

Campus Winner

Month:
November 2011

NACURH, INC. Community of the Month

School:	University of Washington	Region:	PACURH
Nominee:	Order of Frederick	Nominator:	Madison Abshire

On-Campus Population: 5600

Chapter Size:
56

Please explain the **outstanding** contributions of the nominee **during the month of nomination**

Many communities are defined by a living space, creating a home out of a floor or buildings, others form when people see each other every day. Other communities are different, however, and the Order of Frederick is one of those. Rather than rising out of a situation of convenience, the order formed after working towards a common goal, from those who wished to maintain the bonds built from a common experience.

The Order of Frederick formed from a small core of volunteers that had worked on a previous event in the residence halls, who found that the community working on that project was too special to give up. In fact, its name comes from the mascot of the Hansee Haunted House. Since its foundation was centered upon a project, it is a very small, but diverse community, with members living in a couple different Residence Halls, and even off campus, and ranging from Freshman to Senior in class.

Throughout November, they maintained their community through holding a couple impromptu events, and simply seeing each other regularly. They started out the month watching Tim Burton movies, such as *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, and *Sweeney Todd*, singing along and generally having a good time. After that, it was not uncommon to see them sitting in Ian's Domain, a campus café, or the main lobby of Hansee Hall. The bonds, and sense of community between them was palpable as they sat and talked, easily filling hours with discussions of music, video games, politics, food, almost anything one could think of. They even dedicate time towards planning for future Residence Hall events they may be involved in, making sure they are prepared, and ready to make an impact. They met at other times to play video games together, and eat homemade pumpkin pie and other desserts.

Perhaps one of the most impressive displays of this community's strength was when they decided to have their own potluck to celebrate Thanksgiving. It is rare to see a group of people produce such an impressive spread of food simply by themselves, and not as part of a program. But, they far outstripped the average planned program, simply for the sake of their community. Each member was present and contributed something, whether it was small, like a kettle of hot water and a variety of teas, or more significant, like a casserole and pie, or a salad, or soup, or chips and dip. For such a small community to plan something like a full scale potluck, just because they like each other, and want to spend time together, is truly impressive, and very much marks the strength of their friendship.

A community like this has benefits for all its members, and one of the members, Nathan Booco, a freshman new to the residence hall community shared his experience with the Order, shortly after their Thanksgiving potluck: "So I kinda touched on this at dinner on Monday, but I am really

thankful for the Order. You've all helped to make what could have been a really difficult time transitioning to college really awesome.”

Involvement in the Residence Halls led to the formation of a community built on a common passion, but maintained through laughter, friendship, and a spirit of contribution. Each person in this community has benefited from the experience of always having a fun group of people to spend time with, who go above and beyond, to create a memorable experience for all. While communities come in all forms, Order of Frederick demonstrates the depth of bonds that can form within the Residence Halls.

Word Count: 546