



Assistance League® Tulsa

MISSION : Assistance League® volunteers transforming the lives of children and adults through community programs.

February 2020

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It Was A Great Day!

How often can we say that about a new event...an idea put into motion for the first time? We at Assistance League® Tulsa are constantly thinking of “new ways to provide for more of the underserved in our community. “We are blessed with a great facility and the opportunity, financially accomplish this through Operation School Bell®. We have completed this school season of bringing students onsite for their personal shopping event. The unpredictability of sizes and ages left us with surplus inventory. We put our heads together and came up with CLOTHES CLOSET PROJECT RESTOCK. Fondly dubbed C.P.R.

Having received donations from Fleet Feet Athletic store of several pairs of gently used shoes and other donations of uniform shirts and hats, plus our surplus of the items provided our student Onsite, we invited elementary, middle and high schools for this one-day event. They “shopped ‘til they dropped” to take items to stock their in-school clothes closets. One social worker exclaimed “This is a Social Workers Christmas!”

We have yet to tally the number of students that will be served, but we can safely say “It was a great day “and will become an annual event.



Counselors from 27 Tulsa Public Schools took advantage of the surplus distribution at Operation School Bell.®

Assistance League® Tulsa

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Our newest U.S. citizen, member Sandra Wyatt, was gifted an All-American package by Jeanne Brixey and volunteers from Bargains' seasonal department. Several AL Tulsa members attended her naturalization ceremony. We're so proud of you, Sandra, and your American citizenship!

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President's Message By Marianne Pickering

As we celebrate Assistance League® Tulsa's 50 years of service to our community, it's heartwarming to reflect on all the lives we have touched over the past five decades...and the many lives who have touched us! Tens of thousands of area children have been dressed for school thanks to Operation School Bell®. The clothing we have provided built confidence and self-esteem in our students from pre-k to grade 12. Essentials like underwear, shoes that fit and simple personal care items have made a real difference for struggling families. Countless books have been distributed, encouraging children to become lifelong readers. Classroom projects supported by Betty Bradstreet Arts Education Awards have enriched the lives of thousands of students, expanding their skills and world view. Our community programs and partnerships with other nonprofit agencies have improved the lives of people in need of a little help. Warm exchanges between generous donors, dedicated Bargains shoppers and our committed volunteer members have made us all better people.

Applauding our many successes is well deserved, but now is also a time to look to the future. We want AL Tulsa to continue to develop and grow as an agent of change in our community. We want our members to continue to find purpose and fulfillment in their Assistance League® lives. Looking forward we need to embrace bold ideas:

- To be more innovative;
- To be more collaborative;
- To develop rather than just maintain;
- To be more inclusive;
- To move toward serving our future members; and
- Become the Assistance League® Tulsa of the future.



Donations

Assistance League @ Tulsa thanks the following people for their generous contributions in the second half of November 2019 through the first half of January 2020.

Larry and Le Akers

Steve and Phyllis Anderson

Donald Barnum – *in honor of Farryl Stokes*

Jane Berg

Henry and Mary Jane Bias

John and Sonja Blocha

Bur and Kay Blue – *in memory of Dorothea Toomey Blue*

Ron and Sherry Bowen

Brannin Family Foundation

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B.J. and Dee Maguire

John and Janet Main - *in memory of Craig Vowell*

Martie McCain

Elizabeth McDoulett – *in memory of C.D. McDoulett, Jr.*

Donations continued on next page

Donations

Mary Ann Meckfessel – *in honor of grandchildren Caleb, Nicole, Colin and Gabriel*

Robert Melichar

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Charles and Wyvonna Thompson – *in honor of Dolores Abraham*

Ken and Peggy Tracy

Peggy Upham

Bruce and Suzanne Wenger

Tony and Cindy Wright

Karen Young

R.G. and Rebecca Young

thank you!



President Marianne Pickering and President-elect Yolanda Taylor receive a grant check from the Hogan Taylor Foundation.



Julie Guy receives a grant check from Fellowship Lutheran Church, presented by Ginny Greek.

Betty Bradstreet Site Visits 2020

Edison Middle School

- Tuesday, February 4, 10:30 am
- Watch screen printing
- Contact Katie Bartley, bartley3137@cox.net or 918-595-2306

Key Elementary Art Class- Carmela Grantham-art teacher

- Thursday, February 6, 2020 1pm
- Observe glow in the dark art project by students with supplies purchased by BBAF.
- Contact Kathy Stephen, stpn44@aol.com or 281 782-7783 cell

Booker T. Washington Jazz Class- Robert Reck, jazz and orchestra director

- Wednesday, February 12, 2020 meet at ALT at 9:45am to carpool
- Observe Jazz class. BBAF purchased padded double bass bags for instruments.
- Contact Carmen Kinsey, ckinsey1@cox.net or 918 298-6486 cell.

Broken Arrow Sequoyah- Lindsay Rowland, art teacher

- Wednesday, February 12, 2020 1:30pm
- Observe art students drawing
- Contact Barbara Walters, LRW486ca@aol.com or 918 638-4202 cell.

Hawthorne Elementary-Codera Booker, music teacher

- Wednesday, February 12, 2020 1:40pm.
- We will observe his 5th grade students playing the piano keyboards purchased with BB funds.
- Contact Marva Carnahan, marvacarnahan@yahoo.com or 918 637-1135.

Wayman Tisdale Elementary- Ben Schmenk- music teacher

- Thursday, February 13, 2020 8:00-8:40am
- Listen to students play their ukuleles
- Contact Kathy Elliott, kmelliott48@aol.com or 918 629-6897

Hale High School Art Class-Jami Melson- art teacher

- Friday, February 21, 2020 11:40am
- Observe students do block printing with supplies purchased by BBAF.
- Contact Marva Carnahan, marvacarnahan@yahoo.com or 918 637-1135.

