

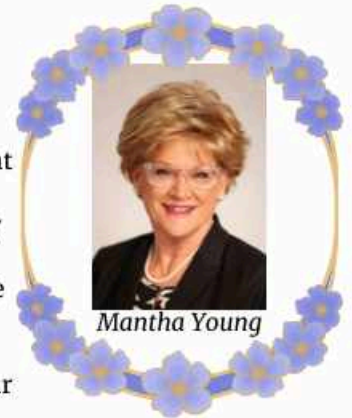
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Governor's Message

Dear Altrusans,

As we begin another exciting club year, I want to thank each of you for your dedication to service, leadership, and fellowship. It is truly an honor to serve as your Governor and witness the incredible impact our clubs make throughout District Three.



Mantha Young

One of the highlights of this past year was our 73rd Annual District Three Conference in Spartanburg, South Carolina. This conference marked a significant change as we piloted a two-day format in place of our traditional

three-day schedule. Based on the feedback received, many attendees appreciated the shorter format and the reduced travel commitment. At the same time, several members shared that the schedule felt a bit rushed, leaving less time for fellowship and networking—important parts of the conference experience.

Your District Board has carefully reviewed the survey results and will be exploring ways to improve the conference experience moving forward. We are considering options that would allow us to begin activities earlier, provide additional opportunities for socializing, and create a more relaxed pace while still maintaining an efficient schedule. Your feedback is invaluable and helps guide our planning for the future.

As we continue our "Bee Essential" biennium, I encourage every club to focus on strengthening leadership, increasing service visibility, and growing membership. Together, we can continue building stronger clubs, stronger communities, and stronger connections throughout our District.

I am especially excited as we look ahead to the 74th Annual District Three Conference, April 23–24, 2027, in Gainesville, Florida. I know our Gainesville hosts are already preparing a wonderful event, and I look forward to gathering with Altrusans from across the District for learning, fellowship, service, and celebration.

Thank you for all you do to make District Three thrive. Every member is essential, every act of service matters, and together we continue to buzz with purpose.

With gratitude,
Mantha
Mantha A. Young
Governor, Altrusa District Three



Bee Essential – Together We Buzz with Purpose!

A Reminder of Our 2025–2027 Biennium Goals

Mantha Young,
District Three Governor



As we continue our "Bee Essential" biennium, I encourage every club to keep our District goals at the forefront of your planning for the 2026–2027 club year.

Leadership: Post at least one leadership-focused item each month on your club's social media platforms. These posts help showcase local leadership, highlight your club's impact, and increase awareness of Altrusa within your community.

Service: Submit a minimum of two articles each year to the District Service Bulletin (DSB), for a total of four articles during the biennium. Sharing your club's projects and successes inspires others and celebrates the outstanding work being accomplished across District Three.

Membership: Grow your club by at least two members each year over the previous year's total. Every new member brings fresh ideas, talents, and energy that strengthen our organization.

My 2025–2027 goals focus on building stronger club connections, expanding community impact, and empowering leadership at every level. Through collaboration, innovation, and service, we support one another like a hive—united and essential. Let us continue to nurture growth, embrace fresh ideas, and celebrate the unique strengths each Altrusan brings to our District. Together, we truly buzz with purpose!

Governor's Outstanding Club Award

Mantha Young,
District Three Governor

The Governor's Outstanding Club Award is one of the highest honors a club can receive in District Three. This award recognizes excellence in service, leadership, literacy, membership, communication, and support of District and International initiatives.

This year, clubs from across District Three submitted applications that highlighted the incredible work being accomplished in their communities. Each application reflected dedication, innovation, and a commitment to living the Altrusa mission through meaningful service.

Congratulations to the clubs that submitted applications for this prestigious award:

- District Three Virtual
- Gainesville, FL
- Lake City, FL
- Lake County, FL
- Monticello, FL
- North Georgia, GA
- Ocala, FL
- Orlando–Winter Park, FL
- Raleigh, NC
- St. Augustine, FL
- Starke, FL
- Spartanburg, SC
-



After careful evaluation, the top honors were awarded to:

- Third Place: Orlando–Winter Park, FL 
 - 360 points
- Second Place: Charlotte, NC 
 - 371 points
- First Place and Governor's Outstanding Club Award Winner: Lake City, FL 
 - an incredible 418 points!



Congratulations to all the clubs that participated. Your commitment to service, leadership, and excellence continues to strengthen District Three and make a lasting impact in the communities you serve. Thank you for being truly BEE Essential!

Club Annual Report

Nanci Shumaker,
District Three Governor-Elect



It's time for all clubs to complete and submit the Club Annual Report. This simple survey contains 26 questions and helps our District Three and Altrusa International leadership develop the programs and services that support our members and clubs. It also allows each club to review their own practices and plan for the new year ahead. Your service matters, so please complete the survey!

Note:

- **Questions** should be answered for the club year June 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026.
 - Presidents should preview the survey questions and gather all the information needed from treasurers and committee chairs before beginning the survey. Then the survey only takes a few minutes to complete!
- **Service hours** include leadership hours at the club, District, or International levels and all volunteer hours where members represented Altrusa at club projects, fundraisers, or in the community while wearing our Altrusa pin or promoting our Altrusa mission.
- **2025-2026 Distinguished Club** status will be awarded to clubs with charter status who score 65% or better on the survey questions.
- **Deadline** for the report is **June 15, 2026!**

[Club Annual Report Form](#)



Message from International President

Christine DeVlieger,
International President



Dear Altrusans,

My favorite time of the Altrusa year is almost here – District Conference. These gatherings are truly the heartbeat of Altrusa. They remind us why we serve, why we lead, and why this organization continues to make a meaningful difference in communities around the world.

Conference weekends carry a special kind of energy. They offer space to learn from one another, exchange ideas that spark new possibilities, and strengthen the friendships that make our work so rewarding. They also give us a chance to celebrate your accomplishments and focus on the important business that keeps your District moving forward. Most of all, they allow us to simply enjoy being together as Altrusans.

I hope you'll make plans to attend District Conference – and even better, invite a fellow Altrusan or friend to join you. Spend time together intentionally, talking about service, leadership, and the ways you can help build stronger communities.

With Altrusa Love,

Christine DeVlieger

Christine “Chris” DeVlieger
International President
Altrusa International, Inc.



2026 District & International Award Winners

By Scott Frieser, Vice Governor

Our District Three clubs demonstrated a tremendous spirit of service during the 2025–2026 Altrusa year. It is both a pleasure and an honor to recognize the clubs that submitted award applications this year, reflecting their strong commitment to community service. Their efforts represent the outstanding work being done across the District by all of our members.



Scott Frieser

This year, we received 53 award applications from 13 District Three clubs.

25-year Members:

- Jill Adams, Altrusa International of Lake City, FL
- Durelle Bailey, Altrusa International of Lake City, FL
- Wanda Toner (Emeritus), Altrusa International of Lake City, FL
- Kitty McElhaney, Altrusa International of Lake City, FL
- Lori Wheeler, Altrusa International of Lake City, FL
- Carole DeCelle, Altrusa International of Starke, FL

50-year Members:

- Linda Walker, Altrusa International of Spartanburg, SC

The 2026 Sponsor Pin Recipients are:

- Jennifer Drumm, Charlotte, NC
- Karen Fellows, Citrus County, FL
- Susan Gill, Citrus County, FL
- Holli Herndon, Citrus County, FL
- Melissa Sutherland, Citrus County, FL
- Emily Pazel, District Three Virtual Club
- Judy Perkins, District Three Virtual Club
- Wafa Berbari, Gainesville, FL
- Virginia Percy, Gainesville, FL
- Rebecca Golden, Lake City, FL
- Debra Griffin, Lake City, FL
- Abby Stalvey, Lake City, FL
- Shellie Young, Lake City, FL
- Anita Valdez, Lake County, FL
- Cathy Keller, Lake County, FL
- Patricia Mueller, Lake County, FL

- Carol Hingson, Live Oak, FL
- Rose Cavin, Mariana, FL
- Lauren Cowan, Mariana, FL
- Becky Hart, Mariana, FL
- Edna Riley, Mariana, FL
- Maggie Edmiston, North Georgia, GA
- Nancy Simms, North Georgia, GA
- Becky Long, Ocala, FL
- Judi Zanetti, Ocala, FL
- Dawn Jones, Orlando-Winter Park, FL
- Charlotte Simpson, Orlando-Winter Park, FL
- Elizabeth Sushinsky, Orlando-Winter Park, FL
- Cynthia Johnson, Spartanburg, SC
- Linda Herrera, St. Augustine, FL
- Jill Nevil, Statesboro, GA

Presentation of the District Three Awards.

