

Altrusa Adventures in Cultural Awareness

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

May 31, 2013

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

District Nine

2012-2013

Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations 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 29, 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**

Please refer to the judging criteria for this award. Use the following as a guideline in preparing the entry. (Nominations shall be typed, double spaced, and printed on one side and on plain white paper).

1. **Number of meetings dedicated to International Relations** (*minimum of 2 per year*)
Maximum 15 points:

13 # of Meetings

- On **August 2, 2012**, Mary Beth McLemore gave an Altrusa Accent which focused on the **2012 United Nations International Youth Day** theme of “Building a Better World: Partnering with Youth”. Barbara Berthold made announcements about plans for the **Japan-America Grassroots Summit** and talked about volunteer opportunities for the Welcome Ceremony at City Hall August 30, 2012. She also reminded members to attend the **Cultural Awareness Training** session for volunteers on Sunday, August 19, 2012 at the Richardson Public Library.
- The theme for the **August 16, 2013** program meeting was “**Adventures Abroad**” with Australian Travel Agent, Robbert Van Bloemendahl, who gave a presentation about the culture and life in **New Zealand** and **Australia**, thereby encouraging members to attend the 2013 Altrusa International Convention in Rotorura, NZ and explore these two great countries. Additionally, members of the International Relations committee sold Private

Label Guatemalan coffee for **HELPS International**, which raised \$180, to benefit the ecosystem of Guatemala. During the meeting, Altrusa member Gloria Sandoval gave a brief speech on how this program helps improve the lives of the people of Guatemala.

- At the **September 6, 2012** business meeting, Brenda Boston spoke to club members about why our club will be celebrating **United Nations Literacy Day** on September 8 and challenged members to read ten minutes on September 8 to participate in the “**Altrusa Great Read**”. International Relations committee members reiterated this during the meeting with additional information on the “Altrusa Great Read” sponsored by District Fifteen, signing up members who intended to read ten minutes on September 8, 2012. Sixty-three (63) members participated.
- On **September 27, 2012**, Bobbi Klein's Accent was dedicated to **Literacy Month** that we celebrate in September.
- During the **October 18, 2012** program meeting, Jane Tucker's accent was on **United Nations Day**, October 24, 2012, by describing the role of Audrey Braver, Altrusa's UN representative. Jane discussed the amount of time Miss Braver devotes to attending meetings as an Altrusa observer. We also celebrated United Nations Day at this meeting by participating in “**Trick or Treat for UNICEF**” by collecting \$100.38 in change for UNICEF. Gloria Sandoval gave a brief speech on UNICEF and the many ways they will use this money to help millions of children around the world.
- The **November 25, 2012** program meeting focused on supporting the United Nations “**UNITE to End Violence**” campaign by wearing orange. Mary Osentowski's Accent gave club members a brief history of how the UN established the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women**. A brief talk by Rose Daughety emphasized the

importance of orange to raise awareness of the UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

- At the **December 6, 2012** business meeting, Susie Jennings, founder of **Operation Care International**, spoke to club members about her organization and gave a history of the “Christmas Party for the Homeless” to be held on December 15, 2012. Club members brought donations of shoes and socks to this meeting and presented them to Miss Jennings for her event to bring focus upon the December 10, 2012 **UN Human Rights Day**.
- The **December 20, 2012** program meeting, entitled “**Holiday Adventure and International Passport Celebration**”, focused on the president’s theme for the year “Discover Altrusa: Your Passport to Adventure!” with entertainment provided by the international dance group and drummers, Yallah! Dance Co. (December 2012 *Altrusa Tidings*, Pg. 12)
- On **January 3, 2013**, Toni Garrett read correspondence from **HELPS International** to update the club on their recent endeavors in Guatemala.
- The **February 21, 2013** Altrusa Richardson Birthday Celebration continued the international theme by serving **food from around the world**. Honored guest, Linda Moore, Altrusa District Nine Director, was one of the many who enjoyed tasting a variety of internationally flavored dishes. Also, Marsha Peters and Sue McElveen announced the “**Chili and Tote**” project taking place on February 28, 2013 and requested club members to participate by either donating toiletries or helping to stuff tote bags for the New Beginning Center in Garland, Texas. This project was launched to help this center for victims of domestic violence to highlight **UN Women's Rights Day** on March 8th.
- At the **March 7, 2013** business meeting, Linda Korn and Susan Frensley presented a brief

history behind the **UN Women's Rights Day** on March 8th and handed out brochures entitled “Slavery Out of the Shadows: Spotlight on Human Trafficking”.

