

MISSION : Assistance League of Tulsa is dedicated to clothing students in need and aiding the most vulnerable in our community.

November 2015

Volume 41, Issue 4

Community Action Programs working with LIFE Senior Services this Fall

By Nancy Sacra



Members of Assistance League® of Tulsa with Jim Eppler on piano entertain the clients of LIFE Senior Services on October 30, 2015.

The LIFE Senior Services committee has kept us very busy!

We had a great Halloween party at the north location at Pine and Lansing. Jim Eppler, our piano player, helped us with our songs. We visited with our guests about their favorite Halloween experiences. We had masks for all of our guests, party favors for all, and, of course, we had treats which were served during the party. A great time was shared by all. A 43 inch television has been

purchased and delivered to the north location. It was just in time because theirs had just died! Also, patio furniture in black, white and red has been purchased and delivered to the north location. This will certainly spruce up and cheer up their large patio area.

All items for "stuffing" Christmas stockings for LIFE Senior Services have been purchased. This fun and inspirational activity will take place on Monday, December 7 at 9:00 at the

our building. We would love for anyone to come and join us.

If anyone would like more information about any of our activities, please email me at sacran@cox.net or call me at 918-493-1785.



Assistance League® of Tulsa

Board of Directors 2015-2016

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Carmen Kinsey

Community Action Programs: Nancy Sacra/
Diane Wells

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Letter Donation Campaign: Lynn Fuente/Sara Duncan

Grant Writing: Marilyn Nance

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Hospitality: Jean Copley/Dayon Smith

Luncheon: Edie Slack

TYPROS Board Intern: Robin Harris

Leadership Tulsa Intern: Kannan Sripathy

Bank of America®



Bill Lissau of the Bank of America Leadership Team with AL Tulsa Vice President of Resource Development, Sharon Coffman, AL Tulsa President, Mary Sue Whitney, Mary Burchett and Brad Burkhalter are pictured. The Bank of America Leadership Team presented Assistance League® of Tulsa with a grant for Operation School Bell®. Thank you Bank of America!

Assistance League® of Tulsa Advisory Council

Phyllis Dotson, Chairman

Community Volunteer

Heather Duncan

Community Volunteer

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Farthing Events

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Tom Wingerter

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Tulsa Public Schools



Cox Celebration of Giving Luncheon

President Mary Sue Whitney and President-elect Marsha Darden of Assistance League® of Tulsa receiving a grant
Pictured are from Left: Clay Loney, Francina Jones, Mary Sue Whitney, Marsha Darden and Stephen Pickup

Thoughts turn to Thanksgiving as time marches on into November, and I am mindful of the many things we have to be thankful for here at Assistance League® of Tulsa—our many dedicated members who work tirelessly to keep our varied programs running smoothly, other volunteers who graciously fill in the gaps, our generous grantors and donors, and our faithful Bargains customers. Each of these is a valued and necessary entity.

Marsha Darden and I were pleased to represent our chapter at the Cox Celebration of Giving Luncheon at which Assistance League of Tulsa was recognized as one of thirty-two local non-profit agencies to receive grants from Cox Charities. An Advisory Council of Cox employees reviews the grant applications and selects the recipients.

Members of the Bank of America Leadership Team came to our facility recently to present the check for their generous grant. We appreciate not only their financial

support but their donation of time to assist with Operation School Bell®.

A special moment happened recently at Operation School Bell®. One of our members was working with a young boy who was basically non-verbal. When asked to jump up and down in the shoe department (to check fit of shoes), he didn't seem to know what to do, so our member demonstrated, then helped him jump. He was delighted! When their shopping was finished, he struggled but managed to get out "Thank you". What we do is important. We do make a difference!

The Letter Campaign is off to a great start. Thanks to the many of you members who have contributed in Phase 1 to help us reach our goal of 100% membership participation! Whatever your plans for celebrating Thanksgiving, I hope it will be a wonderful (and delicious!) time with people who are special to you.

Assistance League® of Tulsa thanks the following people for their generous contributions in the second half of September 2015 through the first half of October 2015.

Dolores Abraham
Larry and Le Akers
Rae Annis
Buck and Dunnie Anthony
Dr. Keith and Christie Ballard
Larry and Katie Bartley
Janifer Bennett
John and Carol Bethell
James and Suzette Birch
Wayne and Jo Ann Bland
James and Marilyn Brill
Pris Brown
Jack and Kim Campbell
Campbell-Lepley/Hunt Foundation, Inc.
Jim and Flossie Carey
Christ The Redeemer Lutheran Church
Cecil and Sharon Cotner
Robert and Marsha Darden
Janet Davis
Dale and Cheryl Davison
Dick and Lynn Dickason
Dollie Dorough
Dr. Rick and Susan Doss
Mary Dotson
Maurice and Sara Duncan
Steve and Diana Earl
John and Joyce Essley
Dan and Patty Evatt
Robert and Ann Farris
Ruth Ann Fate
Jacque Fowler

