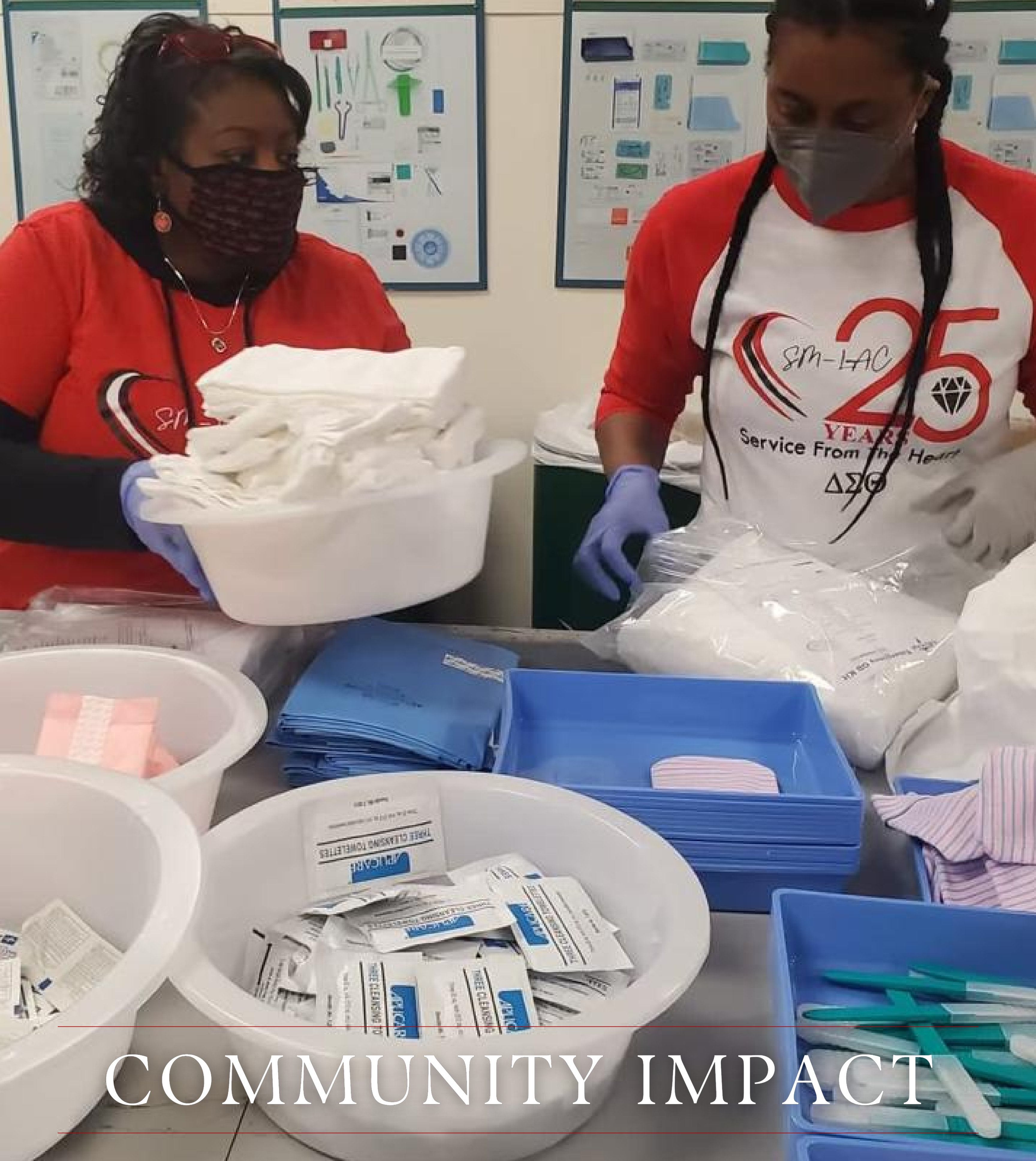
*Sterile only*

**Sutures**

Boye  
Chronic gel  
Monocryl  
PDS  
Softek  
Suture needle

Endoknot  
Plain gel  
Prolene  
Polyorb  
Ethibond  
Ligating loop  
Surgipro

*Sterile only*



COMMUNITY IMPACT



## Improving the Quality of Life of Members in Our Community

During the 2021-2022 sororal year, Stone Mountain-Lithonia Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., delivered programs and service opportunities that addressed the physical, mental and financial health of our communities.

