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## President's Message

### **SPONSORING MEMBERS—IT TAKES A VILLAGE**

It's easy to get excited about a potential new member. And, it is definitely exhilarating to find other women that we think might love everything about Altrusa with the same passion that we do. Perhaps, each decision—every invitation for membership—should be guided less by our enthusiasm and more by our commitment. While snooping into some old documents about membership, I found a 2004 form entitled Evaluation of Club's Membership History, intended for clubs to provide to a District Visitor. Questions included how a club recruits, age and ethnicity diversity, support of new members, and the percentage of membership that actively recruit members. It also asks how we educate members on the role of sponsorship.

How much thought really goes into the decision to be a sponsor? Do we sign that line that names a new member sponsor with the realization that this is a responsibility—not just a formality? When we observe an initiation ceremony to accept new members, do we fully understand that sponsorship is a collective responsibility of all members?

In a 2005 committee report on Altrusa membership, Melva Hill and Kelli Owens state that the "sponsorship badge should be worn by all of us. We are a sisterhood. Sisters are compassionate, thoughtful, and responsive to the needs of others..... especially their sisters. Altrusa is derived from the word altruism, which is the principal of living and acting for the good of others." Do we make others feel as welcome at future meetings as we do at their first few? Do we reach out when someone has missed a few meetings or

just assume that it is someone else's responsibility?

I believe the strength of our club will always be determined by the individual strength of each of our members rather than the totality of our membership numbers. I'm ending this message with a true confession. One of my pet peeves is when small conversations are simmering while someone is speaking. It seems inconsiderate to both the speaker as well as those trying to listen. At a recent business meeting, I was sitting off to the side while a member was giving a report. With three different conversations going on, it was a little difficult to hear. It was a tad annoying and I was getting a tad grumpy. Thankfully, right before I nearly voiced a somewhat presidential hush, I realized that at least two of the conversations were members sharing important information to a new member as well as a potential member. They were both perfect examples of meaningful and engaging sponsorship ... a good member accepting the responsibility for another member.

*Pam Kovacs*

President, 2013-2014  
[pamkovacs@friendsplaceads.com](mailto:pamkovacs@friendsplaceads.com)



**"Leading Loudly, Serving Proudly!"**

**Project Report****ALTRUSA RICHARDSON—MAKING A HUGE DIFFERENCE!**

By Kimberly Kierce, Sophomore Sisters Committee Liaison

In honor of Make a Difference Day on Saturday, October 26, 2013, Altrusa Richardson Foundation (a 501(c)(3) organization) donated more than 1,100 books to Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. The Hospital is one of the nation's leading pediatric centers for the treatment of orthopedic conditions, certain related neurological disorders, and learning disorders, such as dyslexia. Our literacy project was designed to enhance the lives of the young patients through reading, which is a great way to escape the treatment, surgery, and rehabilitation these children encounter every day. The presentation of the books to hospital executives and children is in alignment with the literacy focus of Altrusa International.

Half Price Book's (HPB) One Million Book Donation Project was glad to generously accommodate our request



for book donations. On September 23, Kimberly Kierce picked up over 1,100 books from the HPB Donation Warehouse. Honorary Altrusan, **Ernestine Swanson**, spent over 17 hours placing Altrusa stickers, reading "A Gift from Altrusa Richardson Foundation" on each and every HPB donated book.

Centerpieces from the Outstanding Women of Today Awards Luncheon held on October 25 were also donated to this Make a Difference Day project. Over 600 books (also from Half Price Books) were collected to create the resourceful, ingenious, functional, and beautiful centerpieces for the 32 luncheon tables, thanks to the creativity of **Mary Beth McLemore** and **Jill Van Os**.

On Saturday, October 26, 2013, eight Altrusans gathered at the home of Sherrie White to place stickers on all other donated books and sort all the books into age appropriate categories from infants to toddlers; kindergarteners to fourth graders; fifth graders to eighth graders; and adults. **Kimberly Kierce, Dean Burroughs, Lynn Solomon, Sherri White, Elizabeth Smith, Genevieve Hamulak, Pat Griffin and Carolyn Swanson** labeled and sorted the over 1,700 books while enjoying brunch casseroles, pasties, fruit and mimosas. It was a fun, fulfilling, and productive day!

On Friday, November 1, four Altrusans personally delivered over 1,100 books to Texas Scottish Rite Hospital. **Kimberly Kierce, Lynn Solomon, Jan Flesch and Jan Skinner** met with Development Officer, Kelly Glasscock, and other hospital staff to deliver the books and we were provided with an insiders tour of the hospital. The prosthetics lab was very impressive and the attention this hospital affords every child to fulfill their needs, life goals and ambitions, in spite of any perceived disability, is awe-inspiring. These medical professionals are working miracles every day and positively impacting the lives of thousands of children to exceed expectations and dreams. It is heartwarming to know that we (Altrusans), too, are impacting their lives with the gift of literacy.

