

Homeless Shelter Block Party: How You Can Get Involved

On May 6, 2023, the Omicron Kappa Kappa Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. will kick off a series of outdoor 'family fun days' for the benefit of families residing at the Katherine Hanley Family Shelter (12970 Katherine Hanley Ct, Fairfax, VA 22030). The Katherine Hanley Family Shelter is one of six operated by Shelter House, Inc. They all provide housing for those experiencing homelessness and/or domestic violence. The first event, a Spring Block Party, will provide Katherine Hanley families, plus those residing at the other five shelters, a day to experience joy through a variety of fun activities for kids of all ages and adults. It will be a fun, relaxed, safe, and happy experience for the most vulnerable segments of our local community.

The Spring Block Party will provide an opportunity for Shelter House's families to enjoy being together in a safe space, and at no cost to them. Anticipated attendance is over 200 children and parents. Planned activities include haircuts, nail painting, face painting, a moon bounce, field day games, American and international foods (including Halal), a basketball station, and DJ music.

Despite the combined Shelter House and OKK resources (particularly people), help from the community is necessary to make the series of outdoor 'family fun days' truly successful. As a not-for-profit organization (OKK) and as a non-profit organization (Shelter House), **we rely heavily on our community partners to assist us** in putting on events such as these; especially considering the large number of giveaways and on-site activities. **Donors, sponsors, and supporters are vital** to the success of the series of outdoor family fun days. And this is where you come in!

You can help us to assure the Spring Block Party will be a tremendous success. Here are four options:

1. **Be a sponsor.** Provide *funding* which we will use to acquire necessary resources.
2. **Be a donor.** Provide the *actual resource* yourself (e.g., cases of hamburgers and hotdogs).
3. **Be a service provider.** Provide *you!* If you possess a needed talent or capability (e.g., you know how to paint nails, or can teach simple basketball skills), we welcome you.
4. **Share your ideas.** While OKK and Shelter House have experienced many successes, we know there is so much more we can do to make an even greater impact, reaching more people in need. And we are not sure how we can accomplish it. Therefore, we would greatly appreciate your advice and the benefit of your perspective. Let us tap into your wisdom and experience. In short, we would like to take you out for coffee and hear your ideas!

Please call 703-232-7049 to discuss further.

Dr. Gary C. Powell & Ms. Saherah Khan, Co-Chairs

About us

Shelter House and the Omicron Kappa Kappa Chapter (OKK) of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. are both passionate about addressing the needs of people at greatest risk, by helping them to experience a better today and a brighter tomorrow. Collectively, the Shelter House and OKK have impacted the lives of thousands of children and parents in Fairfax County and beyond. Headquartered in Reston, VA, OKK runs a male mentorship program, hosts an annual talent hunt competition, hosts an annual blood donation drive, donates Thanksgiving meals to needy families annually, and more. Shelter House provides crisis intervention, safe housing and supportive services to families experiencing homelessness and victims of domestic violence in our community.