

**“Altrusa Helping Children Everywhere”**

**Think Kindness Soles and Books Project**

**Nomination for**

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

**June 20, 2018**

**Altrusa International of Richardson, TX, Inc.**

**PO Box 832101**

**Richardson, Texas 75083-2101**

**USA**

**District Nine**

**2017-2018**



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

**ENTRY FORM**

**District:** Nine

**Name of Club:** Altrusa International of Richardson, TX, Inc.

**Address:** P.O. Box 832101

**City:** Richardson State/Province: Texas

**Country:** USA Zip/Postal Code: 75083-2101

**Contact Person:** Sue McElveen, 2017-2018 President

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**Date (day, month, year):** June 20, 2018

**Club Membership (as of entry date):** 95 Members

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**Project Title:** “Altrusa Helping Children Everywhere”  
Think Kindness Soles and Books Project

**Synopsis**

Altrusa Richardson partnered with two non-profit organizations and a local elementary school to provide both shoes and books to the children living in the Tumaini Children’s Home in Nyeri, Kenya, East Africa. Through this project and others, Altrusa Richardson has an ongoing mission of *Helping Children Everywhere*.

## **“Altrusa Helping Children Everywhere” Think Kindness Soles and Books**

A recent survey found that 61 million African children will reach adolescence lacking even the most basic literacy skills. Sadly, researchers have found a primary reason is that they cannot attend school because they have no shoes. The focus of “Altrusa Helping Children Everywhere” was to facilitate a project called “Think Kindness Soles and Books” that would provide both shoes and a new library for children in the Tumaini Orphanage in Nyeri, Kenya. Our club partnered with Think Kindness, a nonprofit organization based in Reno, Nevada, to facilitate the collection and shipment of shoes to Kenya. Think Kindness also helped provide for a Choose Kind Library within the orphanage to promote values of kindness, acceptance, and respect for diversity through literacy. Club members eagerly participated in this project by donating new and gently used soft soled shoes and by purchasing the book Kindness Ninja authored by Brian Williams, founder of Think Kindness, who donated profits from our book sales to help fund this library.

On February 15, 2018, Brian Williams and Grace Wangui, an orphan from the Tumaini Children’s Home, were guest speakers at our dinner meeting. Brian described how the whole concept for his nonprofit organization started through a college assignment which involved getting school age children involved in doing random acts of kindness. The students decided to collect shoes; and once the shoes were collected, they decided to take them to Africa personally. Arriving in Africa, they learned children were denied access to attending school because they did not have shoes. The situation he described was so sad that our club was moved into action. Our members learned that for over 300 million children in the world, having a new pair of shoes or even having shoes is nonexistent. Not only does having no shoes hinder children going to school in Africa, it also has an effect on their health. Children not wearing shoes are more susceptible

to contracting malaria, a leading cause of death for children under 5, plus contracting parasites such as hookworm or having infected cuts. As if this isn't bad enough, over a million children are orphaned due to the devastating effects caused by HIV/AIDS. Even though many agencies are trying to help, UNICEF reports that children and youth account for half the population in Africa. Agencies simply are not able to meet the demands of providing shoes to this vast number of children. After hearing first-hand about the effect shoes can have for children in Africa, the International Relations Committee met and planned a shoe collecting project to give members an opportunity to make a personal contribution to meet a tangible international need. Think Kindness partnered with GotSneakers to handle the logistics of providing shipping containers to facilitate collecting and shipping the shoes. During the months of March, April, and May, club members collected 203 pairs of shoes. Samantha Slight and Freda Hanley, co-chairs of the International Relations Committee, gathered and bundled the shoes into the provided shipping containers that were then mailed to a distribution site for shipment to Kenya.

To complete the project, during the months of March, April, and May, club members purchased the book, Kindness Ninja at a cost of \$10.00 with \$6.85 of that purchase price being donated back to the club by Think Kindness to purchase books for the Choose Kind Library in Kenya. A total of 100 books were sold which raised \$685. To incorporate local community involvement, Northlake Elementary School children were asked to select their favorite books from their Choose Kind Library, and librarian Lyndsey Theobald compiled a list of 47 books. This list was then emailed to the administration at the Tumaini Children's Home for their approval. Northlake students were so thrilled to be part of this project that they made Kindness bookmarks and greeting cards for the children receiving the books in Kenya. All 47 books were approved and purchased from Follett School Solutions at a cost of \$674.97. Other miscellaneous

expenses were for book plates and a Choose Kind Library banner, both acknowledging the library as a special project of Altrusa International of Richardson, TX, Inc., which will promote international awareness of Altrusa in Nyeri, Kenya.

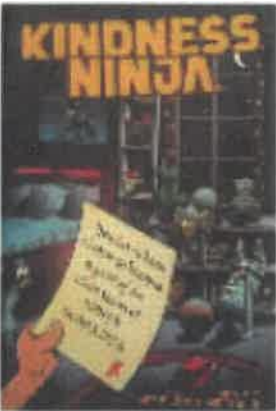
Members were kept informed of the progress of both the shoe drive and book sales through announcements at meetings and through our monthly newsletter. To enhance community awareness of the project, our Community Outreach Committee bought 30 books and donated ten books each to Network of Community Ministries, Hope's Door New Beginnings Center, and The Counseling Place. Even more community awareness was created through enlisting the help of students from Northlake Elementary School, through asking friends and family for shoes, and through selling the book Kindness Ninja.