Ernestine Milner Award.

There were eight (8) Entries for this award.

- Third Place: there is a tie between
 - Altrusa International of Charlotte, NC
 - and Altrusa International of Starke, FL
 - (151 points)
- Second Place: Altrusa International of Lake City, FL
 - (159 points)
- First Place: Altrusa International of Gainesville, FL
 - (175 points)

Todd Jordan Yearbook Recognition Award.

There were ten (10) entries for this award.

All the clubs met the criteria.

1. Altrusa International of Charlotte, NC
2. Altrusa International of Gainesville, FL
3. Altrusa International of Lake City, FL
4. Altrusa International of Lake County, FL
5. Altrusa International of North Georgia, GA
6. Altrusa International of Ocala, FL
7. Altrusa International of Orlando-Winter Park, FL
8. Altrusa International of Raleigh, NC
9. Altrusa International of Spartanburg, SC
10. Altrusa International District Three Virtual Club

2026 District & International Award Winners Continued...

By Scott Frieser, Vice Governor



Scott Frieser

Newsletter Award

There were eight (8) entries for this award.

- Third Place: Altrusa International District Three Virtual Club – “Virtual Vibes”
 - with 207 points.
- Second Place: Starke, FL – “The Splendid Type”
 - with 227 points.
- First Place: Lake County, FL – “High Heels with High Ideals”
 - with 251 points.



Outstanding Community Service Awards

There were ten (10) entries for this award; They all met the criteria.

- Altrusa International of Charlotte, NC
- Altrusa International of Gainesville, FL
- Altrusa International of Lake City, FL
- Altrusa International of Lake County, FL
- Altrusa International of North Georgia, GA
- Altrusa International of Ocala, FL
- Altrusa International of Orlando-Winter Park, FL
- Altrusa International of Raleigh, NC
- Altrusa International of Starke, FL
- Altrusa International District Three Virtual Club

The following is based only on the 10 submissions:

- **Total volunteer hours: 11,071**
- **Total Funds Donated or Spent by Clubs: \$140,861**
- Most community service hours:
 - *Altrusa International of Lake City, FL: 3,664*
- Most community service hours per member:
 - *Altrusa International of Raleigh, NC: 59.1*
- Highest community service dollars:
 - *Altrusa International of Lake City, FL: \$27,269*

The Myrtice H. Price Membership Award.

- Third Place:
 - *Altrusa International of North Georgia, GA*
 - (25.0% gain) – \$27.16
- Second Place:
 - *Altrusa International of Marianna, FL*
 - (26.3% gain) – \$40.73
- First Place:
 - *Altrusa International of Citrus County, FL*
 - (42.9% gain) – \$67.89

Membership Greatest Net Gain.

- Third Place: With a net gain of 6 members
 - *Altrusa International of Citrus County, FL*
- Second Place: With a net gain of 9 members
 - *Altrusa International of North Georgia, GA*
- First Place: With a net gain of 12 members
 - *Altrusa International of Lake City, FL*

Membership Incentive Credit Award.

The following clubs will be receiving a **\$25 check** for increasing membership by **3 members**:

- *Altrusa International of Gainesville, FL*
- *Altrusa International of Ocala, FL*
- *Altrusa International of Orlando-Winter Park, FL*
- *Altrusa International District Three Virtual Club*

The following clubs will be receiving a **\$25 check** for increasing membership by **4 members**.

- *Altrusa International of Lake County, FL*
- *Altrusa International of Statesboro, GA*

The following club will be receiving a **\$25 check** for increasing membership by **5 members**.

- *Altrusa International of Marianna, FL*

The following club will be receiving a **\$50 check** for increasing membership by **6 members**.

- *Altrusa International of Citrus County, FL*

The following club will be receiving a **\$75 check** for increasing membership by **9 members**.

- *Altrusa International of North Georgia, GA*

The following club will be receiving a **\$100 check** for increasing membership by **12 members**.

- *Altrusa International of Lake City, FL*

2026 District & International Award Winners Continued...

By Scott Frieser, Vice Governor



Scott Frieser

Altrusa International Awards

Letha H. Brown Literacy Award

There were seven (7) entries for this award:

- Third Place: Altrusa International of Charlotte, NC
 - (249 points)
 - Project: "Ronald's Cozy Corner"
- Second Place: Altrusa International of Lake County, FL
 - (254 points)
 - Project: "Give Kids the World"
- First Place: Altrusa International of North Georgia, GA
 - (255 points)
 - Project: "Got Books? Our Kids Do!"

Mamie L. Bass Award.

There were nine (9) entries for this award:

- Third Place: Altrusa International of Raleigh, NC
 - (239 points)
 - Project "Clothing with Dignity and Love!"
- Second Place: Altrusa International of Lake County, FL
 - (241 points)
 - Project "Delivering the Difference!"
- First Place: Altrusa International of Charlotte, NC
 - (268 points)
 - Project, "Lifting Hearts & Minds at Lebanon Road Elementary School!"

Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun Award.

There was only one (1) entry for this award.

- First Place: Altrusa International of Charlotte, NC
 - (202 points)
 - Project: "Small Outlays with Maximum Impact!"

Governor's Outstanding Club Award

There were thirteen (13) entries for this award

- Third Place: Altrusa International of Orlando-Winter Park, FL
 - (360 points)
- Second Place: Altrusa International of Charlotte, NC
 - (371 points)
- First Place: Altrusa International of Lake City, FL
 - (418 points)



Altrusa International District Three, Inc. Membership Report

By Scott Tice
District Three Treasurer



Altrusa District Three, Inc.
Membership as of May 15, 2026

Count of Member Type	Column Labels						
Row Labels	Active	Affiliate	Dual Member	Emeritus	Life	Young Adult	Grand Total
Atlanta, GA	5		1				6
Charlotte, NC	20			1		2	23
Citrus County, FL	22						22
District Three Virtual Club	13		9			1	23
Gainesville, FL	44			9			53
Gastonia, NC	10			1			11
Lake City, FL	78			6		4	88
Lake County, FL	29						29
Live Oak, FL	28			1			29
Marianna, FL	22						22
Monticello, FL	22			2			24
North Georgia, GA	42			4		1	47
Ocala, FL	30			2			32
Orlando-Winter Park, FL	36			1			37
Raleigh, NC	14				1	1	16
Salisbury, NC	9			1			10
Spartanburg, SC	30			3		1	34
St. Augustine, FL	14						14
Starke, FL	39			2	1		42
Statesboro, GA	34		1	5			40
Affiliates		9		3			12
Grand Total	541	9	11	41	2	10	614



Welcome

District Three New Members

By Scott Tice
District Three Treasurer



New Member	Sponsor	Joined
<u>Citrus County, FL</u>		
Sunshine Arnold	Lindsay Blair	2/3/2026
Rane Herzak	Holli Herndon	4/21/2026
Gayle Smith	Holli Herndon	2/3/2026
<u>Gainesville, FL</u>		
Edda J. Gibson	Bea Awoniyi Benny Alligood	4/9/2026
JoAnn Wilkes	Bea Awoniyi Benny Alligood	4/9/2026
<u>Lake City, FL</u>		
Penny Saunders	Pamela Peterson Karen Green	4/17/2026
Elizabeth Spratlin	Rebecca Golden Mantha Young	2/16/2026
<u>Lake County, FL</u>		
Janice Blakeley	Cathy Keller Anita Valdez	2/16/2026
Michelle Metheny		1/17/2026
<u>Live Oak, FL</u>		
Angela Schneider	Millie Schneider	2/2/2026
<u>Marianna, FL</u>		
Laura Kent	Rose Cavin Becky Hart	3/2/2026
Kimberly Walters	Lauren Cowan	3/2/2026
<u>North Georgia, GA</u>		
Amy Lyle	Julie Brennan	4/15/2026
Sandra Mobley	Becky Hitch Julie Ford	4/10/2026
<u>Spartanburg, SC</u>		
Melody Wood	Jane Johnson	4/14/2026
<u>St. Augustine, FL</u>		
Sherrie Rinehart		1/18/2026

District Three Approved Budget March 1, 2026–February 28, 2027

By Scott Tice
District Three Treasurer



Scott Tice

Revenues		Budget	Actual	Difference	Proposed 2026-27
4010	Dues - Renewing Members	13,500.00	12,400.00	(1,100.00)	13,250.00
4015	Dues - Renewing Young Professionals	125.00	112.50	(12.50)	125.00
4020	Dues - New Members (Full)	750.00	1,025.00	275.00	1,125.00
4030	Dues - New Members (Half)	125.00	112.50	(12.50)	125.00
4035	Dues - Young Professionals	37.50	37.50	0.00	37.50
4040	Dues - Affiliates	25.00	25.00	0.00	25.00
4100	Late Fees Income	22.50	42.50	20.00	25.00
4110	Interest Income	0.00	15.37	15.37	0.00
4120	Dividend Income	1,500.00	1,321.62	(178.38)	1,400.00
4125	Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4200	Conference Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4350	Gain/Loss of Asset Sale	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4600	Transfer Unreserved Funds (General)	3,500.00	0.00	(3,500.00)	0.00
4700	Trans from Conf Reserved	3,000.00	0.00	(3,000.00)	4,577.24
4800	Trans from BH Fund Reserved	1,680.00	0.00	(1,680.00)	1,600.00
4850	Trans from KM ASTRA Fund Reserved	1,050.00	150.00	(900.00)	<u>900.00</u>
Total Income & Transfers		25,315.00	15,241.99	(10,073.01)	23,189.74



District Three Approved Budget March 1, 2026-February 28, 2027 Continued....

