

News Release

Phi Mu Alpha
Sinfonia Fraternity



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FRATERNITY UNDERTAKES NATIONWIDE WEEK OF CHARITY Collegians across the nation deliver music and cheer to patients

(EVANSVILLE, INDIANA): Over 2,000 members of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, the nation's oldest and largest music fraternity, will deliver their gift of music to nursing homes, children's hospitals and elderly care facilities around the country during the week of February 11-18, 2006. Members of the Fraternity will perform well-known songs and provide flowers, gifts and greetings to the patients and residents of facilities in their communities.

Over 170 chapters of the organization will participate in the coordinated nationwide effort. In all, an estimated 12,000 patients and residents will be impacted during this weeklong project.

The project honors the 150th birthday of the Fraternity's Founder, Ossian E. Mills, who was responsible for delivering music, flowers and cheer to patients in the hospitals of Boston beginning in the late 1800s. This 19th century project, known as Mills' "Flower Mission," was one of the largest and most well-known charities in Boston at the time, and it represented one of the first known efforts to improve patients' quality of life through music. A modern day revival of the project, the "Mills Music Mission," is the organization's official national philanthropy.

During an age when fraternities tend to be known more for their members' embarrassing transgressions than their positive contributions, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia is seeking to draw attention to the selfless and inspiring acts being undertaken by its collegiate members. These members exemplify the morality and charity intended by the very existence of the American college fraternity system.

Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia was founded on October 6, 1898, in Boston, at the New England Conservatory of Music. Since its founding, over 125,000 men have joined Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia through chapters on hundreds of college and university campuses across the nation. The Fraternity's National Headquarters is located in Evansville, Indiana. More information about Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia can be found on its website, www.sinfonia.org.

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