



## RESTORING OUR COMMUNITY

Gamma Upsilon Graduate Chapter Bringing Hope to the City

It is proven that violence is more prevalent in the African-American community, yet one national program alone cannot combat the issues that provoke and entice aggressive behavior. The stimulus and factors that pre-dispose African-Americans to violence may not be the same factors that initiate violent behavior in whites. Social scientists have demonstrated that racial segregation, racism, social isolation, drug and alcohol consumption, and media violence all contribute to the likelihood of aggressive, violent behavior. Therefore a decisive program against violence has to originate from a multi-disciplinary approach. There must be community support financially, spiritually, and physically. This must include parental involvement, religious involvement, and strong support from educators.



Taking these things into consideration the brothers of Gamma Upsilon Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. joined efforts with several other groups in the Wichita community, in a show of numbers and strength to put an end to violence in our communities. Some of the other participating groups were the Wichita Ministerial League, the National Pan-Hellenic Council, the Urban League of Kansas, the Peace and Social Justice Center, Sunflower Community Action, the African American Coalition, Real Men Inc, the Council of Elders. The other Greek Organizations were well represented to include: Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta, Sigma Gamma Rho, and Zeta Phi Beta Sororities; Alpha Phi Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi, Iota Phi Theta and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternities. The Wichita Chapter of the National Organization for Women, the Wichita Black Nurses Association, the Center for Health and Wellness, the Universalist Unitarian Church, the Kansas African American Museum, 316 the Rescue Zone, "Do you want to Live or Die", Woman to Woman,



the Justice Keepers, the Advocacy Coalition of Kansas, Bigelow Bethea, Rice Services, the Boys and Girls Club, Real Men Real Heroes, the Kappa Leadership League, the Optimist Club, and the City of Wichita. As the president of the Wichita branch of the NAACP, "The weather man said it was 98 degrees out there... But still we marched. Not a short walk, not downhill, and not even down shaded streets. We marched 4 miles, at 12 noon, in the blazing sun, for nearly 2 hours, right through the heart of our community. We marched to send a message; that we are ready to make a change. That we are ready to be the change we want to see... Young folks and seniors, walking together, praying together, singing together as we called for an end to the violence that has plagued our community for too long".