By Scott Tice
District Three Treasurer



Scott Tice

Operating Expenses

6000	International Convention Exp.	3,150.00	1,575.00	(1,575.00)	0.00
6005	International Dues (from Affiliates)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6070	New Club Bldg Expense	300.00	0.00	(300.00)	300.00
6080	New Club Building Incentives Policy	200.00	0.00	(200.00)	200.00
6090	Club Revitalization	500.00	0.00	(500.00)	500.00
6100	Conference Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6180	Program Coordinator	1,500.00	0.00	(1,500.00)	1,200.00
6190	Transfer to Conference Budget	3,000.00	0.00	(3,000.00)	4,577.24
6195	Membership Incentive Awards	250.00	175.00	(75.00)	400.00
6197	Myrtice Price Award Expense	250.00	200.00	(50.00)	135.78
6200	Board Travel Meeting Expense	5,875.00	7,837.03	1,962.03	6,000.00
6250	Board Travel/Non Meeting	4,000.00	75.26	(3,924.74)	4,000.00
6275	Past Governors Council Luncheon	500.00	371.08	(128.92)	500.00
6300	Governor Elect Training	0.00	0.00	0.00	850.00
6450	Ribbons Expense	100.00	0.00	(100.00)	0.00
6500	Governor Expense	150.00	0.00	(150.00)	150.00
6510	Governor's Pin Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	265.00
6515	Awards Recognition	300.00	0.00	(300.00)	200.00
6520	Postage Expense	80.00	0.00	(80.00)	80.00
6530	Printing/Copying Expense	100.00	0.00	(100.00)	50.00
6550	Operating Supplies	70.00	0.00	(70.00)	70.00
6560	Insurance (Crime Policy)	600.00	398.00	(202.00)	0.00
6700	Treasurer's Cost Expense	450.00	70.20	(379.80)	200.00
6800	Digital Operating Expense	125.00	239.88	114.88	250.00
6850	Club Banner	175.00	0.00	(175.00)	175.00
6900	Club 252	210.00	252.00	42.00	252.00
6950	Big Heart Fund - Expense	1,680.00	0.00	(1,680.00)	1,600.00
6975	KM ASTRA Grant Expense	1,050.00	150.00	(900.00)	900.00
7000	In Memorium	450.00	300.00	(150.00)	300.00
9000	Miscellaneous Expense	250.00	0.00	(250.00)	34.72
	Total Expenses	25,315.00	11,643.45	(13,671.55)	23,189.74
	Net Income Over Expenses	0.00	\$ 3,598.54	3,598.54	

In Memoriam

Altrusa International District Three

2025-2026

By Carol Thomas
Orlando-Winter Park, Florida



Carole Anne Oglesby: Altrusa International of Gainesville, FL
Age 79 August 9, 2025

Carole's Contributions to Altrusa and this club
Carole became a member of the Altrusa International of Gainesville club in 1994. She served as editor of the Gainesville Club Newsletter for many years. Carole served as First Vice President 2015-2016.

By Dee Dugger, President



Teresa Morgan: Altrusa International of Lake City, FL
Age 69 August 12, 2025

Teresa's Contributions to Altrusa and this club
Teresa Byrd Morgan became a member of the Altrusa International of Lake City, FL club in 1994 and was President in 2001-2002 and Altrusan of the Year in 2014-2015. She was Co-chair of "Get Fit Lake City" a project that encouraged healthier lifestyles in Columbia County through nutrition and weight management.
Teresa had been practicing law for over 35 years and was the founder and managing partner of Morgan & Getzan, PLLC, an estate planning and elder law firm in Lake City, Florida. During her career, Teresa has been an active member of WealthCounsel, Elder Counsel, the National Network of Estate Planning Attorneys, the James C. Adkins Inn of Court, and the SunBridge Legacy BuilderNetwork. She had lectured on estate planning, elder law, and law firm practice management throughout the country. Her legal activities and Honors were amazing from 1993 to present.

By Sandy Thompson, President



Marianne Miller: Altrusa International of Monticello, FL
Age 82 November 24, 2025

Marianne's Contributions to Altrusa and this club
Marianne, a member of Altrusa International of Monticello, FL since 2014 never knew a stranger and was a true ambassador for Altrusa. Her love of reading fueled her support and contributions to the club's efforts in spreading literacy throughout her community and beyond. She was always ready to host a meeting and serve on Literacy, Service and Care committees; and she willingly joined any work project undertaken by the club. Marianne's legacy of compassion, friendship and unwavering love will live on in the countless lives she touched.

By Patricia Cichon, President

In Memoriam

Altrusa International District Three 2025-2026 Continued....

By Carol Thomas
Orlando-Winter Park, Florida



Carol
Thomas



Norma Teuton: Altrusa International of North Georgia, GA
Age 84 September 13, 2025

Norma's Contributions to Altrusa and this club

Norma's commitment and devotion to Altrusa began in 2001 when she attended a meeting of the Marietta-Cobb Club. In true Altrusa fashion, she didn't just join Altrusa, she became an Altrusan who quickly moved into leadership roles as membership chair, vice president and president.

She was instrumental in the formation of the North Georgia club in 2005 and for more than 15 years, she graciously and generously filled many roles-mentor, resource, volunteer, cheerleader and recruiter.

She served six years as president, also launching and editing the club newsletter and chairing the literacy committee. She spearheaded the club's establishment of annual fundraiser to provide scholarships for non-traditional students at a local technical college that has raised more than \$60,000.

Norma also gave her time and talents at the district level. She chaired the membership and new club building committees. Co-chaired the planning committee for two district conferences and was a member of the nominating committee. She served as a director on the District Three Board, District Governor Elect and District Governor for the 2015 biennium. She later sat as a director on the Altrusa international Board from 2019-2021 and presided as new club building chair on the international membership development committee. The theme for her biennium as Governor was "Together, We Make a Difference". Norma truly made a difference.

By Penny A. Penn, North Georgia, GA club member



Betty Cluster: Altrusa International of Ocala, FL
Age 92 February 1, 2026

Betty's Contributions to Altrusa and this club

Betty became a member of Altrusa International of Ocala, FL in 1987 and received Emeritus status in 2023. A former employee of the Marion County School Board, she contributed to the club through her support of all the fundraisers and service projects. She was dedicated to education and literacy. She was a member of the ASTRA, Literacy, Community Service and Long Range Planning committees throughout her time of membership.

By Colleen Duris, Immediate Past President

In Memoriam

Altrusa International District Three

2025-2026 Continued....

By Carol Thomas
Orlando-Winter Park, Florida



Carol
Thomas



Juanita P. Cunningham: Altrusa International of Ocala, FL
Age 100 August 13, 2025

Juanita's Contributions to Altrusa and this club
Juanita was a local icon revered as an inspiring educator and a mentor, advocate and role model for generations of Ocala residents. She was a charter member of Altrusa International of Ocala in 1977 and she conceived the Altrusa Read-In for Literacy, the club's signature service project for 25 years. Through the program every elementary classroom in Marion County hosted a guest reader on the same day at the same time. For all her contributions to Altrusa she was named Altrusan of the Year in 1990; had a scholarship named in her honor and has a bookshelf at the Tools 4 Teaching store at the Marion County Public Education Foundation, where the club still supplies books for students all year long.