Jim and Lynn Fuente
Bud and Marilyn Garbee
Marion Gotwals
Dave and Pat Hansen
Suzanne Hebertson
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Audrey Kittelson
Larry and Judy Kraft
Ovanda Ladner
Paul and Connie Largess
Richard and Nevin Loerke
Patsy Lyon
R.L. and Charlene Mackechney
John and Janet Main
P.E. and Helen McGinty
Jerry and Jana McKee
Carolyn McKinney
LeRoy and Glenna Morrison
Bard and Kathleen Moss
Don and Anne Neal
Jack and Sandra Nettles
Alan and Katie Odgers
John A. and Jane Osborn
Betty Oswald

Frances Pace
Coe Ann Patton
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Alan and Cathy Perlingiere
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Wanda Robinson
William and Patti Ross
Sharyn Rusher
Jerry and Pat Russell
Nancy Sacra
Del Schuler
Robert and Shirley Scott
Eleanor Smith
E.J. and Dayon Smith
Donna Spielman
Farryl Stokes
Billie Suchsland
Dwight and Judy Thomas
Mark and Ginny Thomas
Robert E. Wagner
Virginia Walker
Susan Warner
Dale Webb
Herb and Mary Sue Whitney
Reed and Carol Woods
Mary Coleman Woolslayer
Bailey and Janet Word
Chuck and Jean Worrell
Ron and Mary Lou Young
Generous Anonymous Donors

**AL Tulsa Letter Campaign
Let's Go All Out: 100%!**

Members Are Off To A Great Start

By Sara Duncan and Lynn Fuente



The Letter Campaign fund drive has had instant results from our members! As of October 12, 123 of 232 members, or 45%, have donated a total of \$16,147. Thanks to all who have contributed to help Operation School Bell® be a blessing to Tulsa area school children. If you haven't sent your check yet, please help us reach our goal of 100% participation.

Operation School Bell® continues to march along. At the end of October we had hosted 57 different schools, dressed approximately 1,350 students, and worked 38 days. We will dress students for three weeks in November, one week in December, and three weeks in January. We have 38 schools, 843 students, and 27 remaining days. We sincerely hope you will be able to come help us complete our responsibility for this year. I send a huge THANK YOU to all of our members who have stepped up to help time after time!

In regard to the future of Operation School Bell® we have had one meeting of the “Embracing the Future” team. This team is made up of people that are willing to not only accept change, but also to make change happen for the benefit of the children we serve and our Assistance League® of Tulsa chapter. We appreciate the input some of you gave us at the October Chapter Meeting. We have taken your ideas into consideration as we plan for the future.

The following actions are being strongly considered for the 2016-2017 year:

1. We will continue to dress Tulsa Public School students on-site as well as helping to stock their school closets with needed uniform items.
2. We will implement a program for dressing children from the outlying schools at their area department stores. This decision is based on a successful pilot program we did last year and input from other chapters around the nation.
3. We are considering changes to the on-site program which will benefit both students and AL Tulsa members.
4. We will also be working on providing uniform items for middle school/junior high school closets this year.

TO MAKE THESE NECESSARY CHANGES WE WILL NEED TEAMS OF PEOPLE TO HELP ORGANIZE AND IMPLEMENT NEW IDEAS! WE HOPE WE CAN COUNT ON ALL OF OUR MEMBERS TO GET INVOLVED SO THAT WE CAN AGAIN HAVE A SUCCESSFUL OPERATION SCHOOL BELL® PROGRAM.

Please contact me with your ideas and suggestions and, of course, to volunteer to help in planning as we move into a new era of serving the needs of Tulsa area children.



Reverend EvaMarie Campbell, Associate Minister at Boston Avenue Methodist Church, Burroughs Elementary School Coordinator at OSB in October.



AL Tulsa member Judy Thomas with Jan Graham dressed students from Burroughs Elementary. Judy and Jan are both members at Boston Avenue Methodist.



Deborah Peterson, Boston Avenue United Methodist Church Director of Mid-High Youth, assisted students at OSB in October. Thanks, Boston Avenue for helping us!

At Bargains we are busily putting out fall, winter and Christmas items. We have had a great month so far. As of Thursday, October 22, we had sales totaling \$23,819. With seven open days left in October we should see a \$30,000 month. Sales of fall and winter items have been going very well and with the weather finally cooling down they should be even better. We have emptied many of our bins containing cool weather items, and have put out many of the coats we had stored. Fortunately, we still have several more bins with heavier items. We continue to receive donations of clothing most days, but since Echo discontinued sending us donations, we are running low on quality purses and shoes. Please suggest AL to your friends when they are ready to donate.