In all, a total of 21 people participated in this project while contributing over 89 hours to the project. Altrusa Richardson collected 1,704 books thereby sharing the love of reading with over 1,700 people. The majority of the books (1,100) were donated to Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. The remainder of the books were

(Continued on page 3)

**RICHARDSON ALTRUSANS** (*Continued from page 2*)

donated to Richardson ISD Terrace Elementary (a local elementary school), NETWORK of Community Ministries (a local non-denominational, community-based organization that provides food, shelter, clothing, utilities, and employment assistance for families, children, and the elderly), and the West Public Library in West, Texas (to assist with rebuilding their local library after it was destroyed in April 2013 by a chemical plant explosion that damaged most of the city). As evident by this project, Richardson Altrusans continue to be "Leading to a Better Community".



# TEXAS SCOTTISH RITE HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN

**OWT Committee Report****THERE WERE TWENTY-SIX 20123 OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF TODAY NOMINEES****SMALL BUSINESS (L-R)**

Natalie Beers Davis  
*ActivTimes Consulting*  
Lisa Chill  
*Arcturis*  
Cynthia Jackson  
*Vision Bank Texas*  
Cindy Korenman  
*Loveable Smiles*  
Jane Kovacs  
*Friends Place Adult Day Services*  
Margaret Palmer  
*Margaret Palmer Jewelry*  
Lisa Thornton  
*G' Nosh*  
Cindy Villela  
*C. V.'s Creations*  
Vicki Walker (not pictured)  
*Express Employment Professionals*

**NON-PROFIT (L-R)**

Katie Patterson  
*Richardson Adult Literacy Center*  
Susan Peek Hoff  
*United Way—Metropolitan Dallas*  
Irene Peugh  
*The Counseling Place*

**OUTSTANDING WOMAN OF TOMORROW (L-R)**

Pavielle Chriss  
*First United Methodist Church Richardson*  
Robyn Morton  
*Bellinghausen & Associates*  
Christy Robbins  
*Richardson Independent School District*  
Ashfia Salemin  
*University of Texas at Dallas*  
Melanie Theissen  
*Richardson Independent School District*

**EDUCATION (L-R)**

Dr. Jean Conway  
*Eastfield College*  
Amy Mackey  
*Little Disciples*  
Molly Seeligson  
*University of Texas at Dallas*  
Dr. Magaly Spector, Ph.D.  
*University of Texas at Dallas*  
Dr. Sue Taylor, Ph.D.  
*University of Texas at Dallas*  
Dr. Kay Waggoner, Ph.D.  
*Richardson Independent School District*

**GOVERNMENT (L-R)**

Pam Kirkland  
*City of Richardson*  
Patricia Guerra  
*City of Richardson*  
Dr. Mary Quiceno, M.D.  
*University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center*

**OWT Committee Report****JUDGES FROM THE COMMUNITY CHOSE FIVE OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF TODAY**

Altrusa Richardson thanks the judges for their time and dedication in reviewing all 26 nominations and selecting this year's honorees: The judges are leaders from a variety of professions and have had significant experience in all the award categories. Nomination packets include a nomination write-up, two letters of recommendation., and a biography. The nominee's name is redacted from all judging material. The judges evaluate every category of nomination. If one of the nominees is from a judge's company or organization, that particular judge will recuse himself/herself from that category.

Each judge completes an evaluation of each nominee. Then, the judges meet with the Judges Committee Chairs, all the ratings are combined, and final decisions are made. Altrusans do not participate in the judging process or the judges' discussion but they are present to answer any questions. This year's judges were:

Susan Barkley  
Kay Eggleston  
Bill Knudsen  
Judge Ray Noah  
Jude Ognibene  
Janice Peters

Richland College  
Richland College  
Ability Connection Texas  
Richardson Municipal Court  
Verizon  
Hudson Peters Commercial

**Dr. Jean Conway**

*President, Eastfield College*



- Increased student enrollment to 14,263; largest increase in district
- Led college from warning status to full accreditation
- Infused positive outlook and campus-wide pride
- Contributing author of many books and articles

**Jane Kovacs**

*Co-Owner, Director  
Friends Place Adult Day Services*



- Known as outstanding leader and effective manager
- Directs fundraising events for Alzheimer and Parkinson research
- Educates and supports Alzheimer's care-partners
- Exhibits an altruistic spirit in actions, words and deeds

**Robyn Morton**

*Financial Advisor, Bellinghausen & Associates*



- Understands high-level client services
- Grew her business by 30% annually for 4 years
- Has earned multiple prestigious designations in her field
- Provides support in areas beyond what is expected
- Exhibits great energy, wise expertise, and grounded integrity

**Katie Patterson**

*Executive Director, Richardson Adult Literacy Center*



- Transforms lives of English language learners
- Expanded client base by 285% to 500 students in two years
- Increased volunteer staff by 94% to 74
- Initiated "Birdhouse" fundraiser engaging local artists
- Grew grants and civic funding by 236% from \$5K to over \$18K

**Mary Quiceno, MD**

*Assistant Professor of Neurology and Neurotherapeutics  
UT Southwestern Medical Center*



- Leads Cognitive Disorders and Memory Clinic
- Serves on the board of the Greater Dallas Chapter of the Alzheimer Association
- Represents faculty to American Association of Medical Colleges
- Presents at numerous conferences
- Gives hope to hundreds of care-givers

