

ROCKLAND OMEGA ACADEMY (ROAD)

The men of the Xi Lambda Lambda chapter through the Rockland Omega Community Development Foundation felt the need to address the plight of African American/Latino boys.



Giving boys the skills needed to survive

- Monthly group mentoring session
- Introducing and enhancing computer literacy skills
- Offering etiquette classes for the boys with assistance from women
- Teaching boys better interview skills
- Financial literacy training
- Public speaking training

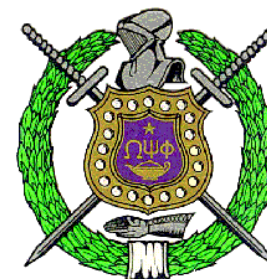
OUR MISSION

Our mission is to have African American men provide direction and guidance to the lives of African American/Latino boys in Rockland County through mentoring. The program will be a pilot one in that we will have four monthly sessions on Saturdays followed by one or two all day trips to locations that we determine are of both interest and beneficial to the boys. Each Saturday session will start off with a breakfast followed by a speaker. We will then have a skills session for an hour. This will entail etiquette skills, public speaking skills, computer skills, and other skills. We will follow this up by having group mentoring sessions where we will branch off into small and sometimes large groups and talk with the young men about life. Our initial 10 boys are 6 to 8th graders.



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Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



Xi Lambda Lambda Chapter



ROCKLAND OMEGA ACADEMY



ROCKLAND OMEGA COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.
(ROCDEF)
501 (c) (3) Corporation

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. was founded on the campus of Howard University in Washington D.C. on Friday, November 17, 1911 by Prof. Ernest E. Just, Dr. Edgar A. Love, Bishop Oscar J. Cooper and Prof. Frank Coleman.

Xi Lambda Lambda Chapter

On September 25, 2003, 13 men of Rockland County formed Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's newest chapter, Xi Lambda Lambda. The 13 founders of this chapter were Mel Davis, Dr. Edmund Gordon, Hannibal Holmes, Byron Hurlock, Gerald Inman, Michael Johnson, T. Edward McBride, Jr., Dennis McGloster, Michael Peterson, Christian Sampson, David Smith, Dr. David Smith, II, and Herbert Thomas, Jr.

The chapter is involved in a number of social action programs in and around Rockland County. We hold quarterly financial seminars for adults and teenagers focusing on financial situations pertinent to their lives currently and in the future. The year 2007 represents the second year of our Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) prep course. The course is conducted in conjunction with the CEJES Institute, located in Pomona, New York. The course is held over six (6) weeks and all of the instructors are volunteers from local schools and colleges. In 2006, we started our scholarship program where we provided financial assistance to Rockland area high school seniors who were entering college in the fall. This year as well as the following year will see us start a county-wide voter registration program and the formation of an annual talent hunt program. The talent hunt program will highlight the high number of teens we have in Rockland with musical, acting, graphics, and other artistic talents and abilities.

ROCKLAND OMEGA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC. (ROCDEF)

The men of Xi Lambda Lambda formed the Rockland Omega Community development Foundation, Inc. (ROCDEF) during the spring of 2004. The fraternity needed a fundraising arm to generate operational funds and to be in a position to apply for and receive governmental and private grants. The years 2004 and 2005 saw us put on two successful art auctions. In 2007, we introduced our first annual jazz brunch which was a huge success. We will continue to explore various fundraising ideas outside of grant writing and social affairs with hopes that additional monies will be found to allow us to add and enhance our community service agenda.

Goals

To bring stability and direction to the lives of young African American/Latino boys by providing structure through mentoring. The formal mentoring process will take place monthly. We will supplement these monthly sessions with weekly contact with these young men through telephone conversations and special projects.

Type of Mentoring

We will do group mentoring. This does not entail much one-on-one but it will allow us to form group bonds with the boys. Other times we will break off into smaller or larger groups. We have to do this type of mentoring because we do not have the bodies to do one-on-one mentoring. Our hope is that each young man will eventually establish a contact and/or bond with one of the brothers. The mentoring should by no means be limited to just monthly Saturday sessions.

The Participants

The youngsters chosen for this initial program will be 6th to 12th grade boys chosen from a few schools in Rockland. This year's group will come from Pomona Middle School, Nyack Middle School, Lime Klim Elementary School, and Chestnut Ridge Middle School. The boys have been hand pick by school principals, guidance counselors, and brothers of Xi Lambda Lambda. Many are considered at-risk students and come from single parent homes.

Structure of Monthly Sessions

Each Saturday session will begin with a light breakfast followed by a speaker. We will bring in speaker to discuss issues pertinent to the boys and brothers alike. After their short speech their will be a question and answer session. This will be followed by a skills session. These skills sessions will involve but are not limited to computer skills, health and safety skills, etiquette skills, financial literacy, reading & writing skills, etc.). The last hour will be talk time. The mentors and mentees will discuss life and share stories of our experiences in small and large groups.

Program Venue

The mentoring program will take place at the community room (1st floor) of the Finklestein Library. The library has also given us access to the computer center and other areas of the facility when needed. The community room can hold 50 people comfortably and the library is centrally located making it easily accessible to the community, in particular our boys many of whom can actually walk there.

Special Projects and Events

The boys as part of the academy will participate in a number of activities during the course of the year. This could include but is not limited to cleanup for the Adopt-A-highway program, Habitat for Humanity, hospital visits, and any other community activity we deem important to their overall development. They will also be expected to participate in some fashion in some of the Xi Lambda Lambda programs when appropriate. We will also bring them along on some of our jaunts to programs and activities of other worthwhile organizations.

Etiquette Training

We will also have etiquette training workshops in dining, dress, business, during the year. We will also attempt to introduce the boys to sports like golf, horseback riding, skiing when time permits.

SPONSORS

Funding for the Rockland Omega Academy (ROAD) is made possible in part with grants from:

- New York State Legislature
- Orange and Rockland