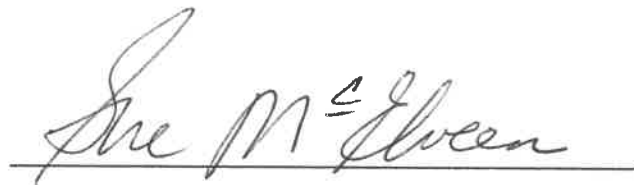


EDITH DeBUSK PRESIDENT'S AWARD

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL CLUB REPORT

Altrusa International of Richardson, Inc.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sue G. McElveen", is written over a horizontal line.

Sue G. McElveen

2017-2018

President's Annual Report
Altrusa International of Richardson, Inc.
2017-2018

***“Embrace the World, Welcome Diversity,
Cultivate Kindness, Practice Tolerance”***

As a club, you have truly adopted my theme for this year. You have ***embraced the world*** by your actions to help those in need across the world including Haiti, Guatemala, Mexico and Kenya. You have ***welcomed diversity*** by attending meetings on various topics as presented by our speakers throughout the year. Through one of our monthly programs meetings we welcomed Joshua from Café Momentum to speak about helping youth recover and be productive after incarceration; and with other programs delving into White Privilege, reaching Richardson's diverse population through literacy, and helping understand the refugee problems in Richardson; and we have all gained knowledge and a better understanding of our world as well as our community. You have ***cultivated kindness*** in every area of our service work throughout Richardson and North Texas. You have ***practiced tolerance*** by enriching the lives of those you have come in contact with by relating the Altrusa story, no matter religious preference, race, sexual orientation, or gender. We, as Altrusans, are truly known in Richardson by our service to others.

Before I turn the presidency over to Sarah, I proudly present to you all that has been accomplished by our club during my year as your president.

Using our Strategic Plan as my guide, I followed and addressed each step of our three-year strategic plan.

As always, the first goal is “Service” to improve the quality of life in the community. Our service committees, as usual, were shining examples of what service means.

Ability House Committee

The Ability House Committee, chaired by Jane Merz and Janie Jaquier, reached out to the six residents with disabilities at Ability House, sponsored by **Ability Connection Texas**, and honored their birthdays with a party featuring cake, decorations, and gifts. In June, the Committee kicked off the year by presenting Ability House with a new sound system for the home as requested by Ability Connection Texas as an important need of the residents. The new

sound system was presented during a Gift Giving Celebration which included gift cards for Spring Creek BBQ, Raising Cane, and iTunes for the residents and staff. They celebrated Christmas by decorating their tree, led the singing of carols, and shared the festivities with the families of the residents. To top that party off, they then played Santa by distributing gifts to the residents. Discussions were held with the staff on the possibility of helping Ability Connections with some other social outings such as a trip to the Perot Museum and attending movies with the residents in the near future to help engage them in new community engagement activities. Your committee volunteered 167 hours of service to Ability House. You did a great job; thank you, Jane and Janie, for making the residents feel a part of the Altrusa Family throughout the year.

Community Outreach Committee

The Community Outreach Committee did an outstanding job this year. Leading over 25 members on this committee were Co-Chairs Gloria Sandoval and Coralie Miller. Here are just a few of the projects they undertook this year efforts benefitting **Network of Community Ministries**: food - a total of 420.5 pounds; clothing for adults and children to support the Hurricane Harvey Relief Effort; toys for Christmas; donations of toiletries, school supplies, children's coats; and dental hygiene kits delivered to Richardson Elementary Schools. The cost of these projects was \$497.

Another major project was assisting **Hope's Door-New Beginnings Center**. For this organization, we donated new pillows, handmade pillowcases (the material were cut and donated by our own Janice Swallow), and collected toiletry items – all delivered to benefit their incoming clients escaping domestic violence. We bought supplies for two art carts to facilitate art therapy for children at these centers. Each cart consisted of over 330 items. Jerry McElveen, one of our Altrousers, donated the material and handcrafted art boards for this project. Hope's Door-New Beginning Center is one of the largest domestic violations programs in Texas and we were proud to help them serve the needs of their clients.

