

DISTRICT THREE SERVICE BULLETIN

FLORIDA GEORGIA NORTH CAROLINA SOUTH CAROLINA

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Governor's Message

With the month of November, we would be thinking about Thanksgiving. Hurricane Helene's visit with the rain, wind, and tornadoes it's hard to move forward. Then soon after Hurricane Helene we had Hurricane Milton. We say to ourselves, how can we move forward? We as Altrusans are survivors, we are here to help each other. I'm proud to be a part of an organization that cares and steps up to the plate to do what is needed. Our District has an opportunity to request for disaster relief funds from International Foundation to support a specific need or provide funding to an agency to enhance overall first responder efforts. This application requires the Governor's approval and is then forwarded to the International Foundation office for review by the Board of Trustees. An application for the Waynesville, NC club has been submitted. Approximately 62,000 people have been affected by Hurricane Helene.

Altrusa, in the very derivation of its name, is committed to the philosophy of unselfishness, the joy of giving rather than getting, and to the search for that happiness which is based upon spiritual worthiness. Principles of Altrusa # 4.

With much love and prayers,

Dimple



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





District Three Awards

By Nancy Shumaker, Vice Governor

How time flies! Don't let your club miss out on the opportunity to showcase all the great service projects and events you are conducting. Your members deserve that recognition, and other clubs can learn from your efforts. All of us in District Three benefit as we share with one another about our service, fund-raising, and social outreach programs.

Begin planning your applications for the 2025 District Three and International awards now!

Identify a project.

Select the appropriate award according to the award criteria.

Study the judging criteria and score sheet to make sure your application covers everything indicated.

Complete the application (provide pictures if available).

Make sure the application is signed by your club president.

Submit the application by the January 31, 2025, deadline to the Vice Governor at:vicegovernordistrictthree@gmail.com

Updated District Three Awards applications are available on the District Three website:

<https://districtthree.altrusa.org/district-three-awards/>

If you cannot access the applications or have any questions or concerns, please email me at above address.

Let's all meet in Cherokee, North Carolina, in April to help each other Elevate and Innovate!





Membership Report as of October 15, 2024

By Scott Frieser, Treasurer

Club	Paid Members	Emeritus	Lifetime	Total Members
Florida				
1 Citrus County	16			16
2 Gainesville	48	7		55
3 Lake City	85	7		92
4 Lake County	24			24
5 Live Oak	29	1		30
6 Marianna	27			27
7 Monticello	24	2		26
8 Ocala	30	4		34
9 Orlando-Winter Park	37	1		38
10 St. Augustine	15			15
11 Starke	40	2	1	43
Total FL	375	24	1	400
Georgia				
1 Atlanta	5			5
2 North Georgia	36	3		39
3 Statesboro	46	4		50
Total GA	87	7	0	94
North Carolina				
1 Charlotte	20	2		22
2 Gastonia	10	1		11
3 Raleigh	15	1	1	17
4 Salisbury	7	1		8
5 Waynesville	18			18
Total NC	70	5	1	76
South Carolina				
1 Gaffney	1			1
2 Spartanburg	29	3		32
Total SC	30	3	0	33
Report Summary:				
Affiliate Virtual Club - Charterer	12			Active Members 574
Affiliate Members	1			Emeritus Members 42
Emeritus No Club Affiliation	3			Lifetime Members 2
				Affiliate Members 1
				Total Membership 619



New Member Report as of Aug 15-Oct 15, 2024

By Scott Frieser, Treasurer

New Member	Sponsor	Joined
Gainesville		
Marcia Utz	Bennye Alligood/Dee Dugger	Sept
Diane Yang	Kimberly Browne	Sept
Lake County		
Rosita Nobles	Anita Valdez/Carol Lukeman	Aug
Zorayda Gallardo	Sandi Moore/Anita Valdez	Sept
Live Oak		
Edwina Woods	Joyce Davis/Carol Hingson	Sept
Marianna		
Sabrina Williams	Jay James	Sept
Melissa Sims	Ann Jones	Sept
North Georgia		
Carmen Smith	Julie Ford/Becky Hitch	Oct
Orlando-Winter Park		
Jackie DelloRusso	Roberta Klusmeier	Sept
Robin Schoen	Michelle Cuomo	Sept
Spartanburg		
Debbie Jenkins	Carole Khoury	Sept



