

Helping Neighbors in Need

Nomination for Mamie L. Bass Award

June 20, 2018

Altrusa International of Richardson, Inc.

PO Box 832101

Richardson, Texas 75083-2101

USA

District Nine

2017-2018



MAMIE L. BASS SERVICE AWARD

ENTRY FORM

District: Nine

Name of Club: Altrusa International of Richardson, Inc.

Address: P.O. Box 832101

City: Richardson State/Province: Texas

Country: USA Zip/Postal Code: 75083-2101

Contact Person: Sue McElveen

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

Club Membership (as of entry date): 95 Members plus 1 Emeritus

Helping Neighbors in Need

Award Synopsis:

We live in a time of plenty, yet there are many who struggle with hunger and basic material needs – they may be silent, but not forgotten. Making an impact on this very real problem in our community is of utmost importance to our club. Working with NETWORK, Altrusa Richardson made a difference in the lives of many families and children in need.

Helping Neighbors in Need

It is difficult to believe that in North Texas over 300,000 children will go to bed hungry. That is 1 in 4 children. We speak of hunger as something that happens in other communities, and yet hunger is very real and present in our own community. According to the North Texas Foodbank, over 19% of Dallas County residents struggle to eat; having a job doesn't mean that you don't go hungry. Stagnant wages and underemployment are contributing factors to low income family challenges. Altrusa Richardson's objective was to provide the help and material needs required to combat problems facing our neighbors in need, especially the most vulnerable - the children. By working with Network of Community Ministries (NETWORK), an organization in Richardson, Texas, whose focus is to respond to human needs, the Club was able reach its objective through the work of the Community Outreach Committee. Throughout the year, members gave of their time, talents, and resources in a variety of ways: (a) donated material items, food, and clothing, especially children's coats for the winter; (b) created a children's library by donating books, and (c) provided grant funds in the amount of \$1,000.

Network of Community Ministries (NETWORK), founded in 1985, is a nonprofit charitable organization that was formed during a time when the United States found itself in an economic downturn. Hundreds of well-established families in the Richardson area were struggling. Several churches and community organizations came together to form an alliance to assist families through trying times, and thus the term "Network" of Community Ministries was born. Today, NETWORK has a service area encompassing fourteen zip codes in Dallas County. Last year, NETWORK assisted over 38,000 adults, children, and seniors.

Each year in June, NETWORK begins their “Tools4Schools” campaign by collecting school supplies to aid needy children as they return to school in August. At our July 6, 2017, Business Meeting, members collected school supplies to fill over 1,200 backpacks for children in the Richardson Independent School District (RISD). Members generously donated four large boxes packed with supplies. In addition to the school supplies, twenty-two 3-inch binders were purchased for \$98.56 along with other supplies from Community Outreach’s Budget and donated to the campaign.

In typical Altrusa Richardson fashion, when Community Outreach learned that NETWORK would be assisting Hurricane Harvey victims, the call went out to members. The response was overwhelming! Bags and bags of clothing, toiletries, and canned goods were collected and donated. On Tuesday, September 12, those items were eagerly accepted by NETWORK personnel.

October begins the collecting of toys for NETWORK’s “Toyland Express Store”. Community Outreach played Santa by organizing a toy collection for parents to “shop” at the store from November 2nd to December 18th. The Committee spent an additional \$200 to purchase the oh so popular Super Hero Lego kits. Target’s Toy Department Manager offered special pricing for the Lego kits once he was told where these toys were going; thereby allowing our dollars to go a long way.

NETWORK CEO, Cindy Shafer, was the speaker at our October Program Meeting. Small toys were used as centerpieces on the dinner tables. Ms. Shafer presented an interesting and eye-opening account of the services provided by NETWORK to families in the Richardson and RISD area. Ms. Shafer filled her SUV with all the toys collected. In addition, 46 children’s coats and jackets were purchased in the amount of \$200 for distribution at

their “Coats for Kids” event. Ms. Shafer commented that “thanks to organizations like Altrusa, over 1,200 children will be able to have a wonderful Christmas”.

Altrusa Richardson celebrated its 52nd birthday in February with an exciting VIVA ALTRUSA casino party. The event featured a Tribute to Elvis and five Black Jack tables. Members wanting to play Black Jack were required to bring two cans of nutritious meal-in-a-can, such as Dinty Moore Stew, to trade in for casino chips. All the cans collected went to the NETWORK “Food Bank”. A total of 240.5 pounds of food was collected from the “meal-in-a-can” drive plus an additional 180 pounds of foods was purchased with \$100 from Community Outreach funds. Donated food included: rice, Mac n’ Cheese, pasta sauce, baking supplies, and canned fruit. The timing for these food items was perfect because the Food Bank was particularly low on stews and pasta sauce. And, they were completely out of rice and canned fruit. In all, a total of 420.5 pounds of food was delivered.

February is National Children’s Health Month. NETWORK volunteers packed dental supplies in small “Tooth Fairy Kits” to give to children at area schools. Altrusa Richardson delivered kit boxes to two Richardson Elementary schools.