- The theme for the **March 21, 2013** program meeting was the “**12 Stones Adventure**” – a **Heifer International** Nepal project. The movie night theme provided members an opportunity to taste appetizers, dal and flatbread, native to Nepal and see a film documenting how Heifer International promotes a self-help economic program to eliminate hunger and poverty worldwide.
- At the **April 4, 2013** business meeting, members were given the opportunity to have their blood pressure taken and brochures on hypertension were handed out to promote the 2013 theme of “Hypertension” for **UN World Health Day** on April 7th. Also, bottled water was sold to raise awareness of the UNICEF TAP Water Project. We raised a total of \$65 and donated it to UNICEF.

2. **Most outstanding program; did it contribute to the initiation of a new Club project?** (50 words or less) Maximum 30 points
[] Yes [] No

We participated in the Japan-America Grassroots (JAG) Summit (Aug 28 – Sept 3) aimed at strengthening peaceful inter-country relationships. Members staffed Richardson’s Welcome Reception and organized a Progressive Dinner/Art Showcase. JAG encouraged us to not only increase internationally-focused efforts, but to create cultural awareness within our community through projects as well.

(*Altrusa Tidings*, November 2012, Special Issue (pg. 3,11))

3. **Does your club currently have an existing project to promote International Relations?** Describe. (200 words or less) Maximum 30 points
[] Yes [] No

We expanded on our giving history with Heifer International showcasing their most fundamental principles to introduce (newer) members to Heifer and to communicate the relevance of their work.

In March, we showed the documentary “12 Stones”, the remarkable journey out of poverty for a group of illiterate women from Nepal. The movie screening was framed by reports on Heifer’s mission, our long-time relationship with them, and a reception offering Nepalese food. The room was decorated with Nepalese flags and butterflies made by residents of a local senior residence. Forty-eight members (60% of club membership) attended, 15 members helped with the preparations for a total of 30 volunteer hours.

Additionally, we engaged Terrace Elementary, our adopted school which serves a culturally diverse student body. Fourth graders chose the country and animals wisely spending the \$150 budgeted to be donated to Heifer. Mary Beth McLemore facilitated the lesson focusing on sustainable climate-appropriate farming and philanthropy.

Our activities brought together different groups to reflect on the importance of sustainable help aimed at empowering impoverished women and their families; thereby creating an understanding for needs unique to certain communities. We not only reached out to the international community, but educated ourselves and future philanthropists.

(May 2013 *Altrusa Tidings* pg. 6; *Altrusa Tidings*, March 2013, pg. 11; April 2013 *Altrusa Tidings* pg. 12; 2013-3-21 Program Agenda)

4. **Did your club observe any of the following International dates during the past year?**
(minimum of 5 — please state the manner of observance) Maximum 15 points

a. Yes No **World Day of Social Justice – February 20th**

- Article published in *Altrusa Tidings*, our club newsletter. (January/February 2013, Pg

13)

b. Yes No **International Woman's Day – March 8th**

- Article was published in *Altrusa Tidings*. (March 2013 *Altrusa Tidings*, Pg. 9)
- Club members held a “Chili and Tote Party” February 28, 2013 to fill 50 tote bags with blankets and toiletries for the New Beginning Center, an abused woman's shelter in Garland, Texas. (March 2013 *Altrusa Tidings*, Pg.6-7)
- The March 21, 2013 program meeting was dedicated to Heifer International and showcased how they work with impoverished women in communities around the world to end hunger and poverty. (April 2013 *Altrusa Tidings*, Pg. 12)
- Conducted a BeadsforLife jewelry event at to the March 21, 2013 program meeting, on April 19 – 21, 2013 at District Nine Conference and on May 4, 2013 at Altrusa Market Place. The \$1079 raised will help this 501(c)3 non-profit organization impact over 1,400 Ugandan women with their sustainable businesses of making jewelry and shea nut products. Our efforts in March also assisted BeadforLife with their “March Out Poverty” annual campaign. (April 2013 *Altrusa Tidings*, Pg.12)
- Accent & brief speech at the March 7, 2013 business meeting highlighted International Woman's Day (Minutes March 7 Business Meeting).