District Foundation Treasurer Report/1

By Dawn Mainville Treasurer

ASSETS					
Sep 30, 24					
Current Assets					
Checking/Savings				4,451.91	
1000 · Wells Fargo Checking 7481					
1020 · Wells Fargo Savings 3703				88,739.91	
1100 · Wells Fargo Advisors 1102 · WFA_Cash_4005				1,904.76	
1104 · WFA_Securities & Mutual Funds				121,976.17	
1106 · WFA_CD for Literacy Endowment				100,000.00	
Total 1100 · Wells Fargo Advisors				223,880.93	
Total Checking/Savings				317,072.75	
Total Current Assets				317,072.75	
TOTAL ASSETS				317,072.75	
LIABILITIES & EQUITY					
Equity					
3200 · I-PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED				10,000.46	
3202 · ASTRA FUND					
3204 · CASSIE DOLLAR FUND				12,577.25	
3206 · WILMA B HOGAN LITERACY FUND				110,250.00	
3210 · ULRICH ENVIRONMENTAL FUND				10,000.00	
3212 · VOCATIONAL FUND				10,025.00	
Total 3200 · I-PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED				152,852.71	
3400 · II-TEMP. RESTRICTED FUNDS					
3420 · FISCAL SPONSORSHIPS				71,647.80	
3460 · SPECIAL ACCOUNTS					
3462 · DISTRICT THREE GRANT FUND				50,956.45	
3464 · JOEY ROBISON SCHOLARSHIP FUND				1,997.37	
Total 3460 · SPECIAL ACCOUNTS				52,953.82	
Total 3400 · II-TEMP. RESTRICTED FUNDS				124,601.62	
3600 · III-UNRESTRICTED FUNDS					
3620 · DIV / INT / CAP GAINS				16,275.68	
3640 · GENERAL FUND					
3642 · DONATIONS				37,858.56	
3640 · GENERAL FUND - Other				(14,515.82)	
Total 3640 · GENERAL FUND				23,342.74	
Total 3600 · III-UNRESTRICTED FUNDS				39,618.42	
Total Equity				317,072.75	
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY				317,072.75	

District Foundation Treasurer Report/2

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Sep 30, 24					
Current Assets					
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1020 · Wells Fargo Savings 3703				88,739.91	
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District Foundation Treasurer Report/3

We Appreciate and Thank You All for your Support !

CONTRIBUTOR \$ 50-\$99	SPONSOR \$ 100-\$ 249	PARTNER \$ 250-\$ 499	GOVERNOR'S CIRCLE \$ 500-\$ 999	MAMIE L BASS SOCIETY \$ 1,000	BENEFACTOR
Altrusa of Atlanta Altrusa of Citrus Cnty Altrusa of Gaffney Altrusa of Ocala Carol Halliburton Cindylu Brubaker Jane Lewis Josie Frieser Laura Erstad Linda Hamedani Lisa Ferguson Louise Parris Margaret Roldan Mary Van Name Millie Griswold Patricia Davis Roberta Klusmeier Scott Frieser Silvia Silverman Susan Newlin Theresa Young Yolander Hunter	Altrusa of Bangalore India Altrusa of Ocala Altrusa of Salisbury Altrusa of Statesboro Altrusa of Waynesville Barbara Ann Hughes Barbara Thomas Carol Decelle Carol K Noegel Catherine Thompson Dimple Overstreet Donna Carroll Elaine Muther Gail Trotter Jeraldyn Rivest Dr. Judy Perkin Kathy Jackson Karen Wishart Matilda J Shell Nanci Schwartz Norma Teuten Pat Jenke Randi Kahl Roberta Klusmeier Sandy Furches Sharon Huey Valerie Forster Vicki Teal	Altrusa of Caldwell Co Altrusa of Charlotte Altrusa of Charlotte Found Altrusa of Gainesville Altrusa of Lake City Altrusa of Montecello Altrusa of Starke Altrusa of St Augustine Donna Johnson Eddie & Peggy Ricks Eileen Hines Madlean Rogers Mary Santana Nancy Drought Rosemary Leake Sara Freeborn Susy Meier	Altrusa of N. Georgia Altrusa Orl/Winter Park Altrusa of Spartanburg Altrusa of Tampa Bay Cindy Athey Jean Sydnor Jenneane Froman Karen Robinson Linda Tatum Martin Orthodontics Mary Kane Mary Kirley Michelle S. Smith Nancy Shumaker	Altrusa District Three Altrusa of Lake County Altrusa Spartanburg Found Altrusa Starke Foundation Beverly Hardy Bonnie K. Lee Christy Bryant Colleen Duris Dawn Mainville Gail Hackett Gayle Magruder Jane Gray Jill Adams Joanne Brown Julie Keiper Kitty McElhaney Linda Robison Mantha Young Margaret Cannon Marlene Jones Martha Epps Penny Penn Robin Hall Scott Tice Shannon Schell Tammy Hall Wilma B Hogan Fdtn	Anonymus Member Linda Robison Margaret Cannon Michelle Smith Shannon Schell



District Three Foundation Update

By Joanne Brown, District Three Foundation Chair

The Foundation Board had their mid-year conference call on Oct 1. We are happy to announce that the Foundation is in excellent financial shape going into the 2024 - 25 year.

