



Assistance League® Tulsa

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

September 2020

Volume 46, Issue 2

Re-opening Bargains Thrift Shop!

The Time Has Come

Bargains will be opening Tuesday, September 22!

We will begin with a “soft re-opening” for the first week. Thursday, October 1 will be publicized as our GRAND RE-OPENING. The store will operate under limited business days and hours. Bargains will be open on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Backroom workdays will also be scheduled for Monday and Wednesday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Beginning September 21 donations from the public will be accepted Monday through Thursday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bargains (front and back) will be closed on Fridays.

It is the intent of AL Tulsa to open with every effort being made to keep our volunteers safe. Masks will be required, social distancing will be expected, and, if needed, limiting store capacity to ensure that social distancing can be maintained. There will be other changes to the way we do business which will be given out as we move forward. We are excited and eager to have everyone back but please know that we understand some may not feel comfortable working even these limited times. Do not feel pressure and know that you will be missed, and we will be ready to have you back when you feel it is the right time.

There will be a specific way to staff the shop as we re-open. SignUp Genius will keep track of exact job assignments for each four-hour day. It will be important to sign-up so that we can make certain that we have volunteers in the jobs needed to open. Additional training will allow everyone a chance to learn the different and new ways we will be operating. It has been a while since we have been open for business and there will need to be some changes in the processes so that we can safely welcome our customers back. Please look for the information that will be coming soon.

~ Kim Campbell, Ad hoc Re-opening Committee chair



Ad hoc Re-opening Committee: Priscilla Harris, Julie Burton, Kim Campbell (chair), Linda Atwater, Brenda Dinan.

Not pictured: Ginny Greek, Julie Guy, Marianne Pickering

What to Know About Re-Opening Bargains

- **STOP, DROP & ROLL**—Member donations (last name beginning U-Z) are accepted August 31 - September 4. Up to four bags or boxes. No furniture, please.
- **No donations** accepted September 4 - 21. Re-stocking and staging the store.
- **Masks and social distancing** required for all workers.
- **Training sessions** will be held on new protocols & procedures for Day chairs, donations and cashiers.
- **SignUp Genius** will be used to schedule Bargains' Day chairs and workers.
- **Public donations** accepted starting September 21.
- **“Soft Re-opening” on Tuesday, September 22.**
Bargains will be open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. until further notice.
- **GRAND RE-OPENING on Thursday, October 1.**

**Board of Directors
2020-2021**

Officers:

President: Yolanda Taylor
President-elect: Kim Campbell
Secretary: Pat Banzhof
Treasurer: Brenda Dinan
Vice Presidents:

Education: Priscilla Harris
Marketing & Communication: Marsha Darden
Membership: Elisabeth Harrington
Philanthropic Programs: Sharon Coffman
Resource Development: Patti Ross

Elective Standing Chairman:

Bargains Thrift Shop: Linda Atwater (interim chair)
Finance: Ginny Thomas
Operation School Bell®: Julie Burton
Operations: Julie Guy
Orientation: Nancy Kingery
Strategic Planning: Donna Spielman

Appointive Officers and Chairs:

Bylaws: Betsy Whitmarsh
Parliamentarian: Betsy Whitmarsh

Business Administration

Assistant Treasurers: Carole Hale, Martha Nichols,
Edie Slack & Ginny Thomas
Office Administration: Glenna Morrison &
Loretta Raschen
Recorder of Service Hours: Mary Sue Whitney

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Betty Bradstreet Assistance Fund: Betsy Manis
Community Action Programs: Sharon Coffman
Life Senior Services: Liz McDoulett &
Sharon Atcheson
Mental Health Assoc. Oklahoma:
Debra Lockerman & Laurie Brumbaugh
EIS/Fostering Connections: Peggy Rock

Resource Development

Grant Writing: Julie Brockmeier
Letter Donation Campaign: Lynne Hoe & Sussie Hyden
Waste Not: Mary Dotson