By Colleen Duris, Immediate Past President



Dianne Patterson: Altrusa International of Virtual Club
Age 80 June 29, 2025

Dianne's Contributions to Altrusa and this club
Diane, an Altrusa member since 2005 was involved heavily in community service specifically work with the Back-Pack Angels, Purple Playas, and The Learning Center. She initiated a Positive Behavior Support system program at the University of South Florida preschool site. Her commitment to education and literacy was strong. She made a positive difference in her community and will be greatly missed

By Judy Perkin, President



Post Conference District Three Website Updates

By Emily Pazel
District Three Webmaster

What a wonderful time we had together at the 2026 District Three Conference in Spartanburg! It was so great reconnecting with fellow Altrusans, celebrating our accomplishments, and creating new memories together. Since returning home, I've been busy updating the District Three website with new resources, photos, and information from Conference and beyond.

If you visit the [Conference page](#), you'll now find updated information for the 2027 District Three Conference in Gainesville, Florida, along with materials from this year's Conference, including links to conference photos, the Awards presentation, and additional Conference resources.

The [News & Events page](#) has also been updated with information regarding the 2027 Altrusa International Convention, as well as photos from last year's Convention in Quebec.

As always, if you have any updates, photos, or information you would like added to the District website, please feel free to reach out to me at emilypazel@gmail.com.

In Altrusa Spirit,
Emily Pazel
District Three Webmaster



Emily Pazel



Conference 2027

By Rebecca Golden & Amanda Seyfang
District Three Conference Co-Chairs

Get ready to buzz your way to Gainesville for the 2027 Altrusa District Three Conference! We'll be swarming into the Hilton University of Florida Conference Center, 1714 SW 34th St, on April 23–24, 2027, for two days of energy, excitement, and service-driven fun. This year's theme, **Buzzin' with Service**, celebrates the hive-minded spirit that makes Altrusans unstoppable. Expect a hive full of ideas, sweet connections, and plenty of opportunities to pollinate new projects across our district. We can't wait to see the whole colony gather in Gainesville—let's make this conference the bee's knees of 2027!



ASTRA - DISTRICT THREE SHINES BRIGHT

Meet Our 2026 ASTRA Scholarship Recipients

By Jeraldyn Rivest
District Three ASTRA Chair



The ASTRA High School Scholarship, funded by the Altrusa International Foundation, recognizes students who demonstrate exceptional compassion, leadership, and a commitment to serving others. District Three celebrates **two outstanding ASTRA members** whose service started together in the 6th grade as Founding Members of the ASTRA Club of Charlotte, NC when they were introduced to the club by their respective Altrusan parents, Scott and Josie Frieser and Jeraldyn Rivest.



Cody Frieser — \$2,000 ASTRA High School Scholarship Recipient

- Homeschool high school graduate and Associate of Arts recipient from Central Piedmont Community College, continuing his education at UNC Charlotte, Mechanical Engineering.
- **Cody's Favorite Service Project:** "During the COVID-19 lockdown... I made and sold homemade hand sanitizer to raise funds. Our club used the money to provide meals for every shift in the emergency & ICU departments and delivered warm cookies to police, fire, and emergency animal hospital staff. I was honored to help give back."

Tristan Rivest — \$1,000 ASTRA High School Scholarship Recipient

- Ardrey Kell HS graduate continuing his education at NC State University, Economics
- **Tristan's Favorite Service Project:** "Refurbishing the Ronald McDonald House library was meaningful because families needed a quiet, comforting space. We organized book drives, updated the shelves, redecorated, and created a more welcoming, modern room. Knowing it will support families for years made the project truly special."

For more information about ASTRA, contact Jeraldyn Rivest, ASTRA Committee Chair, Email: Jeraldyn@hotmail.com or Mobile: 704.634.0606.

Tristan Rivest (left) & Cody Frieser (right) first met in Kindergarten growing in ASTRA service as Founding Members for the past 7 years at the ASTRA Club of Charlotte, NC

District Three Leadership Luncheon at Conference

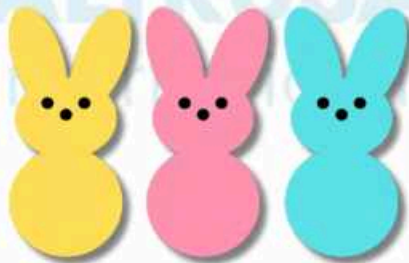
By Yvette Pue
Leadership Chair

When we think about being a leader we think of someone in control, has handle on things and can lead an organization to success. But Leading with Kindness can make a huge difference in how the organization achieves that success. At the Leadership Luncheon at District Three conference, a panel comprised of Randi Kahl, Yvette Pue and moderated by Jill Adams shared some thoughts on Leading with Kindness. Referencing personal experiences that resonated with the luncheon attendees, the ladies shared some thoughts and tips to help Altrusans lead with kindness in their own organizations. Despite a technical difficulty that resulted in a game of "pass the microphone" all three ladies thoroughly enjoyed the discussion and hope a few nuggets of their information provided some good ideas for all Altrusans, regardless if they are leaders or amazing followers, all working to help make their communities better.



Attendees at the luncheon received a pocket heart with Be Kind on it.

Jill Adams, Yvette Pue and Randi Kahl emphasized the need to Treat All Peeps With Kindness.



Please submit DSB articles to:
Sandy Thompson
sandy@organizemehappy.com

Call for Nominations for District Three Officers 2027–2029

By Jeraldyn Rivest
District Three ASTRA Chair

District Three's continued growth depends on strong, committed leaders. The Nominating Committee is preparing the slate of candidates for the 2027 District Three Board, to be elected at the 2027 District Conference in Gainesville, Florida (April 23–24, 2027).

We encourage every member to identify and support Altrusans with the skills and desire to serve at the District level to strengthen District Three's service, stability, and momentum.



Jeraldyn Rivest



Open Positions:
Governor-Elect, Vice Governor, Treasurer and Director
(3 positions)



Eligibility Requirements

General Requirements (All Positions Except Treasurer):

- Must have served a full term as Club President, or be serving as Club President at the time of election. Your leadership strengthens District Three's service, stability, and momentum.

Treasurer Requirements:

- Must have served a full term as Club President or Club Treasurer, or be serving in one of those roles at the time of election. Must have general accounting knowledge or experience.

Governor-Elect Requirement:

- Must have previously served more than half of a full term on the District Board.

What District Service Involves:

- Attend all Board meetings and the annual District Conference, Make club visits (Treasurer excluded) and Serve on committees assigned by the District Governor.

Key Dates:

- Aug. 15, 2026 Call for Nominations sent to Club Presidents, District Officers, and Past Governors. Refer to [District Three Website here](#). Sept. 18–19, 2026 Nominations reviewed at the Mid-Year Board Meeting.



How to Nominate: Qualified individuals may **self-nominate** or be nominated by another member (with permission). Submit completed nomination forms to: **Jeraldyn Rivest**
Jeraldyn@hotmail.com



Thank you for supporting the work of the Nominating Committee and helping us identify the next generation of District Three leaders.

District Three Nominating Committee:

- Jeraldyn Rivest – Charlotte, NC (Chair)
- Mary Kirley – North Georgia, GA
- Dawn Mainville – Lake County, FL
- Dimple Overstreet – Starke, FL
- Linda Robison – Spartanburg, SC

*It Could Be
YOU*



Altrusa International District Three Conference Follow-Up

By Suzy Meier
District Three Program Co-Coordinator



Suzy Meier

Your program co-coordinators and District Three leadership would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete the post-conference survey. Every year, we take those responses and look to improve the conference experience based on your feedback. This year was no exception, and many of the comments reflected ideas we are already looking toward.

The Two-Day Conference was generally considered a success, and many of us agreed that the scheduling needs to be tweaked for next year. We were already discussing starting earlier in the day Friday to relieve some of the rush we felt with Saturday. There were several good ideas surrounding this change that will be evaluated. The workshop comments reflected the desire for an Altrusa-oriented breakout session. Your Board will be discussing that for next year and working to incorporate your ideas. In the meantime, you should have seen some notices for virtual sessions led by your District Committee Chairs, and you'll see more of those in the months to come.

The meal choices are always mentioned in the survey results, and we do take them to heart! We also must watch the budget, and that does mean that our options can be limited. We do hope that the fellowship surrounding the meals more than compensates for any shortcomings.

The favorite item mentioned by far: Spending time with your fellow Altrusans! Seeing old friends and making new friends was mentioned more than anything else.

