

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Happy New Year!!

It is really hard to believe that we are already in 2022! What a year we have had. Fortunately, we have been able to meet in person, at least for a while. Our committees have been arduously working to help our community, and despite the pandemic they have done an outstanding job. Coats and food were delivered to Network, parties were held for the residents of Ability House, and we had an outstanding in-person OWT. In addition, the AWCLS has returned to in-person book club gatherings, and the Seniors Committee has once again been able to hold fun activities for the residents at our community senior living facilities. Ending the 2021 year with a wonderful holiday party was exactly what we all needed. We had a wonderful time visiting with each other, enjoying a delightful meal, playing a fun Christmas game, and singing Christmas carols. As we enter the 2022 year, we have so much more planned, and I know that we cannot wait to get started.

To start off the year, this month's meeting will be held virtually due to the emergence of the Omicron strain of Covid -19, and we have a full agenda. We will hear from our committee's midyear reports as well as we will have an informative program from Sgt. Frank Bradford of the Richardson Police Department. Our birthday meeting will take place in February and we will have our distinguished District Nine visitor with us for our board and club meetings. As we move into the Spring, we will have our annual KAN weekend which is currently being planned. The nominating committee was voted on and announced at the November club meeting, and they will be contacting you to serve on next year's boards. I encourage you to please consider taking on these very important positions within our club. In April, we will introduce our scholarship recipients, and finally in May, we will install our newly elected 2022-23 board members.

Over at District Nine, the leadership book club will be launched, and the first book to be reviewed is Start with Why by Simon Sinek. Each month, a new book on leadership will be introduced and reviewed. The 2022 District Nine Conference will take place April 29 thru May 1 in Georgetown, TX. If you have not been to one of Altrusa District Nine conferences, please plan to attend. Not only are they a lot of fun, but the sessions are very informative, and you get to meet other Altrusans from around the state. You can't get any better

While the past two years have been difficult, we have than hat! persevered, and made them extremely productive. Our members are so creative, and so willing to continue the work that makes our club great. I feel so honored to have been president of this wonderfully exciting club. It has been a pleasure to serve you, and I look forward to the next few months. Additionally, I want to thank Jean Stuart for taking on Tidings while our current Tidings editor, Bobbie Klein recovers from her illness. So, as we finish the winter months, we have a lot to look forward to. My wish to all of you is stay safe, stay healthy, and continue the good work!!

OCTOBER MEETING PROGRAM



Alyx Jones and Natasha Weir of Well Grounded Coffee presented a program on the Dignity Project which hires previously incarcerated women and gives them a second chance through training, a job and life skills support.

JANUARY EVENTS

Jan 1	December Volunteer Hours Due
Jan 13 6:30	Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom
Jan 20 6:30	Monthly Club meeting, via zoom, the Program will be "Current Issues Affecting Policing", Sergeant Frank Bradford, RPD
Jan 21 6:00	Altrusa Wine and Cocolate Literary Society, (AWLCS), at Christine Hart's home, "Eleanor Oliplant is Completely Fine" By Gail Honeyman
Feb 1	January Volunteer Hours Due

PUZZLED BY THE FINANCIAL REPORTS??

On our web site under Financial Reports, open the file. Click on the General Ledger Tab or Balance Sheet tab. The Ledger tells you where all the money flows to and from the account. It shows the balance of funds net of checks written since the last bank statement. The Balance sheet just verifies the general ledger cash balance is in sync with the activities in the account.

Lynda Calkin, Administration Treasurer

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LUNCH BUNCH – MEMBER RETENTION

On December 8th, eleven Altrusans met for lunch at Ye Shire Tavern in Richardson. The food was yummy and the service as great! Everyone enjoyed getting together during the Holiday Season. Stay tuned for information on the next Lunch Bunch Get Together in March.



Pictured: Mary Beth McLemore, Jean Stuart, Lynn Solomon, Judy Blome, Carol Ruskowski, Kimberly Kierce, Anne Slagel, Cindy McIntyre, Mary Shiroma, Pam Johnson and Janice Swallow, old friend and former Altrusan.

Community Outreach Committee – Six Months at A Glance

The Community Outreach Committee, (includes the Senior Committee that services senior residents in Richardson), Co-chairs Deb Bourland and Gloria Sandoval, is a very busy committee. The Committee meets at the beginning of the Club's fiscal year to discuss ongoing projects/events and any new projects brought forth by its members. We believe that all Club members belong to this Committee and truly encourage participation in any of its endeavors.

The following is a six-month glance of the Community Outreach events:

August Projects:

The Counseling Place: We delivered 120+ composition books for use by their clients. The books were donations by Club members.

Network: Purchased and delivered 96 backpacks for start of the school year.

Annie's Place and Mommies in Need: We purchased and delivered the following Art Supplies: 75 Sets of 4 Pack Crayons, 36 Pack of Play-Doh, 288 Washable

Markers, and 60 Glue Sticks. Natalie Boyle, Director, was a guest speaker at the Club's August meeting

Alzheimer's Walk: Donated \$100.00 to sponsor member, Pam Johnson's walk

October Projects:

Fair Day Cupcakes for Friends Place: The Seniors Committee provided Friends Place delectable cupcakes for their annual Fair Day Cake Walk on October 8th.