This year we have new email addresses for the chair, awards submissions and grant submissions.

Chair – district3foundationchair@gmail.com

Awards – district3foundationawards@gmail.com

Grants – district3foundationgrants@gmail.com

All award and grant applications will be due on January 31st, the same due date as the District Three award applications. All award and grant applications should be sent to the email addresses listed above. A reply will be sent when the applications are submitted.

It's not too early to be thinking about the silent auction and those wonderful creative gifts you donate for the fundraiser.

See you in Cherokee, NC in April.





Membership

By Rosemary Leake

New Member Orientation, It's Important!

Let's take a moment to talk about the importance of a new member orientation program. A new member orientation program is an easy way to make new members feel like they are immediately part of the existing club and also a way for existing members to stay connected. It can be a formal presentation with both oral and visual information or it can be something more informal like a group discussion.

Talking points should include local club news, district accomplishments and international objectives. Include information about local projects, fundraisers, social events and valued past members. Share personal antidotes on why you and other existing members joined Altrusa and why they continue to be a part of Altrusa on all levels. Share your club's rich history. Discuss local awards as well as District and International awards won. Altrusa is a pioneering organization and has a proud history of innovation and service, share that with new members. Discuss club committees and where new members might like to serve.

Be sure to ask new members to share why they joined, what they can contribute and what they hope to get out of their membership. This exchange will help you get to know new members and give new members the opportunity to know you. New members, all members, should be encouraged to prepare for and attend meetings, to take notes, to ask questions of their sponsor, committee chairmen and board members.

As in any relationship, communication is the key. New members should keep the lines of communication open by keeping contact information current and frequently check their email and text messages. To communicate locally you might have a yearbook, newsletter and club handbook. The District offers the District Service Bulletin (DSB) quarterly, the Governor's newsletter monthly and the district three website all offer timely information. Altrusa International offers the Altrusa Compass quarterly, the International Altrusan biennially and of course the international website is ready to assist all members.

So remember, the objective of a new member orientation program is to encourage active membership. New members should be encouraged to wear their pin as a symbol of commitment and solidarity. Encourage meeting attendance, committee and project participation, fundraiser support and social event involvement. But most importantly, membership is fun!

Spotlight on Board Members



Amanda Seyfang

Following graduation from high school, I received my Bachelor's of Science from the University of Florida where I earned my degree in Public Relations. In addition, I am a Master Florida Certified Election Professional. I have been employed by the Bradford County Supervisor of Elections office since 2001. I was elected Supervisor of Elections in 2020, and reelected in 2024. I believe the most rewarding part of my job is being of service to my community.

I am an active member in the Altrusa Club of Starke, FL and received the recognition of 2019-2020 Altrusan of the Year. I currently serve as Treasurer for the club and as Secretary on the District Three Board. My passion for literacy has led me to join our local Friends of the Library organization where I currently serve as President.

I have been a member of Altrusa International of Ocala, FL since 2007 although I was busy doing Altrusa work behind the scenes for several years before becoming a member. I am a strong proponent of community service and that was one of the main reasons I became an Altrusan.

In my local club, I've served as chair of several committees and worked my way up the Board of Directors to serve as Club President 2010-2011. I'm a numbers person so I've served several terms as Club Treasurer and I have also served as our local Club Foundation Treasurer. Currently I am serving as Club Treasurer.

On the District level I've served as ASTRA Chair, on the Audit Committee and was the 2010 Conference Co-Chair. As a member of the District Board, I've served ½ a term as District Director and finished out the biennium as Vice-Governor, District Treasurer and I am currently completing a term as District Director. I also served two terms on the District Three Foundation board as Treasurer.

On the International level, I served as a member of the Function Coordinator Team for several International Conventions, have served on the International ASTRA Committee, Membership Committee and I am currently serving as the Vice-Chair for the International Service Committee.



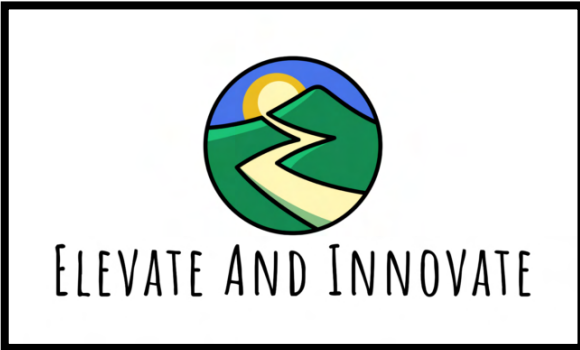
Scott Tice



District Conference 2025

By Julie Keiper & Christy Bryant

Theme: Elevate & Innovate - Showcasing Talents, Growing Membership



Mark your calendars for April 24-26, 2025, and get ready for an unforgettable experience at the 72nd Annual District Three Conference in Cherokee, North Carolina! This year, we're heading to the stunning Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort, which offers the perfect blend of luxury, relaxation, and natural beauty and nestled near the Asheville area in the Smoky Mountains. Whether you're looking to expand your knowledge, build your network, or simply celebrate your accomplishments, our District Conference has it all. Here's why you won't want to miss it

What's Planned?