Finally – of thirty-five responses, approximately nine of you indicated you might be interested in being a Conference Co-Chair in the future. If you are one of those nine and reading this, please reach out to Governor Elect Nancy Shumaker. It is a lot of fun and you have a lot of support from your District Three Board and your District Committee Chairs. We look forward to working with you!

Susy Meier
District Three Program Co-Coordinator
Member, Altrusa International of Atlanta, GA and the District Three Virtual Club



MY FIRST CONFERENCE – Spartanburg, SC

By Abby Stalvey
District Three First Timers Award Winner and
Member of Lake City, Florida Club



Abby Stalvey

It was an incredibly busy time for me with work and family, my husband and I have 4 grandchildren and 5 parents in their late 60's, 70's and 80's who need our help with different things. I wanted to attend the conference, but I was also a little anxious about what I was leaving and returning to.

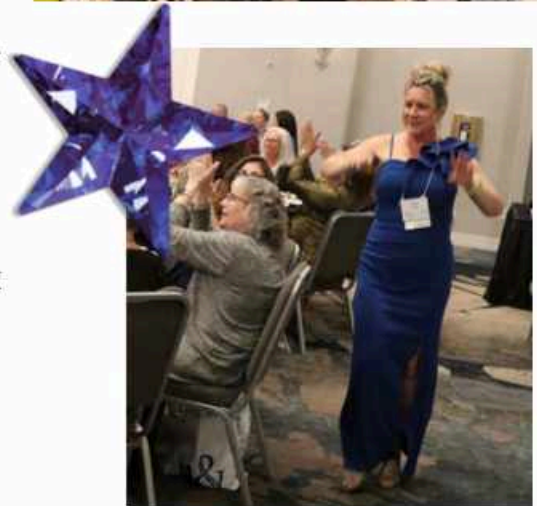
The ride there with Roberta Getzan and Christine Brewer was uneventful travel wise but our conversations brought about a peace for me and took my mind full of worries to a happy place! We learned a LOT about each other, giggled, shocked each other, and ate great food otw there and back.

We got to the conference Thursday evening, checked in, freshened up immediately and straight to dinner. This was an enjoyable evening of visiting, eating and libations with sisters we knew but did not know well. And from there it just got better with the evening of games planned by Lori Wheeler! There is nothing like a PJ party with silly games and good wine with a great group of ladies! We were in the hotel lobby giggling apparently a little too loud and we got kindly "shushed" by the staff. (pretty sure the hotel kept our silly pipe cleaner animals we made).



The hike on Friday morning was my jam! BEAUTIFUL! Most of it trailed along a river with the calming sounds of the babbling waters, and once again, the conversations with sisters that I do not get to visit with at our meetings were meaningful and gave me good insight into their personality and lives!

Now... Friday afternoon at check-in is where I was hesitant about something! The scavenger hunt for new attendees, lol! I'll be honest, I was not up for it but I took the paper with a smile and gave it a few minutes to get my mind right and participate. Once I started, it was on! I met so many new folks and had some great conversations about where they were from, what type of service projects their clubs did, how long they've been an Altrusan and such! It really was a great ice breaker for us newbies.



Saturday started early after 2 late night PJ parties! I really enjoyed the Beekeeper session; it made me think of Mantha, our Queen B and how our club keeps things going with all the moving parts – it truly takes a hive. I also enjoyed the Bingo, the Sherriff's speech and especially when my name was called for the "First Timers Award"! My heart was pounding and my eyes filled with happy tears!

BUT! Our club won repeatedly in so many ways... Awards, money and most of all – the number of ladies that attended from Lake City really stood out! The hard work pays off, and it shows at conference! And we mustn't forget when Sandy Thompson won the spirit award!!!!!!

We ended the night with the Governors Ball and danced til our feet hurt!!!

I left feeling super hyped about Altrusa and look forward to 2027 in Gainesville!!!



~ Abby Stalvey

2026 District Spirit Award

By Dee Dugger
District Three Directors

In 2010, we created a special award to recognize a fellow Altrusan who practices the Principles of Altrusa within the organization and in her/his home community.

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

So many nominations and all deserving of this recognition. Recurring phases appeared in all the nominations: Encouraging, creative, always volunteering to take up the slack, making sure Altrusa is well-represented in the community, inviting potential members, and much more.

It is my honor to share that the Spirit Award winner for the 2026 conference is Sandy Thompson. Sandy is serving her first term as President of the Lake City, FL club and her second biennium as DSB editor. Congratulations from your District Three Altrusans!

Dee Dugger, Director



Dee Dugger



A decorative graphic featuring two gold stars on either side of the text "Thank You" written in a large, blue, cursive font.

District Three Foundation at Conference

By Shannon Schell
District Three Treasurer



We hope everyone enjoyed our new conference format of two days. The schedule was certainly packed, but with all the positive energy, everything was accomplished. The Foundation Dinner and Awards presentation was held on Friday evening with lots of food and fun. The Live Auction after dinner was beyond a hoot with auctioneer Yvette Pue of the Orlando-Winter Park Club, she was certainly something to behold as she filled the room with laughter and created many bidding wars! All of our award recipients were incredibly pleased by the amazing dollar amounts we were able to give, because of your continued generosity to the Foundation. Not to mention our 72 Silent Auction items received plenty of attention and bids. We set a new record bringing in \$9,025 in bids and contributions throughout the weekend.

The Joey Robison Non-Traditional Scholarship is now fully a part of the Foundation; you can find information and applications on the Foundation webpage of the District Three Website. This year Altrusa of North Georgia, GA, Altrusa of Gainesville, FL, Altrusa of Starke, FL and Altrusa of Lake City, FL applied for the Scholarships for their qualifying individuals. Upon committee approval, each received a \$500 scholarship to their prospective school.

This year we had two Grant request and \$500 was awarded to Altrusa of Lake City, FL for their "Newcomer Backpacks" project and to the Virtual Club for "Joy of Reading-Pop Up Book Fairs" project. We look forward to receiving more Grant requests to fund even more projects to award in 2027.

We honored members that moved up to the next Giving Categories; the Governors Circle saw Donna Johnson, Traci Jones and Altrusa of Lake City, FL and the Mamie L. Bass Society welcomed Mary Kirley along with Altrusa of North Georgia, GA and Altrusa of Orlando-Winter Park, FL.

We were also extremely pleased to announce our new Category of Giving, the "Emerald Alliance" for accumulated donations of \$5,000 to \$15,000. We presented three of these new crystal recognition awards to members Jill Adams, Linda Robison and Martha Epps. Along with a certificate of appreciation to the Starke Foundation for their continued support.

FOUNDATION AWARD WINNERS



LUCILE SPILLERS ALEXANDER ASTRA AWARD
1st Place Altrusa International of Lake City, FL
ASTRA Club of Epiphany School 143 Points \$450



RICHARD WARD ULRICH ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE AWARD
1st Place Altrusa International of North Georgia, GA
"Community Sewing, Global Impact" 273 Points \$450



WILMA B. HOGAN LITERACY AWARD
1st Place Altrusa International of Gainesville, FL
"Spooktacular Book Giveaway" 257 Points \$1,000



VOCATIONAL SERVICES AWARD
1st Place Altrusa International of Lake County, FL
"Skills for Success" 271 Points \$450



CASSIE S. DOLLAR REHABILITATIVE SERVICE AWARD
1st Place Altrusa International of Charlotte, NC
"We cannot do it alone. We are stronger & smarter together" 210 Points \$450

The District Three Foundation, Inc. would like to congratulate each of our Award and Grant Winners and look forward to receiving many more Grant and Award applications prior to the next deadline of 1-31-2027. So please do not forget to send your much needed and appreciated donations throughout the year so that we may continue to help fund your projects and scholarships. You may also designate a specific Fund, General Fund or Joey Robison Scholarship on the memo line. Every donation "Moves you Up" on our Giving Categories Chart.

District Three Foundation at Conference Continued....

Donors Giving Categories

By Shannon Schell
District Three Treasurer



Shannon Schell



Altrusa District Three Foundation, Inc.

FOUNDATION DONORS AND GIVING CATEGORIES

We Appreciate and Thank You All for your Support !

