



## **Hampton-Newport News Alumni Chapter Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.**

### **General Overview Guide Right Commission**

The Hampton-Newport News (VA) Alumni Chapter attempts to embody and replicate the purpose and objectives of *GUIDE RIGHT*, the international service program of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Through an appointed Commission, the chapter focuses its Guide Right effort on the following objectives:

- Encouraging school and college attendance
- Assisting young men in selecting appropriate careers to fit themselves for life.
- Developing Leadership qualities.
- Achieving academic success.

The Guide Right Commission develops an annual program pursuant to these objectives. The program is geared to insure that leadership, academic, and cultural refinements are bi-products of its implementation. Its target population is male youths on the Virginia Peninsula and more specifically, those living within a ten-mile radius of the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Hampton Roads, located at 1815 Shell Road, Hampton, VA. The Guide Right Commission has adopted a two-pronged approach to meeting its objectives:

#### **1. The Kappa Leadership League**

The Chapter has maintained an active chapter of the Kappa Instructional Leadership League since 1974. The Kappa League, as it is more commonly called, is an element of Guide Right, the fraternity's international service program for youth. It serves as a vehicle for providing cultural exposures, leadership training and mentoring for young men between the ages of 13 and 18. Through club-oriented activities, the officers and members of the Kappa League perform projects that will expose them to planning, execution, reporting ideas, and simulating good leadership characteristics designed to raise their aspiration levels. Since the fundamental purpose of Kappa Alpha Psi is *ACHIEVEMENT*, it is the fraternity's primary purpose to help these young men achieve worthy goals and to make constructive contributions to their communities when they mature as adults. Additionally, the Kappa League is a "breeding ground" for chapter scholarship recipients and representatives in the Eastern Province Student of the Year Pageant.

#### **2. The Kappa Cardinals Athletic Association**

The Chapter effectively uses sports as a means to maintain continuous contact with over 200 area youths each year. Through this contact, academic performance is monitored and tutoring is provided as needed. The Chapter, in partnership with the

City of Hampton's Department of Parks and Recreation and the City of Newport News' Department of Parks and Recreation, aspires to provide wholesome recreational activity and mentoring for young men and young ladies living in and around the Wythe Community in Hampton, and the Southeast Community in Newport News. The majority of the targeted populations are on the lower rung of the socio-economic ladder, with most participants coming from single parent, female-led households.

The chapter provides administrative support and oversight for four youth football teams and four basketball teams that compete in the city of Hampton. Each year boys and girls are separated into four football teams based on age and weight that compete in the city's four youth divisions. The ages range from 6 to 15 years. Over 123 boys participated in 2007. Additionally, 70 young ladies, separated by age comparable to those of the football teams, formed four cheering squads that supported their respective teams each week. As such, the Chapter provided mentoring, administrative support and supervision for almost 200 boys and girls, beginning July 29, through October 27, 2007. This year, the cumulative record for all teams was 22 wins and 10 losses. The Mighty Mites (Ages 6-8) were undefeated, and both the Midgets and Juniors made it to the semifinals of the city playoffs. They both lost in very hard-fought games.

Sixty boys and girls participated during the inaugural year for basketball (2006/2007). Volunteers from the community and members of the Chapter served as coaches, team moms and team dads. The midget team won the city championship in its first year of competition, giving the athletic association its first city championship in any sport.

The Chapter has sponsored a baseball team in the Anderson Park Youth League for over 20 years. Although baseball is not a very popular sport with African American youths, Brother Frank Williamson has been successful in fielding a Kappa Cardinals baseball team each year. In so doing he adds to the Chapter's youth sports legacy that was started by Brother Thomas Selden in 1986.

So far as we know, the Hampton-Newport News (VA) Alumni Chapter is the first fraternal organization to assume sponsorship for an athletic association on the Virginia Peninsula. The listing of the Kappa Cardinals Athletic Association on city websites, and weekly team standings in the local paper are a source of pride and a testament of the chapter's commitment to *GUIDE RIGHT* and the betterment of our community.