



LAMBDA
THETA
ALPHA
foundation

Annual Report 2023

LAMBDA THETA ALPHA FOUNDATION, INC.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings Foundation Supporters,

First, let me begin by expressing my immense gratitude for your support of the Lambda Theta Alpha Foundation. This was a pivotal year for us, and we were only able to accomplish so much thanks to your support and continued interest in our work. Once again, we awarded seventeen young leaders with academic scholarships. Our 1.975 Run was a success with over one hundred participants, and we launched a new initiative to increase the number of scholarships we're able to offer in 2024. We took time to strengthen our mission and guiding pillars to ensure that we could continue to have impact within our community. We also completed a three year strategic plan that is guiding us into a future where we can grow our reach and deepen our impact. None of this would have been possible without your support.

As we look to 2024, we'll be building on the strategic work we started this past year. We're excited to explore new opportunities to further strengthen our commitment to equitable and accessible education and ensuring all individuals are prepared before disasters strike. With new initiatives on the horizon, I invite you to continue following our journey, supporting in any way you can, and sharing our work with those around you.

In partnership,



Jenna Ortiz
President



WHO WE ARE

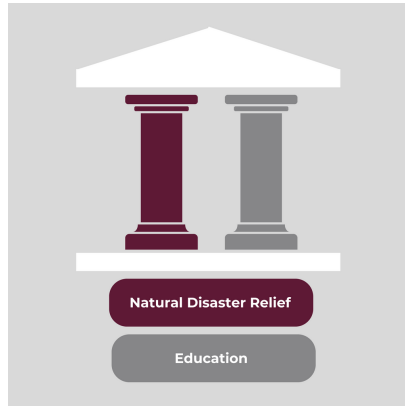


ADVANCING OUR COMMUNITIES

Two thousand twenty-three was an exciting year for the Lambda Theta Alpha Foundation (referred to as the Foundation moving forward). As we continue to live into our mission of advancing and promoting the enrichment of community, it was essential to craft a strategic plan that would guide us into the future. Our vision for the 2023-2025 Strategic Plan was to have the Foundation be a trusted organization that advances the community through funding opportunities. We aspired to have an engaged, empowered, and committed community of donors and supporters. This strategic plan was the fuel behind reevaluating our pillar approach and ensuring that the funding opportunities we provide felt aligned with the needs of our community and supporters.

After much work and discussion, we are proud to share our new pillar approach that will guide our efforts and initiatives into the future. Upon surveying our donor and recipient base, we found that individuals loved our scholarship opportunities and how we promoted education in the community; however, we also learned that there was some confusion around our educational programming and humanitarian relief pillars. In order to clarify and align our pillars with how we've historically provided funds and aid, we consolidated to two pillars: Education and Natural Disaster Relief.

NEW TWO PILLAR APPROACH



Our Education pillar focuses on our inherent belief in continuous education and lifelong learning. Through this pillar, we will continue to provide scholarships in support of post-secondary education. Additionally, we are working on new initiatives to support K-12 education and adult learning. We're excited about the new ways we will impact our community under this pillar.

Our Natural Disaster Relief pillar focuses on supporting individuals in times of need as a result of a natural or climate disaster. Historically, our aid has been focused here, and we felt this language better clarified our work and intentions. We'll continue to keep our natural disaster relief stipends open year-round and promote natural disaster preparedness initiatives during key moments throughout the year, such as hurricane and wildfire seasons.

EDUCATION

Education and equitable access to education continue to be an area of focus for the Foundation. We understand that one of the best ways to support our community is through supporting educational initiatives. We support this through the continued support of the Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc. keynote speaker at their annual Convention. Our support was able to bring Letrice Grant, Co-Founder of the Baltimore Peace Movement, and Darnyle Wharton, Community Engagement Coordinator with the Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City, to speak to attendees at their kick-off event. These individuals spoke to the amazing grassroots work happening within Baltimore City and empowered members to recognize their own power to make change in their communities.



Darnyle Wharton, Community Engagement Coordinator with the Office of the State Attorney for Baltimore City, and Letrice Grant, Co-Founder of the Baltimore Peace Movement.
Keynote Speakers

EDUCATION

The recent decision of the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) to strike down President Biden's student loan relief plan was disheartening to many. As a committed organization to support individuals in achieving their educational dreams, we responded with a one-pager outlining information our community could leverage to contact their student loan providers and get information on payback methods that work best for them. Additionally, SCOTUS's striking down of Affirmative Action in higher education called upon us to express with the utmost conviction that this decision will only prove to hurt the academic communities around the country. Through an open letter to donors, we shared our belief that equitable access to education is necessary, and the SCOTUS decision was not in alignment with our views of supporting community members in achieving their educational goals.