The Committee presented **Methodist Richardson Hospital's NICU** with 26 hand-tied blankets, made with love by Altrusans to celebrate World Prematurity Day in November 2017. The Committee donated \$100 to the family of fallen Richardson Police Officer David Sherrard, who was killed in the line of duty in February 2018. Ten Altrusans assisted the City of Richardson in the memorial service to honor Officer Sherrard. A grant of \$500 was given to the **Richardson**

Police Department for their Safe Haven project, which houses victims of domestic violence in emergency shelter situations. We donated funds to the **Counseling Place** to buy copier paper and to purchase gift cards to give to weary counselors. To round out the work of this committee, a donation of \$300 was used to buy Kindness Ninja books (10 each) for Network, Hope's Door-New Beginning Centers, and The Counseling Place.

The Community Outreach had a budget of \$2,700, which helped them achieve their goals this year. Many hands make light work and this committee is a shining example of that idiom. The volunteer hours that this committee logged was over 600 hours of service to your projects. Gloria, you and Coralie did an outstanding job leading this awesome committee.

Education Committee

The Education Committee, chaired by Betsy Meggs and Linda McCollum, made a huge contribution to the efforts of literacy through their work with **Terrace Elementary School**. The committee gave and maintained enrichment backpacks for pre-K students, held Teddy Bear Time for two three-week sessions for about 10 pre-K students and their parents at each session, and held manners parties for both pre-K classes. They also gave bus funds and entrance fees for a field trip to Perot Museum for fourth graders as well as bus funds for a field trip to Santa's Village. The committee had fun teaching families to read to their children and teaching manners to these precious pre-K children. This was a small committee, but their dedication was huge and produced joy and gratitude from the staff at Terrace as well as the children and parents of the students they helped with Teddy Bear Time. There were over 200 volunteer hours given by this committee. Thank you, Betsy and Linda, for your dedication and your service.

Grants Committee

The Grants Committee, chaired by Janet Vance, delivered grants to the Eisemann Center, Fine Arts Center of Richardson, Hope's Door-New Beginning Center, Network of Community Ministries, Richardson Reads One Book, Richardson Adult Literacy Center, Richardson Chorale, Richardson Symphony, Unlocking Doors, and the Veteran's Center of North Texas. The committee read all of the grant applications and then chose the ones most deserving based on their outreach to the community. Each month at a business meeting, a spokesperson from the various grant recipients spoke to the club relating what the grant money would be used for and

how that money impacted their programs. It gave the club greater insight into the organizations we support in our community. Lots of hard work goes into this job each year, and Janet and her committee are to be applauded for their efforts. This committee awarded over \$8,700 in grants. The time commitment for this committee was only 51 hours, but you did an outstanding job in a very short amount of time. Thanks to Janet's leadership this committee did a great job of allocating their budget to further enrich our community.

International Relations Committee

The International Relations Committee, chaired by Samantha Slaight and Freda Hanley, were busy, busy, busy. They gave 173 hours of service to complete a myriad of projects. Their first one was a hands-on effort for the **Feeding Children Everywhere Project**, a city-wide event held on September 10, 2017. Approximately 18 Altrusans worked that day to help package over 75,000 meals. At the October dinner meeting, we collected funds for the Trick or Treat for **UNICEF** project. In November, we sponsored and administered the **World Peace Art Contest** for the **Richardson ISD** elementary schools. In support of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, all members wore orange to the November dinner meeting. Support for **Heifer International** is a continuing project of Altrusa Richardson and this year a donation of \$250 went to that organization to support an irrigation pump providing clean water in an underprivileged area and in support of Women's Empowerment. We continued to provide an education scholarship for Senayda Isabela Torres Medina, our sponsored student in Guatemala through **HELPS International**, by funding tuition for the school year of September through May in the amount of \$378. And, we continued our support of "**Mike's Kids**" by funding immigrant children in the Texas valley and impoverished children in Mexico.

Altrusa Richardson has fully embraced "kindness" in many forms. In February, we kicked off a soft-soled shoe drive to help the **Think Kindness Organization**. The CEO of Think Kindness, Brian Williams, spoke to us at our birthday celebration and told us of the need for shoes for orphanages in Kenya. He also brought with him Grace, a young woman who was reared in an orphanage in Kenya and was the recipient of a shoe drive we did several years ago. As of this date, we have collected and mailed to Think Kindness over 200 pairs of shoes to be delivered to Kenya.

