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Governor's Message

The Altrusa International Convention was held in San Antonio, Tx., July 19-22, 2023. Over 300 members from around the world attended the convention. Of the 300 attendees, 28 were from District Three. It was an exciting time with members visiting old friends and making new ones during our time together. Members also came to be inspired and attend workshops to help them grow to better serve our communities.

The celebration of the new International President and the new Board is always impressive. Please join me in thanking Past President Kathy Folley and her Board of Directors for their service and leadership. A great team and a great job! Thank you!

International President Linda Smith (Salina, KS) of District Eight unveiled her biennium theme for 2023-2025:

"Altrusans R.O.C.K.: Realize Opportunity, Create Kindness".

The International projects will continue to be "Days for Girls" and "Literacy Challenge" of one million books donated during the biennium. In President Linda's own words:

"Now let's R.O.C.K."

Join me in congratulating those of our District who will serve at the International level this biennium:

Kitty McElhaney	(Lake City, FL.) Vice President
Karen Robinson	(Tampa, FL.) Foundation Rep.
Colleen Duris	(Ocala, FL.) Parliamentarian
Jeraldyn Rivest	(Charlotte, NC) ASTRA Vice Chair
Scott Tice	(Ocala, FL.) Service Vice Chair
Shannon Schell	(Lake County, FL) Leadership Member
Nanci Schwartz.	(Lake County, FL.) Communications Member

Also join me in congratulating these two Clubs:

Mamie L. Bass First Place Award: Altrusa Int'l of Lake City, FL

Most Raised Per Capita Second Place: Altrusa Int'l of Lake County, FL

CONGRATULATIONS for such awesome Club achievements!!

With much love and warm hugs,

Dimple

Dimple Overstreet
District Three Governor

2023—2025 BIENNIUM GOALS

2023-2025 BIENNIUM GOALS



Our Mission is to “Provide Community Service, Develop Leadership, Foster International Understanding, and Encourage Fellowship.” So, let our mission provide direction for our journey. Setting our course and GOALS will help ensure that Altrusa continues to make a difference in the lives of our members and the lives of those in our communities.

SERVING UP SERVICE!

1. **LEADERSHIP:** Submit a Club Strategic Plan to the District Governor.
2. **SERVICE:** Submit at least (2) articles to the DSB for publication
3. **MEMBERSHIP:** Net Gain of (4) or more new members during the biennium.

Governor’s Contact Information:

Dimple Overstreet
436 S. Water St.
Starke, FL 32091

Email: altrusadimple@gmail.com

Cell: 904-964-6768





Mantha Young,
Governor-Elect

DISTRICT ANNUAL CLUB REPORT

Distinguished Clubs of District Three: A Celebration of Excellence

Altrusa International has always stood for dedication, community service, and leadership. District Three, in particular, has consistently shown an unwavering commitment to the values that make our organization exceptional. It is with immense pride and joy that we announce that, for the year 2022-2023, an impressive 12 clubs within District Three have been honored with the prestigious Distinguished Club Status. Let's celebrate with

Charlotte, NC
Gainesville, FL
Lake City, FL
Lake County, FL
Monticello, FL
North Georgia, GA
Ocala, FL
Orlando-Winter Park, FL
Raleigh, NC
Spartanburg, SC
Starke, FL
Statesboro, GA

HUGE Altrusa Hugs going out to all of you!

This accolade is not just another feather in our cap, but a testament to the dedication and passion that each member pours into their club activities. Achieving the Distinguished Club Status is no small feat. This recognition is based on a meticulous set of guidelines developed by Altrusa International. Clubs are assessed based on their contributions and impact in various realms, such as community service, scholarships, leadership development, and proactive leadership in the community.



A big "thank you" to ALL the clubs who took the time to submit their Club Annual Report. The collected data provides District and International Boards with valuable information about club activities that will help us better serve our clubs. Clubs can also use the report to get ideas for how they can become stronger. The report is due by June 1 of the current year, covering the previous year. Clubs need to score at least 65% and have charter status to receive the honor of being a Distinguished Club. The report is submitted online on the Altrusa International website under the "Leadership" tab. The clubs that have earned this distinction have showcased exemplary performance in all these categories, reinforcing Altrusa's vision of making communities better through leadership, partnership, and service. Their projects have touched lives, their scholarships have ignited dreams, and their leadership initiatives have molded future leaders.

In closing, let's remember that while awards and recognitions are significant, the real reward lies in the smiles we bring, the lives we touch, and the positive change we instigate in our communities. Let's keep the flame of service burning brightly, and here's to many more years of distinction and community betterment!



AWARDS CRITERIA FOR 2023



Nancy Shumaker
Vice Governor

Now that our new Altrusa year is underway, it's time to discuss which District awards your club will apply for in 2024. Before we know it, the January 31st deadline for applications will be here and you don't want to miss this opportunity to highlight your club's activities and achievements. Apply for one or more awards and let everyone know how your club is "Serving up Service" in this new Biennium!



District Three Awards

The Mamie L. Bass Service Award

The Mamie L. Bass Community Service Award was established by the International Board of Directors in July 1963, as a memorial to the first National President of Altrusa. The name was changed to the Mamie L. Bass Service Award by the International Board of Directors in July 1975.

Objectives:

1. To stimulate interest in developing action programs in the community that fall within the scope of Altrusa's program of service.
2. To encourage members of local Clubs to participate actively in service projects designed to meet specific local needs.

The Letha H. Brown Literacy Award

The Letha H. Brown Literacy Award was established by the International Board of Directors in July 1993, to honor Past International President Letha H. Brown, who, in 1977, introduced literacy as a major emphasis of the organization.

Objectives:

1. To stimulate interest in developing active literacy projects to serve their community.
2. To create an awareness of Altrusa and its commitment to literacy.
3. To encourage members of local Clubs to participate actively in literacy projects designed to meet specific community needs.

Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award

The Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award was adopted in 2003 as a memorial to the only International President who served two terms and who focused on the international aspect of our organization.

Objectives:

1. To encourage and to stimulate international relations.
2. To create an awareness of other cultures and people of the world.
3. To recognize outstanding club achievement in international relations

District and International Competition

Service projects nominated for the Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award are judged each year at District Conferences. First-place winners from each District are entered in the competition at International. Established judging criteria are used by Districts and by International.

One (1) service project from Clubs-At-Large is included in the competition at the International level. The International Membership Committee organizes the selection process for projects for Clubs-At-Large.

Ernestine Milner Program Excellence Award

Purpose:

This award is based on the concept that good program planning is the key to a successful club. Ideally, programming should provide Altrusans with opportunities for fellowship, service, personal and professional growth in addition to influencing member participation and attendance.

