

Richardson Boys & Girls Club Community Service Project

“Art and Sports for Every Child”

Nomination for Mamie L. Bass Service Award

June 30, 2019

Altrusa International of Richardson, Inc.

P.O. Box 832102

Richardson, TX 75083-2102

District Nine

2018-2019



MAMIE L. BASS SERVICE AWARD

ENTRY FORM

District: Nine

Name of Altrusa Club: Altrusa International of Richardson, Inc.
Address: P.O. Box 832102
City: Richardson **State/Province:** Texas
Country: USA **Zip/Postal Code:** 75083-2102
Contact Person: Sarah Nesbit
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Date: June 30, 2019
Club Membership: 91 members (82 renewals + 9 New) & 1 Emeritus

Project Title: Richardson Boys & Girls Club Community Service Project
"Art and Sports for Every Child"

Project Description:

The Richardson Boys & Girls Club was in need of art supplies and outdoor sports equipment due to a 2018 relocation. As the only club in the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas to have full enrollment for its 2019 Summer Program, Altrusa Richardson proudly and proactively determined and resolved a need for our community's children.

Richardson Boys & Girls Club Community Service Project

“Art and Sports for Every Child”

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas’ mission is to enable all young people to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. A Boys & Girls Club provides:

- A safe place to learn and grow
- Ongoing relationships with caring, adult professionals
- Life-enhancing programs and character development experiences
- Hope and opportunity

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas has been a long-standing organization in North Texas since 1965. In 1990, the Boys Club added “Girls” to its title, and an aggressive effort to serve both girls and boys was initiated. Today, clubs are open to all boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 18, regardless of race, religion, or national origin. The Greater Dallas clubs serve a membership base of more than 6,000 youth annually, providing programs based on physical, emotional, cultural, and social needs, and the interests of boys and girls. Clubs offer diverse program activities in three areas: academic success; good character; and citizenship and healthy lifestyles. These services are offered through a network of center based, professionally staffed, small group and one-on-one teachable moments and classes. Programs implemented are intended to enhance character and self-esteem; are educational and fun; and ultimately contribute to youth realizing their maximum potential.

The Richardson Boys and Girls Club (“Richardson Club”) experienced a location move in 2018. While balancing the move, the Richardson Club continued to serve its children; the Richardson Club averages 65 children daily for an age range of 6 to 18. Simultaneously, the Richardson Club welcomed new Program Manager, Amber Sims, who further partners with staff member Renaldo Cordova and Athletic Coach Teo Simmons.

As a member of the Altrusa Richardson Community Outreach Committee, Member Donna Buhr contacted Sims. Buhr wanted to reconnect the Richardson Club with Altrusa Richardson as connectivity had become sporadic. Buhr's prior experience with the Richardson Club provided insight as to ongoing needs and felt the need to be proactive after the recent move of the Richardson Club.

Buhr's sense of the needs of the Richardson Club came at a critical time. Sims advised that as a result of the move, the Richardson Club had lost many items and were in great need. Upon further discussion with Sims, Buhr was able to identify the greatest needs of the Richardson Club, focusing on art supplies and athletic equipment. Sims advised that arts and crafts were a primary core curriculum for the children, and those supplies were severely depleted. Further, Sims advised that the new Richardson Club location no longer had access to an indoor gym, and the stock of athletic equipment did not support outdoor activities. With this need identified, Buhr was able to determine the need for sports balls and related equipment, along with other playground game equipment.

The Community Outreach Committee, consisting of 30 Richardson Altrusans or 33% of the Richardson Altrusa membership, convened to review various proposals for support in the 2018-2019 year. Upon Buhr's presentation, a unanimous decision was made at the February 12, 2019, committee meeting chaired by Richardson Altrusan Linda Griffith to provide our strongest committee support and focus to the Richardson Club in light of the critical needs for the children it supported. The committee allocated up to \$800 as follows:

- Art supplies such as art sets and kits; sketchbooks; construction paper; paints and drawing supplies; brushes and other accessories. The committee embraced this support as studies have proven that arts and crafts help: creativity; improved academic performance; motor skills; confidence; visual learning; decision making; perseverance; and focus.
- Outdoor sporting equipment such as soccer balls; basketballs; volleyballs; and other equipment. The committee embraced this support as studies have proven that team sports help teach children accountability; dedication; leadership; teamwork; problem solving skills; and importantly the many health benefits of physical activity.

Upon approval from Sims, the Committee moved into action. With the momentum of Altrusa Richardson's 4th Annual Kindness Action Ninja Weekend ("KAN Weekend") behind them, on April 12, 2019, members Gloria Sandoval, Susan Fischer, and Alma Benoit purchased every type of new sports ball available and delivered them to the Richardson Club (another donor had supplied footballs and baseballs and we were asked to provide a good number of whiffle balls). Further, due to the expertise and experience of member Jane Tucker, these members were able to take Jane's experience from prior projects supporting art supplies and assembled a robust variety of art materials, supplies, and accessories, and also delivered those to the Richardson Club. Members were pleased to learn that the Richardson Club was at the final stages of building out an art room at their location, and the supplies we provided were a perfect addition to their ongoing need. Items provided include paint, chalk, poster boards, sketch pads, markers, glitter, etc. Benoit reported that the appreciation from the Richardson Club staff was memorable, but the children who gladly accepted the donations were overwhelmed with the contributions that the team had collected.

It is noteworthy to mention the obstacles that the committee encountered to complete this project, yet never wavered and persevered. As mentioned earlier, sporadic communication with the Richardson Club caused a disconnect with Altrusa Richardson, but that further caused delays in determining the needs established above, as well as the purchase and delivery of the items. Also, member Gloria Sandoval was able to coordinate the purchases with tax free capabilities at Walmart, but had previously attempted for months to work with Academy Sports and Outdoors to seek further opportunities for donations or deep discounts. To date, we have been unsuccessful in obtaining a response.

Each Altrusan is aware of the wise advice provided by Mamie L. Bass guiding each of us to realize our strength in character, kindness, and service. Altrusa Richardson submits this project with these principles, noting total expenditure of \$531.62 with a collective 15 service hours dedicated to this project; further, the Community Outreach Committee anticipates further ongoing support of these items to the Richardson Club in the future years to come.