Public Relations

Newsletter Editor: Marianne Pickering

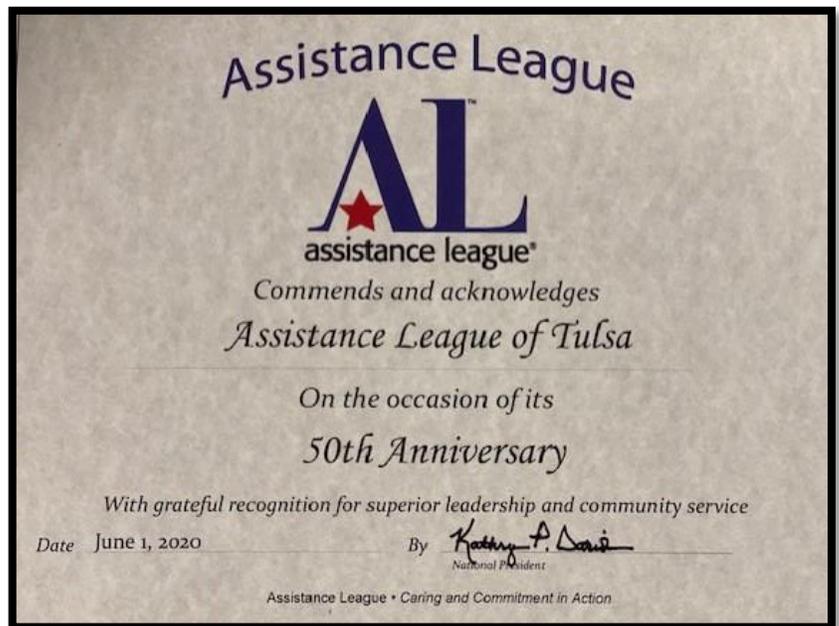
Social/Relationships

Care and Concern: Michele Morris
Hospitality: Barbara Walters
Luncheon: Kathy Elliott & Judy Roberts

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Assistance League® Tulsa. National AL presented our Chapter with a commendation recognizing our efforts.

- ◇ Empowering individuals and strengthening our community.
- ◇ Changing the way children living in poverty think about themselves and their futures.
- ◇ Partnering with other organizations to meet essential needs.
- ◇ Sharing friendship, mutual support and common purpose.
- ◇ Seeing what needs to be done, and doing it!



Assistance League® Tulsa Advisory Council

Ken Busby

Executive Dir./CEO Route 66 Alliance

Phyllis Dotson

Community Volunteer

Adam Doverspike

Counsel, Gable Gotwals

Heather Duncan

Community Volunteer

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Community Volunteer

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Foundation for Education for Tulsa Public Schools

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Clifton Taulbert

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Chairman Emeritus Schnake, Turnbo, Frank/PR

Mollie Williford

Chairman of the Board Williford Companies

Friends,

I have spent much of this week glued to the television as two storms approached my native Louisiana. Although I have not lived in the state for nearly 40 years, many of my family and friends still reside in the Crescent City. I tuned into the weather channel and watched the path of the storms as the prognosticators deemed the potential merging of the two storms as unprecedented. I worried about my family and friends, called my daughter to review her evacuation plan and sat at home praying they would all be safe. In that quiet moment, I was reminded of my own major hurricane experience from 1965. In 1965, Hurricane Betsy hit the Louisiana and Mississippi coasts with rage and fury. She seemed all too angry and ready to extract retribution for past harm unknown to me. My family attempted to evacuate to a nearby elementary school designated as a shelter in our community. Dad led his little troops from the porch and onto the sidewalk attempting to walk into a northeast wind that eventually had each of us on the ground struggling to get up. We retreated, back into the house, in shock and desperate for a new plan. Eventually, the rushing waters invaded our home and caused us to take refuge in the attic. My dad worked furiously to break through a plaster ceiling. I see him, still, pounding away at the ceiling with his hammer. He seemed to be in competition with the rising water and for him, there simply was no choice—this was a battle he had to win. My mother was first into the attic, then four trembling and terrified children, my grandmother, and after a very long pause my dad. He crawled into the attic with provisions gathered from the kitchen at the very last minute. We were stranded in the attic for several days watching the water continuing to rise until at long last the chilly waters lapping at the opening in the attic stopped rising. We were eventually rescued from a broken window in the attic by the National Guard. I was overwhelmed by the smell and power of the flood waters and for a very long time, I was afraid to go into the water or stand in a shower and allow the water on my face. I panicked every time I crossed a body of water and if you've ever been to Louisiana, there are lots of bridges and bodies of water to cross. As a teenager, I experienced severe panic attacks trying to learn how to swim. It would take years, and therapy, before I would be comfortable enough to go to the beach and simply put my feet in the water. My traumatic experiences from so long ago came rushing back this week.