**OWT Committee Report****FUN AND FUNCTIONAL TABLE DECORATIONS FOR OWT**

*By Mary Beth McLemore, OWT Decorations Committee Co-Chair*

The night before OWT is always a fun, learning experience. The Co-Chairs of the Decorations Committee, **Jill Van Os** and **Mary Beth McLemore**, provided finger foods for the meeting at Mary Beth's house so the small but talented committee could start at 6:00 PM to make 34 corsages and fix roses for the 32 table decorations. The Committee of **Genevieve Hamulak**, **Norma Hammerlund**, **Claudia Tatum**, and **Gloria Sandoval** were joined by **Donna Buhr**, **Lynn Solomon**, **Dean Burroughs**, **Janice Campbell**, **Janice Swallow**, **Pam Kovacs**, **Nancy Rohm**, **Cindy McIntyre**, **Debbie Simms**, and **Elizabeth Smith**. **Kimberly Kierce** arrived after finishing her other OWT work about 8:00 pm to find only a few of us finishing clean up, but stayed to enjoy food and fellowship. With Norma's direction for making corsages and Jill and Mary Beth's pre-preparations, many hands and lots of laughter made for fast work. New members were amazed that they could make beautiful corsages.

Table decorations of books in piles with glittered orange ribbons and bows were decided on after discussion between Jill Van Os, Janice Swallow, and Mary Beth McLemore. Books from Half Price Books new warehouse were ordered on the internet and picked up by Gloria Sandoval and Mary Beth. Coral roses from Tom Thumb (at Arapaho Rd and Shiloh Rd) were

purchased to make the 10th Anniversary elegant corsages and for use on top of the book piles. (The Tom Thumb store gave us a \$25 gift card to offset part of the purchase price!). Many people at the OWT luncheon commented on how beautiful yet practical the decorations were. After the luncheon, **Jane Merz**, **Sandy Martin and Bill**, **Carl McLemore** and other committee members helped clear the books so that **Lynn Solomon** could load them for the Saturday stamping and preparation for the Make a Difference Day Project. Books would go to Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Make a Difference Day; to Terrace Elementary for various projects; and to West, Texas teachers for their classrooms. Elizabeth Smith will be driving the books to West. Special thanks to her for making this donation happen.



**OWT Committee Report****PHOTOS AND COMMENTS FROM 2013 OWT LUNCHEON****IT WAS A SPECIAL OCCASION!**

My thanks to the "other" Carolyn for inviting me to Altrusa International of Richardson's Outstanding Women of Today luncheon. What a wonderful event to recognize the accomplishments of women. Congratulations to all the Altrusans who made this such a special occasion, to all the nominees, and to all the honorees.

—Carolyn Rash  
Past District Nine Governor

**SHE HAD A FABULOUS TIME!**

I had a fabulous time. I'm always impressed to see how the community comes out for the event. The guests seem to really enjoy it. As an Altrusan, I see golden opportunities for membership growth through the attendees and award recipients. Fabulous job, Richardson Club!

—Beth Blair  
District Nine Governor

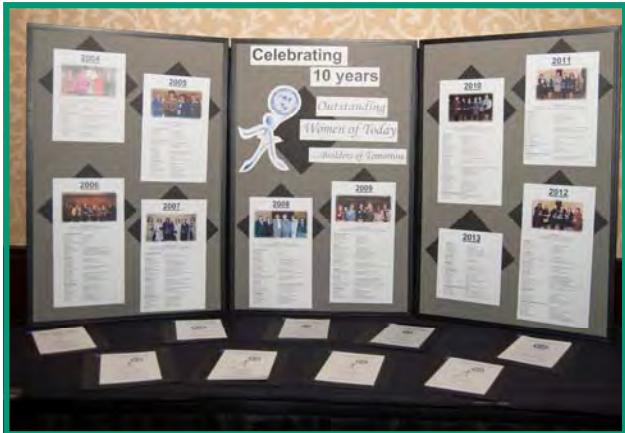


**OWT Committee Report****MORE PHOTOS AND COMMENTS FROM 2013 OWT LUNCHEON****CONGRATULATIONS TO US!**

I enjoyed the Outstanding Women of Today's luncheon. As always, it was fabulous! It achieves so much for Altrusa in this one event, including fund raising, publicity, and recognizing outstanding women in the area. My congratulations to all of you for another successful activity.

—Betty Lawson  
Past District Nine Governor



**OWT Committee Report****MORE PHOTOS AND COMMENTS FROM 2013 OWT LUNCHEON****I WAS PROUD TO BE AN ALTRUSAN!**

This was my first time to attend the Outstanding Women of Today luncheon and I was impressed with the organization of the event and how smoothly it was run from beginning to end. From the moment you walked into the ballroom, there was excitement and anticipation in the air and the room was filled with laughter and buzzing with great conversations. It was truly a day to remember and I enjoyed every minute of the luncheon and it made me proud to say that I am an Altrusan.

—Donna Buhr

**IT WAS WONDERFUL!**

Wonderful program! I was able to enjoy meeting so many Altrusans and guests by selling raffle tickets.

I thought it was well-attended for this type of event (don't know if it was more or less than previous years). Everyone seemed to have a good time..