Literacy and Kindness go hand-in-hand. **Choose Kind Libraries** are a major focus of Altrusa Richardson. **Choose Kind Libraries** utilize literature to encourage a deeper understand of and compassion for differences in order to foster a community of acceptance, empathy, and inclusion. While we have created six such libraries in Richardson ISD to date, we are proud to announce we have established our second **International Choose Kind Library** in February, 2018, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Our first was established in St. Michel, Haiti in 2016, through a grant from Altrusa International and a donation of \$100 from the International Committee. The third **Choose Kind Library** was given to Guatemala in November of 2016. Think Kindness CEO, Brian Williams, has just published a children's book, and he offered to donate the profits from the sale of any books we sold as a club, to raise money for establishing a **Choose Kind Library** in Kenya. Grace offered to help us select the books for the library. We sold 100 of Brian's books and the books for Kenya were ordered and have been received by the Think Kindness Organization. They will be delivered to Kenya on their next trip, probably in June, 2018, which establishes our 4th **International Choose Kind Library**. Outstanding job, Samantha and Freda!

Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee, chaired by Jenn Rohm and Pat Hanson, had a tough job this year selecting scholarship recipients from a very qualified pool of applicants this year. In all, they received over 60 applications for consideration. After the committee members reviewed the submissions, they met and discussed the applications and narrowed it down to 11 applications. Interviews were set up for the eleven students and then, the hard work began in earnest. After hearing all the student's stories, the committee chose three students to receive \$2,700, which will pay for tuition and books for one semester at their chosen college or university. The scholarship recipients were Natyah Smith from Lake Highlands High School, Maheen Polani from Richardson High School, and Katherine Burnett from J.J. Pierce High School. These students, along with their proud parents, were honored at our April dinner meeting where the students shared a little about their selves and their goals in college. It was most inspiring to hear their stories and see the enthusiasm they showed for their futures. It took time and dedication by this committee with a service of almost 70 hours to complete the process. Great job, Jenn and Pat, and congratulations to all on your committee.

Seniors Committee

There were almost 300 hours logged by this committee to help support the most vulnerable in our community. Our Seniors Committee was chaired by Lynn Solomon and Alma Benoit. With the help of the 13 members on this committee plus the efforts of other members whenever possible, they called BINGO at both the **Atria Assisted Living Residence** each month, and one time at a new assisted living facility called Twin Rivers. They hosted 2 auctions each at Atria as well as **Appletree Court Assisted Living**, one in the fall and one in the spring. They provide the auctioneer, and spotters, who showed off the items for auction to the residents (much like Vana on the “Wheel of Fortune”) and who also collected the “money” used for the purchases. This is a fun-filled event, not only for the residents, but for the Altrusa volunteers as well.

In partnership with **Acapella In Home Care**, the club supported a pajama drive to benefit needy seniors living in nursing homes. This donation 41 pairs of new pajamas collected over a three-month period of new pajamas demonstrated our care and compassion for the needy residents of low income nursing homes in Richardson as well as others in North Texas.

Altrusa Richardson’s partnership with **Friends Place Adult Day Services** has helped us connect in new ways with seniors in the community. The Seniors Committee approved a request by Pam Johnson of Friends Place to donate fiberfill to be used by clients of Friends Place to make pillows to give to two Plano hospitals.

Seniors Committee hosted its annual **Mother’s Day Tea** at Friends Place to celebrate Mother’s Day with clients and family members. This event is well attended by Altrusans each year to cover three different shifts. One shift is to help set up for tea and a light lunch using antique tea cups and saucers, most of which were donated by Altrusans in years’ past. The second shift helps to serve tea and accompaniments and see that all clients are served. The third shift does the cleanup, washing, and packaging of the fragile cups and saucers. This project lasts from 11 A.M. until almost 3 P.M. and utilizes about 20 or more Altrusans giving about 3 hours of service each. Seeing all the joyful smiles and storytelling is heartwarming.

Another big celebration is **Tie One On for Father’s Day** held each year at Friends Place as well. Altrusans, all donning their favorite men’s tie, help set up for lunch, assist client’s in viewing

classic cars that are brought in by a local car club as well as inside activities, serve lunch, and clean up after the event. The families of the clients attend as well and all have fun.