SPONSOR \$50-\$249	PARTNER \$250-\$499	GOVERNOR'S CIRCLE \$500-\$999	MAMIE L BASS SOCIETY \$1,000-\$4,999	EMERALD ALLIANCE \$5,000-\$15,000	BENEFACTOR
Altrusa Gainesville Found Altrusa of Atlanta Altrusa of Bangalore India Altrusa of Citrus Cnty Altrusa of Gaffney Altrusa of Ocala Altrusa of Salisbury Barbara Ann Hughes Catherine Lipari Catherine Thompson Christine Brewer Debbie Catabia Donna Marzek Dr. Judy Perkin Jane Lewis Jeraldyn Rivest Josie Frieser Kathy Ulincy Linda Hamedani Lorrie Wheeler Maggie Edmiston Randi Kahl Roberta Klusmeier Sandy Furches Sandy Thompson Scott Frieser Sharon Huey Silvia Silverman Vicki Teal Virtual Club Yolander Hunter	Altrusa of Charlotte Altrusa of Charlotte Found Altrusa of Gainesville Altrusa of Monticello Altrusa of St Augustine Altrusa of Starke Altrusa of Statesboro Dimple Overstreet Nanci Schwartz Roberta Klusmeier Rosemary Leake Sara Freeborn Susy Meier	Altrusa Lake City Altrusa of Spartanburg Cindy Athey Donna Johnson Karen Robinson Linda Tatum Nancy Shumaker Traci Jones	Altrusa of Lake County Altrusa North Georgia Altrusa Ori/Winter Park Altrusa Spartanburg Found Beverly Hardy Christy Bryant Colleen Duris Dawn Mainville Gail Hackett Gayle Magruder Jane Gray Joanne Brown Julie Keiper Kitty McElhaney Mantha Young Margaret Cannon Mary Kirley Penny Penn Robin Hall Scott Tice Shannon Schell Tammy Hall	Altrusa District Three Altrusa Starke Foundation Anonymous Member Jill Adams Linda Robison Martha Epps Wilma B Hogan Fdtn	Anonymous Member Linda Robison Margaret Cannon Shannon Schell

Red indicates 'moving on up'

*Auction Purchases are Not Included

Records may be Incomplete due to unforeseen circumstances, any discrepancies please contact Shannon Schell, District Three Foundation Treasurer

Updated as of 2/28/2026



District Three Foundation at Conference Continued.... Financials

By Shannon Schell
District Three Treasurer

Statement of Financial Position Previous Year Comparison

As of February 28, 2026

Accrual Basis	<u>Feb 28, 26</u>	<u>Feb 28, 25</u>
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings/Brokerage		
1000 · Wells Fargo Checking_7481	24,058.31	4,890.66
1020 · Wells Fargo Savings_3703	0.00	91,979.25
1100 · Wells Fargo Advisors Brokerage		
1102 · WFA Cash and Sweep_4005	1,804.98	133,890.37
1104 · WFA Securities Portfolio	355,428.46	96,231.34
1100 - Wells Fargo Advisory Fees	(1,429.30)	0.00
Total 1100 · Wells Fargo Advisors	<u>355,804.14</u>	<u>230,121.71</u>
Total Checking/Brokerage	<u>379,862.45</u>	<u>326,991.62</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>379,862.45</u>	<u>326,991.62</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>379,862.45</u>	<u>326,991.62</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Equity		
3200 · I-PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED		
3202 · ASTRA FUND	10,000.46	10,000.46
3204 · CASSIE DOLLAR FUND	12,577.25	12,577.25
3206 · WILMA B HOGAN LITERACY FUND	110,250.00	110,250.00
3210 · ULRICH ENVIRONMENTAL FUND	10,000.00	10,000.00
3212 · VOCATIONAL FUND	10,025.00	10,025.00
3214 · JOEY ROBISON SCHOLARSHIP FUND	11,779.82	4,172.37
Total 3200 · I-PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	<u>164,632.53</u>	<u>157,025.08</u>
3400 · II-TEMP. RESTRICTED FUNDS		
3420 · FISCAL SPONSORSHIPS		
Total 3420 · FISCAL SPONSORSHIPS	89,435.00	72,057.80
3460 · SPECIAL ACCOUNTS		
3462 · DISTRICT THREE GRANT FUND	53,691.45	50,956.45
Total 3460 · SPECIAL ACCOUNTS	<u>53,691.45</u>	<u>50,956.45</u>
Total 3400 · II-TEMP. RESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>143,126.45</u>	<u>123,014.25</u>
3600 · III-UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		
3620 · DIV / INT / CAP GAINS		
3622 · INT / DIV_WF ADVISORS	39,437.79	27,941.31
3624 · INTEREST_BANK	0.00	127.97
3626 · CD INTEREST	0.00	3,870.41
3628 · CAPITAL GAIN/LOSS_REALIZED	5,145.78	4,011.46
3629 · SECURITIES GAIN/LOSS UNREALIZED	18,484.11	0.00
3620 · DIV / INT / CAP GAINS - Other	(18,470.73)	(13,430.35)
Total 3620 · DIV / INT / CAP GAINS	<u>44,596.95</u>	<u>22,520.80</u>
3640 · GENERAL FUND		
3642 · DONATIONS		
3642.2 · Grants Activity	(22,378.64)	(21,878.64)
3642 · DONATIONS - Other	70,077.20	60,887.20
Total 3642 · DONATIONS	<u>47,698.56</u>	<u>39,008.56</u>
3640 · GENERAL FUND - Other	<u>(20,192.04)</u>	<u>(14,577.07)</u>
Total 3640 · GENERAL FUND	<u>27,506.52</u>	<u>24,431.49</u>
Total 3600 · III-UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>72,103.47</u>	<u>46,952.29</u>
Total Equity	<u>379,862.45</u>	<u>326,991.62</u>

Conference Election Results

By Emily Pazel
District Three Elections Chair

At the 2026 District Three Conference, eligible voters participated in the election for the 2026-27 District Three Nominating Committee using the Election Runner electronic voting platform. I am pleased to report that most votes were successfully cast electronically, helping make the process efficient, secure, and easy for voters across the District.



Emily Pazel

A few voters were unable to access the electronic voting system, and written votes were accommodated to ensure every eligible vote could be counted.

Congratulations to **Jeraldyn Rivest**, who received the most votes cast and was elected to serve as Chair of the 2026-27 District Three Nominating Committee.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's election process and helped make it a success!



Jeraldyn Rivest



50 YEARS OF SERVICE

By Mantha Young
District Three Governor



ALTRUSA
International
Better Community

A very special congratulations to Linda Walker of Altrusa International of Spartanburg, who is recognized for an extraordinary milestone: 50 years of dedicated service to Altrusa and the community she has so faithfully served.

Fifty years of service represents a remarkable legacy of leadership, friendship, and commitment to making a difference. Linda's devotion over the decades has helped strengthen not only her club but also countless lives throughout Spartanburg and beyond.

Her custom 50-Year Service pin has been specially ordered and will be formally presented once received. Until then, we proudly celebrate this incredible achievement.

Congratulations, Linda, and thank you for 50 years of living the Altrusa spirit!

Sponsor Pin Recipients

The following Altrusans were recognized by Altrusa International, Inc. during conference for sponsoring members. They received pins representing the cumulative number of members the Altrusan has sponsored over time.

Club	Member	Sponsored	Pin
Charlotte, NC	Jennifer Drumm	1	1
Citrus County, FL	Karen Fellows	1	1
Citrus County, FL	Susan Gill	1	5
Citrus County, FL	Holli Herndon	1	1
Citrus County, FL	Melissa Sutherland	1	1
Virtual Club	Emily Pazel	2	1
Virtual Club	Judy Perkin	1	1
Gainesville, FL	Wafa Barbari	1	1
Gainesville, FL	Virginia Percy	1	1
Lake City, FL	Rebecca Golden	3	5
Lake City, FL	Debra Griffin	3	5
Lake City, FL	Abby Stalvey	2	1
Lake City, FL	Shellie Young	2	5
Lake County, FL	Anita Valdez	1	5
Lake County, FL	Cathy Keller	1	1
Lake County, FL	Patricia Mueller	1	1
Live Oak, FL	Carol Hingson	1	1
Mariana, FL	Rose Cavin	1	1
Mariana, FL	Lauren Cowan	1	1
Mariana, FL	Becky Hart	1	1
Mariana, FL	Edna Riley	2	1
North Georgia, GA	Maggie Edmiston	1	1
North Georgia, GA	Nancy Simms	1	GA
Ocala, FL	Becky Long	1	1
Ocala, FL	Judi Zanetti	1	1
Orlando-Winter Park, FL	Dawn Jones	1	1
Orlando-Winter Park, FL	Charlotte Simpson	1	1
Orlando-Winter Park, FL	Elizabeth Sushinsky	1	GA
Spartanburg, SC	Cynthia Johnson	1	1
St. Augustine, FL	Linda Herrera	1	1
Statesboro, GA	Jill Nevil	2	5



Conference Service Project Update

By Deborah McLendon
Service Program Development Chair

To all Altrusans who participated in the service projects at the conference in Spartanburg—Thank you, Thank you, Thank you. We completed three service projects:

Welcome Home Kits for A Place To Call Home. APTCH is a Spartanburg area initiative to address homelessness in all stages. The individual clubs and members of District Three shined as they met our goal of building 20 Welcome Home Kits for families moving into a temporary home on their way to permanent housing.