All club members participated in this project by either working on our annual Outstanding Women of Today Luncheon, our annual fundraiser that helps fund this project, by collecting shoes, or by purchasing or selling the Kindness Ninja book. A total of 173 volunteer hours were reported by club members for this project.

In evaluating this project, our original objectives were achieved by providing Think Kindness with 203 pairs of shoes, which will benefit Kenyan children residing in the Tumaini Orphanage. The funds raised through the book sale supplemented the purchase and establishment of a Choose Kind Library within the orphanage which will benefit 125 orphans. The impact this project will have on the orphans at the Tumaini Children's Home is immeasurable. It is our mission to see that shoes are not a barrier for a child's education and our club has helped make that a reality in Kenya.

Respectfully Submitted:

  
Sue McElveen, President 2017-2018



tk  
think kindness



# Friends



love

Play  
fool

nice  
Kindness  
cool

## Friendship

## Kindness

# YOU'RE WORTH

Choose Kindness

# KINDNESS

"You're Worth It"

Be helpful

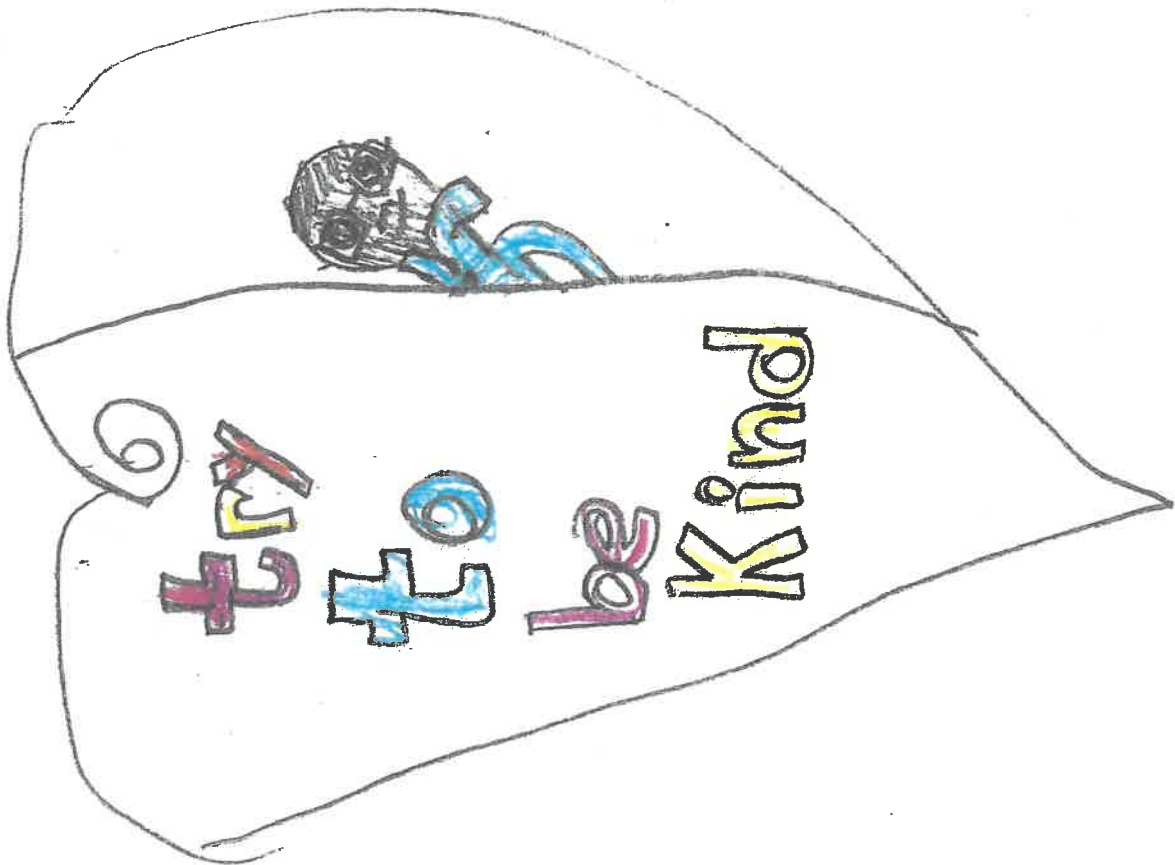
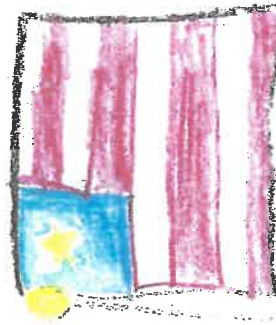
Always have manners  
Encourage others

Respect others how you want to be treated

By: Carmelo

To: You

Love From USA



try to be Kind





be kind  
Try your  
best never  
Stop trying  
even when you  
fall

BE

Be Kind  
Try every  
day never stop trying

Kind

Happy Birthday  
from America



NEVER

STOP  
trying

try to live  
a kind life  
to afford  
your life.

