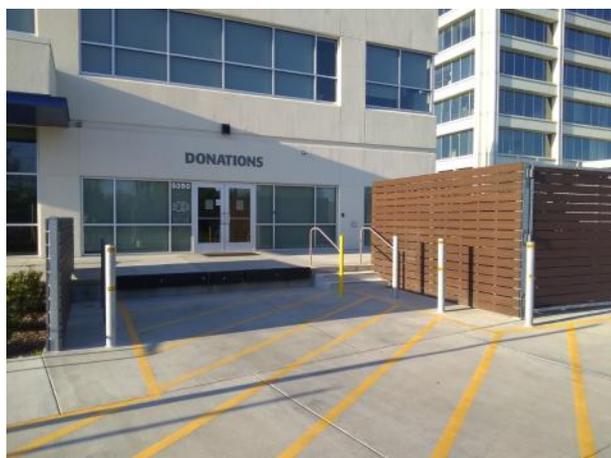


MISSION : Assistance League[®] volunteers transforming the lives of children and adults through community programs.

April 2020

Volume 45 Issue 8

Organizations Benefit from Bargains Donations



Waste Not is an expanded community service program that distributes unusable or unsellable donated items from Bargains Thrift Shop to other non-profit organizations. It's not clear just when "Waste Not" began, but it has been operating at Bargains for at least 15 years. Originally John 3:16 was our only recipient. Eventually they were unable to come to Bargains on a weekly basis and pick up donations. We have always tried to work with agencies who would come to the building and pick up, as we have no way to deliver items.

Donations at the present location have dramatically increased since moving to our current location. The "Donations" signage on the front of the building and word of mouth are possible reasons for this good fortune.

The **Waste Not** program is dynamic; always changing with new requests from agencies coming weekly. Occasionally, agencies suspend requests for AL donations. They may be at capacity for additional goods or do not have transportation for a pickup. Waste Not must be flexible because the needs of other social services agencies in

Tulsa are growing. More area nonprofits are supporting the homeless, providing for clothing families, and answering requests for needed household items.

Bargains gives surplus items, items not quite to standards of what we put on the sales floor, and items that we have never sold to the following agencies:

- **Dividing Bread** with thrift stores in Owasso, Hominy, Collinsville, and Skiatook. Dividing Bread is concerned with food and backpacks of food for school children.
- **Catholic Charities** wants clothing for the entire family and household items.
- **Mental Health Association Oklahoma** – Bargains assists Mental Health with clothing for Denver House and personal hygiene items for residents in Mental Health housing.
- **12 & 12**, a treatment center for drug and alcohol abuse appreciates clothing and shoes for men and women and exercise equipment.
- **Christ for Humanity** takes clothing for the entire family as well as household items and furniture.
- **Tulsa Advocates for the Protection of Children** assists the Tulsa County Foster Children program, takes children's clothing, games, toys, books, bicycles, and baby equipment.
- **501(c)** takes most of our electronic donations. We are unable to determine what items actually work, so we pass these on to the 501(c) professionals who repair and then pass on to other non-profits in need of electronics.

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Assistance League® Tulsa

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AL Tulsa's Action Week donated **725** children's books to the Tulsa Police Department Book Nooks. While our schools are closed, these books will help open the world of reading to children living in low-income and public housing units. Special thanks to Action Week co-chairs Nancy Sacra and Mary Sue Whitney, pictured with Karen Gilbert, Director of the Tulsa Crime Prevention Network.

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President's Message By Marianne Pickering



Frequently this year I've wished for a few more minutes to finish a task; an extra day to get organized; a week to unwind. Now, time stands still. Instead of satisfaction from getting things done, there's anxiety of the unknown and frustration at being powerless to help our struggling community.

Assistance League® Tulsa is widely acknowledged for serving the needs of others. We're talented at building self-esteem in children. We're skilled at working with partner non-profit agencies. We're efficient at processing endless donations and seasoned at handling an array of

customers. We are masters of friendship. But what does an AL Tulsa member do with so much time? Time is the one thing we've never had a surplus of.

The best course may be difficult for some, like you, whose habits are helping others. Lori Deschene, founder of the online community *Tiny Buddha*, has some suggestions:

My Stay-At-Home List

- Appreciate that I have a place to stay inside.**
- Be patient with the people around me who may feel frustrated, antsy or scared.**
- Focus on the things I can control.**
- Take care of myself physically, mentally and emotionally.**
- Take deep breaths to stay grounded and calm.**
- Cut myself some slack if I struggle to do what's good for me.**

There will come a day, hopefully soon, when time starts up again. When it does, we know the essential needs of our community will be greater than ever before. Take good care of yourself. Address your own needs. Your extraordinary commitment and limitless talents will be called for when this crisis is over.

"And sure enough even waiting will end...if you can just wait long enough." ~ William Faulkner