Quarterly, the Senior Committee in partnership with Exchange Club of Richardson continue to rotate large-print books to various assisted and non-assisted living facilities in Richardson as part of the **Lone Star Book Program**, with books provided by the Richardson Public Library.

In all, 92 Altrusans have volunteered for Seniors projects contributing over 4 volunteer hours each. The budget for the year was \$635, and of that all but \$107.26 was spent. The remainder of the budget was given to Friends Place as a donation in support of the Wounded Warriors Project. Lots of good projects were accomplished under Lynn and Alma's leadership.

Sophomore Sisters

Altrusa Richardson started a new committee a few years ago as part of our retention program called the Sophomore Sisters. This committee is comprised of all the new members that came in the previous year and is under the direction the President the year they became an Altrusans. This year's Sisters were led by Nancy Rohm, President 2016-17. The committee planned two projects this year: Make a Difference Day Project and Kindness Action Ninjas (KAN) Weekend.

Altrusa International asked clubs to celebrate "vocational" projects this year instead of our traditional literacy-based projects for **Make A Difference Day**. The Sophomore Sisters learned of a 501c 3 organization called **Café Momentum**. This is more than a high-end restaurant in downtown Dallas. The owner, Chad Houser, who is also the head chef, hires young men and women that have been released from juvenile incarceration facilities, to work in his restaurant as cooks and servers and helps them finish their high school education. His organization also provides them with counseling and other tools to get them back into society with skills to better their lives. The Sophomore Sisters arranged for 22 Altrusans and their guests to dine at the restaurant on Make a Difference Day. They also presented them with a check for \$250 to purchase appropriate work clothes for the young men and women employed there.

Their second project was KAN weekend, which was held the first Friday and Saturday in April. On these two days, various projects were held with the assistance of the Community Outreach Committee. On Friday, Altrusans met at Network of Community Ministries to help with their Toyland inventory to help them get ready for their annual holiday toy drive – yep Santa works

year-round. Then, on Saturday morning, some of our Sophomore Sisters gathered at City Hall to collect donated clothing to support the clothes closet at Network. By the way, the weather turned freezing and this collection was done outside! Probably extra hours of service should be awarded these hardy souls. Meanwhile, at a warmer location, Friends Place, more Altrusans gathered to do various hands-on projects to benefit our community. These have been mentioned under the Community Outreach and Seniors Committees earlier in this report – namely the pillow, toiletry and pajama donations. The contribution made by the Sophomore Sisters on this day was a donation of 30 Birthday Kits for Network of Community Ministries to be given to clients receiving help from that agency, so that they can give their child a birthday celebration. The Birthday Kits were each filled with a cake mix, canned icing, a cake topper, balloons, streamers, birthday plates and napkins and a blank birthday card appropriate for a child – all of this tucked neatly inside a birthday themed gift bag for gift giving. The Sisters also donated to Network sanitary products that were collected and purchased by club members. A check in the amount of \$216 from the Sophomore Sisters final budget was given to Network CEO, Cindy Shafer, to purchase additional sanitary products.

Kindness Action Ninja weekend has become one of Altrusa of Richardson’s signature events and receives lots of recognition from the city of Richardson through their publication Richardson Today and the Week in Review email blast. Richardson Altrusans are well known in our city for our acts of kindness. Great projects and great leadership, Nancy. The Sophomore Sisters gave more than 200 hours of service to complete their projects. Congratulations on some amazing accomplishments by our newest Altrusans in your first year - and truly demonstrating the Altrusa spirit.

As you can see, our Service Committees keep our number one goal of “Service” very much alive and vibrant in our community – and around the world.

Our second goal is to keep communications strong within our club and community.

Communications Committee

Utilizing social as well as print media, email, our club website and our own newsletter *The Altrusa Tidings*, we kept everyone in the loop about what we were doing as a club.