Outstanding Community Service Award

Objectives:

To stimulate each club to make community service a priority focus of their club by demonstrating at least a minimum percentage of membership participation, finances and volunteer time in their community service activities.

To recognize each club that achieves these goals on an annual basis.

Newsletter Award

Purpose:

To promote effective communication within and beyond the club. Club newsletters are intended to be timely, concise and reader-friendly ways of communicating with current and potential members of Altrusa International, Inc. Electronic distribution makes that cost effective, timely, and possible for all.

Todd Jordan Yearbook Recognition

Objectives:

To stimulate each club to make member communications a priority focus of their club by demonstrating that the following information is included in their Yearbook. By following the guidelines set forth below, a club can be assured of foundational communication for club members.

To recognize each club that achieves these goals on an annual basis.

Extension Award

Objectives:

To encourage clubs to expand awareness of Altrusa as a vital part of the service community by making extension a priority focus of their club.

To recognize, annually, each club that succeeds in the chartering of a new club.

Membership Awards

The **Myrtice H. Price Membership Award**, **New Member Incentive Award**, and **Membership Greatest Net Gain** awards are determined by the District Three Treasurer according to membership records as of January 31, 2024. These awards are incentives for clubs to keep their membership rolls current and any changes up-to-date with the District Treasurer.

Award Name	Description	Level of Award	Due Date	Please note	Send to name/address	Judging Committee
Mamie L. Bass Service Award	Encourage interest in developing hands- on projects that benefit the community	District Three And International	1/31/24	District winner is submitted to International for competition in the biennium Convention year.	Awards Chair/ Vice Governor Nancy Schumaker P.O. Box 292 Lake City, FL 32056 vicegovernordistrictthree@gmail.com	3 Prominent members of the general public
Letha H. Brown Literacy Award	Encourage interest in developing hands- on projects that benefit the community	District Three And International	1/31/24	District winner is submitted to International for competition in the biennium Convention year.	Awards Chair/ Vice Governor Nancy Schumaker P.O. Box 292 Lake City, FL 32056 vicegovernordistrictthree@gmail.com	3 Prominent members of the general public
Ernestine Milner Program Excellence Award	Encourage good program planning	District Three	1/31/24		Awards Chair/ Vice Governor Nancy Schumaker P.O. Box 292 Lake City, FL 32056 vicegovernordistrictthree@gmail.com	3 prominent members of the general public
Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award	Encourage and stimulate International relations	District Three and International	1/31/24	District winner is submitted to International for competition in the biennium Convention year.	Awards Chair/ Vice Governor Nancy Schumaker P.O. Box 292 Lake City, FL 32056 vicegovernordistrictthree@gmail.com	3 prominent members of the general public
Outstanding Community Service Award	Demonstrate member commitment to service projects as a Club priority	District Three	1/31/24		Awards Chair/ Vice Governor Nancy Schumaker P.O. Box 292 Lake City, FL 32056 vicegovernordistrictthree@gmail.com	Submissions that meet criteria are recognized
Newsletter Award	Encourage publication of timely and informative club newsletters	District Three	1/31/24	Send 3 consecutive issues from previous calendar year	Awards Chair/ Vice Governor Nancy Schumaker P.O. Box 292 Lake City, FL 32056 vicegovernordistrictthree@gmail.com	3 Prominent members of the general public
Todd Jordan Yearbook Award	Encourage publication of an annual club yearbook	District Three	1/31/24	Send electronic copy of current Club Yearbook in PDF format to Awards Chair.	Awards Chair/ Vice Governor Nancy Schumaker P.O. Box 292 Lake City, FL 32056 vicegovernordistrictthree@gmail.com	Submissions are recognized

Award Name	Description	Level of Award	Due Date	Please note	Send Name/Address to	Judging Committee
Governor's Outstanding Club	Special recognition by the Governor	District Three	2/28/24	Send to Governor	Governor Dimple Overstreet 436 S. Water Street Starke, FL 32091 governordimple@gmail.com	Governor Dimple
Extension Award	Award for chartering new club	District Three	No application required	Determined from District records	Awards Chair/ Vice Governor Nancy Schumaker P.O. Box 292 Lake City, FL 32056 vicegovernordistrictthree@gmail.com	Computed per criteria indicated on application
Myrtice H. Price Membership Award	Encourage Clubs to make membership a high priority	District Three	No application required	Computation obtained from District Treasurer's records as of 1/31/2024	Send membership changes to District Three Treasurer Scott Frieser 13212 Providence Green Ct Charlotte, NC 28277 Districtthreetreasurer@gmail.com	Based on computation from Treasurer
New Member Incentive Award	Credit award to be used toward Conference registration fee	District Three	No application required	Computation obtained from District Treasurer's records as of 1/31/2024	Send membership changes to District Three Treasurer Scott Frieser 13212 Providence Green Ct Charlotte, NC 28277 Districtthreetreasurer@gmail.com	Based on computation from Treasurer
Membership-Greatest Net Gain	Based on membership gains between 2/1 and 1/31 of the previous year	District Three	No application required	Determined from Treasurer records as of 1/31/2024	Send membership changes to District Three Treasurer Scott Frieser 13212 Providence Green Ct Charlotte, NC 28277 Districtthreetreasurer@gmail.com	Based on computation from Treasurer





International Mamie L Bass First Place Award Club Winner

Kitty McElhaney



The Lake City Club won **First Place** for the Mamie L. Bass Service Award with their project, *"Full Tummies, Full Attention: Backpacks of food for Hungry Homeless Students."*

By partnering with community businesses and individuals, Altrusa provides healthy, easy to prepare foods that are kid-friendly to school age children so they will not return to school on Monday hungry and unable to focus. While also making as many as possible aware of the needs of our Homeless Education Initiative. We added some books too- feed the mind!

Approximately 36 weeks during the school year, backpacks are supplied to 40 students. A typical weekend bag is filled with 2 breakfast items, 2 lunch items, 4 snacks (fruit when we can) and 4 drinks (milk, chocolate milk, 100% juice and water). We also attempt to make the items as healthy as possible. Recognizing that the child may not have a way to prepare or even open these items, we provide "pop top" cans with ready-to- eat items. Some three day weekends are included in this schedule. Things we take for granted like toothbrushes, toothpaste, and other self-care items are included annually as well.



