

Chili n' Totes



Nomination for Mamie L Bass Service Award

May 31, 2013

**Altrusa International, Inc. of Richardson, Texas
PO Box 832101
Richardson, Texas 75083-2101
USA**

District Nine

2012-2013

Mamie L. Bass Service Award Entry Form

District **Nine**
Name of Club **Altrusa International, Inc. of Richardson**
Club Membership **87 Members plus 2 Emeritus Members**
Date of Entry **May 23, 2013**
Name of Contact Person **Kimberly D Kierce, 2012-2013 Club President**
Email Address **kimberly.kierce@cor.gov**
Address **PO Box 832101**
City **Richardson** State **TX**
Country **USA** Zip/Postal Code **75083-2101**

In 1,000 words or less, describe your project (typed, double spaced, and printed on plain white paper). Please refer to the judging criteria for this award. Use the following as a guideline in preparing the entry.

A. Selection of Project (20 points)

1. Describe the aims and objectives of your project:

- a) What was the purpose of the project?
- b) What segment of the community was the project designed to help?
- c) What provisions were made for member participation in carrying out this project?

2. Explain why your Club chose the project:

- a) How was the need for the project determined?
- b) Was this need being met by any other community group or agency?
- c) What were the reasons for choosing this project?
- d) How was the membership involved in the selection of this project?

B. Development and Implementation of the Project (60 points)

1) Describe how your project was carried out (proposals, action plans, communication, etc.)

- a) How was the project structure developed (guidelines, timetables, work assignments, communication, and record keeping)?
- b) How was each party informed on the progress of the project?

2) What resources were required?

- a) What resources and fundraising were needed for the project?

3) How was the Club membership involved in the project?

- a) How were the talents and abilities of Club members utilized?
- b) What percentage of Club members actively participated in the project?
- c) How many hours of personal service were contributed by Club members?

4) How was the project supported by individuals and/or organizations in the community?

- a) What was the extent of participation or support by individuals and/or organizations in the community?

C. Evaluation of the Project (20 points)

- 1) Were the original objectives of the project achieved?
- 2) What was the estimated number of people who were helped by the project?
- 3) What were the benefits to the community?
- 4) Did the project promote community awareness of Altrusa?

Supplementary information should not exceed six pages (0 points)

The Community Outreach Committee conducted a membership survey that revealed the club was interested in a hands-on project that would provide fellowship among members as well as provide needed support for a local women's shelter. We conducted a successful "Sweet Dreams" pillow project last year with New Beginning Center (a women's shelter in Garland, Tx) and the Committee determined that New Beginning was a worthy recipient for this project as well.

New Beginning provides temporary shelter for up to 36 women at any given time who have left an abusive situation, which translates into aid for almost 500 women annually. They are funded primarily by grants and donations. Shelter clients are the ones that clean the house, cook the food, and do other chores as deemed necessary - everyone must do their part. A large part of their food is purchased at the North Texas Food Bank, plus they get donations of fresh fruits and vegetables from local Tom Thumb stores.

New Beginning provides parenting classes and group discussions that help clients understand the circle of violence, learn how to stop the abuse, and prevent it from recurring. The center also provides the clients with job leads and has a wonderful children's playroom where a male mentor works with the children. He shows them that not all males are violent or abusive and helps them regain trust in men. Clients and their children can remain at the shelter for up to 30 days, and are then referred to the Outreach Center where they can receive semi-permanent housing for up to two years in a local apartment complex. The importance of New Beginning to our community led us to choose it as the recipient.

After discussions with the shelter coordinator, the Committee decided to provide a welcome gift filled with toiletries and a blanket for each woman entering the shelter and a handwritten card with words of encouragement. Many of the clients who come to the shelter

arrive with nothing but the clothes they are wearing, or, at best, very little in the way of personal items.

We received 50 recyclable Target tote bags to hold purchased and donated toiletry items. The reusable tote bags were filled with a blanket and full size toiletries such as shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, a razor, manicure kit, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, hand sanitizer, soap, a pair of socks, and a washcloth. We sought toiletry items from various suppliers and purchased the remaining items with coupons at deep discounts with the budget provided by the club's successful fundraiser, Outstanding Women of Today... Builders of Tomorrow Annual Awards Luncheon. Sue McElveen's dentist, Dr. Reid Slaughter, DDS from Lakewood Family Dental Care, donated the 50 toothbrushes and 50 tubes of toothpaste.

Because women entering the shelter often have young children with them, we also wanted to include something for the children as well. Our "Make a Difference Day" project this year was manned by our new members and spearheaded by our past President in which over 100 hand-made Altrusa coloring books (along with numerous children's books) were delivered along with crayons to two local hospitals serving children with cancer. Already having the know-how and skill at making them, we assembled the coloring books as the perfect welcome gift for the children at New Beginning. In the process of securing items for the totes, Jane Tucker was also able to procure a case of diapers from Medline Industries, Inc. and a pediatric nebulizer for children with asthma - we never turn away any donation!

The Committee asked the club to volunteer time to put together the bags and to bring a donation of a bottle of lotion to complete the items needed for the bags. Brenda Duckett graciously provided her home as the assembly place. The Committee decided to make it a party and provide food for all who participated. We had a chili dinner, deliciously made by our hostess

Brenda - so the idea of a “Chili n’ Totes” party was born! Others volunteered to bring appetizers, condiments and, of course, desserts. A few even brought wine - and so the fun began.

In all, 23 members congregated, bringing additional items for the totes, enjoying dinner and laughter, and stuffing tote bags. Bonnie Perry volunteered to make coloring book sheets to assemble into coloring books, members brought crayons, and President Kimberly Kierce designed a cover. So, while some of our volunteer members were stuffing the bags for the moms, others were assembling the Altrusa Adventure coloring books for the children. Six members who could not personally attend the party provided cards with encouraging messages to be included in the totes and a few others made donations for a total participation of 40% of our 80+ members. Approximately 96 volunteer hours were dedicated to this project and expenses totaled \$819.

After all assembly was completed and all the desserts were devoured, we loaded up Sue McElveen’s car to the brim. We needed an extra car, so Genevieve Hamulak volunteered to help transport the rest with Sue to New Beginning on March 1. Sue and Genevieve got a great tour of the facility, learning much about their operations and left there feeling grateful that there is a place like New Beginning for those in need. They left knowing that we had helped a wonderful organization in a very special way.

Looking back, after the recipient was chosen and all the items were gathered, stuffed, and delivered, we accomplished our goal of a project to provide camaraderie and fellowship for our members while serving the community. New Beginnings thanked us for the tote bags that would help 50 women/families as they enter the shelter. Our goal of serving the community as well as getting to know our Altrusa sisters was definitely achieved. We continue to establish and sustain strong partnerships with New Beginning and many local community supporters as we educate them about Altrusa’s mission – Leading to a Better Community® – one project at a time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly D Kierce, 2012-2013 Club President

PLEASE NOTE:

Optional Supplemental Material (No points) Judges place primary importance on the written narrative. Substantiating materials do not earn points and are considered only in a supplementary perspective.

ENTRY SUBMISSION:

Please submit one (1) original and three (3) copies of this nomination postmarked on or before **June 1st**
to:

Mamie L. Bass Service Award Coordinator

Mary Beth McLemore
3606 Cypress Grove Court
Richardson, TX 75082