- **Engaging Workshops:** Sharpen your skills with hands-on, educational workshops that cover the latest trends and best practices. Whether you're a seasoned pro or just starting out, there's something for everyone.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Connect with like-minded individuals from across the region. Share ideas, collaborate on projects, and form lasting relationships with fellow attendees.
- **Elect new District Three Board and Foundation Trustees:** You will play a role in shaping the future of our district by participating in the leadership elections. Be a part of the decision-making process and help guide our collective efforts in the coming biennium.
- **Celebrate Success:** Reflect on our achievements over the past year and honor the incredible work that's been done. This is a time to lift each other up and celebrate the power of community.

Whether you're a member, club or district leader, this conference offers something for everyone. Join us to gain valuable insights, build new skills, make meaningful connections and leave inspired and energized.

Don't Miss Out! Come to conference for the education and networking, leave with the lasting memories of fun and fellowship. We can't wait to see you in Cherokee!

If your club would like to be a vendor or you are aware of potential vendors near the conference site, get their business information and send to Colleen. If you want to help with conference as an expeditor, registration or assist with election, host a meal function, etc., please email Colleen Duris at cmdaltrusa@gmail.com.

Join Us at the 72nd Annual District Three Conference in Cherokee, NC where we will **Elevate** and **Innovate** your Altrusa experience!

Julie Kieper at julie@techstrategics.com and Christy Bryant at christybryant@windstream.net
2025 District Conference Co-Chairs

Why I Attend District Conference



Roberta Klusmeier

Attending the Altrusa Annual Conference gives members the opportunity to explore other towns within our District and meet other Altrusans. You gain knowledge from the educational workshops and share fund raising opportunities. For example, sharing a skill like making placemats, from recycled plastic bags was a fun experience. Also, electing District leaders and celebrating our different club's accomplishments gives clubs momentum and new possibilities.

Each year you attend District Conference, you will look forward to reconnecting with the friends you made, and also the new friends you make that share the same special bond of being an Altrusan and making communities better.

Altrusa is an adventure in friendship as well as service. Each club is filled with people trying to place service above self.

The friendships we make in Altrusa are so special! Where else can you have a friendship, and you see the person perhaps once a year? When we make plans to attend a conference, we start anticipating the events when we will see our friends, quiet moments to catch up, hear about their clubs' accomplishments, share ideas and just "be".

So, I ask have you marked your calendar for April 24-26, Altrusa's Conference in Cherokee, NC, yet? I have and I hope to be with so many of you who love being an Altrusan and delight in hearing our clubs' accomplishments through literacy, service and scholarships to our communities. This year's conference will be special since the Governor's torch of leadership will be passed from Dimple Overstreet to Mantha Young.

Our ladies in Monticello, FL shared some of their highlights about attending the conference. "Meeting other Altrusa members", "Love the trip and being with the girls", "Ideas, Training, & Workshops, Presentations and see great friends in Altrusa", "Go as part of District 3 leadership, Learn a lot, They made me go", "Fun time bonding".

Remember this thought: "It only takes a spark to get a fire going and soon all those around will warm up to its glowing." Will you be the "spark" to get more of your members to attend Conference this year?



Anita Ashworth

There are many reasons why I look forward to attending District Conference each year. First, I enjoy the ability to participate in the Conference Service Project. I have really enjoyed the opportunity to participate "hands-on" during the last several conferences.

Second, I enjoy being able to catch up with friends throughout the district as well as make new ones! An added bonus is being able to celebrate the accomplishments of the clubs throughout the district during the Awards breakfast.

Third, I have benefitted from the workshops provided during conference. The President's and Treasurer's workshops really helped me to prepare for taking on those roles within my own club. The breathing workshop at the last conference helped me learn techniques to help calm me down when I begin feeling nervous or anxious.

Fourth, I look forward to the opportunity to support the District Three Foundation through the live and silent auctions. Not only do I bid on items but I also bring an item, or two, to donate towards the auctions.

Fifth, I enjoy being able to bring back what I've learned at conference to my local club. New service project ideas, ideas for new fundraisers as well as future conference and convention information is just some of what you'll learn at conference.