In addition to Facebook posts and ads in the Tulsa World, we are running a coupon in the Valpac that comes out in November. The coupon will be \$5 off of a \$20 purchase. There will also be a downloadable coupon at their website. This should bring us new

customers and new donations.

All the sales, displaying, and all the donations that must be culled, priced and put out, requires a lot of work. I want to thank those of you who come regularly, some coming several times a week. Your work and enthusiasm for what we do is more than appreciated. You are the face of Assistance League®. You represent us well and I can't thank you enough for all you do. To those of you who haven't made it in in awhile, please try to do so. The work is hard but fun. It's a great way to spend a few hours with old friends or to make new ones. We will be staying open late on Thursdays and Saturdays until we close for Christmas, so please sign up. You are needed.

I will be bringing Christmas bin, boxes, bags, etc. from storage. Most of these items were priced before being stored (thank you, Bonnie), but still must be transported and displayed. Any help you can give is appreciated.

Bargains will be closed Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27. Have a Blessed Thanksgiving.

COME SEE OUR BARGAINS AND HELP A GREAT CAUSE!

AL
assistance league®
Tulsa

Consider us when donating your gently used clothing and items.

Resale Shop

OPEN Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Thursday and Saturday open 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Donations are accepted Monday through Saturday during these same hours

3408 E 11th St. Visit us at ALTulsa.org

Members of Assistance League® of Tulsa, Norma Morrison, Martha Nichols, Dawn Buss, Elaine deJongh, Gail Sowell, Lynn Fuente, Dee Wells, Marjorie Phillips, Pat Holder and Ginny Greek put together baskets for the mental health clients at the Yale Apartments. →

Mental Health

By Diane Wells

The mental health committee was really on a roll in October. We met at Yale Apartments and filled 50 baskets for the new residents. In November we will bring desserts to the Mental Health Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 20th at Boston Avenue Methodist Church. We will need cakes, pies, brownies, cookies or what ever you good cooks can whip up. These desserts need to be at the building Nov. 18 & 19th. They are feeding 350 clients so think BIG on your servings. Also needed for the apartments gently used or new double sheets and single sheets. You could bring the sheets with the desserts. Keep in mind the Christmas party at Yale Apartments on December 11th. Everyone is invited to attend to cheer up the season for the mental health clients.



Betty Bradstreet Assistance Fund

By Carmen Kinsey

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Since 2008, the Betty Bradstreet Assistance Fund has provided more than \$240,000 to help schools and other organizations promote the arts. Awards are given to Tulsa area schools in support of fine arts projects. This includes vocal and instrumental music, dance, drama, and visual arts. The Assistance League of Tulsa received funds from the Emma R. Showman Trust to endow the Betty Bradstreet Assistance Fund in 2002. The trust was established to honor Emma Showman's friend, Betty Bradstreet, who was a charter member of Assistance League® of Tulsa, serving as President in 1973-1974.

This fall, with an increased budget, the Betty Bradstreet Assistance Fund received 38 requests, totaling \$60,611.78. In October, the Betty Bradstreet Assistance Fund Committee met to finalize the selections and award the 2015-16 budgeted amount of \$46,000.

Thirty-five awards were granted: 17 to Tulsa Public Schools in the amount of \$27,491.19; and 18 to area schools in the amount of \$18,498.16. The total amount awarded this year is \$45,989.35.

In the spring, the committee members will make visits to the schools to observe first-hand the outcomes of this year's awards. They will see a wide variety of awards – band instruments, art supplies, ukuleles, jewelry making supplies, choir outfits, and print making materials, to name a few.

No doubt these Betty Bradstreet committee volunteers will feel a sense of pride and reward as they see students using this equipment made possible by the Assistance League. You are welcome to come join the fun and the visits.



Thankful

Help Make the Holiday Special for Others

**AL Tulsa members will donate desserts for the annual
Mental Health Association Oklahoma**

Thanksgiving Dinner.

Last year, over 350 MHAO clients were served.

**Bring your store bought or homemade desserts to the
AL Tulsa kitchen on November 18 and 19.**



Assistance League® of Tulsa



Assistance League® of Tulsa

A chapter of National Assistance League®

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President: Mary Sue Whitney

Newsletter Editors: Marinee Ricks
and Marianne Pickering



We are on the web!
www.altulsa.org

Assistance League® of Tulsa

Vision:

Assistance League® of Tulsa aspires to meet the needs of the most impoverished in our community.

Mission:

Assistance League® of Tulsa is dedicated to clothing students in need and aiding the most vulnerable in our community.

Core Values:

- Commitment-showing compassion for all.
- Accountability-being fiscally responsible to our donors and our community.
- Leadership-demonstrating professionalism that is visionary and ethical.
- Respect-appreciating and considering others.
- Self esteem-enhancing success in the people we serve.

Members of Assistance League® of Tulsa threw a Halloween party for LIFE Senior Services clients on October 30, 2015.