November Projects:

Network of Community Ministries: Community Outreach committee members delivered 221 new and gently used coats. The coats were donations by members and use of Committee budget.

Apple Tree Court Senior Living: The Senior Committee ran the very popular live auction for gifts for the residents. Altrusa purchased \$138 worth of donated gifts. Altrusa provided the auctioneer and was supported by 4 other Altrusans.

December Projects:

New Beginnings Hope's Door: Committee members shopped for personal items for Christmas gift bags for 20 women at the shelter for women escaping abuse plus setting up clothing closet and their Toy Land Christmas market.

January – May 2022 Scheduled Projects:

February – Club members will be asked to bring food items for Network's food pantry

February – Provide Valentine Cupcakes to Friends' Place

March – Provide new towels to Ark House – Committee will purchase

March – Feminine products and underwear for Network clients

Gloria Sandoval and Deb Bourland, Community Outreach Co-chairs, will be meeting with a new project under consideration. **Upbring**, a 501c3 in Richardson, that places and manages foster children. Upbring is requesting backpacks/duffle bag for children aging out of their program (18 years old). They need something other than a plastic bag to carry their personal belongings when they leave the program.

We have a lot of projects planned for the spring. Even if you are not a member of the Community Outreach committee, you are welcome to come work on a project this spring. Give us a call and we will put you to work! Our community needs your help. Deb and Gloria

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jan 5 – Helen Bate

Jan 5 – Mary Beth McLemore

Jan 8 – Jazz Kepner

Jan 14 – Mouna Rouani

Jan 23 – Mimi Tanner

Mike's Kids Thank You

I want to thank Susan Frensley, Alisha Gimbel and Lynda Calkin for helping with Mike's Kids packing December 30th. I don't think I left anyone out, but please, if I did let me know so I can thank you as well.

We packed quite a few boxes and although we didn't have a full truck this year, we still had quite a few boxes to send. It is always wonderful to see all the support for this charity. The items we send are very much appreciated and are distributed to those who are in need in one of the poorest parts of Texas.

Thank you again,

Samanthia



Brenda Duckett, Alma Benoit, Gayle Ingle, Samanthia Slight, Jackie Scriviner, Deb Bourland and Gloria Sandoval delivered 221 new and gently used coats to Bin Steel, Network Clothing Closet Coordinator.

RICHARDSON ALTRUSA IMPORTANT ADDRESSES

Email: contact@altrusarichardson.com Facebook:

[@AltrusaRichardsonTexas](https://www.facebook.com/AltrusaRichardsonTexas) Website:

districtnine.altrusa.org/garland/ District Nine Website:

www.altrusadistrictnine.org



Gloria Sandoval, Samanthia Slight, Alma Benoit, Jackie Scriviner, Gayle Ingle and Brenda Duckett delivered collected food to Rachel McNully, Food Pantry Manager, and Laurel Stanley, Director of Programs



Carol Ruskowski, Jennifer Davidson, Pam Johnson and Lynn Solomon joined Appletree Court Director of activities to conduct the Appletree Auction. The auction is held each fall and spring. There were approximately 24 residents in attendance. It is such fun watching them bid against each other to spend their "Apple Bucks". The auction items for Appletree Court are purchased out of the Seniors Budget.



Deb Bourland, Gloria Sandoval and Ann Turner delivered gift bags filled with personal items for women at the Hope's Door Shelter

2021 SOPHOMORE SISTERS PROJECT SUMMARY

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

Our approach to this project was 3-pronged so that any Altrusan who wanted to contribute could be included in a meaningful way.

Our organization of focus was *Hope's Door, whose mission is to offer intervention and prevention services to individuals and families affected by intimate partner and family violence:

Phase 1: Donated clothing- First, Altrusans were asked to clean their closets for gently used clothing. Sophomore Sisters collected donated clothing and delivered to the Hope's Door Resale Store on 10/23 while we volunteered.

Phase 2: Purchased towels, washcloths, pillowcases, and pillows (24 of each) using our \$500 budget for Hope's Door shelter locations- each care kit was delivered to the Hope's Door outreach office and will be used at two shelter locations. People quickly leaving domestic violence situations may not have some of these basic items, and this initiative was intended to provide a sense of literal comfort and care during that most difficult transition period. Due to COVID concerns, all hygiene items were purchased and in new condition. Each set was given with Altrusa spirit, wrapped with 2 crocheted hearts and a quote from Desmond Tutu:



Nancy Rohm, Pia Lara, Samantha Moreno, Kevin Ann Mullen, and Alisha Gimbel

Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness



**Phase 3:
Make a**

Difference Day Volunteers- 7 volunteers for Hope's Door Resale Store on 10/23/2021. Due to COVID, a small number of volunteers are allowed to inventory, sort clothing, tag items, and clean the store. We delivered donated clothing on this day and rolled up our sleeves to get to work at the Resale Store benefiting Hope's Door New Beginnings.



Jennifer Davidson, Rosemary Gouger, Alisha Gimbel, and Vrena Patrick