Philanthropies served as a way for members of a sorority to impact the world outside of campus while also planning an activity that provided enjoyment and fun memories for students on campus. Each sorority had a specific charity for which they raised money, such as Children’s Miracle Network or Service for Sight.

These philanthropy events often served practical purposes. For instance, Kappa Alpha Theta’s Fourthmeal provided safe transportation to a safe place for people to go after attending fraternity dance parties and have a late-night meal. Food-related philanthropic events were a popular choice among sororities with Theta also hosting an all-you-can-eat taco night and Delta Sigma Theta hosting their Annual Spaghetti Dinner.

Other philanthropies served the purpose of stirring up a little friendly competition and encouraging Pan-Hellenic support and friendship. “Our spring philanthropy is AXOlympics, which is a competitive field-day type of event where teams compete in things like three-legged races and donut-eating contests for the chance to win a tab at one of the Delis,” Alpha Chi Omega sister Kaitlyn Adkins said. “Prizes included things like free putt-putt games, a free two-night stay at Embassy suites, and several restaurant gift cards,” Adkins said.

All the work necessary to plan the events paid off when sororities donated the money to their charities. “Our philanthropies benefit Avalon, the local shelter for battered and homeless women,” Adkins said. “Avalon means a lot to us as a chapter because it’s great to be able to directly help victims of domestic violence.”

Philanthropies demonstrated the sororities’ concern for local and national issues and their interest in providing a fun and memorable event for students.

> Jessica Johnson

Sororities’ philanthropic events have widespread positive effects