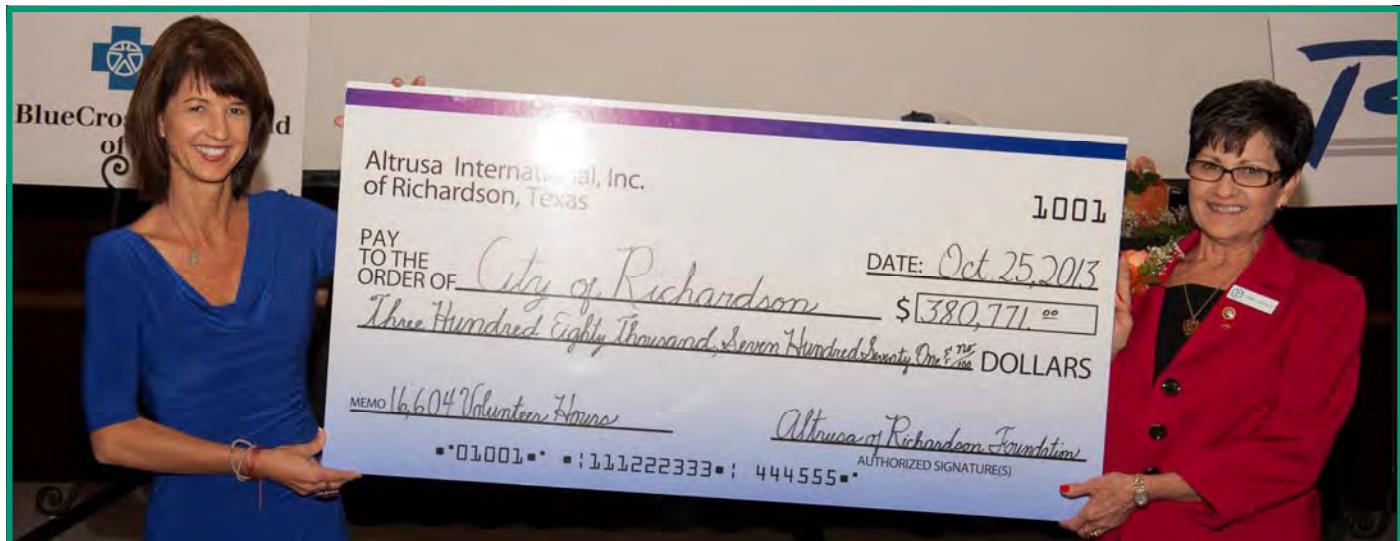
Thanks to all who put in so much time and effort on this event. It has been the highlight of my involvement with Altrusa, so far!

—Sue Walker



**OWT Committee Report****PRESENTATION OF ANOTHER “BIG CHECK” TO CITY OF RICHARDSON**

At the Outstanding Women of Today Luncheon, President Pam Kovacs announced that Altrusa Richardson performed 16,604 volunteer hours benefitting the community during the last year. Pam presented a check to Mayor (and Altrusan) Laura Maczka for \$380,771, symbolizing the value of our hours of service.

**Special Days****ALTRUSA CELEBRATES UNITED NATIONS DAY WITH DONATION TO UNICEF**

By Jane Tucker, International Relations Committee Chair

October 24, 2013 was celebrated around the world as United Nations Day, marking the 68<sup>th</sup> anniversary of when the UN Charter went into effect. The United Nations is probably the world's biggest platform for promoting a global dialogue of peace. Our club celebrated United Nations Day by participating in “TRICK or TREAT for UNICEF” at our October 17<sup>th</sup> dinner meeting. The total amount of change our members collected was \$107.73. This money will help children in over 190 countries around the world because UNICEF is one organization that is not daunted by war or conflict.

UNICEF is making tremendous progress in decreasing the number of children dying from preventable deaths by providing child immunizations and vaccinations. They also provide clean drinking water, help protect children against malaria, malnutrition, and help fight against AIDS, protect children from abuse, and also help give children access to education. The ultimate goal of UNICEF is to have the number of children dying from preventable causes down to ZERO. It is hoped that through efforts such as ours from around the world that we will give UNICEF the money it needs to accomplish this goal.



**Meeting Preview****WEAR ORANGE TO THE NOVEMBER DINNER MEETING!**

By Cindy McIntyre, Program Committee

Our speaker for November is Sarah Feuerbacher, PhD., LCSW, director of Plano's SMU Center for Family Counseling, who will speak about violence against women. Her clinic is a low/no cost facility serving children, families, groups, and individuals in the Collin County area. To read about more Sarah, please click [here](#).

The International Relations Committee, in coordination with the Program Committee, is asking everyone to **wear orange** to the meeting on **November 21<sup>st</sup>** in honor of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. This is truly a global problem and one that is unconscionable - we must act to stop this horrific abuse.