The 3rd Annual Kindness Action Ninjas (KAN) Weekend was celebrated Friday, April 6 and Saturday, April 7. Activities for this weekend were planned by the Sophomore Sisters and Community Outreach committees. Members wore their Kindness Action Ninja t-shirts and participated by doing acts of kindness throughout the weekend. Kindness efforts were focused on NETWORK. On Friday afternoon for three hours, twelve Altrusans played Santa’s Elves at NETWORK working in the Toyland area taking inventory to prepare for the toy collection kick off in October 2018. On Saturday morning, six Altrusa Ninjas braved the 21-degree weather and worked outside Richardson City Hall as part of the City’s Trash Bash event, accepting new and lightly used clothes for NETWORKS “Clothes Closet”. Other Ninjas

went to Friend's Place Adult Day Care facility to create 120 "Birthday Bag Kits" containing cake mix, icing, cake toppers, birthday paper products, and balloons enabling NETWORK clients to give their child a birthday celebration. Members also donated sanitary products and other toiletry items for female clients of NETWORK.

Mamie L. Bass said, "The strength of Altrusa is in the individual member, her vision, her character, her kindness and desire for service." These hands-on NETWORK projects involved 75%-member participation with over 605 hours of volunteer service. Our total monetary contribution was \$1,539.00.

Respectfully Submitted:

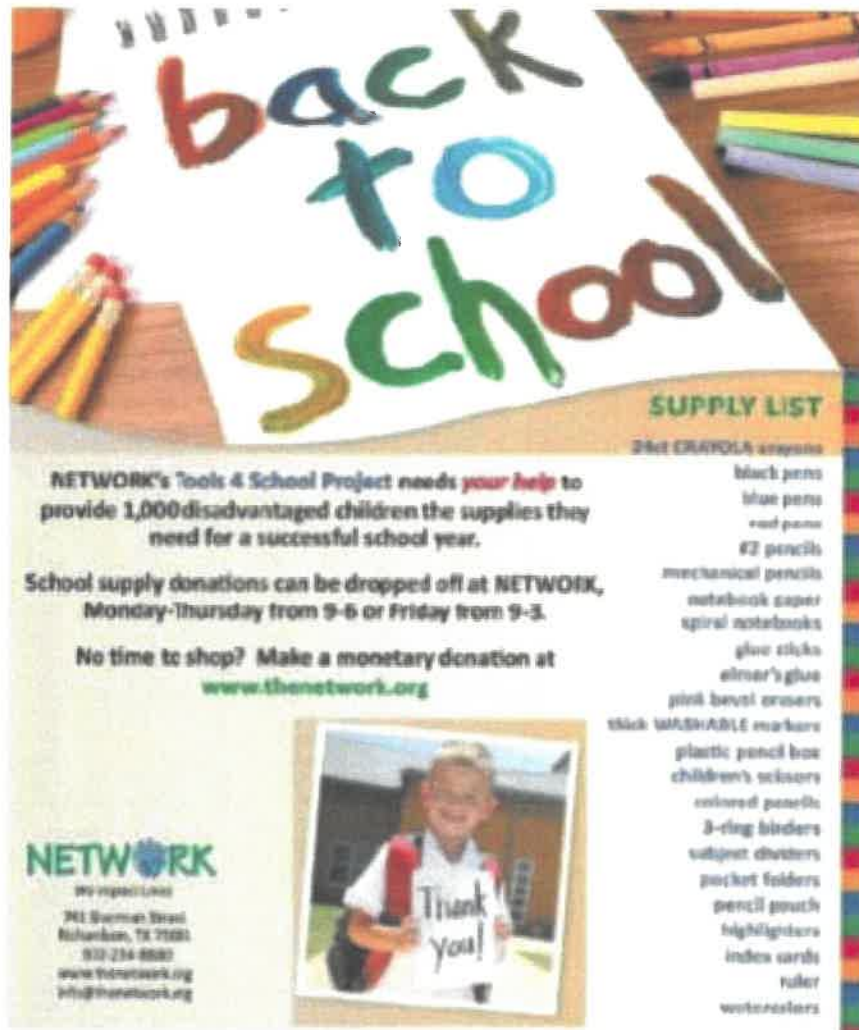


Sue McElveen, President 2017-2018

Optional Supplemental Material (Not to exceed 6 pages) Judges place primary importance on the written narrative. Substantiating materials do not earn points and are considered only in a supplementary perspective.

ENTRY SUBMISSION: Please submit one (1) original and three (3) copies of this nomination postmarked on or before June 30th

NETWORK Tools4Schools School Supply Collection



back to school

SUPPLY LIST


24ct CRAYOLA crayons
black pens
blue pens
red pens
#2 pencils
mechanical pencils
notebook paper
spiral notebooks
glue sticks
elmer's glue
pink bevel erasers
pink WASHABLE markers
plastic pencil box
children's scissors
colored pencils
3-ring binders
subject dividers
pocket folders
pencil pouch
highlighters
index cards
ruler
watercolorers

NETWORK's Tools 4 School Project needs *your help* to provide 1,000 disadvantaged children the supplies they need for a successful school year.

School supply donations can be dropped off at NETWORK, Monday-Thursday from 9-6 or Friday from 9-3.

No time to shop? Make a monetary donation at www.thenetwork.org

NETWORK
We respect Lives
741 Summit Street
Richardson, TX 75081
972-234-8882
www.thenetwork.org
info@thenetwork.org




NETWORK Toyland Express Store

Santa's Elves at Work



NETWORK Winter Coats Clothing Drive



Kindness Action Ninja (KAN) Day

NETWORK Birthday Kits, Toiletries, and Hygiene



Helping Our Neighbors in Need All Year Long!

