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## Local Sorority Donates Big to AVDA for Survivors of Domestic Abuse

*Alpha Chi Omega Sorority at the University of Houston raises money for Domestic Violence*

*Awareness during their bi-annual Red Carnation Week*

**HOUSTON (May 13, 2024)** – During the first week of April, Alpha Chi Omega (AXO) at the University of Houston, Gamma Upsilon Chapter kicked off their bi-annual Red Carnation Week held once every Fall and Spring. The purpose of this week is to **raise funds for Domestic Violence Awareness** with the support of friends, family, and fellow UH Greek organizations. With various events hosted throughout the week, this year's theme revolved around "Pizza Pie with Alpha Chi." AXO's total donation, excluding a toiletry drive, totals to **\$10,027.75** - exceeding even the AXO chapter's expectations!

This was Alpha Chi's first time partnering with the beneficiary, AVDA, for their Red Carnation week. AVDA (Aid to Domestic Violence Awareness) is a local non-profit that offers support to survivors and their families through free legal representation, trauma-informed counseling services, intervention for abusers, and fostering a community response to abuse through educational programming.

Maisha Colter, CEO of AVDA with more than 14 years of service to the organization, shared the impact of AXO's donations:

"Alpha Chi Omega's donations help alleviate one of many stressors our clients face when leaving an abusive relationship. Some flee in crisis with very few resources. So having access to essential toiletries is one less thing they have to think about under difficult circumstances. AVDA is grateful on behalf of clients we serve."

The week consisted of profit shares at local favorites Houston Coffee Cart, Chuy's on Westheimer, and The Den – a late night campus hotspot. Main events included the [viral](#) "Walk-A-Mile" relay and a pizza-eating contest. Other opportunities included an Instagram Bingo, t-shirt purchases, and donations to the **New Beginnings Drive**. The drive collects basic essentials survivors might otherwise leave behind when escaping an abusive relationship i.e. toothpaste, shampoo, body wash. One highlight of the week included a donation of 1,000 toothbrushes from fellow Greek organization Delta Gamma.

Gamma Upsilon, Vice President of Philanthropy, Cameron Patterson had this say about her experience and the success of this semester's philanthropy week:

"We were all so excited to have to opportunity to support our new local partner (AVDA), and it was so amazing to see how our Greek community at UH rallied behind us. We were able to raise \$4,000 over our original fundraising goal and make history within our Gamma Upsilon chapter by raising \$3,000 more than ever before in a single philanthropy week. I am so amazed by all of the work that AVDA does, and I am so thrilled that we are able to support them!"

This event aims to serve as one of the first of many drives and fundraisers to come on behalf of AXO for AVDA and domestic violence awareness.

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