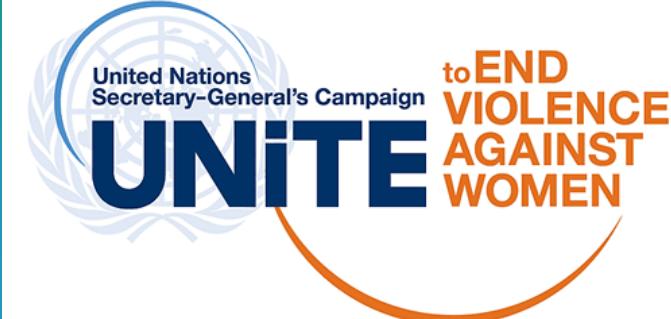
If you wear **orange**, you can enter a drawing for a terrific door prize! No orange clothing? How about **Halloween socks, jewelry, scarf??**

**Special Days****INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

By Jane Tucker, International Relations Committee Co-Chair

On December 17<sup>th</sup>, 1999, the United Nations General Assembly designated the 25<sup>th</sup> of November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. With this resolution, the United Nations invited governments, international organizations, and NGO'S to organize activities to raise public awareness of the worldwide problems of violence against women and children. However, women's activists groups have actually marked November 25<sup>th</sup> as a day against violence since 1981. This date came from the brutal assassination in 1960 of the three Mirabal sisters, who were political activists in the Dominican Republic, on orders of Dominican ruler Rafael Trujillo.

In 2008, in conjunction with supporting this day, the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched UNITE to End Violence Against Women campaign to



continue raising public and political awareness. The campaign engages in actively supporting programs geared towards the following UNITE Goals:

- Adoption and enforcement of national laws to address and punish all forms of violence against women and girls;
- Adoption and implementation of national action plans that emphasize prevention of violence;
- Establishment of date collection and analysis systems on the prevalence of various forms of violence against women and girls; and
- Establishment of national campaigns to aid in preventing violence against women and girls.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stated, "Millions of women and girls around the world are assaulted, beaten, raped, mutilated or even murdered in what constitutes appalling violations of their human rights. We must fundamentally challenge the culture of discrimination that allows violence to continue. On this International Day, I call on all governments to make good on their pledges to end all forms of violence against women and girls in all parts of the world, and I urge all people to support this important goal."

**Meeting Preview****LET'S CELEBRATE "OLD-FASHIONED HOLIDAY AT DECEMBER 19 MEETING**

It is that time year! The air is getting cool and crisp. The holiday decorations are appearing in every store window. And we are gearing up for an "Old Fashioned Holiday" Altrusa Dinner on **December 19, 2013**, at 7:00 pm and the cost is \$18/pp. Make your reservations now on the website and make payment in advance (by December 15) to Jenn Rohm, Administration Treasurer. Please pay in advance so check-in for the large crowd will be streamlined and Jenn can enjoy the party, too. Checks will not be deposited until after the dinner meeting.

**Project Preview****QUARTERLY LUNCH BUNCH WILL BE NOVEMBER 22**

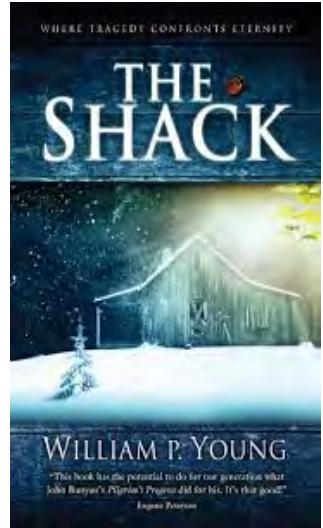
Get ready for another fun quarterly Lunch Bunch get-together brought to you by the Membership Retention Committee. Ann Eisemann chose Soulfish Grill, at the NE corner of Plano and Campbell Roads, for the November 22 lunch at 11:30 am. Registration on our website is preferred, but you can also call or email Ann.

**Project Preview****ALTRUSA WINE & CHOCOLATE LITERARY SOCIETY READS ON & ON**

*By Kay George, Membership Retention Committee Co-Chair*

Join the Altrusa Wine & Chocolate Literary Society on November 18, 2013 at 6:00 pm at Friends Place for a discussion lead by Janie Jaquier of the book *The Shack* by William P. Young (2007). Mackenzie Allen Philip's youngest daughter, Missy, has been abducted during a family vacation and evidence that she may have been brutally

murdered is found in an abandoned shack deep in the Oregon wilderness. Four years later, in the midst of his Great Sadness, Mack receives a suspicious note, apparently from God, inviting him back to that shack for a weekend. Against his better judgment he arrives at the shack on a wintry afternoon and walks back into his darkest nightmare. What he finds there will change Mack's world forever. In a world where religion seems to grow increasingly irrelevant, *The Shack*



wrestles with the timeless question: Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain? The answers Mack gets will astound you and perhaps transform you as much as it did him.

There will be no meeting in December due to the holidays. In the meantime, we are developing a list of books to discuss from January through May of 2014. We welcome any and all suggestions. Please send them to **Kay George** and **Jan Belcher**.

**Member Highlights****VISITING OUR NEIGHBORS**

Five Richardson Altrusans attended the September 12 program meeting of the Garland Altrusa Club. Shown with Shirley Raymer, Garland President, (second from left) are Bobbi Klein, Kimberly Kierce, Jo Leeper, and Claudia Tatum. Not pictured is Carolyn Swanson.



**Project Preview****COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE REQUESTS DONATIONS**

By Donna Buhr Community Outreach Committee

The Community Outreach Committee is collecting new unwrapped toys for the NETWORK of Community Ministries Santa Program. You may bring a new unwrapped toy to the November Book Club Meeting, the November 21 Dinner Meeting, or the December 5 Business Meeting.

