



Tuesday, December 16, 2003

OU is a collection center for Red Cross Blanket Days

Oakland University and Sigma Pi fraternity are making the American Red Cross **Blanket Days for the Homeless** campaign a priority during the holidays. A three-year supporter of the campaign, Sigma Pi seeks to inspire students, staff and the surrounding community with their spirit of giving this holiday season.

"During the holidays everyone is looking for an opportunity to be charitable," said Sean O' Malley, philanthropy chair of OU's Sigma Pi fraternity. "We are trying to help our peers look beyond themselves and open up an opportunity for them to give back to the community."

Oakland University has offered to serve as one of the 50 Red Cross Blanket Days collection sites located around southeast Michigan. People can drop off contributions of new twin-sized blankets or financial donations. The collection box is housed in Room 49 of the Oakland Center, which is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"In Sigma Pi, building bonds between members is an integral part of the fraternity," said O'Malley. "By participating in this program, we aim to carry our bond, as a fraternity, through to our local community, strengthening the community by taking care of each other."

The Red Cross Blanket Days campaign runs until Wednesday, Dec. 31. For the 2003 campaign, the Red Cross has teamed up with presenting sponsor Meijer, WJBK-FOX2, the Detroit Pistons, and long-time partner World Medical Relief to help obtain a goal of 8,000 blankets.

To make a financial or new twin-size blanket donation or to locate a drop-off site visit the **Blanket Days for the Homeless** Web page on the **American Red Cross** Web site or contact Erin Bannon at (313) 494-2744.

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