

Delta Sigma Theta members donate hair care products to women in crisis



Shampoo, hot oil treatments, curl moisturizers, and gel.

Hair care products likely are not what people think of when they hear about the needs of women in crisis. They are essentials, however, for many African-American women seeking protection at domestic violence shelters.

Arlington-based [Hagar's Heart](#) partners with eight domestic violence organizations in the metroplex offering emergency shelter and emergency services. In recent months, Hagar's Heart founder, Jennifer Jones, became aware of the need for ethnic hair care products.

“When a woman is in crisis and needs to leave an abusive situation in her home, the last thing on her mind is grabbing shampoo and conditioner,” said Jones. While many shelters offer some basic necessities, few can fill the need for ethnic hair care items. Organizations like Hagar's Heart work to fill in the gaps. When the Arlington chapter of [Delta Sigma Theta](#), a historically African-American sorority, learned about Hagar's Heart and the need for ethnic hair care products, it went to work.



Hagar's Heart founder, Jennifer Jones, and her 'I See You' boxes are making a difference in the lives of domestic violence survivors.

By the Numbers

Chapter President Tunya Redvine and her 227 active members have, over the years, supported the work of Brighter Tomorrows, SafeHaven, and other organizations dedicated to helping victims of domestic violence. “We recognize the importance of providing resources that aid victims and their families in their efforts to leave violent and traumatic environments,” said Redvine. Donating items to Hagar's Heart provided another opportunity for the Deltas to join those efforts. “We were particularly excited to provide the requested African-American hair care products. These items are often unavailable and too expensive for those in need to purchase.”

During the sorority’s Annual Roundup, which incorporates community service, members donated funds to purchase twin and queen-sized mattresses for Safe Haven and 185 African-American hair care products totaling nearly \$1,600, for Hagar’s Heart.

Redvine said several members have shared their own personal experiences with domestic violence and expressed gratitude for the sorority’s dedication to supporting other survivors. “We recognize that there is a misconception regarding the ease with which victims can leave their situations. It is NOT easy,” said Redvine.

“Many in abusive relationships and home environments often don't have the financial means to leave those environments. Even when they do, it is often with only the clothes on their backs and no place to safely go. Victims are also often made to feel as if they have no worth. This negatively influences their psyche and makes it even more difficult for them to leave abusers. The work of Hagar's Heart ensures that these individuals, these survivors, are treated with the respect they deserve and provided the assistance they need. Providing shelter and necessary resources, products, etc., do much to support these survivors as they begin their journey to safety.”



Jones, a survivor herself, agrees with Redvine and says the hair care products and her nonprofit's "I See You" boxes are just the beginning.

"We've become known for our '*I See You*' boxes that try to let women know that despite their circumstances, they are seen, worthy, and loved." Those boxes are delivered monthly to Hagar's Heart's shelter partners. They are packed with specifically chosen self-care items and encouraging letters written by volunteers. Next up for the organization is its Carry the Joy fundraiser in April. Learn how you can offer support at www.hagarsheart.org.

Learn more about the Arlington chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, their service in the community, and initiatives focused on economic development, educational development, international awareness and involvement, physical and mental health, and social action by visiting www.dstarlingtonalumnae.org.

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