So, please, come to conference in 2025. If I don't know you, I'd like to meet you. If we are already friends, I can't wait to see you again!



Scott Tice



Virtual Club Update/1

By Emily Pazel, Altrusa District Three Virtual Club President

As we enter the Fall Season, we are reminded of the beauty of change and the spirit of togetherness that accompanies this time of year. The crisp air invites us to take a deep breath and reflect on our journey together and look forward to new opportunities for service and fellowship.

While Hurricanes Milton and Helene have impacted many communities, including those of some Virtual Club members, we are pleased to report that contact has been made with members in the affected areas, and despite the challenges, everyone is doing well. We are grateful for the outpouring of generosity, readiness to help, and unwavering support shown during this time.

Our Virtual Club members have also been busy giving back to organizations throughout their communities as part of the club's "Reaching Out, Near and Far" initiative, which was made possible by the new club grant we recently received. This grant has provided us with new opportunities to expand our reach and continue making a difference in meaningful ways. This project, "Reaching Out, Near and Far," was awarded grant funding by the Altrusa International Foundation, Inc. For more information, please visit foundation.altrusa.org.

Additionally, the Virtual Club has been helping to fulfill an [Amazon Wishlist for Days for Girls](#), where 12 of our members have generously contributed. So far, we've collected:

211 pairs of panties

212 pads

500 bars of soap

120 washcloths

Last but not least, we are thrilled to announce that the Virtual Club has published its first newsletter! This newsletter serves as a way to keep everyone informed about our ongoing projects, upcoming events, and club news. [View the Virtual Club's newsletter here.](#)

We hope you enjoy reading it and staying connected with our efforts as we continue to make a positive impact near and far!



Virtual Club Update/2

By Emily Pazel, Altrusa



Virtual Club Members, Emily, Mantha and Mauricia (not pictured), donated to Catholic Charities of Lake City. Members donated a total of \$450 to help with their upcoming Thanksgiving Food Drive, where they give baskets of food to community members in need.



Virtual Club Member Susy collected and donated over \$200 of school supplies to a Special Education teacher at East Ridge Elementary School in East Ridge, Tennessee. This school serves a student population where 80% of the students come from low-income families.



Virtual Club Members, Sandy, Kitty and Emily, donated to the NorthStar Family Resource Center in Lake City, Florida. Members donated a total of \$350, plus some additional needed items for their resource center. NorthStar provides services and support that strengthen families and reduce the risks of child abuse and neglect in our community



Virtual Club Members Emily and Mauricia donated to Another way, a domestic violence shelter for women and children. Members donated a total of \$250 worth of children's clothing, shoes and miscellaneous items.



Amazon Wishlist Purchases:



International Convention

By Christine DeVlieger, International President-Elect

Save the Date – Québec City Here We Come!

I am always excited to travel. Traveling allows me to learn, experience different things, and meet new people. I couldn't wait to see Québec City until our next International Convention, so Emily and I scheduled a little mother/daughter trip to Québec City for a long weekend in September.

First, we checked out the hotel where the 2025 International Convention will be held. The Hilton Québec is a wonderful hotel conveniently located on Parliament hill (Québec government's Parliament buildings) and near Old Québec (a UNESCO World Heritage Site). There's not a bad view from any angle in the hotel, so the view from your room could be Parliament, the St. Lawrence River, or mountains off in the distance. There is a restaurant on site, and Emily really enjoyed the coffee at their café.



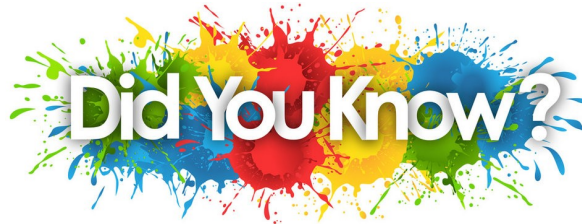
Second, we thoroughly enjoyed exploring Old Québec. It has narrow cobblestone streets and beautiful outdoor flowers and plants which make it feel like a European city. The outdoor cafes were numerous, so we really enjoyed eating out. Of course, we tried poutine as much as possible.

We checked out the Fairmont Le Château Frontenac (a North American castle with historical details and Art Deco décor; one of the most photographed hotels in the world). We plan to make reservations ahead of the Convention to enjoy tea there next time. We also visited the Quartier Petit Champlain - an authentic neighborhood in the lower-town with one of the oldest commercial streets in North America and had a delicious lunch in an outdoor café. Our visit was complete by walking through the Holy Door at the Notre-Dame de Québec Basilica-Cathedral.

Lastly (and most importantly), we met with three Altrusans from the Québec City club over another wonderful lunch near the hotel and had a wonderful visit. They are going to be wonderful hosts for our next Convention.