Over The Counter (OTC) medications collection for Help For Our Elderly. The Spartanburg Club regularly supports this nonprofit that helps supplement the daily needs of the elderly in their community. Our focus on OTC medications filled a specific niche identified by the director. The individual clubs and members of District Three sparkled as they labeled, sorted and filled nine cardboard boxes and two tote bags with much needed and appreciated items.

Create a Card District Three Altrusans were busy bees again as 'the hive' assembled and signed over 225 cards of encouragement to be distributed by Help For Our Elderly and A Place To Call Home to their recipient families. These beautiful card kits were provided by our soon to be formed club in Polk County, Florida.

Altrusans always "sparkle and shine" when we are selflessly serving others. Great Job!



Deborah McLendon

It's A Pleasure and A Joy

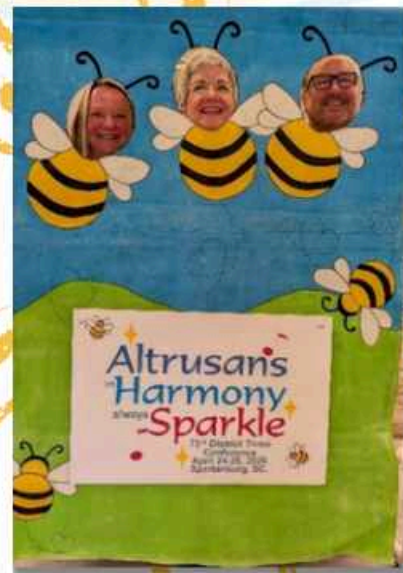
By Colleen Duris
District Program Co-Coordinator



Serving in the position of District Program Co-Coordinator (with Susy Meier) is truly *a pleasure and a joy!* I suspect you may be surprised to hear that, but after this past District Conference, let me explain why....

We get to work with so many wonderful people in the District and see them all come together to ensure we have an outstanding conference experience for our members. You may not realize how many people it takes to bring a conference together...we work with the entire District Board of Directors, District Committee Chairs, Conference Chairs, District Three Foundation Board, Club Presidents, Hotel & Banquet staff, and members willing to step forward and take on various aspects of conference. So many people, I can't name them all, but appreciate everyone's efforts.

I do have to recognize Tina Luca, Rosemary Leake (conference co-chairs) and the members of the Spartanburg club...you all are the BEE'S KNEES! (for those not familiar with this term – it means someone outstandingly good, excellent and of the highest quality!!) You not only “hosted” us in style, but you also made everything extra special. Your creativity, hospitality and thoughtfulness were over the top. You BEE DAZZLED us! Thank you all and see you in Gainesville in 2027.



73rd Annual District Three Conference Photos



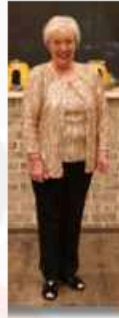
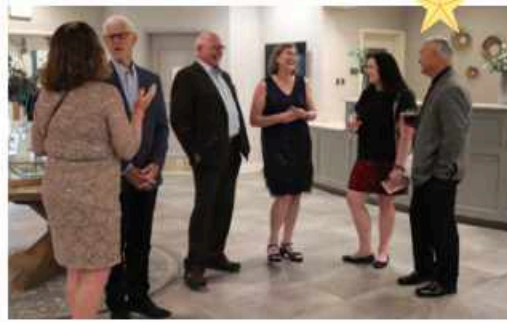
73rd Annual District Three Conference Photos Continued...



73rd Annual District Three Conference Photos Continued...



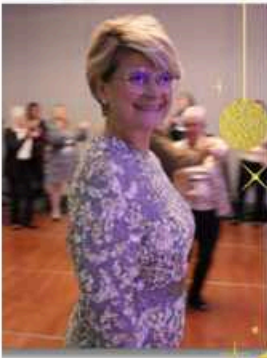
73rd Annual District Three Conference Photos Continued...



73rd Annual District Three Conference Photos Continued...



Let's Party



Club Service Projects & News

By Dolores Hall
Altrusa Intl of Raleigh, NC

Live Choices Rowan

Life Choices Rowan provides educational, material and limited medical support to parents in need.

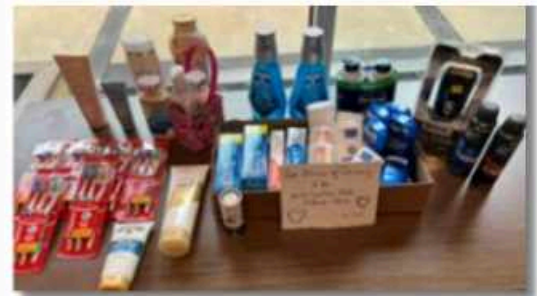
LCR requested assistance in providing disposal diapers in larger sizes which are not commonly donated or easy to find.

Altrusa International of Salisbury decided to support the efforts of LCR and was able to provide 12 packs of size 6 diapers, a total of 459 diapers.



Care Items to Veterans

As part of our continuing commitment to veterans, members of Altrusa International of Salisbury once again donated a wide array of personal care items requested by veterans at the North Carolina State Veterans Home.



Activities Department staff were pleased to receive our donations which were all regular size, not travel size items including toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash, shaving cream, razors, an electric razor, hand cream, body lotion, shampoo, deodorant.

As staff at the State Veterans Home inform us of items requested by the veterans in residence, we will continue to support the needs of our veterans.

Club Service Projects & News

By Dolores Hall
Altrusa Intl of Raleigh, NC

Note in the Pocket

The latest recurring community service project for our club is our participation in "Note in the Pocket." This is an organization that addresses clothing insecurity by providing new and gently used appropriate clothing to children and their families. It was founded in 2005 by a kindergarten teacher who noticed that some of her students lacked seasonally appropriate clothing. She and her mother purchased coats from retail and thrift stores and distributed them to the students. However, some of the coats were returned the next day, as the parents did not understand that the coats were a gift. The school's social worker prepared a note explaining that the coats were a gift from the community. A copy of the note was inserted into the pocket of each item.

One of our club's newest members had volunteered for this organization through her job, and thought our club might be interested in working with them. A speaker came to one of our meetings. We learned that there are 55,824 students in Wake County who live below the poverty level and qualify for free or reduced lunch. Note in the Pocket has had a 70% increase in requests for clothing in the past year, so the need is great.

A regular schedule of volunteering was established. After grabbing a bag from a donation bin, volunteers start out by sorting through the clothing, making sure that items are clean, in good condition, and are appropriate school attire. After a second and third examination, items are sorted by size and gender, folded, and bagged in color-coded drawstring bags. Other volunteers put together mini-wardrobes for specific clients, who are referred to the organization by Wake County Social Services.



Raleigh club members standing in front of a mural stating Note in the Pocket's mission: Clothing Children with Dignity and Love



Bins of unsorted clothing donations

Four or five of our members (our club membership consists of 16 individuals) volunteer each month, for three-hour shifts. In 2025, Note in the Pocket prepared and distributed 212,000 clothing items. Participation in this activity provides our club members with a sense of fulfillment, satisfaction, and an additional opportunity to serve our community.



Color-coded bags of sorted clothing



Members sorting clothes. Clothing that does not meet the established guidelines is added to the cardboard boxes for further sorting.

Club Service Projects & News

By Rachel Rhoden
Altrusa Intl of Starke, FL



Club members coming together to assemble and donate Easter Baskets to the children of the Guardian Ad Litem Program.



Altrusa Club of Starke supported its President Rachel Rhoden as she was honored during the Boy Scouts of America, American Values Dinner for outstanding and dedicated service to her community.

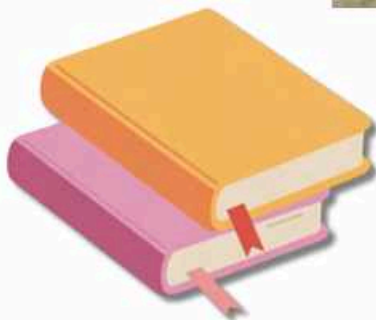
Altrusa Club of Starke supports literacy throughout the year!