"BOTH OF THESE DECISIONS GO AGAINST WHAT WE AT THE LAMBDA THETA ALPHA FOUNDATION BELIEVE TO BE TRUE. **EQUITABLE ACCESS TO EDUCATION IS A CORE PART OF OUR MISSION TO ADVANCE THE COMMUNITY.**"

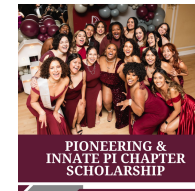
For the full statement, follow the link in our bio.

SCHOLARSHIP

The Foundation provides academic scholarships to student leaders pursuing either a Bachelor's, Master's, Doctoral, or Professional degree. We have historically provided seventeen scholarships annually. This year, we piloted a new initiative that would allow private individual and group donors to fund an additional scholarship named in their honor. Eight donors/donor groups were interested in our pilot, with five groups successfully completing all requirements. These additional scholarships will be launched alongside our annual scholarship program in the Spring of 2024. We'd like to recognize the five donor groups who successfully expanded our scholarship program for 2024:



LUANDA CAVACO SCHOLARSHIP
Alpha Epsilon Alumnae Chapter
Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc.



PIONEERING & INNATE PI CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP
Pi Chapter
Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc.



ALYSSA F. ESTEVEZ GAMMA EPSILON SCHOLARSHIP
Gamma Epsilon Chapter
Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc.



VIDOT LABORATORIES RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP
Dr. Vidot Laboratories



ELIZABETH S. SUAREZ "GUERRERA" SCHOLARSHIP
Dr. Cecelia Suarez

SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT STATISTICS



According to the Education Data Initiative, the overall student loan debt stands at over \$1.7 trillion. On average a public university student will borrow over \$30,000 to support their educational goals. With the average cost of completing a four year program sitting at approximately \$145,000, achieving this goal continues to be out of reach for many. Despite the costs of higher education continuing to rise, resources available to students remain the same. We remain committed to supporting scholars through our annual academic scholarship program.

This year, we have awarded seventeen scholarships to students pursuing academic areas ranging from computer science to homeland security to organizational development and more. We are proud of their accomplishments thus far and look forward to their continued success as leaders in their communities. The completion of this year's scholarship program will bring our total awarded dollars to \$101,000!

Hanson, Melanie. "Average Cost of College & Tuition" EducationData.org, November 18, 2023, <https://educationdata.org/average-cost-of-college>.

Hanson, Melanie. "Student Loan Debt Statistics" EducationData.org, March 3, 2024, <https://educationdata.org/student-loan-debt-statistics>.

OUR IMPACT

Undergraduate Winner

This scholarship has provided me with a valuable opportunity to pursue my graduate studies while enhancing my skills as a scholar. It has not only recognized the hard work and determination I have put into my academic journey, but also serves as a motivating force for me to strive for further excellence. By opening doors to future research opportunities and collaborations, this scholarship accelerates my growth as a scholar. The LTA foundation scholarship offers me a platform to inspire and empower women and individuals from underrepresented communities to fearlessly pursue their passions. Beyond the financial support it provides, I believe this award will also help me overcome the new challenges I will face in grad school, bringing me closer to my ultimate goal of making a meaningful contribution to the field of homeland security.



