



Iota Phi Theta® Fraternity, Incorporated

1600 N. Calvert Street, Baltimore, MD 21202

Main Phone: 443-438-5691 Fax: 443-438-5692

Members of Iota Combatting Abuse through I-S.H.I.E.L.D. Program

Founding Date
September 19, 1963

Founding Place
Morgan State University
Baltimore, Maryland

Purpose
The Development and Perpetuation of Scholarship, Leadership, Citizenship, Fidelity, and Brotherhood among Men

Motto
"Building A Tradition, Not Resting Upon One"

Official Colors
Charcoal Brown & Gilded Gold

National Governing Body
The Grand Council

National Affiliations
National Interfraternity Conference (NIC)
National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC)

National Service Initiatives
National Iota Foundation
I.O.T.A. Youth Alliance
INROADS Partnership

Number of Chapters
265+ in over 40 states and multiple countries

Number of Initiated Members
Approximately 30,000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 14, 2016

Iota Phi Theta® Fraternity, Inc. officially announces the launching of its *I-S.H.I.E.L.D.* initiative, which will focus on addressing the issues of abuse in the United States and internationally. *I-S.H.I.E.L.D.* (Iotas Saving, Healing, Improving, Empowering Lives Daily) is a 5-point program that will focus on human trafficking, sexual assault/abuse, domestic abuse, elder abuse and child abuse through direct action and educational awareness programs and activities, in collaboration with national and international anti-abuse agencies and organizations.

Through the Fraternity's *Kaya* ('village' in Swahili) *Community Service* initiative, the Fraternity sponsors programs and provides support for all populations in need through its *I-S.H.I.E.L.D.* and *I.O.T.A. Youth Alliance* programs, in addition to its national/international collaborations with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the American Red Cross.

For additional information and/or to get involved with the *I-S.H.I.E.L.D. Initiative* (which is also open to non-Fraternity members), contact Program Coordinator Sister Chan-Tresa Hester-Carr via email, Tresa.iotashield@gmail.com. For more information about and/or to get involved in the Fraternity's community service endeavors (also open to non-Fraternity members), contact the Director of Community Services, Brother John Branch, Jr. via email, communityservicedirector@iotaphitheta.org.

Iota Phi Theta® is the fifth-largest, international, predominately African American social service fraternity, founded on September 19, 1963 by twelve 'non-traditional' students at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland. Several were veterans, others married with children, some with full-time jobs, but all were full-time students. For more than five decades, the Fraternity has and continues to promote the ideals of *Scholarship, Leadership, Citizenship, Fidelity and Brotherhood* among all men through its community service initiatives and membership development activities. Throughout America and the world, Iota Phi Theta® has come to represent excellence in all areas. As Iota Phi Theta® continues to grow and strengthen, so will its commitment to make meaningful contributions to society, in general, with particular emphasis on the African-American community. The Fraternity is and shall forever remain dedicated to its motto and our Founders' vision of "***Building a Tradition, Not Resting Upon One!***"

For additional media inquiries and other supporting information of the fraternity,

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please contact our Director of Communications, Brother Bryan Maule, via phone at 443-438-5691 or via email, communicationsdirector@iotaphitheta.org.

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