



Sigma Chapter

Sigmachapter.org

Press Release



Sigma Chapter Names 2024-2025 Charity of Choice: ManUpPHL

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

At the start of every academic year, the Sigma Chapter chooses a charity to support and get involved with throughout the year. We raise funds through bake sales, selling pretzels and waters during Wednesday meetings, and selling Sigma Chapter merchandise. Additionally, we get involved with the charity by participating in and hosting events to support the charity.

This year will mark the first year that the Sigma Chapter has supported ManUpPHL. The Sigma Chapter looks forward to reaching its donation goal of \$15,000 and getting involved with the charity!

*ManUp*PHL

ManUpPHL was founded in November 2019 by Solomon Jones, one month after his son's classmate, 15-year-old Zyqueire Echevarria, was shot and killed in South Philadelphia. Solomon used his radio platform to call black men together to address Philadelphia's gun violence. Four-hundred people responded, and ManUpPHL was born.

Young black men are the group most impacted by gun violence, and ManUpPHL focuses on that demographic, serving men between the ages of 13 and 35. They offer mentoring and employment opportunities, but as the COVID pandemic set in, they moved their mentoring services online, while continuing to work on the street. They worked with Health Partners to deliver personal protective equipment, partnered with ShopRite to deliver gift cards, and worked with the Share Food Program to distribute food packages.

In April 2021, ManUpPHL resumed in-person mentoring and launched Listening to the Streets, an initiative that pays participants \$15 an hour to attend 8 mentoring sessions. Participants receive lessons on character, conflict resolution, job readiness, and more. They participate in a group therapy session with a professional therapist, and most importantly, they share their experiences and ideas around the causes, effects, and solutions for gun violence. ManUpPHL connects participants to resources and employment opportunities, and their mentors work with participants on an ongoing basis to help them change their lives.

Donations Via Venmo:

If you are interested in donating to ManUpPHL, please Venmo @Sigmachapter. The payment description should consist of your email and 'Charity of Choice.'

Donations During Wednesday Meetings:

Purchase Pretzels or Water during our Wednesday meetings!

Everything is **\$1**.

We accept cash or Venmo @Sigmachapter.

The Sigma Chapter's Past Charities of Choice

The Sigma Chapter has always been committed to giving back to the community. Every Fall, the Sigma Chapter selects a Charity of Choice and supports that charity for an entire academic year. Each year, the Sigma Chapter has met or exceeded its fundraising goals for the following charities:

- 2023-2024: Connect Thru Cancer — \$10,000**
- 2022-2023: ACCT Philly — \$5,000**
- 2021-2022: Gift of Life Family House — \$10,000**
- 2019-2021: Ryan Trefz Memorial Scholarship Fund — \$25,000**
- 2018-2019: Gift of Life Family House — \$14,000**
- 2017-2018: Michael's Giving H.A.N.D. — \$25,000**
- 2016-2017: Artz Philadelphia — \$15,000**
- 2015-2016: Brave Hearts for Strong Minds — \$15,000**
- 2014-2015: Brave Hearts for Strong Minds — \$11,200**
- 2013 -2014: For Pete's Sake — \$10,000**
- 2012-2013: ESF Dream Camp — \$10,000**
- 2011-2012: Gift of Life Family House — \$25,000**
- 2010-2011: Aid For Friends — \$8,000**
- 2009-2010: Arnesha Mash-Walker Foundation — \$5,000**
- 2008-2009: Children's Alopecia Project — \$5,000**
- 2007-2008: Neighborhood Bike Works — \$2,500**

Please reach out to the Community Affairs Team at cateam.gis@gmail.com if you would like to get involved in our fundraising.



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