

# The Chi State Learning Is For Everyone Foundation

## A History

- 1995 Chi State Leadership Team began the search for a unifying project. The Chi State Leadership Strategic Plan began "Visions of LIFE".
- 1996 Chapter Biennial Reports indicated many Chapter activities that fit under a state unifying project concerning learning and literacy.
- 1997 A motion to establish the Chi State LIFE Foundation was adopted at the Chi State Convention. An Ad Hoc Committee was appointed to set goals and procedures for establishing a nonprofit organization.
- 1998 The Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws were developed by the Ad Hoc Committee and approved by the Chi State Executive Committee.
- 1999 The Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws were filed with the California Secretary of State and formally approved on April 8, 1999. The Chi State Learning Is For Everyone Foundation was established.
- The first Board of Directors were elected at the Chi State Convention 1999.
- Applications for 501(c) (3) tax-exempt status were filed with the California State Franchise Board and the Internal Revenue Service. Tax-exempt status as a 501(c) (3) Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation was granted on September 15, 1999.
- The Foundation received its first donations.
- 2000 The Chi State Learning Is For Everyone (LIFE) Foundation began to register members. The logo of an open book with the acronym LIFE was adopted by the Board of Directors. LIFE pin/pendants were created and made available to registered members.
- The first Annual Meeting of the Members was held at the Chi State Convention 2000.
- 2001 More members registered and more donations were received.
- The first grants were awarded and use of the Tax-exempt ID number for Project fundraising was approved.
- 2002 A total of more than \$5,000.00 in grants was awarded for 14 projects within Chi State. Nineteen Chapters received permission to use the Tax-exempt ID number that enabled them to apply for grants from additional sources and extended tax-exempt status to those who donate funds to their respective projects.
- Member registrations and donations continued to arrive.
- The first fundraising raffle was held at the Chi State Convention 2002 raising more than \$4,000.00.
- A Chapter Liaison program was established.
- 2003 As of April 1, a total of 24 grants were awarded totaling \$8,456.00. In addition, a total of 23 Chapters received permission to use the Tax-exempt ID number to assist them in seeking additional funding.

- 2004 The first issues of *The LIFE Newsletter* were published.  
The fifth year anniversary of the LIFE Foundation was given recognition.  
A total of more than \$15,000.00 was awarded in grants.  
More than 2,000 members have registered.  
\$8,000.00 in donations was received.
- 2005 Bylaws changes approved at the 2005 Annual Meeting of Members made all members in good standing of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, Chi State, members of The Chi State LIFE Foundation. A resolution passed by the Board of Directors declared all Chi State members registered as members of The Foundation between the establishment of The Foundation in 1999 through April 29, 2005 as "Charter Members."
- 2006 The LIFE Foundation brochure was updated and produced.  
Donations hit an all time high of reaching and exceeding the 2005-2006 fiscal year goal of \$10,000.00.  
The number of Chapter Liaisons grew to 108 out of 200 chapters.  
The total amount of grant monies awarded now totals over \$24,000.00. A total of 65 projects have received monetary grants; 53 projects received permission for the use of the Tax-Exempt Identification Number.  
The Board began writing a series of news articles educating members about donating to The Foundation through planned giving.  
The Board began the process of grant writing and of strategic planning to shape and guide the future direction of The LIFE Foundation.
- 2007 Donations exceeded the 2006-2007 fiscal year goal of \$10,000.00 for the second year in a row.  
Fundraising exceeded the 2006-2007 fiscal year goal of \$5,000.00.  
The total amount of grant monies awarded now totals over \$30,000.00. A total of 93 projects have received monetary grants; a total of 60 projects received permission for the use of the Tax-Exempt Identification Number. The Board continued the practice of a grant application due date of March 1 and awarding of grants only after the March 1 deadline.  
The attendance at the Annual Meeting of Members has grown to more than 100.  
A LIFE Foundation Biennial Report was included with the Chi State Biennial Committee Reports.  
The LIFE Foundation registered with the California Attorney General's Office Registry of Charitable Trusts to comply with the new law enacted in 2005.  
A Donation Enclosure Card was created for LIFE Foundation members to enclose with greeting cards to acknowledge a donation.  
The Chi State Area Directors, as well as the LIFE Liaisons, served as links between The Foundation and Chapters. Chapter Liaisons grew to 142 out of 190 chapters.  
Letters recognizing the work of The Foundation were received from California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, California First Lady Maria Schriver, and State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Jack O'Connell.
- 2008 The 2007-2008 donations exceeded the annual goal of \$10,000.00 and fundraising exceeded \$7,000.00, an increase over the previous year.

The Foundation awarded 19 grants totaling \$7,150.00 and nine Chapters were granted the use of The Foundation's 501(c) (3) Tax Exempt ID number. One hundred twelve learning and literacy Chapter projects have been funded with a grand total of more than \$37,000.00.

Communication with Chapters was improved by increasing the number of Chapter Liaisons. Chapter Liaisons received three letters from the Board enlisting their support for The Foundation, providing fundraising information, asking for help with the annual raffle at the Chi State Convention, and encouraging Chapter and individual donations.

A grant proposal was written and approved by Board members for the purpose of applying for an operational grant.

In an effort to increase the amount of money available for grants, the Board initiated three new fundraisers: Phoneraiser, GoodSearch and GoodShop. Proceeds from "Phoneraiser" totaled \$249.87. GoodSearch and GoodShop are online programs that benefit nonprofits.

The minutes, meeting agendas, annual report, financial reports, and other Board communications were distributed online to members of the Board.

The Foundation registered with U.S. Communities which provides access to discounted rates for printing and office supplies, thereby reducing operating costs.

The Board organized and conducted a choice raffle at the 2008 Summer Leadership Planning Session with proceeds of \$1,065.00.