

Fraternity helps homeless

PRINCESS ANNE — The brothers of Zeta Chapter of Phi Omicron Psi Fraternity Inc. recently slept outside on the campus of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) to help raise the public's awareness of the problem of homelessness on the Delmarva Peninsula and throughout the country.

Phi Omicron Psi Fraternity is a national organization of college and professional men that was founded in 1986 at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Va. Elden Wayne Hawkes Jr., national president and UMES graduate student, is responsible for creating the vision for the fraternity; representing the organization to university administrations; representing the organization to federal, state and local governments; and for the establishment and execution of a plan of action for the achievement and goals of the fraternity.

Phi Omicron Psi's goals are to enhance campus life for students through educational awareness, social opportunity and community service. In Princess Anne, the brothers of the Zeta Chapter have raised money for and donated to various charities. Along with serving as youth mentors, their services include: volunteering for World Hunger Day and World AIDS Day; serving as campus tour guides during UMES Springfest; hosting a Victim of Violence candlelight

vigil; volunteering for Habitat for Humanity projects; donating to September 11 Fund and donating to March of Dimes Walk America. They have also fed the poor and homeless in the Baltimore area. Of all they do, they are especially proud of providing a \$150 Need Green Book Scholarship to one male and one female recipient every year. The UMES Chapter is one of seven undergraduate chapters and three graduate chapters chartered in Maryland and Virginia. Phi Omicron Psi Fraternity Inc., unique because of its written commitment to non-physical hazing, was founded by Hawkes on Feb. 28, 1998.

"I was online in September of this year when I came across articles about the Joseph House and the Christian Center in Salisbury and other organizations here dealing with homelessness, a cold winter ahead and not enough supplies and beds. I wrote a proposal the next day and met with brothers the day after that. Within a couple of days, I was able to meet with campus organizations at UMES and to begin to do something about homelessness here on the Shore," said Hawkes. "Because we had a direct contact with Joseph House through one of our brothers, we decided to start there."

The brothers plan to make several donations to Joseph House in the several days leading up to Thanksgiving. The

list/drop off locations for their Sleepout for the Homeless Campaign is as follows:

Monetary donation drop-off sites: Nelson Real Estate, Allegro Coffee Shop, and Rosa Nini Ice Cream Shop, all on Somerset Avenue in Princess Anne.

Drop-off box locations for food, clothing, etc.: Rosa Nini Ice Cream Shop on Somerset Avenue in Princess Anne and UMES Student Services Center; in Salisbury; Bennie Smith Funeral Home on Isabella Street, BarNone Inc. on Winterplace Parkway, RentWay Inc. in the Clairmont Shopping Center, Chipman Elementary School (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) and the Wicomico County Public Library, North Division Street.

Hawkes, a native of Baltimore, graduated from Mount Saint Joseph High School in 1996. At UMES, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in environmental science in December 2000 and expects to earn a Master of Science degree in marine estuary and environmental sciences/ecology in December 2004. His many awards and honors include: National Dean's List, 2002; Parks and Conservation Scholarship, 2000; Mr. University of Maryland Eastern Shore, 1999; and the Department of Interior STAR Award, 1998. His writings were published in *Letters from the Soul* in 2002.