Betty Bradstreet Site Visits (*continued*)

Freedom Elementary (Sapulpa) – Shaleen Miller- music teacher

- Thursday, March 5, 2020 (pm time to be determined)
- Observe students pre-k-5th grade playing percussion instruments, practicing rhythm, tempo, and steady beat and playing as an ensemble. BBAF provided musical instruments.
- Contact Alma Buscombe, abuscombe65@gmail.com or 918 344-4935.

Jefferson Heights Elementary School (Sapulpa) - Erin Muniz- music teacher

- Thursday, March 5, 2020 10:20am
- Observe students playing musical instruments and dancing. BBAF provided CD's and instruments.
- Contact Alma Buscombe, abuscombe65@gmail.com or 918 344-4935.

Heritage Intermediate Grade Center (Coweta) - Jennifer Bradley- art teacher

- Monday, March 9, 2020 9:20am
- Observe students use wire, tools and modeling clay. BBAF provided modeling supplies.
- Contact Tom Harrison, tharr1944@cox.net or 918 606-0136

Sequoyah Elementary Music Class-Kathy Rad-violin teacher

- Tuesday, March 24, 2020 10:00-10:15am
- Listen to 2nd and 3rd graders play their violins on stage. Violins were purchased by BBAF.
- Contact Arlene Chemers, creativeretirementcoach@gmail.com or 918 285-1696 cell.

Catoosa High School – Renee Montgomery- art teacher

- Monday, March 30, 1:30pm
- Observe art students in art class
- Contact Tom Harrison, tharr1944@cox.net or 918 606-0136



To all committee chairs: on Wednesday, February 19th at 10:00 am, Kathleen Moss will lead a workshop on how to properly fill out the new Strategic Planning worksheets. We will have new forms and you will appreciate an explanation on how to fill out the new worksheets. These will be the first worksheets we will be using for the 5-year plan. Just a reminder, the current committee chairs will be filling out forms for the 2020-2021 Strategic Plan. We will meet in the Activity Room.

Celebrating Service: AL Tulsa in the MLK Parade



On January 20, Assistance League® Tulsa marked 50 years of service to our community by participating in the 41st Tulsa Martin Luther King, Jr Parade. This was the first year AL Tulsa has marched in the parade, and the response has been upbeat. Here are comments from some of the 36 members and friends who turned out for the celebration.:

“Great experience. I think everyone had fun and enjoyed interacting with one another and the parade crowd.” - Paula Naylor

“I loved being part of the MLK parade. Being a part of this important community event is great publicity for our fine organization and I hope will lead us to be a more diverse organization over time. It was a proud day for me. ~ JoAnne Goin

“Am so glad we participated in the MLK event!!! Even though I stayed on the bus as a “waver” I saw such a positive response to the Assistance League walkers and bus. I think there was a good number of the bystanders who know about AL Tulsa and the good that we do. Such a great thing that we were in the parade!~Farryl Stokes



“It was an eye-opening experience for me on the size of the crowd and also the various entries. I thoroughly enjoyed it and I don't like cold weather! It was an amazing experience. I would definitely want AL Tulsa to participate next year and years to come. Several people in the crowd recognized us and shouted “School Bell” or a heartfelt “thank you” from many. ~Pat Banzhof



“I had never attended the MLK parade, let alone participate. I now know that I had missed out on a wonderful experience. It was a festive atmosphere, despite the bitter cold, which didn't seem to deter anyone. All that participated were outstanding ambassadors of AL Tulsa. There was waving, handshakes, smiles and enthusiastic cheers from participants and the viewers. We heard, “thank you School Bell for all you do” many times. We also heard comments that Bargains is “the best resale shop in town”. I'd certainly be in favor of participating next year.” ~Jana McKee.

Plans are already under way for AL Tulsa's entry in the 2021 Tulsa MLK Parade!

Mental Health Activities

With a “Ho, Ho, Ho! Merry Christmas!” and the song “Here Comes Santa Claus”, St. Nick (alias Richard Stanish) brought stockings filled with goodies for residents attending the Yale Apartments’ Christmas Party on December 12, 2019. The clients dove into their stockings to see what they were getting as gifts from all of you at Assistance League. Mental Health Committee members provided quite a spread of snacks and Christmas cookies.



Sharon Atcheson, Santa, (aka Richard Stanish), Alice Stanish, Carla Gilbert, Debra Lockerman
Right: Ginny Greek, Becky Queen, Mary Jane Fairchild, Carla Gilbert, Laurie Brumbaugh.



The decorative paper chains made at our December Chapter meeting were taped up around the room for decoration. Jim Eppler provided Christmas music and accompanied our talented group of Mental Health Committee singers as we entertained with carols and sing-a-longs. Both residents and staff seemed to enjoy the added activities to their Christmas season. Thanks to all who brought snacks, helped stuff stockings, and especially to Richard, Jim and all the women of the committee for adding some seasonal joy to the day! Next up for the Mental Health Committee is more work with the various residential apartments to supply much-needed items and then the Mental Health Association’s Spring Style Show.

Stay tuned for how you can be involved!

Patti Ross and Deb Lockerman



Assistance League® Tulsa

Mission

Assistance League® volunteers transforming the lives of children and adults through community programs.

Vision

Essential needs are met in our community and families flourish.

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



Tulsa

President: Marianne Pickering
Newsletter Editor: Julie Burton

www.altulsa.org



Assistance League® Tulsa

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National
Assistance League®

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Dr. Judy Riley, from New View Oklahoma tells the AL Tulsa chapter about teaching skills to low vision patients, such as practicing shopping in Bargains.

newview
OKLAHOMA

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU CAN SEE IT'S WHAT YOU CAN BE