The NETWORK Santa Holiday Project is the third largest such project in Dallas and Collin counties and runs from November 4 through December 20.

Since its beginning in 1986, when the first holiday program provided for 42 children, the number of children and families in need who have received gifts has steadily increased.

The Santa program now provides gifts for thousands of children through the generosity of community supporters in the Richardson ISD service area. The incredible growth of the Santa Holiday Project has been possible due to the generosity of many individuals and groups. The counselors of the RISD elementary schools refer more than half of the families who receive holiday gifts.

NETWORK also needs toiletries. Throughout the year, there will be a container at our meetings on the first and third Thursdays of the month. **Kay George** is in charge of this effort and she says that toiletries do not need to be full size—travel and sample sizes work well, too.

**Santa Program!**

Below is a list of suggested toy and stocking stuffer items to bring to one of the following Altrusa events: **Nov 18<sup>th</sup> Book Club**, **Nov 21<sup>st</sup> Dinner Meeting**, or **Dec 5<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting**.

**Ages 3 – 4:**

Baby dolls/strollers  
See/Say  
Tool Kits  
Puzzles  
Cars/ trucks  
Nerf balls  
Mr. Potato Head  
Kitchen/Food Sets  
Dress up  
Aqua Doodle  
Stuff Animals  
Building Blocks/Legos  
Doctor Kits  
Lincoln Logs  
Play doh w/molds  
Airplanes  
Musical Toys  
Books  
Education Toys

**Pet Shop**

Nail Accessories  
Nerf Toys  
Hot Wheel/Matchbox Car/sets  
Legos/K'nex  
Lincoln Logs  
Transformers  
Food Activity Kits  
Doll/accessories  
Stuff Animal  
Action Figure  
Stamp pad sets  
TinkerToys  
Polly Pocket  
My Little Pony  
Craft Kits

**Sports caps**

Soccer ball  
Educational Kits  
Sketch pads/pencil/paints  
Craft Kits  
Journals/Diary/Pens

**Ages: 12 – 14:**

Hair/nail accessories  
Football  
Basketball  
Watch  
Volley ball  
Soccer ball  
Pillow/throw  
Perfume/Cologne  
Journals/Diary/Pens  
Wallets/Purses  
Hand held game  
Hat/Scarf  
Scented Body Lotion  
Sports Caps  
Pen/Pencil Set  
Board Games  
Teen Glamour Sets  
Jewelry/Box  
Card games  
Art Sets

**Ages: 8 – 11:**

Radios  
Lego Kits  
Football  
Board Games  
Hair/nail accessories  
Pillow/throws  
Transformers  
Basketball  
Remote Cars/planes  
Stuff Animals  
Jewelry Kits  
Art Kits  
Hand held games

Hand held game  
Hat/Scarf  
Scented Body Lotion  
Sports Caps  
Pen/Pencil Set  
Board Games  
Teen Glamour Sets  
Jewelry/Box  
Card games  
Art Sets  
Sketch pad/charcoal/pen  
CD Players  
Puzzles

**Ages 6 -7:**

Trucks  
Football  
Basketball  
Soccer Ball  
Jump Rope  
Jewelry Kits  
Puzzles  
Board Game  
Paint by Number

**STOCKING STUFFER IDEAS**(ELEMENTARY K-6<sup>TH</sup>)

**GIRLS**  
Coloring books  
Bubble Bath  
Sticker  
Jump Rop  
Jewelry  
Hair accessories

**BOYS**  
Stuff Animals  
Mini Pet Shop  
Miss Kitty  
Polly Pocket  
Shortcake  
Barbie Accessories

**BOTH**  
Silly Putty  
Card Games  
(i.e. Crazy 8, etc)  
Slinky

Small die cast car  
(i.e. Hot Wheels)  
Mini K'nex or Legos  
Small Action Figures  
Nerf disks/balls

## Meeting Highlights

### OCTOBER 17 MEETING: BRAIN HEALTH, BEADFORLIFE, BIG CHECK

#### BRAIN HEALTH

**Erin Venza**, M.S., CCC-SLP, a Clinician at the Center for Brain Health, UT Dallas, was our speaker at the October 17 dinner meeting. She told us about Brain Health Physicals, cognitive-linguistic interventions for individuals who have sustained a traumatic brain injury, and other programs at the BrainHealth Center. See <http://www.brainhealth.utdallas.edu> for more information.



