

Raising Awareness for Homelessness in Schools

2016 AWARD WINNER

The Basics

Kappa Eta Chapter held multiple events throughout the year to raise awareness for homeless students in schools among pre-service teachers and the community surround St. John's University- Queens.

Getting Started

The events included Professional Development workshops, partnering with a local homeless-serving non-profit, and bringing an author to speak about her experiences working with the homeless population.

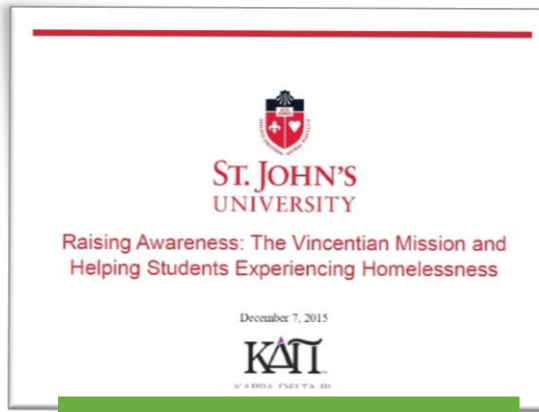
The Chapter also co-hosted a Midnight Run program in which groups of people distribute food and clothing throughout New York City to homeless individuals. The Chapter hosted one event in October and one in April. For the spring event, a local school assisted chapter members in preparing the meals.

The Experience

One of the Kappa Eta Chapter Counselors coordinated the "Raising Awareness: The Vincentian Mission & Approaches to Teaching Children Experiencing Homelessness" professional development conference by bringing together multiple leaders. The Workshop provided insight into working with homeless students and practical advice, including a guidesheet to finding resources and contacts to help with homeless students. The Midnight Runs program allowed participants to see homelessness first hand and talk with homeless individuals.

The Impact

Multiple groups at St. John's University-Queens are more aware of homelessness and the preservice teachers have specific skills they will be able to take into the classroom.



Partnering with the Vincentian Center for Church and Society at St. John's, a homeless-serving organization based at the University provided connection and concrete advice to help preservice teachers serve their future students.

Make This Event Your Own

- Partner with a local non-profit for multiple events—fundraise for their organization, educate members and educators on their area of focus, and do a service project for them.
- Focus on an area of injustice that members will see in the classroom and coordinate multiple events around that topic to provide a holistic view of the topic.

Fast Facts

7
Partnerships
formed

3
events

"I learned a lot from the professional development I attended on homelessness. It was an eye-opener and very enlightening. I was shocked by the statistics on homeless students in the New York City area alone.... I learned many beneficial strategies and skills that I can use when dealing with students who are homeless. This workshop actually made me more excited to become a teacher and fight for every student to have the opportunity to get a good education."

- Chapter Member

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact the [Chapter Services Staff](#) at KDP Headquarters for [help as you plan your program.](#)