Experiences like this shape who we are and how we respond in a crisis. The pandemic has seemingly settled in for an extended stay while wreaking havoc on all the best laid plans of the Assistance League®. However, we are strong and resilient and will work tirelessly to help the most vulnerable in our community. In difficult times, we learn to pick up the hammer to break through a ceiling that prevents us from reaching the people who need the help we can provide. We will use our ingenuity to step outside the box to deliver support when and where we can. That support also means taking care of one another. Our members are incredibly important and I trust we will work through this crisis with strength and dignity. I can still see the adults I trusted most in the world, in September 1965, working as a team to care for 4 very scared children. It is the same care I feel for my community and am grateful to work together with such dedicated community members. I don't think I can thank you enough for the work you do but THANK YOU so very much for being change agents and difference makers.

I emerged from Hurricane Betsy with a few scars. Some visible and others not. I experienced housing and food insecurity. Many in our community are facing the same insecurities in the middle of a pandemic. We stand ready to help our community recover. The Assistance League® is a beacon for many in the community and we will continue to work, proactively, as a team to not only provide support to our community but also to one another. Our recovery is going to take some time but working alongside this dedicated team lets me know that you've been through a "thing or two" as well but your response during this crisis has been nothing short of amazing. Please continue to take very good care of yourselves. We have work to do.

Best regards,
Yolanda Taylor
President

AL Tulsa Members—Volunteers Needed

If you are interested in serving on an AL committee, please contact me at your earliest convenience. I am looking for three volunteers who are looking for a new opportunity and would like to monitor and support the goals and expectations of our Strategic Plan. Please contact me at President@altulsa.org. Thanks, Yolanda

Operation School Bell® by Julie Burton

OSB ON-SITE: Serving TPS elementary students, but without the kids!

This is probably the strangest year ever for Operation School Bell®! The Activity Room has been filled with boxes of clothes as far as you can see! However, we have had three workdays so far and many of the boxes have been emptied! New uniforms, shirts, sweats, belts and more have been hung on the racks. It has been great to have so many volunteers to help with all this. The plan has been revised a little bit.

Start date is Tuesday, September 15.

- There will be **two morning shifts**; no afternoon times. First shift is **9:00-10:30 a.m.**, then **11:00a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**
- Please use **SignUp Genius** to volunteer for OSB shifts.
- There will be no food or drinks provided, so feel free to bring your own.
- We will pause after the first shift and do some cleaning; volunteers will leave when the second group arrives.
- We want to keep everyone healthy; limiting time in the building is the best way we can do this.
- We will use boxed clothing first, then get clothes off the racks when the boxes are empty.

We will do most things “as usual” as much as we can, so it is not confusing to anyone.

Day and Desk Chairs will still be needed, so there will be emails and/or phone calls to schedule those positions.

We have four more workdays for preparation:

September 1 and 3
September 8 and 10

All workdays are 10:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m. I will send out a reminder for the workdays; let me know if you are available to come and help.

~ Julie Burton, chair

OSB OFF-SITE: Serving area elementary students at Walmart, with some modifications!