Book giveaway during Library Christmas Carnival



Annual donation to Library literacy projects



Annual donation to the GED program at North Florida Technical College

Club Service Projects & News

By Pat Cichon
Altrusa Intl of Monticello, FL

SUITCASES TO YOUNG ADULTS

Several years ago, the Florida Legislature established "The Road-to-Independence Program" which provides young adults who have lived in foster care with additional support and resources for a period of time after reaching 18 years of age. During this transitional time, many of these young adults live in a licensed group home while gaining life skills and education leading to successful independent living. When they leave the group home, how do they take any personal possessions? This is where the members of Altrusa step in by providing new and gently used suitcases and duffle bags for distribution by the Department of Children and Families. Below are Altrusa members behind the pile of more than 40 bags to be delivered on April 9.



From left to right: Deputy Robert Roddy, Altrusa member Anita Ashworth, Sheriff Mac McNeill, Altrusans Sally Jordan and Vivian Smith.

COMFORT BEARS TO THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Jefferson County, Florida, is not as populous as other Altrusa locations but we are not without situations requiring law enforcement action. Altrusa of Monticello met with representatives of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office (JCSO) to learn how many of those cases might involve families with children. After that meeting, we decided to use Service Committee funds to equip each JCSO vehicle with stuffed bears for an upset or frightened child to hold and own. Below are some of our ladies delivering the bears to the Jefferson County Sheriff



Club Service Projects & News

By Mimi Cooper
Altrusa Intl of St Augustine, FL

St Francis Park Rededication



Fifty years ago, the corner of St Francis and St George Streets in the Lincolnville section of St Augustine was a sand lot slated for development. St Augustine Altrusans convinced the city to purchase the lot and over the course of two years, with the aid of many community partners, the Altrusans converted the sand lot into the peaceful St Francis Park.

The Jacksonville Altrusa Club donated a horse trough which became a fountain and a focal point in the park. A beautiful statue of St Francis was made by a young artist in Illinois.

Later, an obelisk was added to the park. The obelisk was part of The Obelisk Art 450 Project initiated by Compassionate St. Augustine and represents freedom, democracy, human rights, and compassion.

On April 11th, Altrusans and community members gathered at the park to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the park's creation, the 109th birthday of Altrusa International and the 64th birthday of Altrusa St Augustine. Altrusan Louise Bowman told the gathering about the history of the park and the work that the community has done through the years to maintain the park.



Our club plans to continue to collaborate with community partners to maintain the park. We hope to work with the artist who created the obelisk to restore it and to work with the park's neighbors who have been helping to maintain the gardens in the park.

We were pleased to have in attendance our Governor, Mantha Young and our past Governor, Dimple Overstreet.



Club Service Projects & News

By Shellie Young
Altrusa Intl of Lake City, FL

Altrusa Brings Learning to Life with Happy House Garden Project

The spirit of service and hands-on learning came together in a meaningful way during the recent Happy House Garden Project, a collaborative initiative between Altrusa International of Lake City and Happy House Preschool & Hybrid Learning Center, led by Altrusan Libby Spratlin, who served as project coordinator.

With the support of fellow volunteers, the project engaged a total of **32 participants**, including **15 Happy House Hub homeschool students** (ages 6–12), a teacher, parents, and Happy House board members.

Under Libby Spratlin's leadership, students worked side-by-side with Altrusans to construct **three 4x8 raised garden beds**, which had been pre-assembled by Spratlin in preparation for the event. The homeschool students actively participated in measuring, drilling, and assembling the beds, followed by placing fertilizer, measuring planting space, and planting a variety of seeds and vegetables including cucumbers, squash, zucchini, eggplant, radishes, watermelon, bell peppers, and wildflowers.

The day also included a special literacy component for younger learners. Two volunteers and an Altrusan read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* to **18 VPK students**, integrating early childhood education with the garden theme. The VPK classroom featured engaging learning centers such as a science station with magnifying glasses and insect models, LEGO building tables focused on garden structures, a writing center with garden vocabulary, and a dramatic play farm stand.

"This project truly reflects what Altrusa stands for—service, education, and community," said Spratlin. "It was incredible to see students so engaged and excited to learn through doing."

The garden project will continue to provide ongoing educational opportunities. Homeschool students will pair up to research and present information about the vegetables they planted, while VPK students will expand their garden unit through reading, vocabulary development, and hands-on care of the plants. Both groups will eventually harvest the produce, learning how to wash, prepare, and taste the vegetables, culminating in making snacks from recipes they select.

The Happy House Garden Project not only promotes nutrition and environmental awareness but also fosters teamwork, curiosity, and a love for learning—values at the heart of Altrusa's mission.



Club Service Projects & News

By Tammy Hall
Altrusa Intl of Lake City, FL

Celebrating Earth Day with Purpose: Altrusa Brings Gardening Joy to Solaris Residents



In honor of Earth Day, the Altrusa International Club of Lake City, Florida, completed a meaningful and lasting project at Solaris of Lake City, a local rehabilitation and long-term care facility. The initiative focused on creating an accessible gardening experience for residents while promoting wellness, engagement, and the simple joy of nurturing plants.

The club designed and installed custom-built planting stands specifically tailored for wheelchair accessibility. These thoughtfully constructed stands ensure that all residents, regardless of mobility limitations, can comfortably participate in gardening activities. By eliminating physical barriers, the project opens the door for hands-on involvement and fosters a sense of independence and pride.

In addition to the custom stands, Altrusa provided self-watering "GrowBox" planters, making plant care easier and more manageable for residents and staff alike. The club also supplied potting mix, plants and seeds, offering opportunities for both immediate enjoyment and the anticipation of watching new growth emerge over time.

The activities director at Solaris of Lake City will play an important role in guiding residents as they tend the garden. From watering and nurturing the plants to taking cuttings and arranging fresh flowers for dining tables, the ongoing care of the garden becomes a shared and purposeful activity. These fresh floral arrangements will bring beauty indoors, allowing the impact of the garden to extend throughout the facility.

Beyond its visual appeal, the garden offers numerous benefits. Gardening has been shown to enhance physical activity, stimulate the senses, and promote emotional well-being. For residents in long-term care, it provides an opportunity to reconnect with nature, reminisce about past gardening experiences, and engage in a rewarding group activity that encourages social interaction.

This Earth Day project reflects Altrusa's commitment to community service and improving quality of life. By creating a space where residents can gather, grow, and share in the experience of gardening, the club has planted more than seeds—it has cultivated joy, connection, and lasting memories.



DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

DISTRICT THREE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Governor	Mantha Young	Lake City, FL	AltrusaDistrictThreeGovernor@gmail.com
Governor-Elect	Nancy Shumaker	Statesboro, GA	nancyshumaker.altrusa@gmail.com
Vice Governor	Scott Frieser	Charlotte, NC	Scottfrieser.altrusa@gmail.com
Treasurer	Scott Tice	Ocala, FL	scottaltrusa@gmail.com
Director	Dee Dugger	Gainesville, FL	Ladydragonfly54@gmail.com
Director	Randi Kahl	Orlando, FL	Randi_altrusa@yahoo.com
Director	Rosemary Leake	Spartanburg, SC	Rosemary1976@msn.com
Secretary	Nanci Schwartz	Lake County	napschwartz@gmail.com
Parliamentarian	Penny Penn	North GA	ppenn04@yahoo.com

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Webmaster	Emily Pazel	Virtual Club/Yes	emilypazel@gmail.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CLUB ASSIGNMENTS

Governor	Mantha Young	Lake City, FL	Spartanburg, Ocala, Citrus County, Salisbury & All Clubs in Two Years
Governor-Elect	Nancy Shumaker	Statesboro, GA	Atlanta, Gastonia, N. Georgia, Orlando-Winter Park
Vice Governor	Scott Frieser	Charlotte, NC	Lake County, St. Augustine, Gainesville, Monticello
Treasurer	Scott Tice	Ocala, FL	n/a
Director	Dee Dugger	Gainesville, FL	Statesboro, Starke, Lake City
Director	Randi Kahl	Orlando, FL	Live Oak, Marianna, District Three Virtual
Director	Rosemary Leake	Spartanburg, SC	Charlotte, Raleigh, Waynesville

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

FOUNDATION BOARD 2025-2026

Chair	Joanne Brown	Monticello, FL	joannebrownsvm@gmail.com
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Treasurer	Shannon Schell	The Villages, FL	seszippy@aol.com
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Trustee	Christine Brewer	Lake City, FL	christinegbrewer@icloud.com
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2026			2027		
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