Lissette Pena De Jesus

High School Senior Winner

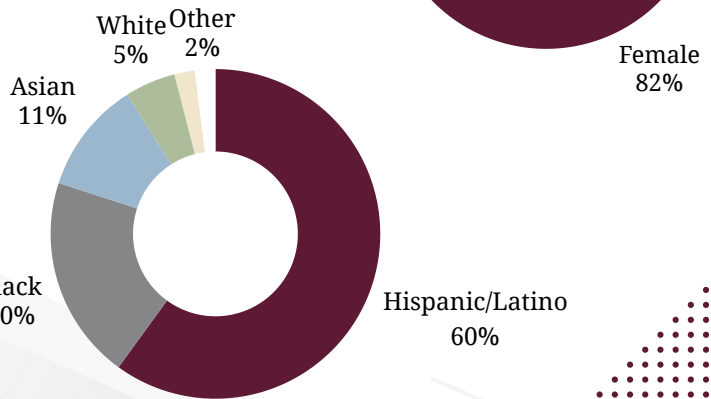
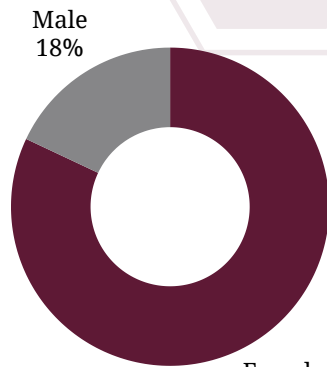
My ultimate goal is to leave a meaningful impact on my community, for me that means helping save the Tamaulipan Mezquital, the ecoregion I live in. This scholarship relieves the financial burden of university and gives me the opportunity to receive the education I deserve. I will be equipped with the necessary tools to help my home: be that knowledge, connections, and resources. This scholarship will help me kickstart my journey of success. Thank you to the Lambda Theta Alpha Foundation, this deed will not go unrewarded, through passion and hard work I will leave the world better than I found it, this means everything to me.



Santana Manuel Garcia

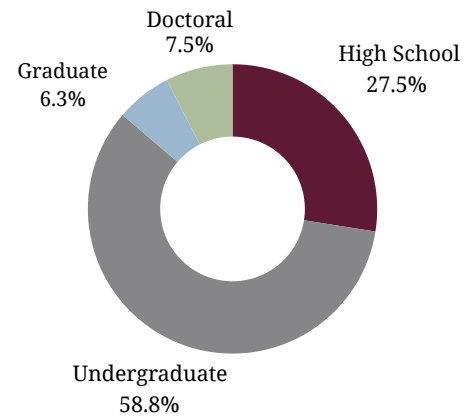
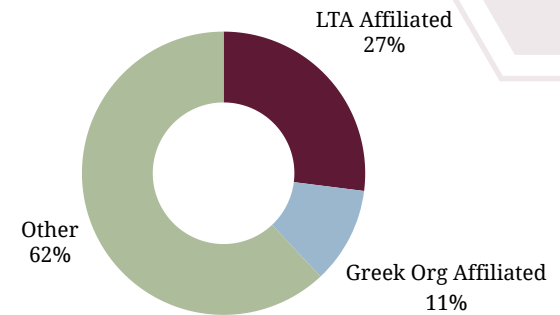
APPLICANT STATISTICS

For the 2023 scholarship year, we received ninety-six eligible applications. Gender and race demographics of our applicant pool was as follows:



APPLICANT STATISTICS

Greek affiliation and program status of our applicant pool was as follows:

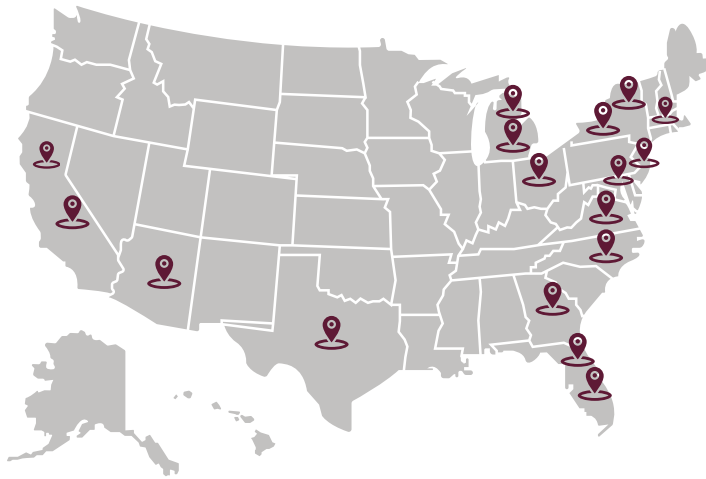


64% of applicants are the **first** in their family to attend college or university.