Seven of the nine school districts we serve are planning some sort of on-site school this fall. These schools will be scheduled on our initial calendar. Changes in procedures are being developed to guarantee the safety of our members while still helping the children. Fewer families will be scheduled for each event and we will have two locations most evenings we work. Check-in and check-out are being simplified to allow for social distancing. Masks will be required and other PPE, including acrylic barriers and face shields, will be provided.

Start date is Thursday, September 24 at the Glenpool Walmart.

- Please use **SignUp Genius** to volunteer for Off-Site OSB
- **Leaders are needed** for each of the Walmart sites to be sure the store is set up correctly and to bring supplies/equipment. If you are able to help, please contact Loretta Raschen, OSB Off-Site coordinator.

OSB SECONDARY: Serving TPS junior high & high school students, with some changes!

Counselor packets have been sent to qualifying TPS middle schools, junior high and high schools. The OSB Secondary committee is working on revised guidelines for purchases and a new procedure for ordering essential items for students in need.



**GET READY
GET SET
GO!**



The Assistance League® Connection

Assistance League IS

- ◆ A collaboration of National Assistance League® and Chartered Chapters.
- ◆ United in identity through shared mission, vision, tagline, branding, minimum standards while leveraging the collective power of all.
- ◆ Committed to encouraging the passion of the member volunteer.

Chartered Chapters ARE

- ◆ Independent, nonprofit corporations that operate in furtherance of the Assistance League mission.
- ◆ Responsible for implementing all aspects of Assistance League's mission to serve identified needs in local communities.
- ◆ Self-governing with basic legal, fiscal and fiduciary requirements.
- ◆ Supportive, respectful and nurturing of volunteer members, involving membership in all major decisions.
- ◆ Guardians of the Assistance League identity and brand and meet the minimum standards for chapters.

National Assistance League SUPPORTS

- ◆ Assistance League's identity and branding with logo, trademarks, signature program, common mission, vision, values and minimum standards.
- ◆ Chapters with access to educational materials, *redbook*, Resource Library, technology, databases, board training, town hall meetings, Leadership Training, Treasurers' Workshop and conferences—leveraging the power of all to educate and inspire each chapter.
- ◆ Chapters and members through experienced volunteers with subject-matter expertise, leveraging the contributions of all to empower chapter leaders and members.
- ◆ Members in developing leadership and technical skills and learning from other members.
- ◆ Chapters with a volunteer National Leadership Team (board and committees) and professional staff who are dedicated to the united mission of Assistance League, operating the national organization in a way that meets legal, fiscal and fiduciary requirements.
- ◆ Chapters and members in celebrating the successes of all.

Minimum Standards for Chapters

- ◆ Operation School Bell® as signature program.
- ◆ Good-faith efforts to comply with Graphic Standards, Licensing Agreements.
- ◆ Compliance with Bylaws of National Assistance League and Bylaws for Chapters.
- ◆ Good standing with the IRS; Solvency: Maintaining 501(c)(3) status.

Assistance League® Tulsa thanks the following people for their generous contributions in the second half of July through the first half of August 2020



AL Tulsa Letter Campaign 2020 - 2021

Robert and Marsha Darden - in memory of Rae Annis

Robert and Marsha Darden - in memory of Don Neal

Mark and Kaye Dick - in memory of Rae Annis

Don and Pat Hardin

Glenda Neeley - in memory of Carol Bethell

Jean Roberts - in honor of Julie Burton

Jean Roberts - in honor of Marianne Pickering

The Jess and Miriam Stevens Foundation

Generous Anonymous Donors

Our annual Letter Campaign is AL Tulsa's only direct fundraiser for the year. As you know, Bargains Thrift Shop has been closed since mid-March and our revenue has been impacted. All proceeds from the Letter Campaign support Operation School Bell®.

Watch your mail for the Letter Campaign envelope coming later this month. Please consider making a donation, in any amount, to provide clothes, shoes and other essential items for students whose families really need our help.