Bring your walking shoes because there is so much to see and do! We walked the entire time we were there. We had two full days in Québec City, and we wished we had more time. For our next trip we plan to visit the Citadelle of Québec and Parliament before or after the Convention. So make sure to get your passport ready and watch for future communication from International President Linda Smith about our next International Convention in Québec City in Québec, Canada for July 23 – 27, 2025. We look forward to seeing you there!

ALTRUSA ACCENTS



ALTRUSA ACCENT

An "Altrusa Accent" is a two-minute presentation at a Club meeting (or a blurb in a newsletter) that covers such items as news on an upcoming International or District event, new Altrusa materials, Altrusa historical highlights, or bylaw and policy changes. The Altrusa Accent can provide helpful information in membership orientation. Does your newsletter have one?

DISTRICT NAMES

A District is a geographical grouping of Clubs. Each District has a District Governor, a Board of Directors, and Committee Chairs who serve as conduits between International and each Club in the District. District names are always fully spelled out (i.e., "District One"); never use the Arabic number (i.e., "District 1").



ALTRUSA EMBLEM vs ALTRUSA LOGO

(There is a difference!)



ELEANOR ROOSEVELT HUMANITARIAN AWARD

The Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award is named in honor of the legendary Eleanor Roosevelt, who included active membership in the Altrusa Club of New York City in her service-oriented life. It is the only award Altrusa International gives to a member. Designed to recognize an Altrusan who makes a lasting contribution to community service as a result of involvement with Altrusa, the award is given to an Altrusan who has a distinguished service record at the Local, District, and International levels. If an Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award is presented, the winner will be honored during the Awards event at the next biennial Altrusa International Convention. The winner receives a commemorative medal.

CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS and NEWS

By Carolyn Harrell, Altrusa International of Gainesville, FL



Before Hurricanes Helene and Milton played havoc with our scheduled meetings, we were able to learn from Dee how to make Fidget Mats and happily got right to work. These are for Altrusa House and it seems a Fidget Mat might be a very welcome item lately—for everyone! We were also delighted to welcome two new members and to honor one of our Altrusa House clients on his 20th year at Altrusa House.



CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS and NEWS

By Shellie Young, Altrusa International of Lake City, FL



Altrusa International of Lake City Volunteers Welcome Incoming 6th Graders to Richardson Sixth Grade Academy

On August 1st, Richardson Sixth Grade Academy (RSGA) hosted its annual Red Carpet Event, welcoming a new cohort of 6th graders to kick off the 2024-2025 school year. This year, the event was made extra special thanks to the efforts of 15 dedicated volunteers from Altrusa International of Lake City, along with 4 members from the newly formed Astra Club, who were thrilled to offer their support for the first time.

The volunteers played a key role in ensuring that the students had a smooth and enjoyable start to their middle school journey. They helped organize the students into groups and guided them on campus tours, introducing them to important faces they would encounter throughout the school year, including teachers, counselors, and school staff.

Throughout the event, approximately 150 excited students participated in various fun games and teamwork activities, designed to help them bond with their peers and ease the transition to a new school environment. The day ended with a delicious hotdog lunch, graciously served by the Altrusans and the RSGA staff, leaving students and volunteers alike with smiles and full stomachs.



CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS and NEWS

By Shellie Young, Altrusa International of Lake City, FL



Altrusa International of Lake City Donates Over 1,300 Hygiene Items to Columbia County Schools Homeless Education Department

In August, the Bright Shiny Faces crew of Altrusa International of Lake City took significant strides to support students in need by packing and delivering over 1,300 personal hygiene items to the Columbia County Schools Homeless Education Department. These items will be distributed throughout the 2024-2025 school year, providing essential resources to homeless students within the district.

The donation is part of Altrusa's ongoing commitment to serving the local community, especially focusing on vulnerable populations such as students facing housing instability. The hygiene kits include a variety of necessary items like soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, and other toiletries. For students experiencing homelessness, access to such basic necessities can have a profound impact on their well-being, self-esteem, and academic success.

By partnering with the Columbia County Schools Homeless Education Department, Altrusa International is ensuring that these vital supplies reach the students who need them the most, offering a much-needed boost in both their personal care and daily lives.

The Bright Shiny Faces initiative is one of many ways that Altrusa International of Lake City continues to make a difference in the lives of students and families, demonstrating their dedication to improving the community through service and support.



CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS and NEWS

By Anita Valdez, Altrusa International of Lake County, Inc. President

Altrusa of Lake County in the Community

By Anita Valdez, Altrusa International of Lake County, Inc. President

The Leesburg Police Department hosted “**National Night Out**.” This year’s event was held from 5 to 8 p.m. Oct. 1 at Ski Beach at Venetian Gardens. The annual event gives citizens a chance to interact with police officers.