In partnership with Sam's Club Pharmacy, Berean Christian Church, and Springfield Baptist Church, SM-LAC held eleven Covid-19 vaccination clinics. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the following SM-LAC committees: Program, Planning and Development, Physical and Mental Health, and Emergency Response Team, more than 1.1 thousand community members were vaccinated during our 2021-2022 sororal year.

Additionally, on Saturday, March 26, 2022, SM-LAC's International Awareness & Involvement Committee dedicated the morning to serving the international community. In conjunction with the nonprofit organization MedShare, sorors packed numerous boxes of medical supplies that were sent to countries in need.



**11**  
covid-19 vaccination  
clinics held



**1.1+**  
thousand community  
members vaccinated





## Rock the Ribbon Festival

On Saturday, December 4, SM-LAC partnered with the DeKalb Board of Health to present the, "Rock the Ribbon Festival" at Stonecrest Mall, commemorating World AIDS Day.

The event, hosted by Special K of the Rickey Smiley Morning Show, resulted in more than 200 people being tested for HIV/AIDS. In addition, the event brought awareness to the global HIV/AIDS crisis, and included speakers, karaoke, a "Paint and Prick" activity, photo booths, freebies, and more!



## Diaspora Fest

International Awareness held its inaugural Diaspora Fest at the New Black Wall Street Market in Stonecrest, GA, on Sunday, May 1, 2022. This free community event celebrated Black culture through food, art, and music in the hub for Black Ownership. Attendees enjoyed lively performances by the dynamic Giwayen Mata— a soul-stirring, all Sistah, dance, percussion, and vocal ensemble — the SM-LAC Choir, and more! More than 200 sorors and community members were in attendance. The program opened with a parade and included the following program participants:

- All of Us Research
- Amani Women's Center
- Diary of a Traveling Black Woman
- Emory Healthcare
- Emory Hillandale
- Georgia State Research Board
- Giwayen Mata Dancers
- HawAmazing Design & Stitch
- My Name is Me (Sex Trafficking)
- Reign Sanitary Pads
- SM-LAC Educational Development Committee
- SM-LAC Musical Jewels
- SM-LAC Social Action Committee
- The Liberian Connection
- Traveling Black Women



## Economic Development



10

finance workshop sessions



45

participants

The Economic Development committee taught more than 45 participants how to become financially savvy by utilizing the dfree® curriculum. Participants were led through a 10-week debt-free finance workshop. This transformational workshop covered various wealth-building investment vehicles and asset protection: wills, trusts, and power of attorney (POA). Participants walked away with a solid financial plan for reducing and eliminating debt.

## Educational Development

Delivering quality youth-based programs for students in our service area.



*Presidential Youth Conference*

50 + PYC Participants

**SUPPORTED**

Facilitated

5

College Prep Sessions

14 PARTICIPANTS

AWARDED **\$47,000**

*In college scholarships to graduating high school seniors!*





*Visit us Online to Learn More!*

[www.smlacdst.org](http://www.smlacdst.org)



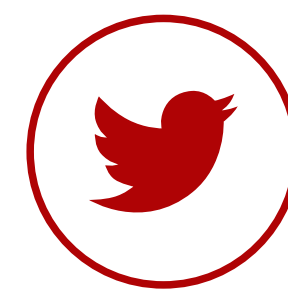
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825+  
*Chapter  
Members*

25  
*Years Serving the  
Community*

\$ 525,000 +  
*Awarded to Date in  
College Scholarships*



Learn More About SM-LAC's Upcoming  
Events and Programming

