



President's Message

As I wrap up my year as president and begin the transition over to new leadership, I would like to reflection all of the important work that we have done this year. After spending a very unusual year last year, we were finally able to get back together once again face to face. We left ZOOM meetings behind and were introduced to ZOOM Hybrid meetings that we have tweaked and improved upon over the past few months. Needless to say, our Communications Committee did a wonderful job of keeping us informed and allowing our members who were unable to attend meetings to join us virtually.

After a year of quarantine, I was concerned that we would not be able to come back to what we had accomplished before, and boy was I surprised. We have accomplished so much this year. The possibilities were endless, and that is because of you.

The passion that our club possesses was obvious in all of our accomplishments. Firstly, our OWT event was outstanding. While we changed the venue to The Woman's Club facility, we found that it was very well received by the attendees. In addition, our decision to honor our first responders, and health professionals was a perfect way to thank those who gave so much to our community during a very difficult time. The OWT Committee spent many hours making this event special, and we thank them for all their hard work. Secondly, we were able to collect coats and food for network much like we have served this necessary supporting agency in the past. It was wonderful to visit with Network and see them first hand servicing the community in their new building.

In addition, we had a Christmas party that was festive and well attended. Getting together again and enjoying each other was a very welcome event. We sang, we partied, and we just enjoyed our friendships once again. The Altrusa book club also was back, and thanks to Christine Hart opening her home to us, we enjoyed great books and great friends in a very welcome venue. We were also able to usher and take part in Richardson Reads One Book. Our participation in this event is always appreciated by RALC, and we appreciate them giving us the opportunity to assist them.

Our KAN weekend was a huge success with over sixty participants. The many projects that we did gave so much hope and happiness to the ones who received them. This event is a service project that is a trademark of our club with the powerful caring Ninjas doing what we do best. Also, our Choose Kind Libraries continue to serve our community and the countries where we have established these libraries. In addition, we continue to branch out and service more communities giving children an opportunity to read books and explore worlds that they would not otherwise ever see.

Finally, we awarded scholarships to some very deserving young people who are our future. Each year, I am so amazed at these scholars who have done so much to serve the community while keeping their GPA's high. There are so many more projects that we have done this year, and each deserves a big thank you. I personally think that we have outdone ourselves given the challenges that were set before us. It only proves what a wonderful and caring group of women we are.

In addition to all the wonderful things we have done this year, we attended the District Nine Rise and Shine Conference in Georgetown where we listened to some great speakers, learned many new things, and again enjoyed friendships both old and new. We received an award for our Communications Committee, as well as received compliments for our other submissions. We missed those who could not be there, however next year's conference will be in Grapevine so start making plans now to attend. Also, next summer, the Altrusa International conference will be held in San Antonio. I am sure that it will be a great conference that you will not want to miss.

It is truly amazing how quickly a year passes. I feel that it was just yesterday that we were ZOOMing meetings and trying to figure things out in a Covid world and then all of a sudden, we were planning and developing programs for in person meetings. Unfortunately, we lost some very dear members of our club, however they will always be remembered as shining lights that never fade. We are truly fortunate to have the members in this club both past and present that we do. I am humbled to have served you all for not just one term but two. I appreciate everything that you have done especially the encouragement that I have received. While it was challenging, I feel that the energy of the club only grew and we persevered and made a better and stronger club.

My thanks to all of you for making my years of leadership both memorable and rewarding. I am proud to have served such a wonderful club.

WATCH FOR IT

CONFERENCE NEWS IS COMING IN THE JUNE EDITION OF ALTRUSA TIDINGS

Unch Bunch



Mary Beth McLemore, Lynn Solomon, Anne Slagel, Judy Blome, Pam Johnson, Nancy Rohm and Jean Stuart met for lunch at Mena's Tex-Mex Grill on April 7th. Keep an eye open for the next Lunch Bunch and join us.

Altrusa Wine and Cheese Literary Society



AWCLS (aka Book club) met Monday night, April 25th to review *Saving Savannah*. Attendees in absentia included Gloria Sandoval and Bobbi Klein (look closely). Left to right: Jackie Schrivener, Kay's neighbor Diana Pease, Kay Rose, Barbara Berthold, Janet McColloch, Susan Fischer, Carol Ruskowski, Robin Smith, Mary Beth McLemore and Bobbi, Christine Hart, Janice Campbell, Samantha Slaight, Jean Stuart, Pam Johnson and Gloria.

Richardson Reads One Book



Samanthia Presents the check to RROB



Several Altrusans attended the unveiling of this year's selection for Richardson Reads One Book: *Behold the Dreamers* by Ombolo Mbue. As a part of the evening, Samantha presented a check to RROB.