RECIPIENTS STATISTICS

Location of Recipients

- Arizona
- California
- Connecticut
- Florida
- Georgia
- Maryland
- Michigan
- New Jersey
- New York
- Texas
- Virginia



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

High School Winners



ERICK LARA
BARRIENTOS



SANTANA MANUEL
GARCIA



SHAMIMA ISLAM

Undergraduate Winners



AMY RODRIGUEZ



ANISA GONZALEZ



ARIANA HURTADO-DAY



DIANA ZELAYA



ELIZABETH
CONTRERAS-PEREZ



KIANNA FRAGA
ALBUJA



LISA MARTINEZ



LISSETTE PENA DE
JESUS



LTA MEMBER



NON-LTA MEMBER

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Graduate Winners



AMARIS MERCADO



JOHTRELL BOWLES



SHANQUELL DUNCOMBE

Doctoral Winners



JACKELIN ALERTÉ



YESICA TOVAR



JAZMIN MEJIA



LTA MEMBER



NON-LTA MEMBER

Areas of Study

- Political Science
- International Affairs
- Exercise Science
- Architecture
- Gender and Health Studies
- Biology
- Social Work
- American Culture
- Anthropology

NATURAL DISASTER RELIEF

Natural disaster relief is a core pillar of the Foundation's mission. In support of our effort to ensure individuals are prepared before disasters strike, we released several one page memos with guidance on how to stay safe during wildfire season and dangerous heat waves. We continued offering our natural disaster relief grants and proactively marketed them to our community before major climate events.

Heat Safety



AREAS OF THE COUNTRY THAT HAVE SEEN A TEMPERATURE RISE

- The United States has experienced a rise in temperature overall. More specifically in the North, West, and Alaska, while some parts of the Southeast has seen little change.
- 2016 is considered the warmest year on record with 2020 being considered the second warmest. 2012-2021 has also been named the warmest decade on record!
- However, rising temperatures across the country have caused some of the hottest days recorded in human history!



IMPACTS OF THE RISE IN TEMPERATURES

- More frequent wildfires
- Longer periods of drought in some regions
- Increase in wind intensity and rainfall from tropical cyclones
- U.S. sea levels are likely to continue rising
- Hurricanes will become stronger and more intense
- Frost-free season will lengthen



HOW TO KEEP YOURSELF SAFE IN THIS CLIMATE

- Understand that increases in air temperature can lead to more intense heat waves, it is important to stay inside to minimize illness
- Make sure to drink enough water and stay in air conditioning if possible
- Limit outdoor activity, especially midday when the sun is the hottest
- Wear loose-fitting clothing
- Check the local news for safety updates
- Take cold showers or baths to cool down.



Source: "The Effects of Climate Change," NASA
"Keep Your Cool in Hot Weather," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Wildfire Preparation



HOW TO PREVENT WILDFIRES

- Pay close attention to weather and drought conditions
- Avoid any activities involving fire or sparks when it's hot, dry, and windy
- Build campfires in an open location and away from flammables
- Douse your campfire until it's cold
- Keep vehicles off dry grass and regularly maintain your equipment to prevent it from shooting sparks from the exhaust
- Keep sparks away from dry vegetation



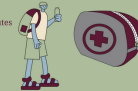
LOCAL RESOURCES FOR WILDFIRE PREVENTION

- Visiting the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Forest Service website at fs.usda.gov
- Your local fire department and sheriffs are trained in evacuation training, designation of safe zones, and evacuation routes
- Visiting your state's department of natural resources



WHAT TO INCLUDE IN AN EVACUATION BAG

- Face masks or coverings
- Non-perishable food and water
- Map marked with at least two evacuation routes
- Change of clothes
- First aid kit
- Flashlight
- Food and water for your pets
- Copies of important documents



Source: "10 Tips to Prevent Wildfires," U.S. Department of the Interior
"Home," US Forest Service

MARQUEE ANNUAL EVENT



1.975 RUN

On July 1, 2023, the Foundation hosted our fifth annual 1.975 Run in Baltimore, MD. Due to unsafe air quality levels, we were unable to run 1.975 miles as expected, but many supporters joined us early Saturday morning to safely celebrate our fifth year of the run. The 2023 1.975 Run theme, "Run. Give. Care.," focused on the story of the Foundation and how this event serves as an opportunity for supporters to give to the Foundation and care for the community.

Over one hundred and thirty people registered, participated in the raffle, or donated to the run. Runners represented various states such as New York, California, Texas, Louisiana, and Wisconsin, including a virtual runner all the way in Italy! Thanks to our generous donors, we were able to raffle off two gift baskets. In just a few weeks, we sold 115 tickets. Because of our registrants, raffle participants, and general donors, we were able to raise \$8,350 in support of community initiatives! Lastly, we had four dedicated volunteer committee members who assisted in the planning and execution of the run. On behalf of the Foundation, we would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to our committee and day of volunteers who helped make this event a success.