National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign promoting police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back our sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

The event was free and featured food, kids’ games, tents of vendors, including Altrusa of Lake County, handing out free goods, promoting business and organizations. There was a petting zoo, rock wall and bungee jumping for the kiddos. The police department had SWAT vehicles, motorcycles and even a crime lab van to display. The Fire Department was also present and their big red fire truck was a hit too!



Altrusa of Lake County held a “Book Sorting Party” where members sorted 1450 books, according to age and reading level that were purchased and donated. We applied specially designed club labels to each book to help extend our name recognition through our community.

Braving the elements as a flash storm brought buckets of rain down on us, we were undaunted. When the sky cleared, we continued setting up and prepared as the event got off to a late and wet start. The crowd was a bit lighter than last year, but we managed to deliver a lot of great books into our community to both adults and children.

CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS and NEWS

By Carol Franklin, Altrusa International of North Georgia

Altrusa of North Georgia Makes a Difference in Honduras

In a modest country, where resources are as scarce as educational opportunities, I saw a way to help teenage girls, while keeping their privacy and dignity intact.

Let me introduce myself; my name is Carol Franklin and my church sponsors a mission trip to Honduras every year to support the LAMB Institute's efforts there. LAMB operates a children's home, youth programs and two schools in and around the capital city of Tegucigalpa. This is a Christian community, with most of these girls growing up without a "mom" in their life, but who have a caregiver who steps in as a motherly figure to all of the girls. As you can imagine, talks about a woman's changing body and how to deal with it are minimal.

I heard about the Altrusa of N. Georgia Days for Girls program, which recently started a group at my church. My first thought was that this a great idea and it would benefit the transition girls. The transition program is for young people who are aging out of the children's home and moving to another house. In Honduras, by law, they must leave the children's home at age 18. I asked our DFG coordinator if I could take about 12 bags to these girls. Her answer was, "Of course!" Our mission trip was held June 8-15, 2024. On Thursday of that Mission Week, we had the transition boys and girls coming to have dinner with us and fill our team in on what was going on in their lives, i.e. job hunting, attending university or starting a career.

Before dinner I asked the girls to join me and a translator on the back porch; there were 11 girls. I explained what was in the bag then took all the components out of the bag to show them how it all works and allow them to ask questions without feeling ashamed or awkward. After all, it was just us girls on the porch! One of the young ladies sitting directly in front of me kept nodding her head in agreement with everything I said.

With resources so scarce and having busy schedules, working a full-time job is very rare for kids this age, so my main message to them was how much money this would save them each month. I also said it was optional. Every girl took a bag and had them on their shoulders as they were leaving. One of the girls asked if she could have a bag for her friend who was not able to join us. So, all 12 bags were taken! The director of the transition program told me later that she was very, very excited about these Days for Girls kits for her girls.

When our team returns in June 2025, I plan to check in with the girls who are still in the program. Prior to our departure I will find out if there are any new girls who have joined this year so I can take one of the kits to them as well.

Oh, and by the way, after participating in each work-day at our church, I was intrigued by the other service projects of Altrusa and wanted to learn more. After visiting two meetings it was apparent that I belonged. I recently joined Altrusa of N. Georgia. I am now an Altrusan!



CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS and NEWS

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

Altrusans Serving in the Community at The Table

Over the past year, Orlando-Winter Park club began developing a partnership with The Table, a 501(C) (3) organization initially through donating clothing but recently are developing a more in-depth partnership with the organization. Recently, a group of members had the opportunity to attend a free Thursday evening dinner gathering, experiencing both the fellowship time with others attending the free dinner while spending part of the time volunteering to serve the dinner to attendees.

The Table was established in January 2019 by a small group of volunteers with the goal to provide a free community dinner once a week and meet people in the neighborhood. It continues to offer a free, nutritious meal on Thursday evenings, along with live music, a short story about Jesus, lively discussion and encouragement. Everyone is welcome and the diversity in the room creates a unique, friendly and supportive community. The founders of The Table, discovered many needs and opportunities in their community where we can make a difference in the lives of neighbors. They seek to meet the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs with the help of partnering churches and organizations. Established in 2019 and incorporation in 2022 and run by a dedicated team of volunteers The Table has accomplished:

- ◆ Over 19,260 meals served
- ◆ More than 480 individuals reached
- ◆ More than 56 volunteers were involved
- ◆ Over 30,350 volunteer hours
- ◆ Over 8,490 donate items given away to include clothing items, hygiene kits, first aid kits, LYNX bus passes, flashlights, batteries, cell phones, bicycles, backpacks, sleeping bags, tents, blankets and more
- ◆ Helped individuals secure State ID cards, provided rides to appointments, hospital and detox
- ◆ Assistance re-connecting with family



L-R: Orlando-Winter Park Altrusans Dawn Jones, Angela Templeton, Yvette Pue and Trina Cothrin serve dinner during a Thursday evening free dinner at The Table.

CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS and NEWS

By Cheryl Malloy Altrusa International of Orlando—Winter Park, FL



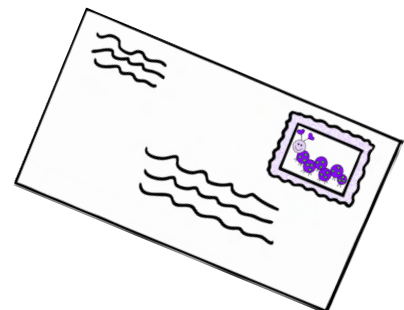
Each school year, the Orlando-Winter Park club participated in Writer's Promise, a program designed to help 4th grade students enhance their letter-writing skills. Members of Altrusa are paired with a 4th grader and exchange monthly letters on a variety of topics. Despite stormy weather, the Orlando-Winter Park club participated in the 2024 Writer's Promise Meet 'n Greet party on October 7th at Dartmouth Park with 4th graders from Monarch Academy. The party introduced the Altrusans to the student they will be exchanging monthly letters with during this school year. Each student brought a completed survey that listed some details about the them and their interests. On the reverse side of the form students wrote a brief introductory paragraph. Participating club members were asked to bring completed interest survey forms with them as well as an initial letter to their assigned student.

Natalie Rogers, Writer's Promise program coordinator, kicked off the party with a review of the parts of a letter. This included a clever song sung to the theme music from the Addams Family (an example is available on You Tube).

Along with a chance to talk with the children, refreshments were available (gooey brownies, cookies, fruit, and water). In addition each child received a goody bag that held a Halloween-themed activity book and pencil, a craft kit, bookmarks, a Frisbee, and candy.



Altrusan Cheryl Malloy presented Natalie Rogers with a check from our club's Foundation funds to cover the cost of postage, envelopes, and writing paper for the children.



CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS and NEWS

By Stephanie Bruce Altrusa International of Salisbury, NC



Altrusa International of Salisbury, NC General meeting for September, 2024 hosted a very special guest. It was none other than Mrs. Dimple Overstreet, Altrusa International Governor of District Three! Our Governor encouraged us to keep working because we are making a difference. The club members are holding towels that were donated to Rowan Helping Ministries for a club service project. The donated towels will be used by the shelter guests. Altrusa members and guest pictured top row from left to right Marilyn Wright, Delores Francis, Millie Cress, Stephanie Bruce and Cindy Nimmer. Front row seated from left to right are Nancy Mott, Governor Dimple Overstreet, Lisa Kluttz and Telisha Weaks. We may be a small club, but we are making a big difference in our community.





CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS and NEWS



I am Ms. Stephanie V. Bruce, President Altrusa International of Salisbury, NC 2024-2026.

In 2014, I was invited to be a guest presenter for the club. The club paid for my dinner, after my presentation, they invited me to stay and attend the club meeting. I was impressed by the diversity of the club membership. It was refreshing to meet a professional group of women who wanted to make a difference in the community by way of supporting members and organizations of the community. I was asked if I was interested in joining and I said, “yes. “I have served on our Club Board of Directors, Chair for our Scholarship Committee and made connections with other agencies that share our mission.

We are a small club making a big difference in our community.

CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS and NEWS

By Pat Janke, Altrusa International of Waynesville, NC



To support our commitment to literacy in our community, we are partnering with a local daycare for monthly reading sessions with the kids. And, they get to keep the books we bring to read! Today Cheryl and Jenny read to the 2 year old and 3/4 year old classes. Fun was had by all!



Haywood Christian Ministry



It was amazing when 9 Altrusans and 1 husband showed up to work on July 15. They also need food sorters on Friday afternoons from 1-4 pm. Help is needed sorting donated clothing on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-4 pm.

Our September Project was collecting dog/cat food for Meals-on-Wheels. They distribute this, along with the people food, to those who have pets, as sometimes the pets get the people food. Thanks to the generous donations from "The Dog House" and our own Kim Ferguson (Kim's Pharmacy) and all our members who contributed to this project!



Scholarship Committee reported that they received 53 applications for scholarships this year. They finally whittled it down to 11 recipients (5 renewals, 4 new, 2 non-traditional). Recipients have been notified! And special congratulations to Joseph Quinn, graduating senior, for being awarded the top prize, the Altrusa Memorial Scholarship



And finally, we initiated three new members! It's been quite busy around here!



L-R: Joy Johnson w/Bonnie Lacey; Kay Yeakel w/Marlyn Dickinson; Mary Millar with Gayle Doughton