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## **ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA TO DEVOTE DAY TO BEAUTIFYING AREA PARK**

### **Planting tree in celebration of Alaska's 50th year of statehood represents day's highlight**

Chicago, Illinois – July 6, 2009 - In keeping with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's mission to serve communities worldwide, over 200 members will volunteer to work on a series of beautification projects at the Fairview Lions Park on Karluk Street in the Northwest District on Tuesday, July 14 beginning at 10AM. Among those who will participate are members from all over the world including from Chicago, New York, New Orleans, California, the Caribbean as well as from the Anchorage-based chapter, Xi Psi Omega.

The event is being hailed as “A Day of Service.”

The overall project is being planned and coordinated by the Sorority's International Program Committee whose chairman is Loann J. Honesty King; in partnership with the Anchorage Alaska Department of Parks and Recreation.

Led by the Sorority's international president Barbara A. McKinzie and with members clad in the Sorority's pink and green colors, the event will culminate with the planting of a tree in commemoration of Alaska's 50 Years of Statehood. Characterized as the emotional high point of the day, the tree planting is part of the Alaska Community Forestry Program.

The day will end with a Celebration/Thank You lunch sponsored by the Fairview Community Council.

According to McKinzie, the activities parallel Alpha Kappa Alpha's environmental improvement mission.

“Alpha Kappa Alpha is committed to enhancing the environment and the activities we are working on directly mirror this mission. We are delighted to be bringing our Energy, Support and Passion to Anchorage by working to beautify Fairview Lions Park. The over 800 volunteer hours that the members will donate, represent a gift of love to the children of Anchorage and to all others who use the Parks for their recreational needs.”

McKinzie noted that devoting a day to volunteerism reinforces Alpha Kappa Alpha's mission: “to serve all mankind.”

The Day of Service is one of the activities of Alpha Kappa Alpha's biennial Leadership Conference, which takes place from July 13-19. To be held at Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center, the Conference is a forum where members master leadership skills, strategize on how to improve the environment, chart the Sorority's future and gain the tools needed to lead the world.

It is the first time in the organization's 101-year history that it has hosted its conference in Anchorage.

### **About Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.**

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is America's first Greek-letter organization founded in 1908 by, and for, African-American college women. Headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, it is one of the world's leading service organizations. The Sorority's members have made a commitment "to serve all mankind" through a nucleus of more than 225,000 women in over 975 chapters in the United States, the Caribbean, Canada, Germany, Korea, Japan and in the continent of Africa. Barbara A. McKinzie is the 27th International President McKinzie's administration is marked by the theme: ESP, which stands for Economics, Service and Partnerships. For more information, log on to [www.aka1908.com](http://www.aka1908.com).

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