Past President Durelle Bailey,
President Rebecca Golden, Lorrie
Wheeler



Kitty McElhaney and Mantha Young



Mantha Young and Kathy Folley



Altrusa of Lake County Florida receives recognition at Convention

By Shannon Schell, Altrusa International of Lake County, Inc., Treasurer

Altrusa of Lake County, FL has many giving hearts and supports great causes. We believe in supporting our District Three Foundation and we maintain a club account with them while also supporting their fundraisers each year. We also support the International Foundation and have remained a Club 21 club member for many years. Both Foundations have great “Grant Funding Programs” that all our clubs can benefit from, we know the funds are well spent.

The International Foundation also gives back through Club 21, scholarship endowments and disaster relief funding, helping many in need. Our club and members designated donations to Club 21, Lamplighter and the 6 for 60 Giving Campaign. We were very surprised and excited to learn at Convention in San Antonio Texas that we were recognized as the second-place recipients in the “Most Raised Per Capita” category in the 6 for 60 Giving Campaign. After the shock wore off, we received a check for \$750 to help us support a service project in our community. We plan to put the funds to good use here in Lake County and are very appreciative of the recognition we received!





Current Membership as of 8/15/2023

Scott Frieser
Treasurer

Club	Paid Members	Emeritus	Lifetime	Total Members
Florida				
1 Citrus County	20			20
2 Gainesville	49	6		55
3 Lake City	77	7		84
4 Lake County	18	1		19
5 Live Oak	25	1		26
6 Marianna	23	1		24
7 Monticello	24	1		25
8 Ocala	27	4		31
9 Orlando-Winter Park	35	1		36
10 St. Augustine	16			16
11 Starke	41	2		43
12 Tampa Bay	8	2		10
Total FL	357	26	0	389

Georgia				
1 Atlanta	6			6
2 North Georgia	33	2		35
3 Statesboro	44	3		47
Total GA	83	5	0	88

North Carolina				
1 Caldwell County	1	1		2
2 Charlotte	21	3		24
3 Gastonia	8	1		9
4 Raleigh	15	1	1	17
5 Salisbury	10			10
6 Waynesville	15			15
Total NC	70	6	1	77

South Carolina				
1 Gaffney	10			10
2 Spartanburg	23	5		28
Total SC	33	5	0	38

Affiliate Virtual Club in Formation	7
Affiliate Members	2
Emeritus No Club Affiliation	1

Report Summary:	
Active Members	556
Emeritus Members	43
Lifetime Members	1
Affiliate Members	2
Total Membership	602



New Members as of 8/15/2023

New Member	Sponsor	Joined
Charlotte		
Christy Stapleton	Josie Frieser	May
Tonya Wiseman	Josie Frieser/Scott Frieser	May
Citrus County		
Susan Deguzman	Beverly Joyer	June
Shari Moore	Angela McCourt	June
April Weliever	Traci Phillips	June
Lake City		
Shivani Mehta	Lori Simpson/Gigi Register	July
Lake County		
Alisha Blake	Anita Valdez/Carol Lukeman	June
Live Oak		
Katrina Quarles	Carol Hingson	June
Christy Tuckey	Denny Tompkins	June
Ashly Waters	Millie Schneider	June
North Georgia		
Katie Stasko	Mary Kirley/Susan Winham	May
Molly Ann Hembree	Julie Ford	June
Ginger (Anna) Smith	Becky Hitch	June
Alison Gigneault	Nancy Simms	June
St. Augustine		
Ann McKenzie	Gloria James/Scott Tice	August
St. Augustine		
Linda Herrera	Chris Mars	June
Christine Martin	Vicki Sellner	June
Statesboro		
Urkovia Andrews	Jodi Kennedy	June
District Three Virtual Club		
Mauricia Buchanan	Emily Pazel	May
Karen Natalie	Mauricia Buchanan	July



Get Acquainted Board Meeting

Amanda Seyfang
Secretary

Let's Get Acquainted!

Your District Three Board of Directors gathered to “get acquainted” on July 28-29th in Starke, Florida: home of our current Governor! Since this is a newly elected board, it was nice having this meeting to not only go through expectations and processes, but also resources and learning more about each other. Although this was a great time had by all in attendance, it wasn't just fun and fellowship. The Board met the evening of July 28th and got straight to work. Five Emeritus-status requests were ratified, and Director Tice reviewed the 2023 Conference Audit report, and it was approved by the board. We then closed business for the evening and gathered at the Downtown Grill for fellowship. We learned more about each other's respective clubs, and learned some local history from our District Governor, Dimple Overstreet.

Your Board reconvened Saturday morning and dove straight into the numbers. Treasurer Frieser joined us via Zoom and gave the Treasurer's Report. Before we finished, Parliamentarian McElhaney gave us a fun personality test which helped us learn our different work styles and how to work best together. The location of the Mid-Year Board meeting was confirmed to be held on Oct. 13-14, in Atlanta, then the Governor adjourned with the Altrusa Benediction.



L-R back Row: Scott Frieser, Treasurer; Amanda Seyfang, Secretary; Anita Ashworth, Director; Roberta Klusmeier, Director; Kitty McElhaney, Parliamentarian; Scott Tice, Director. Front Row: Mantha Young, Governor-Elect; Governor Dimple Overstreet, Nancy Shumaker, Vice Governor



ALTRUSA DISTRICT THREE FOUNDATION



Joanne Brown
Chair

Getting to Know You ...

Getting to know all about your new District Three Foundation Board.

The District Three Foundation Board had their pre-conference meeting in Jacksonville to wrap up business for the year and prepare for two new members. Your foundation board for 2023-2025 is as follows.

Chair - Joanne Brown—Altrusa International of Monticello, FL. Joanne lives on a farm with her husband, 3 horses, 2 camels, 2 donkeys, 3 cats and 2 Labrador Retrievers. Her outside Altrusa activities include horseback riding, kayaking, travel and participating in her church's living nativity with her camels Jeremiah and Amazing Grace. "I am so honored to be able to serve the District as Chair of the Foundation and look forward to the coming year."

Vice Chair - Penny Penn—Altrusa International of North Georgia, GA. Penny lives in Cumming, Georgia and has served as District Attorney for Forsyth County since 2003. "I joined the North Georgia club in 2006. I'm also a Rotarian, avid shopper and novice cornhole player. I'm honored to serve as a Foundation Trustee for the second year."



Treasurer - Dawn Manville—Altrusa International of Lake County, FL. Dawn grew up in upstate NY, attended college in MD and now lives in Leesburg, FL with husband Dan, daughter Danae and German pinscher, Kira. "I own and have operated a tax practice for 27 years now. I enjoy reading and traveling and am honored to lend my accounting skills to our Foundation."

