



# Assistance League® Tulsa

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

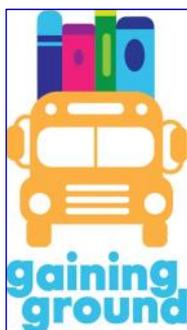
February 2021

Volume 46, Issue 6

## Changing Lives One Book at a Time

Since 2008, AL Tulsa has held an annual children's book drive to promote literacy in our community. Action Week, **February 22 - 28**, is now a nationwide literacy event honoring the birthday of Assistance League® co-founder, Anne Banning. This year, we are excited to work again with two outstanding partner organizations: Gaining Ground Literacy, Inc. and Tulsa Police Department Book Nooks.

Donations will be collected throughout February. Checks or cash donations can be mailed or brought to the AL Tulsa Office and will be used to purchase books from wish lists provided by our partners. Please indicate your gift is for Action Week. A box outside the Office will collect donated books. Board books, early reader, chapter books and young adult titles are all needed. We encourage you to donate books in good shape with diverse characters/stories in which children can see themselves. If you have questions, contact Priscilla Harris, VP Education at [prisharris@sbcglobal.net](mailto:prisharris@sbcglobal.net).



Gaining Ground Literacy is a local non-profit that provides children with individualized literacy interventions and access to high interest books. They serve students in Tulsa Public and Union school districts. During COVID, they are providing virtual afterschool programs and working with Tulsa Dream Center and the Tulsa Housing Authority to help close the literacy gap. Books donated by AL Tulsa have supported their book bus, making a positive impact on children throughout our community.

← Lisa Shotts, founder of Gaining Ground, and Kirby Mackenzie bring books to kids!

Tulsa's Police Department's Crime Prevention Network has set up Book Nooks in low-income apartment complexes. Located in recycled newspaper boxes, the Book Nooks are available 24/7 and are stocked with books that children and can borrow and exchange. The program builds trust with TPD officers along with literacy skills. During COVID, these Book Nooks are giving kids easy access to books when many schools and libraries are closed.

Last year, Assistance League® Tulsa's Action Week book drive donated over 600 books to TPD Book Nooks!

Karen Gilbert (Executive Director Tulsa Crime Stoppers) coordinates the Book Nooks project. →



**Board of Directors  
2020-2021**

**Officers:**

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## Ada Edwards Laughlin Award



Award recipients are AL Tulsa chapter members who have been a member for a significant number of years and have given outstanding “behind the scenes” service. The award is named for the co-founder of Assistance League® who, along with Anne Banning, was instrumental in the development of Assistance League® as a national organization in 1935.

**Due to the COVID pandemic, the Assistance League® Tulsa Board of Directors has voted to not present the Ada Edwards Laughlin Award in 2020 - 2021.**

**ALL** of our AL Tulsa members have made significant contributions to the Chapter and community...especially during this challenging year! Everyone’s efforts and mutual support have “gone above and beyond.” Please keep future AEL candidates in mind as we look forward to submitting nominations for the next award.

### Previous Ada Edward Laughlin Award Recipients

Mickie Davidson & Betty Oswald	2013 - 2014
Carole Hale & Marilyn Nance	2014 - 2015
Mary Dotson	2015 - 2016
Marilyn Brill	2016 - 2017
Patty Evatt	2017 - 2018
Marcella Landis	2018 - 2019
Marjorie Phillips	2019 - 2020

## Assistance League® Tulsa Advisory Council

**Ken Busby**  
Executive Dir./CEO Route 66 Alliance

**Brian Paschal**  
Foundation for Education for  
Tulsa Public Schools

**Phyllis Dotson**  
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Schnake, Turnbo, Frank/PR

**Nancy McDonald**  
Community Volunteer

**Mollie Williford**  
Chairman of the Board  
Williford Companies

## Game time message!—

Friends,

After many months of waiting for the Coronavirus to subside, finding PPE for our members and volunteers and developing safety protocols for the Assistance League and Bargains-- we are finally ready to open again. We completed our scouting report and prepared our game plan. The Coronavirus has been relentless but our AL defense has kept our members safe, the organization solvent and our image relevant. Team members are beginning to receive their COVID vaccination that will make them stronger, fleet of feet and comfortable returning to the field. You have been diligent about working to ensure your safety and the safety of others. I appreciate your work ethic and commitment to making Bargains a safe place to work and shop. Our goal is to ensure that at the end of the day, or the end of the virus, we have the winning score. I trust you have been diligent about your training during the break because it is go time.

I'm sure you've memorized your playbook and are ready to make big plays. There are key things to remember when you are in the building. Please stop in donations and take your temperature if you are planning to work. If your temperature is above 100 degrees, please do not work. We will send in another volunteer to substitute for you. They have been practicing for this very moment. Please wear your mask while you are in the building. There will be a flag on the play if you do not wear the proper equipment. In the fourth quarter, we do not want to give up even one yard. Please do not congregate in large groups in the break room because we do not want any false starts. We will play all of our games on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. You will need to sign up in advance, in Sign-up Genius, if you plan to huddle up on Fridays. I know you have probably heard all of this information countless times before but, I am sharing it again. Consider this your Tips and Reminders, to ensure that we are working together and on the same page to keep the store open and defeat this virus. Please, wash your hands. Wash, work, wash again, and Repeat. If you do it correctly in practice, you will look like a superstar in the game. Remember, defense wins games and mitigates our contracting and spreading the virus. If you or someone you are in close contact with contracts the virus, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can alert everyone you might have worked with. And, the most difficult part of this message--please stay home and quarantine per CDC recommendations especially if you aren't feeling well. It may be necessary to stop in and visit the trainer. Sometimes, you just have to go back to the locker room.



