

Alpha Nu Chapter: Engaging the Community and Promoting the Fatherhood Initiative among Brothers and the Greater Norwalk and Stamford Connecticut Communities

by Brother Joseph E. Mann, 1st District

Norwalk, CT – The Alpha Nu Chapter is building upon the initiatives that helped it capture the First District Award as the 2012 Chapter of the Year and is engaged in a variety of activities that are directly focused on increasing the involvement of father's in the lives of their children.

On June 15, 2013, Alpha Nu held its Annual "Father's Day Celebration and Luncheon: A Recognition & Celebration of Outstanding Father Figures in Our Community". The event was held at the Sheraton Hotel in Stamford, CT and was well attended by the community. Five churches were invited to submit an outstanding father candidate for recognition. The effort highlighted the important role of fathers in the community and focused everyone's attention on the need to express appreciation, gratitude and respect to active fathers. The honorees were thrilled with the honor and recognition.

The Rev. Dr. Lindsay E. Curtis brought a wonderfully uplifting message on the importance of the father. Guest speaker and former New York Knicks Guard John Starks shared that much of his own success was a result of having had strong father figures in his formative years. A video, created by Brother Terrance Hamilton was the highlight of the day. It profiled the five honorees and a number of brothers explaining why they are motivated to be involved in the lives of their children and other young people. The video showed how their lives were influenced and shaped by the father figures that were a part of their own experiences.

Alpha Nu has established a Leadership Lecture Series, which is a forum bringing together Brothers and Community Leaders to speak to young people and their fathers or father figures, on matters that are of interest to them. Topics have been varied, but focused on education, career choices and current social issues.

The Chapter periodically holds quarterly roundtables with young men where Brothers and youth view a movie and engage in discussion over a meal about the messages contained in the movie and how the message might be applied to their own lives. We most recently engaged in this activity with the movie "42".

The Alpha Nu Chapter is actively working with the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, participating in tutoring sessions and their EMBODI program which focuses on the educational, social and emotional challenges facing today's African American males.

The Chapter strongly encourages Brothers to become mentors to young men. This call to action has resulted in several Brothers becoming mentors to boys who are otherwise without a steady father figure in their lives. Alpha Nu believes that these relationships positively impact our youth and our communities and are what was intended through the President's Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative.

The Call to Action by Omega has been heard by Alpha Nu. We are committed to meeting the challenge of encouraging and supporting fathers to be actively involved in the lives of children and mentoring our next generation of young men and fathers.