Secretary - Vicki Sellner—Altrusa International of St. Augustine FL. Vicki believes in the Foundation's goal of "building a better community through promoting the growth of the Foundation and District Projects by opening dialog and cooperation with other civic groups to achieve common goals. She brings enthusiasm, creativity, leadership and loyalty to the District Three Foundation.



Trustee - Yolander Hunter—Altrusa International of Charlotte, NC. Yolander is an avid photographer, who loves travel and foreign language. Her current language is Japanese which highly motivated a recent trip to Japan. A recently retired technical project manager and a 21-year member of Altrusa International of Charlotte, Yolander is currently the Club's co-president. She resides in Charlotte with her husband and is the parent of two adult children.

District Liaison - Mantha Young—Altrusa International of Starke, FL. Mantha has been a Past District Three Foundation Board Member and Chair, and oversaw the distribution of awards and grants to support local initiatives. She has also served as the District Three Secretary, Vice Governor, and is currently honored to be Governor-Elect. In her professional life, she is a Partner in MACMedia Services, a digital and print company. She is married to Rick and they have three wonderful children who have given them the gift of 14 grandchildren.



Past Chair - Martha Epps—Altrusa International of Starke, FL. Martha retired in 2006 from nursing after forty years, with her last sixteen in administration. She is a charter member of her Altrusa Club and remains active. She enjoys reading and caring for her little dog, Jack. Many thanks to Martha for her assistance as she stepped down as Chair. She has passed on her knowledge and experience so the transition has been smooth.



INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION GRANTS

Martin Houston
Int'l Foundation
Representative

At the Altrusa International Convention in San Antonio, Texas, Karen Robinson of District Three's Tampa Bay, FL club was announced to be the new International Foundation Chair, along with four new Foundation Trustees. Congratulations to Karen and to our new International President, Linda Smith from the Salina, KS club. Congratulations too to Colleen Duris from the Ocala, FL club for becoming the 2023-2025 International Nominating Committee Chair.

The International Foundation has many programs that Altrusans and Clubs can donate to. To list a few, there is the "6 for 60" Campaign, Club 21, and Lamplighters. So go to the website – <https://foundation.altrusa.org/> and donate! The Foundation appreciates all donations. The generous donations given by Altrusans have allowed the Foundation to award over \$780,000 in grants, awards, relief aid, and scholarships during the 2021-2023 biennium.

Don't forget the next application deadline for clubs to submit for International Foundation project grants is September 15, 2023 and then again on March 15, 2024. Guidelines and forms can be found on the website at <https://foundation.altrusa.org/grants-programs-and-awards/>.

Remember the International office has moved, along with the Foundation personnel, and the new address is 1400 E. Touhy Avenue, Suite 410, Des Plaines, IL 60018.

I hope to see everyone at the District Three Conference in Atlanta next April.





ASTRA



Kitty McElhaney
ASTRA Chair

Interested in expanding your club's capacity to *Build a Better Community*? Consider starting an ASTRA Club in your area. Complete information on ASTRA is located at <https://astra.altrusa.org/>. You would be working with the ASTRA Club policies established by Altrusa International. ASTRA Clubs can be sponsored in a:

- Middle School
- High School
- Home School
- Vocational School/Occupational Center
- Community College
- College / University
- As a Community club on its own -- ASTRA Club of Any town

You must be prepared to be flexible in also following and establishing guidelines set by a school as long as they are not in conflict with the Bylaws and Policies of Altrusa International, Inc. An important factor to consider if you are looking at starting a club in a school situation is to have a contact person or advocate within the institution to guide and assist you through their system.

ASTRA service projects can receive financial resources via the following :

ASTRA Clubs are eligible for Altrusa International Foundation Grants to fund their community service projects requesting up to \$4,000 for one service grant per year. Information can be located at: www.foundation.altrusa.org

ASTRA Clubs chartered September 1, 2019 or later may receive a one-time grant up to \$2,000 to begin service in their communities. The grant recipient is obligated to use the grant award for the intended purpose and must file a report within one year after the grant is awarded. Applications must be received within one year of the charter date.

The District Three "KM ASTRA Grant Fund" was created in 2021 in honor of Governor Kitty McElhaney to provide District Three ASTRA Clubs a source of funding for service projects. All District Three ASTRA Clubs are eligible to complete an application requesting up to \$150 annually until all funds are depleted. The form can be located at <https://districtthree.altrusa.org/about/forms/>

For more information about ASTRA please contact Kitty McElhaney, District Three ASTRA Committee Chair at kittyaltrusa@gmail.com



CLUB REVITALIZATION GRANTS

Gale Trotter
Chair

First of all, my hat is off to the clubs that are growing and maintaining the 15 members as required for charter strength. Dimple asked me to help with the clubs that are under charter and lucky for us, there is a plan to help these six clubs grow.

All under charter strength clubs in District Three may submit a Club Revitalization grant proposal for consideration by the Board of Directors of Altrusa International District Three, Inc. Funds provided by the grant may be used in a variety of ways to benefit each club as it sees fit for printing brochures and invitations to recruitment events, postage, ads in local media, the purchase of Altrusa membership kits, pins, etc. Clubs are encouraged to define their needs and decide on a plan of action to grow their membership.

Letters and copies of the application and grant guidelines have been emailed to the presidents of current under charter strength clubs to advise them of the grants and to encourage them to submit grant applications.

These applications are due from the club president by September 1, 2023. They can be emailed to galetrotter@gmail.com or sent to Gale Trotter, 10239 SW 80th Place, Hampton, Florida 32044.





DISTRICT THREE VIRTUAL CLUB

Emily Pazel
Virtual Club President

After attending District Three's 70th Annual Conference, I am overwhelmed with a sense of gratitude for the opportunity to connect with so many outstanding individuals and receive an outpouring of support for the Virtual Club from across the district. It was truly an unforgettable experience.

As we move forward into this next year, I am hopeful and excited to see our Virtual Club continue to blossom and grow. The possibilities for online engagement are endless, and I am confident that we will continue to create meaningful connections and lasting friendships. I would also like to call on you – our extraordinary Altrusans – to help act as ambassadors for our Virtual Club. If you know someone that would be a good fit, please feel free to share my contact information, as I would be more than delighted for them to join.

Being a part of the Virtual Club is an excellent experience for anyone looking to join. Plus, you don't have to leave your local club to join – you can do both clubs at the same time!

