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When I was a potential new member participating in recruitment, I was searching for my second—and forever—home. Sigma Kappa has become my light during my past three years at the University of South Florida. Through the sisterhood and support Sigma Kappa has granted me, I have become a shining light not only in my chapter but in the campus community as well.

Growing up, I never had a safe space or solid friend group for emotional support. Throughout high school, this feeling of loneliness became especially difficult. Struggles with my mental health led me to enroll in an out-of-state college for a fresh start.

Being an out-of-state student made my search for a sorority even more overwhelming. After a stressful two weeks of online recruitment due to the pandemic, I received a bid from Sigma Kappa. Despite the struggles of building connections with others virtually, I found my sisters who have been with me through it all. I have faced many family and personal struggles throughout college, and I have always been able to count on my sisters for support, love, and guidance.

I am forever grateful for the love I have found in Sigma Kappa. Thanks to them, I have worked up the confidence to serve on our Executive Council, attend national conventions, and more. As the Vice President of Academic Excellence, I help those who struggle with school by providing support and resources. Students are more than just grade point averages, and my goal is to make everyone feel comfortable and confident in themselves and their abilities. College is a competitive academic atmosphere—students struggle and feel their worth is defined by a number or a grade. I am a light for others by being a space for them to admit to and work through their struggles. From late night library trips to planning classes and advisor appointments, I am and will continue to be there every step of the way—even when once my term is over.

Outside of Sigma Kappa, I am involved in multiple extracurriculars and organizations where I work with others to be a beacon of light in our community. I am the council delegate for Order of Omega Honor Society, which highlights collaboration between USF's Panhellenic Association, Interfraternity Council, Multicultural Greek Council, and National Pan-Hellenic Council. It is a space for personal growth for leaders of all councils, and my position focuses on outreach to the Multicultural Greek Council and National Pan-Hellenic Council. We work together to promote philanthropy and academics in the USF community and erase the stigmas of fraternity and sorority life, and I have made so many new friends across campus in the process.

I am also a member of Rich Love, a club which promotes mental health awareness and suicide prevention. We host discussion groups, fundraise, and advocate for suicide prevention. As someone who struggles with mental health, this group has been vital to my development as a collegian and as a woman. I can always count on my fellow

members, and they can always count on me. You never know the power of one conversation.

My involvement with these organizations has sparked my desire to be a light in others' lives that never dims.