

# Community Relations and Social Change Within the NPHC Community

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## SOC 331: Community Engagement & Change

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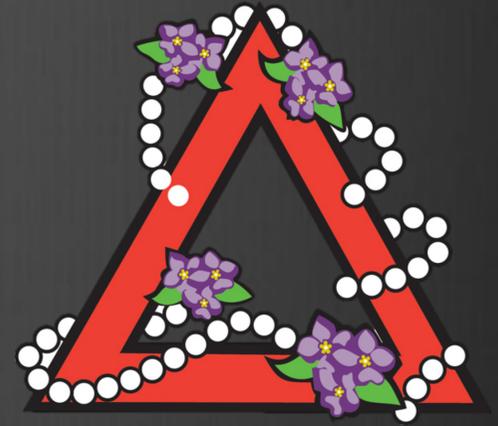
### Introduction:

The purpose of this project was to propose a model for recommending service opportunities and creating long-term projects. Service is at the core of the mission of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and it is incredibly important to its members that we are regularly refining our programs to reflect the mission (Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.). In making service a reflective process, we are then able to assess the inputs, outputs and outcomes of various service organizations to see where we can best understand the need, be more successful in the enactment of the service projects and keep attune to our impact.

### Background:

One of the most attractive parts about Black Greek-letter organizations for students of color in predominantly white institutions (PWI), is the strong base of support and commitment to service. Membership into these organizations grew during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960's and 1970's (Sutton and Kimbrough 31).

It has been noted that Greek-letter organizations bridge the gap between the classroom and social life of the students, providing an environment for subcultures to thrive (Whipple and Sullivan 8). The authors also support the idea of community based learning as a way to redefine standards and goals of the broader institution (Whipple and Sullivan 9).



### Methods:

Identify place of improvement

Course concepts

Proposal for change

Further research



### Course Concepts:

**Power:** When comparing power as being limited to power as limitless a conversation of who has power within our service sites emerged (Gore). At first glance, volunteers do not seem to hold much of the power within an organization, but many service projects and initiatives would not reach the depth or breadth of people without donors and volunteers.

**Self-interest:** Can be seen as a main motivator for social change when redefined as "self among others" (Bobo, Kendall and Max 9). Self-interest almost becomes a necessity in terms of creating community and truly understanding a need.

**Method, dialogue & reflection:** The intersectionality between these three terms is important in recognizing areas where "help" could be needed and creating a successful environment to accomplish a goal. Through this one can recognize a deficiency, find necessary resources and have opportunities to communicate effectively (Norwood).

**Logic Model:** a reflection-based system for creating change. By acknowledging inputs, outputs and outcomes with reference to assumptions and external factors, organizations such as Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. would be able to successfully evaluate service initiatives (Foundation).

### Proposal:

- Proposal worksheet for service events that would require reflection on the mission of the service site and the specific use for volunteers. Added attention to the needs of the organization and the community being served
- The person proposing service projects would then have to understand the purpose and goals of the organization, to be shared with the rest of the chapter
- Put service at the forefront of the organization
- Create a more holistic and meaningful service experience because of the deeper understanding
- Form more long-term projects and include other organizations
- Spend more time finding organizations or causes that connect personally with chapter members

Assumptions

Inputs

Outputs

External Factors

Outcomes

### References:

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