

# *Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.*

ΔΣΘ

A Service Sorority Founded in 1913

Tucson Alumnae Chapter

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## Tucson Alumnae goes 'green' with TREES for Tucson

Deltas from Tucson Alumnae Chapter adopted a "green" attitude for their public-service project in March 2008, which was conducted as part of the chapter's Founders Day celebration. More than 20 Deltas, in addition to family members and friends, planted 10 15-gallon trees in the back yard of a mental health facility in Sahuarita, AZ, approximately 15 miles south of Tucson.

Tressa L. Williams, Farwest regional director, asked each chapter in the region to conduct a public-service project in conjunction with annual Founders Day celebrations. "Tucson Alumnae wanted to do something positive for the environment," said Pamela Busch, chair of the Founders Day public-service project. "So much attention is focused on the Green Movement, we thought we could impact our local environment by planting trees, as well as helping to enhance the beauty of a nonprofit mental health facility," said Busch.

Desert trees were planted in the bare back yard of The Oasis Home, a transitional home for individuals with substance abuse problems or mental disorders that was established in 2007. The home serves between three and five clients at a time.

Deltas and their friends dug big holes – 3 feet wide by 2 feet deep – to accommodate the assortment of trees delivered to The Oasis Home by Doug Koppinger, coordinator of the TREES for Tucson program. Trees included Black Mission Fig; Blue Palo Verde; Velvet Mesquite; Texas Ebony; Willow Acacia; and Pomegranate.

"There was nothing in that back yard but caliche and dirt," said Busch. "We used shovels, picks, hoes and any other tools we brought with us to dig the holes deep enough and wide enough. It was hard work. Caliche is just rock. We had to dig through hard rock to plant those trees, and after we were through, we felt like we had accomplished something," said Busch.

"Ten Sorors volunteered to purchased the 10 trees for planting, \$25 each, so funds did not come out of our Founders Day budget, said Tucson Alumnae President Yvonne M. Height. "The sorors really did some back-breaking work" on this public service project, added Height.

Tucson Alumnae, along with the other four Delta chapters in Arizona, celebrated a statewide Founders Day in Tucson on Feb. 23; Soror Gwendolyn E. Boyd, the 22<sup>nd</sup> national president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., spoke at the Founders Day luncheon. In addition to Tucson Alumnae, host chapters were Iota Kappa (Arizona State University); Mu Eta (University of Arizona); Phoenix Metropolitan Alumnae; and Tempe Alumnae.

TREES for Tucson began in 1989 to encourage residents to plant desert-adapted trees in the Tucson area to help beautify the community and to conserve energy by providing shade and habitats for wildlife.

For more information on TREES for Tucson, call Koppinger at 520-791-3109.

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