Altrusa Grants Awarded

The Grants Committee would like to announce that all organizations that applied for funds this year were selected to receive grants. Six organizations received the full amounts requested, and four organizations received lesser amounts. The awards were approved by the Foundation Board and checks totaling \$9,920 were mailed last December. The ten organizations receiving Altrusa grants for the 2021-2022 cycle were Special Camps for Special Kids dba Camp John Marc, Camp Summit, Eisemann Center Foundation, Hope's Door New Beginning, Network of Community Ministries, Amy's Friends DBA New Friends New Life, Richardson Adult Literacy Center, Richardson Reads One Book, Richardson Symphony Inc., Unlocking Doors, I know that our friend, Courtenay Tanner, who chaired this committee last year and began the work of chairing this committee again in the fall of 2021, would be pleased to know that so many deserving groups will be positively impacted by our club this year.

submitted by Janet Vance chair

KAN WEEKEND!



ALTRUSA IS BACK AND READY TO GET TO WORK FOR OUR COMMUNITY!

WOW! Just WOW! That is the only way I can describe our Kindness Event that took place on April 2. The Kindness Committee had a dream to get our club back to doing some “in person,” “all together in the same space,” “hands-on” projects. And that’s what happened on April 2 at Friends Place.

What a joyful experience we all had that day. Our projects:

1. **Days for Girls** – This was a project from the Kindness Committee, led by Jane Tucker. We assembled 550 kits for women and girls in third world countries. The project helped assemble pieces to be sewn that will become a washable and reusable sanitary napkin. Two women came to show us how to assemble them correctly.



2. **New Friends New Life** – This is another project from the Kindness Committee, led by Robbin Murley. We assembled 40 Easter-type baskets filled with small, soft blankets, a journal with pen, hand cream, chap sticks and Easter type candies. These are for women who have been rescued from trafficking in the North Texas area.



3. **A Network Project to benefit children in RISD** - a project by our own Outreach Committee and led by Gloria Sandoval and Deb Bourland – We assembled 500 emergency food kits for delivery to Network. Network will then distribute these to RISD teachers that request food packets to give to students that the teachers feel are food deprived and therefore not able to focus on their classwork. The kits included single serve packaged snack foods that do not need to be cooked and are kid-friendly. The kits

were then taken to Network on Monday by committee members.



4. **Kits for women Veterans** – This was another project from the Kindness Committee, led by Lynda Calkin. We prepared and delivered to the V.A. Hospital in Garland, 40 kits that included body wash, deodorants, razors, toothpaste, toothbrush and a sports bra.



5. **Medical Kits for homeless Veterans** -This project was from the Kindness Committee, led by Cindy McIntyre. We put together 100 first aid kits containing items like band aids, iodine, ibuprofen, and lip balm. Nine items in all. The kits were put into gallon zip lock bags along with a new pair of white socks and a note of encouragement from either an Altrusan or from children at both Northlake and Yale Elementary Schools located in RISD.





Children from both Yale Elementary and Northlake Elementary helped with Medical Kits for Homeless Veterans

- 6. **The Membership Committee** led by Mary Beth McLemore had special handmade cards and other note cards that were on a table for Altrusans to stop by and write a short note to send to Altrusans that have been absent in recent years and also notes to some Altrusans that have dropped their membership. These were notes to say hello and that the recipient has been missed. 25 cards were made and sent by mail by the Membership Committee.



This year's Kindness Event was decided on by the Kindness Committee and we worked on getting this all together starting late January, 2022. We received tremendous cooperation from all committees. It was attended by 35 Altrusans on the day of the event and 18 others (who were not able to come to the event either because of illness or traveling) by donating to the Kindness budget to help with expenses. All total we had 53 Altrusa Club members participating. In addition, we had three of Richardson City Council members attend to witness the work done by Altrusa of Richardson. We also had the librarians from Yale and Northlake Elementary schools come by to deliver the cards the students made for our Veterans projects. Also, we had Vanessa Garnica from New Friends New Life stop by

to pick up the 40 baskets for her agency and we took pictures.



Mina Choudhury and Sue McElveen

This year we invited the new owners of Friends Place, Mina and her husband Fami Choudhury to come to our event so they could see what Altrusa is all about. I was able to present them with a framed certificate expressing our gratitude for letting us use the Friends Place facilities for a number of things. We hold committee meetings, BOD meetings and other special events at Friends Place with no charge. What a wonderful blessing for our club. They came and seemed delighted to have us use their facility for our events and meetings.

Norma Hammerlund was in charge of the beverages and food for the event. We served coffee, juice and water. Along with the beverages she made baked apple roll ups, delicious breakfast burritos, fruit, and other goodies. We also received a discount on kolaches from the Kolache Factory and mini cinnamon buns from Cinnaholic, and a discount on coffee from Sweetwater. All of these are local Richardson businesses.

It is hard for me to put into words what a wonderful experience it was to have us all together, working for the good of the community and just being together after two years of being in isolation during the pandemic. I believe we were all ready to get back to work!

The Kindness Committee is grateful to all who participated. This is one of the main events during our Altrusa club year. On April 2, 2022, Altrusa Richardson touched the lives of **1,230** people locally as well as some Internationally, at our Kindness Event for 2022.

With deep affection,

Sue McElveen, Kindness Chair 2021-2022

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