Here are a few reasons that might make you want "Zoom" with us:

- * You can join virtually from anywhere around the country; this also means if you move to an area that doesn't have a local club, you can always join virtually.
- * Members participate in community service locally based on passions related to literacy, women and children, homelessness, or other areas of need, as well as engage in any international service projects the club may identify.
- * There are more opportunities to get program speakers that aren't location specific.
- * Club members have more flexibility on when and how often to meet.
- * Being virtual means most communications and documentation are provided electronically.
- * An Altrusan who is a "Primary Member" of a local "land-based" club can be a "Non-Primary Member" of the Virtual Club at the same time and only pay local dues to the Virtual Club.
- * There are no meal expenses, which means the Virtual Club offers an affordable option.

At the end of the day, it's all about giving back to the community, growing and fostering relationships professionally, as well as making friendships beyond borders. If you or someone you know might be interested in joining the District Three Virtual Club, please contact me at emilypazel@gmail.com or altrusavirtualclubdistrict3@gmail.com.





2024 DISTRICT THREE CONFERENCE

If you were not able to attend conference, please watch the 'Call to Conference' video at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vqUH_xTVUp_J8i14gl8Jhl_QcK8vSj6a/view?usp=sharing

which revealed the theme and invited everyone to Atlanta next year, but we all know we respond better to a personal invitation ...

SO,

You, yes you, and you, and YOU!!

You're invited to conference!!!!

The theme is

"Simply Stellar- Altrusans Shine through Service".

We are going to highlight our service but also have some fun with the Stellar part.

Throughout the next year, we will be sending messages to club presidents and posting information in the DSB with requests to provide some information or to pass along a message to club members relating to the theme.

Your first assignment, should you decide to accept it... Start thinking about a costume for our Inter-galactic masquerade event (think the Miss Solar System pageant from the Jetsons <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0949054/>) that will be our Friday Fun Night. We wanted to put this out now so you will have time to (1) think of a costume and (2) shop the Halloween decorations and ideas that will be hitting the shelves soon. You never know what will spark an idea.

Mary Kirley and Dee Dugger are the co-chairs for the conference, but they can't do it by themselves. Many hands make light work. We are looking for clubs or individuals to help by being meal hosts (providing table decorations) and to help us find vendors. This year we had 15 vendors and hope to have the same number, if not more, next year

If you live in the Atlanta area, keep an eye out for potential vendors when you go to craft fairs, holiday bazaars, etc. through the summer and fall. Once you identify a potential vendor, get their business information.

If you want to help with conference, please email Colleen Duris at cmdaltrusa@gmail.com

Hope to see you in Atlanta next year.

Mary Kirley and Dee Dugger, conference co-chairs

Contact information:

Mary Kirley justbreathe@bellsouthnet

Dee Dugger ladydragonfly54@gmail.com



"Simply Stellar—Altrusans Shine through Service"

71st District Three Conference

April 25-27, 2024

Atlanta, GA



Jane Gray
BRR Committee

INTERNATIONAL BRR ADOPTIONS IMPACTING CLUB BY-LAWS

Actions That Changed the District and Club Bylaws

Bylaw changes at Convention can be significant and result in lengthy discussion at the Business meetings. While there were a couple of changes at the 2023 Convention that have changed International, District and Club processes, the discussion was productive and essentially makes them clearer and more consistent in their order within the affected Article. Thank you to our District Three Champs, Colleen Duris, International Parliamentarian, for her work in preparing the amendments and Donna Johnson, Past International President, for presenting the amendments at the business meeting.



INTERNATIONAL

The first amendment was to Article X, Section 1 by adding the United Nations as a Standing Committee of Altrusa International. It was adopted unanimously. There was a small increase to the budget for the United Nations Chair and the current BRR Committee Chair.

The next amendment to Article VI added the phrase “or a Special Meeting” after the word “Convention” in Section 6 and 7 and clarified the way special meetings to Convention would be handled. They were found by the BRR Committee and Colleen to be inconsistent in order of presentation. Changing the order made them easier to follow. Everyone agreed and the amendments passed unanimously.

DISTRICT

For District meetings, Article VI was further amended. The result of the Convention vote was as follows: Section 5 of Article VI was renumbered as Section 2. Section 2 was renumbered as Section 4. Previous Section 4 was renumbered as Section 5 and deletes “Conference” at the end of the sentence and substitutes “Special Meeting”. Section 6 covers what constitutes a Quorum at Conference and now reads: A majority of the members registered at a Conference *or Special Meeting* who are entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum. The majority vote of the members at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the members of the District, except as to amendments of these Bylaws, which are covered by Article XVII, Section 1 *and except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws*. Section 7 regarding members entitled to vote adds “or at a Special Meeting” to the end of the first sentence.

CLUB

The amendments to Article VII were also directed at clarifying the meetings of Clubs. The debate centered around the differences among our clubs as to when they hold their annual meetings. They range from April to September! The proposed amendment would have moved Section 3 to Section 1 and read:

Section 1. Annual

The annual meeting shall be designated by the Board of Directors and shall be one of the regular meetings in June of each year. After discussion, the vote was almost unanimous to simply end the sentence at “Directors”. The remaining effect of the amendment was to renumber the remaining sections appropriately after Sec. 3 moved to 1.

If any member has questions about these amendments or our existing Bylaws, please feel free to contact me.



Dee Duggar
Service Development Chair

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

Did you hold the door for someone, allow a car to merge ahead of you in traffic or smile at someone as you passed each other? If so, you made a difference in someone's life.

Time to start thinking about your "Make a Difference Day" service project. Traditionally they are usually held in October, but you can schedule yours for a time that works best for your club.

"Make a Difference Day" projects are usually small projects that can be accomplished in a single day or meeting. You can schedule a food collection for your local food bank or maybe diapers and baby items to be donated to a clinic that serves lower income families. Look around your community, opportunities abound.

Once you select your project, be sure to take pictures. Then when you have completed your project, someone in your club needs to write a short article and send it to Dimple (her email is at the end of this DSB) to be published in the next DSB. Remember one of the categories for the Governor's award is to send in two (2) articles per year to DSB.

We have been challenged by our new International President, Linda Smith, for each member to do 1 random act of kindness per week. That would equal 300,000 acts of kindness per year.

In this biennium, we will continue to support Days for Girls. Go to <https://www.daysforgirls.org> to find a center or click on the WAYS TO GIVE tab. In addition, the Million Book challenge is continuing. Keep track of books and literacy service hours.

As a last note, we have been charged by the 2023 conference co-chairs to do an environmental service project.

Altrusa International and our District Three web pages are both excellent resources for information about service projects. On the Altrusa International web page, you will need to sign in using the universal sign on/ password and then click on SERVICE tab for more information.

