District Three Conference Award Winners: April 2020

Letha H. Brown Literacy Award

3rd place: The Emergency Services Homeless Coalition of St. Johns County provides homeless families with housing, housekeeping skills, budgeting and training necessary to obtain and maintain a home. The program makes a small dent in the furtherance of literacy for the homeless children, but the stories we receive about the delight in their eyes on their birthday fuels our efforts to keep this project going. With 280 points, the St. Augustine, Florida Club is awarded third place.

2nd place: Altrusa of Gainesville, Florida recognizes an 8th grade student at each middle school in our county. The teachers determine criteria and select the student. The end of the middle school is an important transition time. Realizing that dedication and hard work can pay off in significant improvement in their literacy skills is a valuable lesson as they progress to high school. With 283 points, Gainesville, Florida Club is awarded second place.

1st place: Within every community there are students struggling to read. Our mission is to promote literacy among low income children. With our “Reading Adventure” project we aided two elementary schools, one high school and partnered with the Leesburg Police Department participating in our communities National Night Out, distributing over 850 books into the hands of more than 800 children and adults. With 285 points, Lake County, Florida Club is award first place.

Mamie L. Bass Service Award

3rd place: Our Club partnered with the “Days for Girls” service project in 2018 focused on addressing issues affecting young girls and women around the world. We have continued this in 2019. We have engaged over 70% of our active Membership, volunteered more than 1,500 hours, spent $3,434.70 buying items to make kits (a value of $25.00 X 650 kits = $16,250.00) to this worthy charity. Our Membership learned more about what it is to be a young girl or woman without feminine protection. With 255 points, Charlotte, NC is awarded third place.

3rd place: Urban Ministries serves the working poor in our area by providing a medical clinic with a pharmacy, a food pantry, and a homeless shelter for women. How many clients did we help? We fed 200 women at the shelter, greeted over 225 people at the clinic, and helped feed 100 families who came to the food pantry. We have provided over 100 books for many children: some who may never have had a book at home. With 255 points, Raleigh, NC is awarded third place.

2nd place: After “adopting” Terwilliger Elementary the previous year, Altrusa of Gainesville continued supporting teachers and mentoring children to improve their reading and writing skills. With a pen pal program, assistance in the classroom, teacher appreciation events and more, our club was pleased that the school was able to move from a “D” to a “C” school. With 274 points, Gainesville, Florida is awarded second place.

1st place: Members suggested a project to enlighten the community of pet needs and services. Partnering with Covenant Pet Trust and Lake City Humane Society we used the interwoven love of pets, literacy and music, to invite Sean Dietrich to headline the community-wide free event featuring SongFarmers as musical entertainment. The community continues to benefit reading his weekly column in our newspaper. With 285 points, Lake City, Florida is awarded first place.
1st place: The Born Learning Trail 2 was a collaborative effort between the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County, The United Way Success By 6 Program, Marion County Parks & Recreation and Altrusa International of Ocala to provide parents/caregivers with a fun and interactive opportunity to access quality early learning for their children and help develop them mentally, physically and socially. With 285 points, Ocala, Florida is awarded first place

**Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award**

3rd place: The Altrusa Club of Starke, Inc. supported the Altrusa International project of Days for Girls by contributing supplies and participating in Sew Days for the Alachua County Chapter of Days for Girls. This group provides menstrual kits for 30 counties making an impact on health and school attendance (literacy) With 266 points, Starke, Florida is awarded third place

2nd place: The Charlotte club embraced the idea of having a dramatic impact on the international community. Through the established partnerships with the club and two external organizations, the membership agreed to commit time and treasure to deliver feminine hygiene products to young women and girls in Kenya and Haiti. With 270 points Charlotte, NC is awarded second place

1st place: The project “Lights for Bahamas” was aimed at providing much needed basic necessities to the people of the Bahamas following the 185 mph winds that devastated the islands on September 1, 2019. The Altrusa Orlando-Winter Park came together to provide 96 Luci Lights to be used in the Marsh Harbor Tent City- one of the hardest hit areas in the Bahamas. With 295 points Orlando-Winter Park, Florida is award first place