Newsletter co-editors, Robin Smith and Kimberly Kierce, did an outstanding job of reporting monthly the happenings of our club. Each committee had a member whose duty it was to write an article for our newsletter each month giving information about what that committee was doing and how each member of Altrusa could help with that endeavor. Robin Smith was our Editor and she did an outstanding job getting the paper to press each month. Kimberly Kierce served as Robin's co-editor, making sure we had the appropriate information from District Nine as well as International News, among other Altrusa highlights. There were even several special editions published. A few of the editions introduced and profiled new members. One edition featured International Conference reports, stories and pictures from 16 Altrusa Richardson members that went to Nashville, TN in July, 2017. And the latest special edition highlighted District Nine Conference, which was held in Richardson, TX in April where 23 Altrusa Richardson members were in attendance. Thanks to all who contributed to these publications and to both Robin and Kimberly for a job well done.

Members were urged to go to the club **website** (www.altrusarichardson.com) to keep up to date and sign up for all events sponsored by our club. Each committee had a representative whose job it was to update their committee web page each month and to make sure that everything their committee was doing was publicized appropriately and updated on our master Club Calendar. Our website was also a great tool for members to access member-only information and access Meeting Agendas, Minutes, and Financial Reports as well as an up-to-date Membership Directory. Agendas and minutes of each meeting were posted regularly to keep all members abreast of our club activities, which is especially helpful to those who cannot attend because of illness, travel or other family commitments. So, when they can attend, they are well informed.

Barbara Cornelius was our **Facebook** Editor-in-Chief. She posted events faithfully and got the word out about the goings on in Altrusa Richardson with plenty of pictures to show off our programs, meetings, celebrations, and projects. Jane Tucker was always on hand with her camera to record events as well. Thanks, Barbara and Jane, for your dedication to our club.

Membership Recruitment Committee

The Membership Recruitment Committee, co-chaired by Bobbi Klein and Susan Fischer, was very busy this year. They, with the help of the entire club, have recruited 11 new members, beating my personal goal of 10. This has brought our membership as of May 2018, to a very

healthy 94. Our retention rate from last year to this year was almost 95%. We hope at close of renewals this year we will continue to retain our members at the same level.

Membership Recruitment held **Initiations** as people have applied. We have found that waiting sometimes causes people to back out of their application. This year's initiation ceremonies were all very meaningful thanks to this committee's creativity in welcoming our new members to "become" Altrusans. Pictures are taken at each initiation of each new member to go in our membership directory so the new members are part of our membership database almost immediately. Also, before the initiation, **New Member Orientations**, conducted by Pam Johnson, provide valuable information on being a member, plus a packet of information on our mentorship program. In attendance at the orientations are the new member's sponsor(s) and her mentor (more about the Mentor Program later in this report).

Recruitment activities were a year-round effort. They planned and executed a **Fall Re-Orientation /Add an Altrusan** event in October with attendees learning more about our 4 ongoing service projects: Choose Kind Libraries, Hope's Door New Beginnings Center, Ability House/Ability Connection and International Scholarships throughout the community. Members provided delicious brunch items and refreshments - and a little Q&A session at the end rounded out the event.

They hosted "**A Texas Holiday**" party in December and provided live entertainment by a country western tribute artist, Debbie Perrone, who sang Patsy Cline tunes and led us in singing Christmas carols. The Recruitment Committee gave us a wonderful holiday party full of fun, good food, good entertainment and a festive opportunity to celebrate the season with our Altrusa Sisters, Altrousers, and friends.

The **Spring Orientation/Add an Altrusan Day** that was held in February welcomed twenty-two members along with four guests. One of our guests turned in her application for membership that same day! Outstanding Women of Today nominees were invited and three of them attended. The Orientation program consisted of City of Richardson representatives who spoke about Altrusa Richardson's connection with their agencies and the positive impact of our partnership. Members provided items for a breakfast buffet that was delicious.

Congratulations to Bobbi, Susan and the entire Recruitment Committee for a job well done in helping us exceed our new member goal this year.

Membership Retention Committee

Membership Retention was one of the busiest committees all year long. This committee was led by Laura Trainor-Collins and Karen Tate. They came up with fun activities that kept our members engaged the entire year. They started off with a bang! They hosted “**Our First 100 Years**” program and entertained at our first dinner meeting in June with a skit to honor Altrusa’s 100-year anniversary. We had fifty people in attendance and much celebrating took place. They decorated the tables and had prizes for answering questions about Altrusa history.