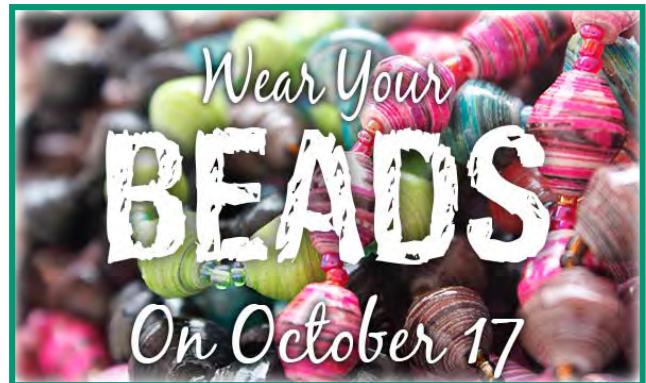
#### BIG CHECK

At the October 17 Dinner Meeting, Altrusa Richardson Foundation issued Camp Summit a "big check" in the amount of \$900, symbolizing the club's contribution to support campers in the coming year. Camp Summit is a non-profit residential camp for children and adults with disabilities. Open nearly year round, the camp provides safe, supervised, outdoor experiences for ages 6 to 99+, without regard to the severity of the disability. Campers range from very high functioning to severely disabled—those in wheelchairs, with breathing apparatus and g-tube fed. As long as campers can be medically managed they are welcome at Camp Summit. Campers are able to ride horses, go swimming, even climb an adapted Ropes Course and fly down the zip line. Camp Summit provides respite not only to the campers but also their caregivers, many of whom are single caregivers and their only "vacation" is the time that their campers are on "vacation" at Camp Summit.



#### BeadforLife

Because October 17 was the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, we wore our BeadsforLife to the meeting, as shown in the group photo. See [www.beadforlife.org](http://www.beadforlife.org) for more information about this organization dedicated to eradicating poverty, one bead at a time.



**Altrusa Accent****SOPHOMORE SISTERS CHOSEN TO LEAD MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY PROJECT**

By Kimberly Kierce, Sophomore Sisters Committee Liaison

**Top 10 Reasons** Altrusa Sophomore Sisters Committee is “perfect” for overseeing the Altrusa Richardson’s Annual Make a Difference Day Project:

1. **Planning is easy** - It is a one day project that is known well in advance, annually the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in October.
2. **Planning is flexible** - The project can be anything literacy focused that is as big or as small as the committee wants it to be
3. **Project Planning is a learning experience** - It is a great way for these new Altrusans to analyze the needs of the community, access available resources, see the project build and come together, and be a part of seeing the project to successful completion.
4. **District Involvement** - It is a great way for these new Altrusans to understand how our Club is directly involved with District Nine.
5. **Accountability to District** - It helps our club fulfill the District Nine Governor’s goal to have every club in District Nine participate in Make a Difference Day.
6. **Literacy Legacy** - In 1977 Altrusa International adopted literacy as an on-going area of service. Literacy continues to be a major worldwide issue and Altrusans can do their part to combat literacy with their MaDD project.

7. **International Involvement** -

It is a great way for these new Altrusans to understand how our Club is connected to Altrusa International.

8. **Accountability to International** -

It helps our club fulfill the International President’s goal to have every club participate in Make a Difference Day with a literacy focused project.

9. **Recognition of Altrusa** -

It helps spread Altrusa into other areas of the community. Club participation also helps Altrusa International submit application to USA Today magazine for recognition and possible grant consideration for Altrusa’s impact in communities across the nation.

10. **Building Friendships** -

While these ladies are focused on MaDD, the rest of the Club is geared up to make the club’s major fundraiser, Outstanding Women of Today Annual Luncheon, which is usually the Friday before MaDD, a huge success. Sophomore Sisters will have the rest of their years in Altrusa to be a part of our major fundraiser. But their first year’s work on MaDD will benefit our Club in countless ways.

**Project Report****BOBBI SERVED HER FAMOUS FIDEO TO LUNCH KIT ASSEMBLY PARTY**

By Bobbi Klein, Community Outreach Committee

On Tuesday, October 28, ten Altrusans gathered for food, fun and service. We had a quick Fideo & Fixings meal,



chatted, and then got busy. (Fideo is a traditional comfort food in many Spanish-speaking countries.)

We assembled 96 Emergency Lunch Kits to be donated to NETWORK of Community Ministries. NETWORK is the local social service agency that serves the RISD area which includes 14 zip codes of Richardson, Garland, and North Dallas. They frequently have homeless people who come to NETWORK for assistance. (Yes, we DO have homeless people in Richardson.) They also have people who may not be homeless but nevertheless are hungry, too. The kits are designed to give to these people so that they can have something to eat immediately, perhaps even while they are being interviewed for other services.

The kits were assembled in gallon size Ziploc bags for freshness and contain; a protein item, two packs of peanut butter and crackers, fruit cup and/or freeze dried fruit, snack bars and water. They were also labeled as being made and donated by Altrusa Richardson.

## Project Report

### **APPLETREE COURT AUCTION SETS ATTENDANCE RECORDS FOR ALTRUSANS, RESIDENTS**

By Carole Buffington, Seniors Committee

Our semiannual auction at Appletree Court Assisted Living was a huge success. There were eight Altrusans and one Altouser present. The attendance by the residents was fantastic, the most I've ever seen. We had many wonderful items to auction. Thanks to everyone who donated.

The "hot" items this time were a wonderful red Snuggie which went for \$1500 Appletree fake bucks and a musical angel bear which sold for \$1200.

Shown at right are Altrusans getting ready for the bidding action: **Sherri White, Pam Kovacs, Julie Horan, Ann Eisemann, Genevieve Hamulak, Auctioneer Gloria Sandoval, Carole Buffington, and Pat Hansen**. Below, the residents pay close attention.



