

Kate Mahon Ralls, Psi Zeta/University of Houston

“I had to work throughout high school and college, and although my college years were challenging, receiving a scholarship from Chi Omega set my mind at ease. The organization put their faith in me, strengthened my confidence, and gave me hope in many ways.

“Because of the impact the scholarship had on my life, I started giving to Chi Omega annually, even though it was usually only \$50 or so each year. I knew I wanted to repay the generous gift I received from Chi Omega and began donating to the organization soon after I graduated. It was a small yearly contribution until I made more in the workplace. When I was able to do more, I decided to start the Kate Mahon Ralls Scholarship for Psi Zeta. I wanted the scholarship to help women from single parent homes who are working and putting themselves through school, since that was my situation when I was a collegian. Last year, I read through so many remarkable applications and chose a recipient who was from a single parent household whose mother was going to college at the same time she was.

“I hope my scholarship inspires others to give back, too. It is incredible to see that after 125 years, our Sisterhood is still alive today. Chi Omegas are so different and follow our own unique paths, but we always have a bond of support in our Sisterhood. The friendships I have made through Chi Omega have enriched my life and I am forever grateful.”

Kate Mahon Ralls is an initiate of Psi Zeta Chapter at the University of Houston. Kate has shared that her philanthropic leadership is born of her own experience. She lost her father to cancer when she was 10 and was raised by her mother who juggled a full-time career in advertising and nonprofit work. When she was putting herself through school by working, Kate applied for and received a Mary Love Collins scholarship, for which she was extremely grateful since the scholarship was the reason she was able to remain an active Chi Omega. Kate was vice president of human resources for Ralph Lauren for 13 years. Today Kate is a wife, mother of two girls, and an investor.