Helpful web sites:

Altrusa International [Altrusa.org](https://www.altrusa.org)

District Three <https://districtthree.altrusa.org>

Days for Girls <https://www.daysforgirls.org>

Please contact me at ladydragonfly54@gmail.com if I can be of further assistance.



MAKE A
DIFFERENCE DAY

NATIONAL DAY OF DOING GOOD



INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION 2023 REPORTS

By Mantha Young, Altrusa International of Lake City, FL & Governor-Elect, District Three

The recent Altrusa International Convention in San Antonio, Texas, was a remarkable gathering that brought together Altrusans from diverse backgrounds! The event was a true blend of camaraderie, inspiration, and learning. All Altrusans immensely enjoyed the opportunity to connect with fellow Altrusans, exchange ideas about novel service projects, and draw motivation from impactful speakers. And the speakers were amazing!

Amidst the historic charm of San Antonio (I so fell in LOVE with this city), the captivating Riverwalk and Alamo left a lasting impression. The city's rich history (and who knew this?), including the ingenious invention of the flour tortilla to accommodate German preferences, further enriched the experience.

With the newly-elected International President, Linda Smith, advocating for weekly random acts of kindness, the convention instilled a sense of purpose. Let's give a HUGE shout-out to our own District Three Altrusans! YAY! Kitty McElhaney of Lake City, FL, and Karen Robinson of Tampa Bay were elected Vice-President and Foundation Representative, respectively, promising a dynamic future for Altrusa International.

Altrusa Hugs to all and put Quebec on your radar for 2025!

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION 2023 REPORTS



By Yvette Pue, President Altrusa International of Orlando-Winter Park, FL

As an attendee and delegate at the 2023 International Convention in San Antonio, Texas, I have to echo the saying on the front of our Convention booklet....Viva Altrusa!!!!

Simply put, I had a fabulous time at Convention and much as I'd like to pick one special moment, there's not just one thing that made Convention so wonderful, it was a mixture of many things.

First off, major kudo's to Convention Co-Chairs Beverly Luedke and Sharon Tramonte who led an amazing team to develop a Convention full of inspirational and motivational Guest Speakers, educational and informative Workshops, delectable cuisine and amazing entertainment.

Due to scheduling conflicts, I ended up flying solo from my club at the conference but instead of being on my own, I was embraced by fellow District Three Altrusans and always had a buddy with me to enjoy all aspects of the Convention. I really enjoyed getting to know my fellow District Three Altrusans a little more, finally putting faces with names and positions and understanding the workings not only of District Three but Altrusa International just a bit more.

Our guest speakers were all fabulous. Each one brought new ideas and thoughts of new projects and ways to grow our clubs and energized me to want to go back to my Orlando-Winter Park chapter with new ideas and a renewed drive toward Service through Altrusa. I picked up tidbits of information from each speaker that I've already incorporated into my daily life and despite his appalling lack of appreciation of the music of one of my favorite musicians, Barry Manilow, I especially enjoyed Kent Julian's presentation. I had the opportunity just a few weeks ago to share his E+R=O (Event+ Response = Outcome) with my 22 year old nephew who graduated college last spring and recently joined the workforce. He was telling me about his frustration with things happening to him at work and I shared that how he responded to those things gave him more control of the outcome and he found it very interesting....thanks Kent Julian.

Continued next page...

I can't say enough great things about the workshops I attended. The presenters were knowledgeable, engaging and made each session fun. If the others were as exciting as the workshops I attended, all I can say is a big thank you to those presenters who put in the time before and during Convention to ensure our workshops were informational and fun.

What to say about the Business Sessions? Wow, crazy and well organized come to mind. The prep work that went into these sessions had to be immense and they were executed quite well SHOUT OUT to Parliamentarian Colleen Duris, from our own District Three who kept us on the straight and narrow throughout all of the Convention but especially during our side trip into changes in the BRR about just when we should have our Annual Meeting each year. When discussions got convoluted with amendments to amendments to changes, Colleen kept us organized and moving forward toward resolution.

The meals were fabulous with a wonderful selection of local cuisine with wonderful desserts because let's face it, Stressed spelled backwards is Desserts...coincidence? I think NOT. The table decorations were festive and really set the mood for the Convention. And let's not forget the amazing all female Mariachi Band as well as the dancers who entertained us before and during the Installation Banquet. Both groups were so talented and full of energy and provided amazing entertainment for everyone.

Let's not forget the amazing vendors who provided us with a wide variety of wonderful merchandise....yep....I did some shopping with them. Also, the surrounding Riverwalk provided for lots of fun and sightseeing during our down time with great food to boot. And while taking a boat ride on the riverwalk was great fun, let me just say, thank goodness for air conditioning....it was really hot in Texas in July.

The Convention ended with smiles and tears as we said a big thank you to the 2021-2023 International Board of Directors and welcomed in the new 2023-2025 Board. I'm so excited to see the next set of International leaders in action. After all, our new International President Linda Smith is from Salina, Kansas and I'm a Kansas girl born and bred....

Conventions and District Conferences are a great opportunity to meet and fellowship with Altrusans outside our home chapters. This was my second Convention since joining in 2015 and I'm so excited for the next one. Quebec Canada, 2025... CAN'T WAIT!!!!

Newly Installed Altrusa International Board of Directors



First row: Bettina Schempf, Treasurer; Kitty McIlhaney, Vice President; Linda Smith, President, Christine DeVlieger, President-Elect; Kathy Folley, Immediate Past President; Back row: Pat Woodward, JD, Legal Advisor; Melinda Aguirre, Director; Penny Daugherty, Director; David Mena, Executive Director, Linda Ring, Director; Ileana Pacheco Morales, Director, Colleen Duris, Parliamentarian.



Installation ceremony of our own Kitty McIlhaney, International Vice President



INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Linda Smith
Altrusa International
President
2023-2025

Greetings District Altrusans,

I am excited to embark with all of you on this new Altrusa International biennium. With the theme – **Altrusans R.O.C.K. – Realize Opportunity, Create Kindness** we are off to a wonderful start.

The Convention in San Antonio was fabulous. It was so great to meet so many of you there and I look forward to working with all of you to make this a great biennium.

In addition to our International project of “Days for Girls”, we will focus on two other initiatives. We will continue the Literacy Challenge of **one million books donated during the biennium, and 500,000 million literacy service hours**. I know that together we can achieve this goal. As in the past biennium, please report your book donations and hours on the service page of the Altrusa International website.

