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Zeta Phi Beta brings its message of HOPE to UN

International organization's visit will focus on key UN Millennium Development Goals, including provision of clean water and basic sanitation in developing nations.

WASHINGTON—On June 16, a delegation representing Zeta Phi Beta Sorority will visit the United Nations Headquarters from 10 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., to participate in a day-long series of meetings with UN dignitaries, international policy experts and program researchers. The Zeta delegation, led by International President Barbara C. Moore, will discuss ways to assist the UN and other organizations in addressing health care, genetic research, and human development.

The visit will mark the first time that Zeta Phi Beta, a UN non-governmental organization (NGO), has presented its international service initiative, Zetas Helping Other People Excel (Z-HOPE) to U.N. officials. Z-HOPE, launched in 2002, is designed to enhance, cultivate and empower individuals to develop healthy lifestyle choices.

“Because our Z-HOPE program is juxtaposed to the programs of the UN, it is only natural that we should establish this vital partnership in order to better the human condition,” said Dr. Kathryn Malvern, Zeta Representative to the UN. “It is important to let the UN officials know and understand the Sorority’s Z-HOPE program by working diligently with their programs and partnering with other NGOs.”

Zeta Day at the UN 2/2/2

Most recently, the Sorority has focused its efforts on one of the UN's newest targets: access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. In 2003, two years prior to United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan's declaration announcing 2005-2015 as the "Water for Life" Decade, Zeta Phi Beta members launched a Sorority-wide effort to increase access to safe drinking water in Africa. Their efforts are concentrated in the West African nation of Ghana, where eight electric metered wells have been installed providing clean water to thousands of rural families.

"There is an African proverb that states 'He who brings water brings life,'" said Mary Singletary, Z-HOPE International Women of Color Coordinator. "There are many poor villages in rural Africa where the people are so desperate for drinking water that they drink the polluted water in or near their villages. By joining forces with other international organizations, we can change that."

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Zeta Phi Beta Sorority was founded in 1920 in Washington, D.C., with the belief that the social nature of sorority life should not overshadow the real mission for progressive organizations to address societal mores, ills, prejudices, poverty, and health concerns of the day. The international organization's more than 125,000 initiated members, operating in more than 800 chapters, have given millions of voluntary hours to educate the public, provide scholarships, support organized charities and promote legislation for social and civic change. In addition to its membership of college-educated woman, the Zeta Phi Beta organizational umbrella includes Amicae (adult women), Archonettes (girls 14-18), Amicettes (girls 9-13), Pearlettes (girls 4-8), and the Zeta Male Network auxiliaries. For more information on Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., please visit the official web site at www.zphib1920.org.