This Committee hosted a **New Member Area 51 Party** in August after the business meeting at a local favorite restaurant, Besa’s, to celebrate 51 years of Altrusa Richardson’s “out of this world” service to Richardson.

In September, the **Annual Book Swap** was held with hot dogs, Laura’s famous chili with many fixin’s and other great side dishes. Books were brought by members and swapped, and, in all, 152 books were donated to Friends of the Library.

This Committee is in charge of our monthly book club called **Altrusa Wine & Chocolate Literary Society**. Many people attend each month to discuss a new selection, have a glass of wine and enjoy chocolates and friendships. This has become a great event for recruiting and retaining new members. This committee also hosts a quarterly **Lunch Bunch** for members and guests, which is also a great way to recruit and retain members. Through the efforts of Laura Trainor-Collins, Richardson Altrusans supported the **Dallas Women’s Forum European Tea Room** event in December with 29 members attending this holiday showcase event.

Membership Retention also hosted Altrusa Richardson’s **51st Birthday Party** in February. They started off the festivities with a casino party where members brought canned food to “buy” poker chips to play blackjack for prizes – Elvis even joined the party! They also held a **Super Bowl Party** at a local bar and grill in February to cheer on their favorite team – or just watch the commercials.

This Committee embraced our ongoing Kindness Action Ninja (KAN) Project by creating a new **Secret Kindness Ninja** project, which paired up two Altrusans secretly so you did not know who got your name. At each meeting, participants we were encouraged to bring a small gift or write a note of appreciation, and those gifts were distributed at the end of each meeting. At our May business meeting, the Committee hosted a Secret Kindness Ninja Reveal Party, where each participant brought a final gift - only this time your name was put on the gift. This project made it fun throughout the year to help us bond with our fellow Altrusans.

Laura and Karen's dedication to the Retention Committee this year is commendable. Their hard work will pay rewards down the line in keeping members excited about being an Altrusan. Thanks again!

Our goal to provide leadership development is always a top priority.

Leadership Development Committee

Our Leadership Development Committee was chaired by Ginger Tonne and Sarah Riehm. They hosted two leadership seminars this club year. The first seminar, "**Communications, Crucial Conversations and Conflict Resolutions**", took place in September 2017, at Friends Place and was geared to develop improved communications within our club. There were three sessions: Communications, Crucial Conversations, and Conflict Resolution. Skits and audio-visual presentations made for a lively event and produced plenty of conversation about how to improve our skills in communicating as a club to the community at large. Twenty-five members attended.

The second presentation was held in February 2018 with Kim Quirk, Executive Director of Leadership Richardson from the Richardson Chamber of Commerce, who spoke on my theme for the year "**Embrace the World – Welcome Diversity – Cultivate Kindness – Practice Tolerance**". Twenty-six members and guests attended. She presented ways in which our club has benefited the community by our years of service and leadership.

Leadership Development was also promoted by our newly instituted **Mentor Program** for our new members. This program was the brainchild of our Immediate Past President, Nancy Rohm. At the end of her term, she enlisted the help of Ginger Tonne and me to develop, implement, and

create this program, which appoints a mentor for each new member who then becomes another resource for the new member to navigate her way into our club. Ginger and I met on many occasions to produce a manual to be used for this program. I appointed Ginger to manage this program and work with Pam Johnson, who conducts our New Member Orientation Meetings. Prior to orientation, a mentor is selected and assigned to each new member. The mentor is drawn from the pool of “experienced” members, most of who are past presidents. The mentor is asked and accepts the responsibility to work with the new member and her sponsor to help insure the new member is incorporated into the club as fully and as informed as possible. The mentor gives the new member another person on whom she can rely to answer questions and befriend at the very beginning of her membership. This program, I believe, could be shared at District Nine Conference and International Convention and practiced throughout our organization.

Ginger and Sarah deserve our thanks for their dedication and hard work on this committee and Ginger especially, for her work on the mentoring project.