A new initiative is **Intentional Acts of Kindness**. Motivated by Wyatt, who gave us kindness stars at the Charlotte Convention, I am asking each Altrusan to commit one **intentional** act of kindness each week of the biennium. The acts can be simple or complicated – you choose. Meeting this challenge will result in over 300,000 intentional acts of kindness each year of the biennium.

Together we will accomplish great things and I look forward to seeing everyone's progress.
And now let's **R.O.C.K.!**

Linda K. Smith
President, Altrusa International, Inc.



CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS and NEWS

By Yolander Hunter and Jeraldyn Rivest, Co-Presidents of the Altrusa International of Charlotte, NC



Our Altrusa International Club of Charlotte, NC Inc. is excited to be supporting the **One Million Book Service Challenge** through our partnership with the Charlotte based **Promising Pages**.

Eric Law, the Executive Director from Promising Pages, spoke to our club at our August Monthly Meeting and shared, "All children need books in their homes in order to grow academically, but there are an estimated 60,000 children in the Charlotte area living in a book desert." We've heard of food deserts where individuals are unable to find nutritious foods and vegetables in their neighborhoods. A book desert was a new term for us. The situation is dire. We were aware that home libraries are often seen as a luxury for children and families in these underrepresented communities. We were not aware of the map which clearly defines the book desert areas. "Promising Pages collects new and donated books and distributes them to students and organizations, with the goal of eliminating the book desert and providing a free resource to those that need it most."

The club is in the planning stages for our month-long book drive to coincide with **Make-a-Difference Day** in October. We are identifying locations like fall festivals, green areas (areas where books are plentiful) and local businesses where we will have the opportunity to place collection bins and spread the word throughout the community. We will eagerly provide an update in the next DSB, but wanted to share what we have learned about www.promising-pages.org.

If you are interested in finding out more about Promising Pages and their involvement in the [National Book Access Association](#), the [About page](#) on that site includes a map of book distribution organizations across the country if you are looking to connect with these organizations.



National Book Access Association

CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS and NEWS

By Carolyn Harrell, Altrusa International of Gainesville, FL

Gainesville Altrusa is Truly International

A year ago in September 2022, one of our Altrusans, with a good friend, Lyuba, from Ukraine, began collecting clothing and other requested items to send to a population traumatized and displaced by war. During the year, that benevolence grew from one member's efforts to a club outreach overseen by our International Committee. It even became a city-wide endeavor because of several reasons:

We had just voted to discontinue our popular fundraiser, Trading Closets, and many of our faithful donators had closets full of shoes and clothing for Altrusa. Thousands of wonderful items including leather coats, fur coats, boots, hats, gloves, warm and beautiful clothing poured in and Altrusans helped sort, weigh, label items and pack boxes. Prep for shipping is an arduous task, but Lyuba guided us and fed us Ukrainian snacks as the project grew and grew.

As Lyuba was familiar with her country and has family and friends there she could direct donations to some specific orphanages, improvised campsites, churches, and other agencies in Ukraine helping the effort. We met needs as they arose. Little flashlights helped calm frightened orphans. Dried meat and fruit, and especially peanut butter was tucked into boxes of clothes. Soldiers needed soft tee shirts and we had hundreds and hundreds for them.

Bandages and medical supplies were donated by community members and groups with Altrusan friends. Whatever was needed seemed to appear and thank-you letters and photos began coming to Lyuba who translated and shared them with us. Our club is now connected to and captivated by these brave, creative and kind Ukrainians. International Committee's upcoming community fundraiser will be an upscale dinner featuring Ukrainian dishes prepared by the committee (with much help from Lyuba) and money raised will go to the war (and hopefully soon recovery) effort.



Top l to r: children with some of their gifts. Some international committee members with Lyuba after a planning session, relief in winter. Sorting and organizing,

CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS and NEWS

By Helen McDavid, Altrusa International of Ocala, FL

Take a Book, Share a Book

Altrusa International of Ocala is the proud sponsor of eight Little Free Libraries throughout Marion County. A Free Little Library provides access to books and inspires readers. Our first LFL was installed in 2017 at the Boys and Girls club. Since then, Little Free Libraries have been installed at Brick City Adventure Park, Liberty Community Park, PACE Center for Girls, the Domestic Violence Center, the Early Learning Coalition, and two residential sites: one for homeless veterans and one for veterans and their families. Currently, we are searching for the site for our ninth Little Free Library. To date, we have placed over 500 quality books into our community.

Pictured below left to right: Elaine Goodelle, Debbie Catabia, Miranda Barrineau, and Brenda Ford at Brick City Adventure Park



Pictured below: Nancy Jones and T.J. Bright at the Domestic Violence Center



CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS and NEWS

By Yvette Pue, Altrusa International of Orlando-Winter Park, FL

Backpacks, Books and Birthdays....Oh My....



L-R: Army National Guard Volunteer Antonio Lopez-Peres, Altrusa Orlando-Winter Park Volunteers Dawn Jones, Connie Reuter, Sharon Blanke, Operation Homefront Coordinator Tatum Borges finish stuffing backpacks in preparation for handout to Military Families.

Altrusans from the Orlando-Winter Park club gathered at a local Orlando National Guard Armory on July 27th as part of the Back to School Brigade to help with start of school preparation for military kids in the Orlando and surrounding areas.

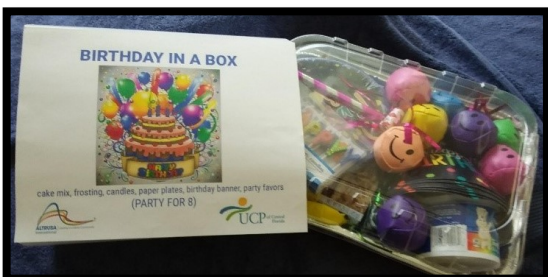
As part of a multi-year ongoing cooperative project with Operation Homefront, several Altrusans sorted school supplies collected from various local Dollar Tree stores then stuffed 120 backpacks for elementary, middle and high school students from military families.

On Saturday, July 29th, they were back at it again, this time helping hand out backpacks to the families and students. In addition to the donated school supplies, Altrusans also brought a variety of activity books spanning elementary, middle and high school levels for the students to pick for themselves. There were lots of smiles and excitement as the students explored the “goodies” in their backpacks and picked activities books that interested them the most.

The Altrusans were also able to distribute many of the remaining school supplies to Orange and Seminole county organizations that provide them to teachers to help supplement supplies in the classroom for the 2023-2024 school year.



Back to school kids pick from a selection of school activity books provided by donations from Altrusa Orlando-Winter Park members.



providing “Birthday in a Box” packages to all 8 schools on an annual basis.

