

Pi Beta Phi Brings Literacy to Life Through Read > Lead > Achieve

It started with simply helping Kindergarteners through third graders on their workbooks, but quickly the room had transformed into laughter and eager hands excited to share their stories. For the women of Pi Beta Phi, these visits are not just volunteer hours. They're a way to change lives one experience at a time.

The program supports this mission in three key ways: read, lead and achieve. Read encourages children to read by volunteering in schools focused on literacy-focused events. Lead empowers Pi Phi members to become literacy advocates and community leaders. Achieve helps children succeed in school and in life by providing them with the tools they need.

At Pi Beta Phi's Nebraska chapter, the national mission of Read > Lead > Achieve and the Pi Beta Phi foundation members have their hands-on experience through philanthropic and community centered events.

"I've seen firsthand how just a little encouragement can completely change a child's confidence," said sophomore Abigail Barnett. "It reminds you why literacy matters so much."

Read > Lead > Achieve is Pi Beta Phi's national philanthropic service focused on one powerful mission that promotes literacy. This initiative was launched in 2013 and is founded on the belief that reading is the foundation for leadership, opportunity and achievement. For many Pi Beta Phi members, participating in Read > Lead > Achieve has become more than just a philanthropy to their members. It is a personal growth journey shaping their future.

One of the chapter's biggest community ties is with Everett Elementary School, just a few miles from campus. Throughout the year members volunteer in classrooms, helping students with reading, computer work and building their confidence as students. This is popular among the members as they love making connections with the kids at the elementary school and being a good role model for them. It is meaningful for the members to go straight to the source instead of sending the schools just money.

"It's not just about helping them read better, it's about giving them the belief that they can achieve anything," said sophomore Grace Murray. "That's something that sticks with you even after you leave the classroom."

The Pi Beta Phi Foundation is another mission that is focused on Pi Phi's core values of fulfilling its mission of promoting friendship, supporting others through community service and encouraging women of intellect and integrity. This foundation is constantly supporting the lives of the sisters who are active members and alumni.

We hold an annual book drive, where hundreds of new and slightly used children's books from students and families. The books are wrapped and decorated as this usually takes place around Christmas. The books are given to the kids before they go home for winter break.

"The book drive is one of my favorite traditions," said sophomore Madalyn Ciezobka. "Knowing a child will have a special book to read over break makes all the hard work worth it."

Through Read > Lead > Achieve and partnerships like the one with Everett Elementary, the women of Pi Beta Phi are making a lasting difference not only in the lives of the students, but in their own personal growth as leaders and advocates for literacy. As they continue to give back

to their community, they are building a legacy rooted in compassion, leadership, and the power of reading.