FAREWELL CHRISTINA



The Foundation deeply thanks Christina Christensen for her invaluable contribution to our annual 1.975 Run. As a consistent supporter of our organization, Christina generously lent her time and talent to design the 2023 medals and shirts that adorned this year's event. Her dedication to our mission and unwavering commitment to advancing the community is evident in our imagery's meticulous craftsmanship and thoughtful design. Christina's creativity has left an incredible mark on our event, enriching the experience for participants and reinforcing the sense of community that lies at the heart of the Foundation.

Her passion and generosity inspire us all and serve as a reminder of the power of collective action in creating positive change. Her impact resonates far beyond the confines of our annual run, leaving a lasting legacy of compassion and empowerment in our community.

PARTNERSHIPS



LTA CONVENTION

Throughout 2023, the Foundation continued to strengthen our partnership with the Lambda Theta Alpha Sorority, Inc. (referred to as the Sorority moving forward) and had another successful year with their support! The Sorority and its members donated a total of \$25,502 in 2023! They launched many initiatives to reach this goal including a Blitz Week campaign in support of our annual scholarship program and dedicating the profits from the alumnae reception at their annual Convention to the Foundation! We are grateful for how our partnership with the Sorority continues to grow and deepen each year!

PARTNERSHIPS



Every year, the Foundation's Executive Committee travels to the Sorority's Annual National Convention to support programming and deepen our relationship. This year, Foundation President Jenna Ortiz spoke to the Sorority's regional leaders about fundraising practices and opportunities to deepen our partnership. Additionally, we presented the winners of our scholarship at the Awards Luncheon. Seven of the seventeen scholarship recipients were members of the Sorority and had the opportunity to be recognized among their peers for their leadership and community service.

As part of the educational programming, the Foundation partnered with representatives of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital to deliver an educational session on the impact of storytelling in fundraising. The Foundation was also the recipient of funds raised during the silent auction event at the Sorority's Alumnae Reception. Lastly, the Sorority dedicated time in their programming to allow members to participate in the annual 1.975 Run! We were honored to have the opportunity to connect with members of the Sorority and look forward to another prosperous year in 2024.

QUOTE FROM PARTNER PRESIDENT

“Lambda Theta Alpha is committed to supporting the LTA Foundation and its mission to advance our communities by funding opportunities for continuous education and providing much-needed relief in the face of natural disasters. Over the past year, we have had a number of opportunities to collaborate through the Scholarship campaign, a Blitz Week, and the 1.975 Run, as well as promoting the initiatives of LTAF and continued contribution through our semesterly dues campaigns. While the partnership opportunities have varied, our support is unwavering, and I am proud of how Lambda Theta Alpha has supported the LTA Foundation for another year. We know many more opportunities will arise for us to deepen our partnership and impact communities at an even greater level.”



Cristina Naranjo-Salazar
2022-2024 President of
Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc.



PARTNER DONATION RECOGNITION

As a non-profit organization partnerships and individual or group donors provide the means by which we can executive our mission of uplifting communities for those who need it most. Below is recognition of the individuals and groups within the Lambda Theta Alpha, Latin Sorority, Inc. organization who have taken on our missions as their own!

HIGHEST GROUP DONORS

Alpha Beta Alumnae Chapter - \$1,600



Gamma Epsilon Chapter - \$1,505



Pi Chapter - \$1,500



TOP DONORS

HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL DONORS (NON-LTA FOUNDATION BOARD AFFILIATES)



Dr. Cecilia Suarez - \$2,106



Dr. Denise Vidot - \$1,540



Luz Escobar - \$929



Maria Elena Ornelas - \$792



Ofelia Oviedo - \$775

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-------|
| Total Donations | \$49,750 | |
| Event Income | \$ 8,350 | |
| Product Sales | \$ 2,550 | • • • |
| Other Income | \$1,200 | • • • |
| Total Income | \$61,850 | • • • |

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-------|
| Donated Funds | \$23,130 | • • • |
| Event Expenses | \$ 2,050 | • • • |
| Operating Expenses | \$ 6,200 | • • • |
| Total Expenses | \$31,350 | • • • |

Net Income \$30,500

FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP



Jenna Ortiz
President



Alma Sida
Vice President of Administration



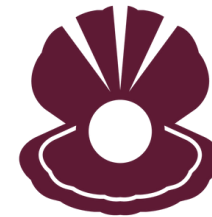
Merlix Reynolds
Vice President of Finance



Paola Morantes-Villalobos
Vice President of Communication




Cynthia Alvarez
Director of Individual Giving



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