c. Yes No **World Health Day – April 7th**

- Article published in *Altrusa Tidings*. (April 2013 *Altrusa Tidings*, Pg. 13)
- At the April 7, 2013 business meeting, blood pressures were taken and a handout on hypertension entitled “Take Your Health to Heart!” was given out to club members to coincide with the UN World Health Day theme of Hypertension. (May 2013 *Altrusa Tidings*, Pg. 12) In addition, bottled water was sold to raise \$65 for The UNICEF Tap

Project. According to UNICEF, each dollar raised allows a child 40 days of safe drinking water. That's 2,600 days of safe water our club provided. (Minutes April 7 Business Meeting, photos)

d. Yes No **International Day of Families – May 15th**

- Article was published in *Altrusa Tidings*. (May 2013 *Altrusa Tidings*, Pg. 2)
- Monetary donation (\$150) made to the USO designated to be used for Full Circle Home and Operation USO Care Package projects. Both projects were selected because they aid deployed military keep connected with their families. (May 2013 *Altrusa Tidings*, Pg. 3)
- Monetary donation (\$150) was made to Heifer International to send families in Thailand and Mexico animals to assist with their entrepreneurship. Animals and countries were selected by a fourth grade class at Terrace Elementary School in Richardson, Texas to enhance their awareness of Heifer International. (May 2013 *Altrusa Tidings*, Pg. 6)

e. Yes No **International Youth Day – August 12th**

- Accent on August 2, 2012 by Mary Beth McLemore focused on why the UN themed the 2012 International Youth Day “Building a Better World: Partnering with Youth”.
- Article published in *Altrusa Tidings*. (July/August 2012 *Altrusa Tidings*, Pg. 13)

f. Yes No **International Literacy Day – September 8th**

- An article entitled “International Literacy Day and The Altrusa Great Read” was published in the *Altrusa Tidings*. (September 2012 *Altrusa Tidings*, Pg. 2)
- An Accent during the September 6, 2012 program meeting by Brenda Boston focused on United Nations International Literacy Day.

- Our club reported 63 “Altrusa Great Read” participants to Leanne Milligan, Immediate Past Governor of District Fifteen. (October 2012 *Altrusa Tidings*, Pg. 6)
- A monetary donation (\$350) to HELPS International was made to provide for the 2012-2013 school year of second grader Senayda Isabel Torrez Medina in Guatemala. (September 2012 *Altrusa Tidings*, Pg. 8)
- A monetary donation (\$350) to TeachHaiti was made to sponsor Schephatia Herwine Joseph's 2012-2013 school year at the School of Hope in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.
- An International Pen Pal project connected 4th graders at the School of Hope in Port-au-Prince, Haiti with 4th graders at Richardson ISD Terrace Elementary. In addition to letter correspondence, the RISD children shared hand-made school photo bookmarks and the Haitian children shared hand-made jewelry and paper crafts. (July/August 2012 *Altrusa Tidings*, Pg. 6)
- Sold \$365 worth of School For Hope jewelry for TeachHaiti made by students in grades 8-12 by using recycled paper from cereal boxes and magazines. One hundred percent of this money helps support TeachHaiti programs with 50% going to provide meals, transportation, and school supplies, and 50% going to help TeachHaiti alumni attend college. (July/August 2012 *Altrusa Tidings*, Pg. 6)
- Book Swap/Potluck Dinner August 25, 2012 was held in honor of Literacy Month. (September 2012 *Altrusa Tidings*, Pg. 5)
- Our club donated \$400 worth of school supplies to NETWORK, a local non-profit organization in Richardson, Texas who gave them to children whose families lack the funds to provide them. (E-Mail to club members from August 8, 2012)
- Altrusa Richardson was a sponsor (\$1,000) of Richardson Reads One Book and club

members volunteered at the event featuring author Chitra Divakaruni on September 20, 2012 who lectured on her book entitled “One Amazing Thing”. (October 2012 *Altrusa Tidings*, Pg. 8)

