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**Profiles of Service Excellence**  
*Volunteer Spotlight Nicole Boone*

**For our Volunteer Spotlight Series, we will showcase the dedication and service of the extraordinary women who have been spearheading the foundation’s core programs and contributing to our mission. We interviewed each of these Trailblazers, and discovered that rooted in their hearts is an unwavering commitment to service, collective wisdom and inspiration to give back and prepare our children for the future. This is part one of a three part series.**

Nicole Boone is currently serving as the Chairperson of the Archonette Club, a youth development program introduced in 1950 by the dedicated founders of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority. Built on the ideals of service and scholarship, the program launched successfully and continues to expand and serve as a model focusing on inspiring and preparing underserved and marginalized youth for the future. In the course of her three-year tenure within the program, Nicole has continued the program’s legacy and remains steadfast in fulfilling its mission to provide full-scale mentoring programs catered for young women within the 14-18 age demographic. The program is credited with providing young girls with educational and cultural opportunities to connect with the larger world and their peers with confidence and a renewed appreciation for service, scholarship and female empowerment. Apart from the traditional mentoring activities geared towards advancing academic credentials, the “Archonettes” participating in the program also have the opportunity to engage in a broad spectrum of activities. Among these include art appreciation and related social activities, such as museum outings and scholarship brunches, along with the more business-oriented initiatives, such as etiquette training and resume writing/business meeting workshops. From a service standpoint, the program also fosters community service projects enabling participants to develop event planning skills to hone in on their leadership skills.

When asked about what drives her inspiration to volunteer and maintain a commitment towards serving the community, Nicole enthuses “On a personal level, I was raised that way-encouraged by both my mother and my father. Henceforth, I found a group of like minded women dedicated to service and building the community that I could identify with. I also have a heart for teenage girls and as a high school teacher by profession- I am committed to orchestrating a medium to cultivate a voice outside of the classroom. More often than not, adults find themselves tied up within their busy schedules and to actually have a program where you can help these young girls expand their horizons by teaching art and supporting their long-term development is an added bonus.” Moreover, Nicole also encourages aspects of the program that enables the young women to become forward thinkers and learn to grasp constructive criticism and operate in business settings. These essential skill sets transcend beyond the traditional classroom and office setting, as Nicole enthusiastically declares “making yourself not just college-bound, but a well-rounded person ranging from having the proper knowledge to work productively with other people to appreciating aesthetic art can be quite meaningful in all facets of life.”

In regards to defining a vision and roadmap for the future, Nicole maintains that she would like

to see the program expand not only in terms of numbers and academic success rates for participants, but to also witness the impact of reaching out to the community where even younger demographics and boys can benefit and work towards preparing for their future. Nicole remains positive that by working together and with a combination of diligence and patience, we as a team can overcome potential roadblocks in resources and funding. This is critical and in consideration of the necessity for good service to continue and evolve. “We can build a better community where these programs can expand and evolve. This is important for our future. This is not just about race. If there are elements structured in these programs that focus on essential life pillars, such as teaching youth about social responsibility, and promoting measures to build character and integrity-we can truly change the world. Get involved with the youth; don’t forget they are coming behind you. Remember the children.”