

March 8, 2012

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Message from Jane B. Short

Thank you for becoming a member of Nu Sigma Nu. This is our 7th year! We are delighted to have you! Welcome to a previous member, who was also an Alpha Chindness recipient last year: **Phyllis Seeley Burroughs!** Also welcome to new member **Christy Grady Lovegrove** of Billings! So far we have 16 members, but if history is any guide, we will have a few late-comers joining too.

I am delighted that I had a chance to meet two members this winter: **Anne Freeman Ball** of Billings, and **Helen Hales Elliott** of Conrad. Anne, who is a veterinarian, and her husband Christian, who is an Emergency Room Doctor, have a flexible schedule and have been able to rent a home in Big Sky so they can ski here this winter, and I was fortunate to get to meet them for dinner. I got to meet Helen while she was here visiting her daughter, Lura Turner of Memphis, TN, who also has a home in Big Sky. I have included photos of them on page 3.

We have several options for our Alpha Chindness service project this year. First, I am including information on page 2 about how we may be able to help an Alpha Chi Omega from University of South Carolina who is helping women in Zambia through a charitable organization called "Clothed in Hope."

Second, if you know of another Alpha Chi Omega who could use our help (or if you yourself would like to be considered), please let me know and I can present that option to our group as well.

Please review the first option and give me your feedback on whether you think this is an acceptable project, or if you think we should help someone closer to home.

I have had a busy winter trying to recover from lower back pain while teaching people how to ski at Moonlight Basin Resort. Fortunately I seem to finally be getting better.

The snowfall this winter has not been abundant until just recently. The skiing is improving, and we've had a few epic powder days. We are sorry that the winter is quickly coming to an end for us. We will be making our way back to Tennessee later this month, stopping to celebrate Brock's birthday in Jackson, WY. Brock's mother will join us for some sunshine in Moab, Utah. We will stop in Beaver Creek, Colorado, to ski and celebrate my birthday. We will continue our drive back to Nashville and plan to arrive there around April 3.

We will return to Big Sky Country in late June or early July.

I hope you had a happy Hera Day, and that you will have a happy Easter and a wonderful spring! Please let me know what is going on in your life. I can't wait to hear from you!

Loyally,

Jane Bonnell Short

Dear fellow Alpha Chi sisters,

We are writing on behalf of Clothed in Hope, not only as representatives but also as true advocates of this cause. Clothed in Hope is a 501(c)(3) tax-deductible charitable organization, seeking to help those who cannot help themselves. Amy Woodell, a member of the Theta Upsilon chapter at the University of South Carolina and a recipient of the Real, Strong Woman of the Month award, created this organization, and as her sisters we could not be prouder. She visited Zambia during the summer of 2010 for missions work and it completely transformed her life. In the Ng'ombe compound in Lusaka, Zambia she was struck by the overwhelming need of the women, the need to feel loved, accepted, and treasured, as they deserve to be. She knew she couldn't do this alone so she took a giant leap and began this nonprofit organization in the beginning of 2011 to begin living a life greater than herself.

Clothed in Hope is committed to providing hope to the widows of the Ng'ombe slum through vocational training in sewing to alleviate poverty at the grassroots level. We believe hope means much more than financial assistance. By empowering women through life-skills training, we want to play a role in renewing their confidence, impacting their culture, and giving their children a brighter hope. We believe that education and empowerment are the tools for long-term development in a community. We recognize the importance of the individual and want to encourage her to take ownership of this skill, letting it ripple throughout Zambia, as students become teachers. We strive to be a self-sustaining organization in the future via unique products handmade by Zambian women.

Did you know? 80% of Zambians live on less than \$1 per day. The average life expectancy is 46 years. Only 26% of women have a secondary education or higher. Zambians receive on average only 6.5 years of schooling. A law created in 1989 strips the widow of the right to her deceased husband's estate, often leaving her homeless and helpless. Zambia ranks 165 out of 177 on the UN's Human Development Index, positioning it as one of the poorest nations in the world.

These aren't just numbers. These women are sisters, mothers, and daughters. Will you join us in this cause? Will you help us break the cycle of poverty, one stitch at a time? We need your help. We're writing to you today to ask you if you'll join us. By becoming a supporter, you can be confident in the fact that you're changing lives.

Upon graduation from the University of South Carolina, Amy plans to move to Zambia to begin on-site operations, teaching women how to sew and empowering them through life-skills education. We are attempting to raise awareness and raise funds to support our sister and her efforts. For the first year of start-up, Clothed in Hope will need more than \$50,000. As a fellow Alpha Chi chapter, if you'd like to give in support of Clothed in Hope's general fund, you can do so through check. You can donate to the general fund or with monthly donations by subscribing through the website, <http://www.clothedinhope.org/give/>. As an alternative, you can donate directly towards the launch of operations in Zambia. For example, \$1200 will provide 10 sewing machines or \$600 will pay for 6 months of training facility rent. All donations are 100% tax-deductible. Your ongoing support allows for ongoing operations, increasing the success and reach of Clothed in Hope.

As members of our sisterhood, we hope you are inspired by Amy's dedication and will want to help support this endeavor. Please consider the impact you can have on a life, on a community, on an impoverished African community. Please help us share in celebrating Amy's efforts. Besides monetary donations, as an Alpha Chi Omega chapter, we are reaching out to you for love and encouragement for our sister and her journey. Thank you for reading, for considering, and for sharing the opportunity to support Clothed in Hope. We value your time and appreciate your generosity.

Sincerely,

Joli Joson and Taylor Tompkins

Clothed in Hope Representatives



Pictured are Jane Short, **Anne Ball**, Max Ball (15 months), and Christian Ball at Buck's T-4 Restaurant in Big Sky on Feb. 22.



Pictured are Lura Turner, her mother **Helen Hales Elliott**, and Jane Short at Lura's home in Big Sky on March 6. Helen has been very busy organizing a talent show to benefit the restoration of the old theater, inside and out, in Conrad.

We wish a sad goodbye to **Allison "Allie" Tregger Hofman** of Great Falls. She is not renewing her membership because the Air Force is moving her and husband Griff to a new base in July. Good luck, Allie! We'll miss you!

Kristin Piatkowski of Billings writes: "I am still in grad school at MSU Billings for M. Ed – this keeps me far too busy! My boyfriend and I are venturing down to Moab, UT for spring break; should be a good break from school! My college AXO friends are planning a trip this June to Portland for our annual gathering. Fourth year running, which I would say is pretty good, given that we have only been out of school 4 years!"

Rosemarie Jager Iverson of Kalispell writes: "I was having some health problems in Ledger, so moved to live with my daughter in Kalispell. Things are much better now and very happy. She lives on a golf course, so things are beautiful and no wind."

Susan McCarl Hills of Billings writes: "My main bit of news is that I retired (for the second time) in mid January. So far it just feels like I'm on vacation. We are looking forward to some traveling and I can now do some volunteer work."

Belated Birthday (sorry)!

Christy Grady Lovegrove February 11

Birthdays!

Phyllis Seeley Burroughs March 13

Jane Short April 1

Leslee Purdy Haylett April 13

Karin Mikkelsen Utzinger April 22

Events

Daylight Saving Time Begins March 11

St. Patrick's Day March 17

First Day of Spring! March 20

Easter April 8

Earth Day April 22

Mother's Day May 13

Memorial Day May 28

MARCH 2012

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APRIL 2012

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