## Member Highlights

### **ALTRUSANS TO RECEIVE AWARDS FROM RICHARDSON ARTS ALLIANCE**

The Richardson Arts Alliance has announced that two Altrusans are receiving awards. The Richardson Arts Alliance promotes and develops the cultural arts in the City of Richardson through communication, coordination, and mutual education by and among the groups interested in the arts.

Altrusans **Sarah Nesbit** and **Courtenay Tanner** will be recognized at the 2014 Annual Hearts for the Arts Gala on February 1, 2014, at the Eisemann Center. For their unselfish contribution and enrichment to the ARTS in the City if Richardson, Sarah will receive the "Ambassador for the Arts" award and Courtenay will receive the "Heart for the Arts" award. Congratulations!!



**District Nine News****INT'L REPRESENTATIVE TO DISTRICT NINE CONFERENCE ANNOUNCED**

*Via email from Beth Blair, District Nine Governor*

Our International representative for 2014 Conference (April 25-27 in Austin) will be **Leanne Milligan** from District Fifteen (New Zealand). With the long trip ahead, Leanne would like to make the best use of her time. She will be here approximately a week before Conference, including over Easter weekend, and would like to visit as many Clubs as possible while she's here. If your club would like to host Leanne for a special meeting, possibly including an overnight stay, please let Beth Blair know.

After holding the position of International Treasurer from 2011-2013, Leanne continues to serve Altrusa's International Board as International Vice President. A member of Altrusa since 1994, Leanne has held many offices in her club, including that of President. On the

District level, she served as Treasurer, First and Second Vice Governor, Governor Elect and in 2009-2011 as District Governor. On the International level, she was a member of the 2001-2003 Bylaws Resolutions and Recommendations Committee and in 2003-2005 chaired the Service Development Committee. In addition, she was a member of the 2009-2011 International Long Range Strategic Planning Committee and Co-chair of the Governor's Council.

**International Foundation News****GARLAND ALTRUSANS USE GRANT FOR LITERACY PROJECT**

*From <http://foundation.altrusa.org/Grants.aspx>*

Altrusa International of Garland, Texas set up a Children's Reading Corner with a grant provided by the Altrusa International Foundation, Inc. This small reading corner offers children a chance to appreciate books while in the waiting room at Hope Clinic. For the children without books at home, or those unexposed to reading in English, they have the opportunity to take home a book where it can be enjoyed over and over again.

Hope Clinic provides primary health care and resources for healthy living to the underserved population. Physicians, nurses, and volunteer health care professionals of Hope Clinic give unselfishly of their time to provide a high level of quality services to the working poor population and children in the community.

**International News****NEW ASSOCIATION MANAGER NAMED FOR ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL, INC.**

*From the Desk of International President Ilona A. Kerby*

I'm excited to announce the hiring of **Sandra Jablonski** as the new Association Manager for Altrusa International, Inc. Sandy comes to us with a wealth of experience in Non-profit management, financial management, strategic planning, project management and staff and volunteer training and development. In addition, Sandy is a 30 year Altrusan with experience at all levels of our organization from having served in positions such as Club President and Treasurer, District Board of Directors and several Chair positions as well as a past International Membership Chair.

She will bring a unique perspective to her role with her long term experience as an Altrusan as well as her broad base of management skills.

Dona Garretson will continue to serve as Interim Association Manager through October 31, 2013 with Sandy beginning work in our Chicago Office on November 4, 2013. Please help me welcome Sandy, I trust she will continue the great work and momentum created this past year and I look forward to her leadership as Association Manager.

Welcome, Sandy!  
In Altrusa Service,  
**Ilona Kerby**  
International President



# Club Calendar November 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>Hazel Weathers bday;</i> MaDD book delivery to hospital	2 Ability House: Shelley's bday; District Nine Service Project at Food Bank
3	4	5 Teddy Bear Time	6	7 <u>Business Meeting</u> including new member initiation	8	9
10	11	12 Board Meeting	13 <i>Janice Flesch bday</i> Education Cmte Meeting	14 Southern Fried Chicks - Cage-Free Comedy Tour	15	16 <i>Bonnie Buchanan bday</i>
17	18 AWCLS (book club)	19	20	21 <i>Barbara Cornelius bday</i> <u>Dinner Meeting</u>	22 Lunch Bunch	23 Community Outreach Cmte Meeting
24	25 <i>Tidings</i> Deadline	26	27	28	29	30

Business Meetings, 7 PM, 1st Thursday, Clubhouse at the Richardson Woman's Club

Dinner/Program meetings, 7PM, 3rd Thursday, Founders' Hall, at the Richardson Woman's Club

Board meetings, 7 PM, 4th Thursday, Friends Place Adult Day Services

Events on this page are copied from our website. See event listings at [www.altrusarichardson.com](http://www.altrusarichardson.com) for details of time and place.

If you choose, you may bring a gift (worth about \$5) to the dinner meeting in the month of your birthday. There will be an opportunity to put our names in a drawing (only \$1 per chance!) to win a birthday gift. Proceeds are used for our administration budget.

## BOARD ACTIONS:

- ◊ The Board of Directors did not meet in October.
- ◊ Next meeting will be November 12

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