

“We want to be known in the community for what we *do* for the community,” says Anna Baird, former vice president of the CSUF chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, the national scholastic and accounting fraternity.

“We go into the community and say ‘Here we are. We’re an organization with 75 people. What can we do for you?’”

And the answer is simple ... if you’re an accountant that is. The volunteer hours these students put in add up very quickly. These fraternity members are *busy*. They help the young, the old, the less fortunate, and work diligently on such projects as Adopt-A-Highway, Kiddie Tutoring, and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program.

Beta Alpha Psi also deserves credit for starting Project Outreach, a program that brings high school students onto campus so they can learn more about the college application process and financial aid. While all high school students are welcome to participate, minority students are especially encouraged to look into the opportunities of a college education as well as learn about careers in accounting.

In return, members discover that the community gives back. Representatives from community firms meet with members and speak about accounting opportunities. These



Sharon Evendon (left) and Suzette Girouard (center) provide free income tax assistance to a community member.



It's Saturday morning — 6:30 to be exact — and James Powell is volunteering at the Poverello House in downtown Fresno. While Powell carries bags of groceries for recipients of the food donations, other fraternity members are inside packing the food into the bags.

“I learned more accounting through Beta Alpha Psi than through any other experience I’ve had.”

Anna Baird,
Beta Alpha Psi member

firms also donate funds that provide scholarships to students who earn points through their involvement with Beta Alpha Psi each semester.

“One semester, we gave \$3,000 in scholarships,” says Maureen Crane, the fraternity’s faculty adviser. “That money was donated by firms and professionals.”

Beta Alpha Psi, however, is not just all work and accounting.

Picnics, banquets, intramural sports, and participation in Vintage Days provide members fun social activities.

“It becomes your social life, it really does,” Baird says. “We have an incredibly close-knit group. We go on office tours and get together on weekends to do homework. We get together to see movies. We are very, very close.”



Every spring, Beta Alpha Psi invites Fresno high school students to campus. After a campus tour, fraternity members and their guests participate in workshops on how to get through the college application process.