**Our goal of sound financial health continues to prosper due to our single fundraiser:
Outstanding Women of Today...Builders of Tomorrow luncheon.**

Annual Awards Luncheon

Last year was our 14th anniversary for this marvelous event. In late fall, we host the Outstanding Women of Today... Builders of Tomorrow Annual Awards Luncheon (OWT), at which professional women in seven categories are nominated and recognized for their outstanding contribution in their professional field. The categories are: Small Business, Non-profit, Education, Corporate/High Tech, Government/Municipal, Health Care, and Outstanding Women of Tomorrow (women under 35 years of age from any of the categories). Each year, since the luncheon’s inception, our event has grown. This is now our premier event for the community each year. Our attendance is usually around 300 people from all over North Texas area. We honor each nominee with a lunch and certificate and brief synopsis of why she is being honored. One nominee from each category is selected by a panel of outside judges to receive top honors in their category. Employers, family members, and friends of the nominees attend to support and learn more about Altrusa. Most employers make a significant contribution to our Foundation in honor of their nominee. Our goal is to have 25-30 nominees each year and most years we meet or exceeded this goal. In 2017, we honored 23 nominees and raised \$26,090.00 for our 2018-

2019 projects. For 2018, we already have 36 nominees – we are off to a great start to another successful fundraiser.

The Fundraising Committee works throughout the year to host this event. Their contribution to the financial health of our club is beyond description due to the number of hours spent in executing this very big and very profitable event. Mary Osentowski and Sylvia McCloskey have co-chaired this event for two years. They are training a new chairperson to take over this coming December to lead the event for next year. The funds raised in a given year support the club's service projects and scholarships for the next club year.

Mary and Sylvia have taken on the task of leading this committee for two years. The club owes them both a debt of gratitude, not only for taking on the first year of service as chairs of this committee, but also for stepping up again to make sure the OWT fundraiser stays on a good footing for years to come.

Finance Committee

Our Finance Committee, co-chaired by Marsha Peters and Donna Buhr, responsibly developed a budget for our Foundation based on the income from the previous year's Luncheon and each service committees' request for project funding. The Service Committee Chairs submitted a request for funds with an explanation of how the money was to be used. The Finance Committee then divided up the funds to best meet the needs of the committees – and the community. This budget was then submitted to the Board of Directors for discussion and approval, which was then presented to the club for approval, usually by the July business meeting and, finally, approved by the Foundation Board of Trustees. The Finance Committee also developed our Administrative Budget to keep us operating soundly and smoothly. Many thanks to Marsha and Donna for their attention to detail, which keeps us in the black financially.

Foundation Board of Trustees

Our Foundation Board of Trustees have worked diligently to make sure our Foundation adheres to all IRS guidelines, rules and regulations. They have kept the club updated and informed on everything they do by attending Board of Directors meetings at various times, welcoming a Board of Directors representative to their meetings, and addressing the club business meetings with updates and information. Job well done, Trustees!

In all the Administration Committees gave over 4,189.50 hours of service to keep our club running smoothly. This arm of our club kept our members informed and actively participating in membership activities, leadership training, informative and interesting programs and strategic planning. We, as a club, also were involved in District Nine by attending conference in April. There we had 25 members represent our club. Also, last summer, July of 2017, many of us attended International Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, to celebrate 100 years of service and leadership.

Conclusion

In closing, I thank Pam Johnson, CEO of Friends Place, who has for the last several years, provided our club with an alternate meeting place for our Board of Directors meetings, special projects such as the KAN weekend activities, leadership seminars, book club meetings and a host of other activities throughout the year. We could never say thank you enough for your generosity.

I thank my sweet husband, Jerry, for his love and support. He has been understanding every time I have had to miss dinner with him because I had an Altrusa meeting or function to attend as your President. I look forward to joining him on some wonderful trips and lots of leisurely dinners in the months and years ahead.

If I had the time, I would call by name more than half of our membership to commend you on your hard work, dedication, and leadership during my year as your President. You asked me to lead, then you took up the banner and did all the work. I will forever be glad to have served as President of this wonderful organization. More than anything else, I am grateful for your friendship, encouragement, and love throughout the year. As we install the new officers under the leadership of President Sarah Nesbit, may we all recommit to continuing our service to Richardson and to Altrusa.

Respectfully submitted,


Sue McElveen, President

2017 – 2018

AS AN ADDENDUM: The Club Activity Report was sent electronically to International. Our club received a score of 87.4%.