At the end of the backpack stuffing activities on Thursday, Altrusans also put together 16 “Birthday in a Box” packages and delivered them to the United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of Central Florida schools. UCP of Central Florida operates eight special schools focused on creating an inclusive environment where children with and without disabilities learn in the same classroom support from a cadre of instructional and medical professionals. The Orlando-Winter Park club has a close working relationship with UCP and during a tour of one of the schools an idea evolved to supplement their existing food pantry system with birthday party supplies for families who might not otherwise be able to afford them. An Altrusa grant helped start the program which is now funded in the club’s operating budget annually,

CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS and NEWS

By Donna Kelly, Altrusa Club of Raleigh, NC



One of the most meaningful hands-on projects that Altrusa of Raleigh provides is serving a meal to homeless women housed at the Helen Wright Center (HWC). We have participated in this effort for over 30 years, ever since it was known as The Ark Shelter, located on Cabarrus Street in downtown Raleigh. In 2001, it was renamed in honor of Sister Helen Wright, the agency's first director. On Tuesday, August 1, six members served a meal at the HWC, which opened in 2020. Our partner from Highland United Methodist Church, Barbara Knight, provided all of the beverages and homemade desserts.

From left to right, preparing the food for serving: Rana Van Name, Dolores Hall, Jane Schwartz, Phyllis Thomas, and Donna Kelly. Meatloaf and pasta salad were in the styrofoam coolers.

We altered our menu slightly from what we have been serving for many years. Instead of corn pudding, Jane Gray and Dolores made HUGE amounts of delicious pasta salad, which was very popular. Because there are usually a few vegetarians we offered both seasoned and unseasoned lima beans.



From left to right, in the kitchen: Dolores Hall, Phyllis Thomas, Rana Van Name, Jane Gray, Jane Schwartz, and Barbara Knight begin preparing plates for the HWC dinner on August 1.



We fed 58 women, many of which came up and told us how much they enjoyed the food and thanked us profusely. We had enough food so that any who wanted seconds could have them. The homemade desserts were definitely a hit.

From left to right, behind the serving line: Phyllis Thomas, Jane Schwartz, Rana Van Name, and Dolores Hall. The plates were very colorful, with meatloaf, lima beans, pasta salad, and a roll.

CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS and NEWS

By Cheryl Canova/Sarah Long , Altrusa Club of Starke, FL

Altrusa International of Starke, Florida is off to a good start for the new year. While we are eagerly preparing for our annual Gala to fund all service projects for the year, we have been blessed to secure several grants supporting literacy and education in our county. Our educators have committed themselves to “Breaking Barriers” and accomplishing things never done before in Bradford County schools.

In early 2023, we applied for a grant with Clay Electric and received \$10,000 to support a literacy project for the three elementary public schools in Bradford County. The program started in the Fall, but they needed additional funding to complete the year. The program is called UFLI (pronounced "You Fly") and it is an explicit and systematic program that was created by a team at the University of Florida for children in kindergarten through 2nd grades. Bradford schools saw a significant drop in reading scores after kindergarten in both 1st and 2nd grades, and the UFLI program seemed to be a good solution to help with the problem. Teachers are provided with detailed, but easy to follow lessons for students to become good readers. This program engages both the reader and the teacher, and UF sends students over to help in each school. Results for this school year showed significant improvement in reading scores and is being continued in the schools again this year. Our Altrusa members are delighted to be able to support this new literacy program.



(L-R) Cheryl Canova, Sarah Long, Asst. Superintendent Karen Clarke, Teresa Phillips, and Amanda Seyfang presenting \$10,000 to support UFLI literacy program.

In April, we applied for another grant from our local Capital City Bank. We were awarded a \$1,000 grant in May to help Bradford High School with the start of their new Cambridge program. This program helps students to achieve an AA degree at the same time they graduate from high school, and it increases the number of students that achieve the Bright Futures status that pays for their continued college courses required to achieve a Bachelor's degree. Our members are looking forward to supporting and hearing about the progress of this program during the 2023-2024 school year.

In addition, we received an International Altrusa Foundation grant for \$4,000, with a club support of \$1,000 focused on STEM for two of our elementary schools that are going into their third year of offering this program. The funds provided several Lego projects for Lawtey Elementary, our smallest school, and a moving lab for Starke Elementary, which can be used in different classrooms as needed and will be used in their outdoor gardens that each class has in and around their school. The equipment has been ordered and should be in by very soon.

Our Altrusa members are looking forward to learning more about these programs, their progress, and other ways we can be involved in the future... along with reapplying for these grant opportunities again in the future!!

In April, we applied for another grant from our local Capital City Bank. We were awarded a \$1,000 grant in May to help Bradford High School with the



(L-R) Rachel Rhoden, Teresa Phillips, Sarah Long, High School Principal Christopher Coffey, Sylvia Tatum, Amanda Seyfang and Cheryl Canova presenting \$1,000 to support the new Cambridge program.



CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS and NEWS

By Mary Millar, Altrusa of Waynesville, NC

Growing with Scholarships

Our main event for the fiscal year '22/'23 was an outdoor concert with Balsam Range and the Jeff Little Trio. Before COVID, we had been supporting our scholarship foundation (for over 30 years) with “Soup and Cornbread” – a day in January where we served homemade soups with cornbread and desserts made by members all day! Let’s just say moving from cooking to planning a concert was a giant leap for this club. We knew nothing about producing a show. Our stroke of luck was that the Town of Canton agreed to co-sponsor this event and they had lots of experience.



Balsam Range, a “local” bluegrass group, known internationally for their grammy-winning songs

It turns out that this project was a definite challenge for a club of 17 women but probably the most rewarding of any project we have ever tried. It took 100% participation from the group which helped us all to grow in Altrusa. Our group has always been rather close knit but this bonded us in ways as never before. As a result of all the hard work and bonding, we met our goal of growing the foundation funds exponentially.

Another form of growth that we experienced was the exposure of Altrusa to a whole new group of people. The word “Altrusa” was new to a number of people in both the town of Canton and with the bluegrass fans. That has now changed and Altrusa is far better known in our community.

And local businesses providing sponsorships were amazing with their support for this event!

To say we are ecstatic with the growth of the scholarship foundation funds, our club bonding and exposure to the community is an understatement. Altrusa “rocks”!



Jenny Martin, Altrusa Waynesville Director, helps check in advance ticket buyers at the gate.



Altrusa Waynesville VP Kim Ferguson, and one of our main sponsors, helping to direct “traffic” on “the day”. And yes, she smiled the whole time!