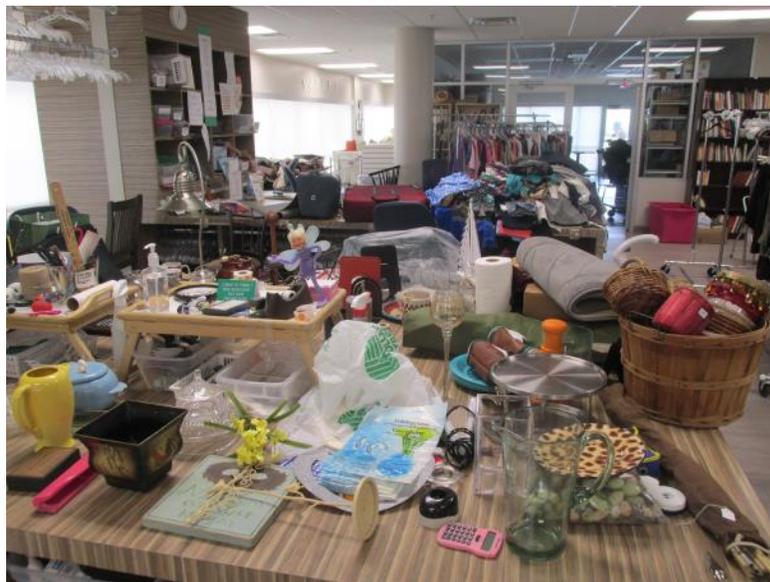
Donations, Continued From Page 1

- **Project Elf**, works with children and helps fill requests of school counselors. Many of these requests are for specific clothing items or particular needs.
- **Blue Star Mothers** takes paperbacks, CDs, and DVDs to send to our servicemen and women stationed abroad. Locally they take hard bound books for our military hospital libraries. They take Christmas cards to include in all boxes that'll be shipped at holiday time.
- **Women in Recovery** takes household items for women who are setting up new living conditions.
- **Habitat for Humanity** takes all items too large for our sales floor including ceiling fans, hardware, etc.
- **Animal Aid** takes used pet accessories, worn towels and blankets, other pet related items.
- **American Recycle** takes clothing that are too old or damaged. The fabric in these items is cut and sold in bulk for rags. Some of the clothing is baled and sent to Third World countries. American Recycle donates back to Bridges Foundation in Tulsa.

Bargains deeply appreciates all donations and works diligently to see that nothing is wasted. We tell our donors that we “pass things on” to other agencies if we cannot sell an item. When possible, we show donors the bins of the agencies that we assist. Most are very impressed and thank us for that extra effort.

Some ALT members are loyal Donations area workers and we are always looking for more to assist in the “always busy” area.

~Mary Dotson



At first glance this might look like chaos, but when Bargains Thrift Store reopens following the mandated coronavirus shutdown, volunteers will be hard at work, sorting these donations to determine what goes on the shelves for sale and what items get passed on to our Waste Not partners.

Philanthropic Programs

Prior to the virus restrictions, the Mental Health Committee was able to deliver requested items to several MHAO residences that ALTulsa support.

The surplus adult-size men's clothing from Operation School Bell® was delivered to Denver House. These clothes are also available as needed for the other mental health residences and their clients. They were incredibly thankful for such nice clothing. Denver House will also be receiving a new microwave from us as soon as they have their electrical inspected and send us specifics. Padded folding chairs and new folding tables were also delivered. These are vinyl padded to allow for frequent cleaning.



Altamont was the recipient of a new foosball table and cornhole game. The residents were very excited to add to their indoor recreation area. We also assembled 20 welcome baskets for new residents of Altamont along the same lines as we do for Yale Apartments. We will be checking back with them to see if that is something they would like to continue in the future.

What good is a pool table with one cue and four balls? Walker Hall is now in possession of a complete set of cues, balls, and cue chalk thanks to all of you!

During this time of staying home and staying in, these recreational opportunities will be very important. Thanks to all of you who work at Bargains, donate through the letter campaign, and give donations for these residences. You make a difference in many lives!

~Patti Ross and Deb Lockerman

Mental Health Committee

Welcome baskets for the Altamont Apartments.



LIFE Senior Services has closed their doors until the end of April due to the current health crises.

The party scheduled for April 24th for the North facility has been cancelled.

I will keep you informed when we know more.

~Liz McDoulett



Angels and All-Stars Honored

Each year Assistance League® Tulsa says “*thank you*” to the vendors and others who help keep our programs working. Our 2019-2020 honorees this year are shown here.



Randy & Mary Elliott—HALO Branded Solutions. They supply the uniform shirts for Tulsa Public Schools.



Mike Homan, David Cobb, John Smith, Zach Bryan—Terracon Engineering Consultants has helped us with water seepage issues and long-term planning for the maintenance of our building.



Paul Greek—Community Volunteer Extraordinaire. Paul and **Ginny Greek** keep the building in good working order.



Glenda Silvey and Katherine Bates—Silvey Estate Sales. Unsold items from their estate sales are regularly donated to Bargains.



Adam Berlien, Rick Pieper, Linda Breese, Marisela Jimenez and Katie Maguffee from Bank of America. They are regular volunteers at Operation School Bell®



Mary Williams-Henderson—Scholastic Books provides books for Operation School Bell®.

Deanna Holstead, Fleet Feet Tulsa was unable to attend.

Betty Bradstreet— *Betsy Manis*

A poured painting project for Shelly Bruski's 6th, 7th & 8th grade classes at Mannford Middle School. A Betty Bradstreet Arts Education Award provided \$750.00 for this project, including canvas, acrylic paint, Floetrol, Wd40, cups, stir sticks and wet wipes. Emylia Barrett demonstrates the technique.

Sadly, all Betty Bradstreet site visits have been suspended for the rest of the year due to school closures and to keep our membership healthy.



Thank you Assistance League
We Really Appreciate All you do for
Nathan Hale Theatre. The supplies
are perfect. Can't wait to see you
at the show.



"Thank you Assistance League. We really appreciate all you do for Nathan Hale Theatre. The supplies are perfect. Can't wait to see you at the show."

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

A chapter of
National

Assistance League®

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Four Heads Are Better Than One!

Linda French spray painted styrofoam forms for an elegant touch in Bargain's Designer Fashions. Our customers will be thrilled to meet them!