- “Teddy Bear Time” at Terrace Elementary started with volunteers getting special orientation for the 16-week reading program for pre-K students. (December 2012 *Altrusa Tidings*, Pg. 16)

g. [X] Yes [] No International Day of Peace – September 21st

- Article on International Peace Day was published in *Altrusa Tidings*. (September 2012 *Altrusa Tidings*, Pg. 6)
- Altrusa Richardson helped host some of the 200 visitors from Japan attending the 2012 Japan-America Grassroots Summit held in North Texas from August 28 to September 3, 2012. A featured event “The Taste of the South Progressive Dinner” held on Saturday, September 1st was choreographed by our club. (November 2012 *Altrusa Tidings*, pg 3-11)
- During our orientation/reorientation session on September 8, 2012 club members decorated quilt squares for “The American Hero's Quilt Program”. These squares contained words of encouragement for wounded armed forces hospitalized at the Ramstein Air Base Hospital in Germany. (October 2012 *Altrusa Tidings*, Pg. 4)

h. [X] Yes [] No World Food Day – October 16th

- Article was published in *Altrusa Tidings* focused on the UN World Food Day theme of “Agricultural Cooperatives-Key to Feeding the World”. (October 2012 *Altrusa Tidings*, Pg. 2)
- Prior to the October 18, 2012 program meeting HELPS International “Private Label”

coffee was sold with the \$180 in proceeds sent to HELPS International to be used in economic development projects in Guatemala. (September 2012 *Altrusa Tidings*, Pg. 8)

i. Yes No **United Nations Day – October 24th**

- Article was published in the *Altrusa Tidings* on United Nations Day. (October 2012 *Altrusa Tidings*, Pg. 12)
- A “Trick or Treat for UNICEF” coin drive was held at the October 18, 2012 program meeting with the \$100.38 proceeds to be used by UNICEF in over 150 countries to reduce child mortality due to preventable causes. (December 2012 *Altrusa Tidings*, Pg. 2)
- The October 18, 2012 program meeting accent by Jane Tucker focused on the importance of United Nations Day and the role Audrey Braver plays as our Altrusa United Nations representative. (October 18 Program Meeting Minutes)

j. Yes No **International Day for the Elimination of
Violence Against Women – November 25th**

- Article on International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women. (November 2012 *Altrusa Tidings*, Pg. 2)
- The November 15, 2012 program meeting focused on supporting the United Nations “UNITE to End Violence” campaign by participating in “Orange Your Day!”. During the meeting club members Rose Daughety and Mary Osentowski talked about the escalating violence against women in today's society and the need for awareness on how to help promote an end to the problem. (November 2012 *Altrusa Tidings*, Pg.2; December 2012 *Altrusa Tidings*, Pg. 7)

k. Yes No **Human Rights Day – December 10th**

- Article was published in *Altrusa Tidings* on Human Rights Day. (December 2012 *Altrusa Tidings*, Pg. 8)
- To coincide with the Human Rights Day 2012 focus of inclusion and the right to participate in public life our club collected shoes and socks from October through December 2012 and donated them on December 6, 2012 to Susie Jennings, founder and president of Operation Care International, a non-profit organization focused on helping homeless and impoverished, both in Dallas and around the world. These donations were distributed to the homeless at her annual “Christmas Party for the Homeless” held December 15, 2012 at the Dallas Convention Center. It was attended by over 9,000 guests, and our donation was part of the 6,200 new shoes handed out. (January/February 2013 *Altrusa Tidings*, Pg. 6)

5. Does your club know that Altrusa has a United Nations Representative?

Maximum 10 points

Yes No

a. Did your club utilize the resources available from the Altrusa U. N. Representative?

Yes No

b. Did your club have a program relating to the United Nations?

Yes No

Describe. (50 words or less).

We participated in UNICEF's Trick or Treat and TAP Project, The World Health Organization's hypertension awareness campaign, UNITE to End Violence Against Women wear orange campaign for UNESCO, and because Audrey Braver emphasized its importance, distributed awareness brochures about human trafficking for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly D Kierce, 2012-2013 Club President

ENTRY SUBMISSION:

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

Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award Coordinator

Ellen Heffner, Dallas
2102 Heather Court
McKinney, TX 75218

Supplemental Material

Attached are a few examples of articles and featured stories from our club newsletter, *Altrusa Tidings*, as referenced throughout this award submission.

The items highlighted in **yellow** on the previous pages are the articles found in the following attachments.

To view all article references, simply go to our club website and click on the “Newsletters” tab to view all *Altrusa Tidings* issues.

www.altrusarichardson.com