Please consider leaving a gift to Operation School Bell® in your estate plans. You'll help ensure that our program's good work lives on.



committee updates

The Betty Bradstreet Arts Education Award committee met on August 27, 2020. We are in the process of working with the web administrator to put all of our forms on the AL Tulsa website. We are going to be sending out an announcement to apply for an award to Tulsa area school teachers in early September.

~ Betsy Manis, chair



AL Tulsa's Mental Health Committee is in a holding pattern. With the CDC guidelines in place, we can not visit the 4 facilities we help/support throughout the year. We are now waiting to receive their wish lists.

~ Laurie Brumbaugh & Debra Lockerman, co-chairs

STOP DROP ROLL

Special thanks to all the AL Tulsa members who participated in STOP, DROP & ROLL. Your generous donations to Bargains helped us learn about accepting and processing items under COVID restrictions and will provide fresh merchandise to re-stock the shop for re-opening!

VOLUNTEERS! NEEDED!

OSB Off-Site needs **Leaders** for several Walmart shopping events! If you are willing to transport AL supplies and arrive a little early to make sure the store is set up correctly, please contact Loretta Raschen.

AL Tulsa needs three additional members for the **Strategic Planning committee**. A new 5-year plan has been approved. The committee monitors and supports the goals of the plan. If you are interested, please contact Yolanda Taylor.

Assistance League® Tulsa



DID YOU KNOW?

**Broken bits of
jewelry can add up
to \$\$\$!!!**

Recently, our dedicated volunteers from the jewelry department cashed-in broken bits and odd pieces donated to Bargains. These items were unsaleable, but contained precious metals that will support our programs in the community. Do you have any damaged, unused and unwanted gold or silver pieces in your jewelry box? Please consider donating them to Bargains Thrift Shop!

NEW OFFICE HOURS



Beginning **September 8**, our office will be open on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The doors will be opened and the phone will be answered. If you need to come in to check for mail or take care of any other business, you will be able to come right in and not have to ring the bell. If you have a question and want to call, we will have someone available to take your call. It was decided that we would not have the office open at the regular posted times so we could monitor the number of people in the building. However, most days someone (Yolanda, Kim, Brenda, Loretta, etc.) is in the office during those times. To enter you will need to ring the bell and if you call it may be on voicemail. Email is checked daily so that is another great way to reach us. Thank you for your support and patience as we start to resume the very important work of our organization.

You Can Help Fight the Spread of Covid-19 at AL Tulsa

Personal Responsibility Statement

As a member of Assistance League® Tulsa, I am aware of the potential spread of COVID-19 that could result in severe illness and potential death. Therefore, I will, to the best of my ability, practice proper social distancing during all Assistance League® activities and other daily pursuits as recommended by health department directives, as well as practice good hygiene (handwashing, use of hand sanitizer, wearing of a mask when required, etc.) and follow other health recommendations. Should I become ill, I promise to self-report the illness and contact my nonprofit to let them know of my condition. I will adhere to testing guidelines and work with my own primary care provider. Finally, if I am exposed or suspected to be exposed to COVID-19, I will self-quarantine and notify my nonprofit.

**Recommended by Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits. It is a reminder of our responsibilities both inside and outside of Assistance League® activities.*

Assistance League® Tulsa



Re-Opening September 22
* limited business days and hours



Transforming Lives • Strengthening Community

President: Yolanda Taylor
Newsletter Editor: Marianne Pickering

www.altulsa.org



Assistance League® Tulsa

A chapter of National Assistance League®

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Tulsa, Oklahoma 74135

Phone: 918-832-8832



AL Tulsa members have donated carloads of bottled water for clients of the Tulsa Day Center.

You can drop off water at the AL Office through September 4.

Our Values

Commitment -

showing compassion for all

Accountability -

being fiscally responsible to our donors & our community

Leadership -

demonstrating professionalism that is visionary & ethical

Respect -

appreciating & considering others

Self-esteem -

enhancing success in the people we serve