

## PHILANTHROPY

### Ex-Heights High fraternity is still making a difference

Beta Alpha Tau, a fraternity founded in 1929 at Cleveland Heights High School, may have ceased operating as an active high school club in 1997, but the men who were members haven't been idle.

After a reunion in September that drew about 250 of the roughly 400 surviving brothers, the group decided to celebrate with donations to several area nonprofits and a pledge to continue that philanthropy.

Kevin Goodman, a fraternity member and former president while he was in high school during the late 1970s and early 1980s, said the club intends to form a foundation to formalize its charitable efforts.

Among Beta Alpha Tau's recent donations was \$2,200 to Reaching Heights, which supports the Cleveland Heights-University Heights schools.

Susie Kaeser, Reaching Heights' executive director, said such unrestricted donations are particularly important to small organizations like hers. And she added that it was especially meaningful that the donation came from adults who had ties to the district as youngsters.

On Saturday, fraternity members, their children and grandchildren volunteered to help feed the homeless at St. Malachi Catholic Church on the near West Side. Goodman said the youngsters not only collected 30 bags of clothing to hand out, but also donated over \$200 of their own money.

Noting that individual members are active in a whole range of philanthropic causes, he said a survey is being conducted to determine what projects members want to support as a group,



Barb Galbincea

either by volunteering or through donations.

More information about the fraternity and its history is available at [www.betaalphatau.com](http://www.betaalphatau.com).

#### **"Green Team" ready to graduate:**

A Key Foundation grant of \$150,000 over three years was, if you'll pardon the pun, key to a new job-training program for the homeless, according to Chip Joseph, executive director of Y-Haven.

A transitional housing program run by the YMCA of Greater Cleveland, Y-Haven has 133 residents, who face various barriers to employment.

Joseph's idea was to train interested residents to work in the cleaning and maintenance industry, preparing them for jobs when they leave Y-Haven and giving the program a source of revenue by providing contract maintenance service.

He said the first class of seven men is wrapping up the 10-week program and last week put their new skills to use during a post-construction cleanup at the new Lakewood Y.

Joseph expects another 12 students in the "Green Team" class set to begin in December.

**Wrappers wanted:** The American Red Cross is looking for volunteers to help wrap shoppers' purchases through the holidays at Westfield Great Northern Mall and Eton Collections. Shoppers' donations will help the Red Cross chapter serve people in Cuyahoga, Lake and Geauga counties. Call Gloria Hricko at 216-431-3046.

**To reach this Plain Dealer reporter:**  
[bgalbincea@plained.com](mailto:bgalbincea@plained.com),  
 216-999-4185

## HONORED

### Case professor receives award



Peckham

P. Hunter Peckham, professor of biomedical engineering at the Case School of Engineering at Case Western Reserve University, recently

was the recipient of the 2006 World Technology Network Award for Health and Medicine. He is internationally known, in part, for his research, which focuses on functional restoration of paralyzed arms in individuals with spinal cord injury.

*Mail information to Honored, c/o Metro Desk, Plain Dealer Plaza, 1801 Superior Ave., Cleveland 44114. Or fax to 216-999-6354.*

## HAPPENINGS

### Lavish homes in holiday finery

The Sugar Plum Tour of Gracious Homes of Akron is set for Dec. 3. Visit five lavishly decorated homes in the West Hill neighborhood and the Delaware/Ridgecrest estates. Call 330-376-8522 for tickets or go online to [www.sugarplumtour.org](http://www.sugarplumtour.org). All proceeds will help support the Gay Community Endowment Fund of the Akron Community Foundation.

## METRO

City Desk: 216-999-4800  
 Picture Desk: 216-999-6126  
 County Bureaus  
 Geauga: 800-962-1167  
 Lorain: 800-767-2821  
 Medina: 800-683-7348  
 Summit: 800-628-6689  
 Columbus Bureau:  
 800-228-8272