I am as excited as you are about reopening the store. I have seen the excitement in your eyes and heard that same excitement in your voices as we approach reopening following our holiday break. A great big THANK YOU to the members of the Special Committee to Reopen Bargains. They handled their coaching assignment like all Americans. Kim Campbell will be an excellent Head Coach! Good luck to Amy McAbee and her defensive squad. They are an outstanding example of true teamwork. We've had lots of telephone calls and we hope that will translate into great game day attendance on February 2nd. Thank you for your patience, ideas, recommendations, compliance, and overall reaffirming spirit. I hope to see you on Tuesday. Now, it's time for AL to take the field and get the job done.

Let's go team, the clock is winding down to game time but WE are just getting started. See you in the end zone and stay safe out there Go AL!

Yolanda Taylor, President and Head Coach

MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!



**AL TULSA FEBRUARY CHAPTER MEETING  
and  
ASSISTANCE LEAGUE® SUPPORT TEAM VISIT  
MONDAY, February 8 at 11:00 A.M.**

Watch your email for the link to login for our Zoom meeting.

Plan for the meeting to last approximately 1.5 to 2 hours.

There will be a 25-30 minutes presentation from the national team with time for questions to follow.

Please plan to login by 10:55 a.m. so that we might begin promptly at 11:00 a.m.

**Purpose of Chapter Services Support Team Visit:**

Building effective chapters nationwide through education, inspiration and support.

- ◆ Partner with chapters to support and carry out the organization's mission of transforming lives and strengthening community.
- ◆ Empower chapters to operate efficiently and effectively, given their unique market and membership.
- ◆ Equip chapter leaders to understand the basic legal, fiscal and fiduciary requirements of managing a 501(c)(3).
- ◆ Serve as a valuable resource to help guide chapters through the challenges of running their chapter.
- ◆ To listen, learn and celebrate chapter's successes while providing a valuable link and touchpoint to the national organization and current initiatives.

***All members are encouraged to attend this Chapter meeting.***

Until we can safely meet as a large group,  
AL Tulsa's monthly chapter meetings will be held by Zoom.



## Welcome 2021!

Like most, I have high hopes for 2021! I am reluctant to say it cannot get any worse because of course it always can. So, I will just say - I am hoping for the best! As I think back on 2020, I am surprised by the good that happened during such a difficult year. One of those blessed events was that my son got married. *(of course, photo attached, I am a proud mother after all.)* It was not the wedding we planned but it turned out splendidly. Maybe even better because it was intimate, and we really enjoyed every minute of the day. My family welcomed a new daughter who we adore, and we gathered in exuberance as we love to do, it does not get much better than that.



It has been that way at Assistance League® of Tulsa too. When the pandemic hit, we just scrambled to adjust. As summer came and went, we began to plan and move forward. Our programs continued and our members stepped up to work miracles to help those in our community. Our fundraising continued and we are being blessed in abundance. As we begin 2021, we are making plans to continue our existing programs and launch 3 new ones - STEM, 12 & 12, and Tulsa Day Center. We have high hopes!

We are planning to reopen Bargains on February 2. Please remember that every one of us must decide the right time to return and in what capacity. Listen to your health professions and family about this important issue. It is a personal choice and while we are doing everything recommended and following all best practices, we cannot guarantee complete safety from any illness. We have looked at what other nonprofits, retailers, and volunteer groups in our area are doing. The COVID vaccine is being administered. We have CDC guidelines in place. We have put trust in each other that we will abide by all the health standards from our community and do all we can to prevent any spread. Welcome 2021 - We have high hopes!

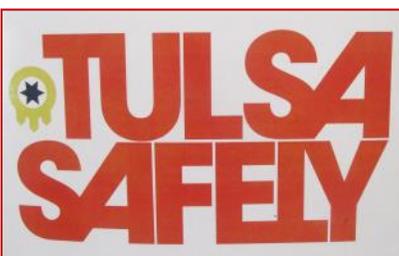
~ Kim Campbell, President-Elect

## Bargains Thrift Shop

**Bargains will re-open for business and donations on Tuesday, February 2 .**

Our spaces have been deep cleaned and sanitized in preparation to welcome back our devoted customers and dedicated volunteers. COVID safety precautions remain in place. The store is freshly restocked with a wide variety of quality items at bargain prices.

All proceeds from sales at Bargains Thrift Shop support AL Tulsa's programs in our community. We look forward to seeing you on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Bargains Thrift Shop and Assistance League® Tulsa are proud to partner with Tulsa Safely. We actively follow the Tulsa Public Health Department's COVID guidelines to keep our members and customers safe.



# Betty Bradstreet Arts Education Awards by Betsy Manis



Tiles created by students in Stephanie Long's class at Bixby North Elementary School. Materials were funded by a Betty Bradstreet Arts Education Award.



To Everyone at the Assistance League,

I want to extend a sincere thank you for blessing my art class with supplies this school year. I wish you could see the students' faces light up when they saw their own supply bags stuffed with all the brand new materials they needed to create this year. One student exclaimed it was like Christmas morning, and I had to agree with them.

The students have taken such pride in their supplies and have learned responsibility through personal ownership. We have created some fun art projects this year while learning the elements of art. This week we are going to be creating some puppets as we do a unit in fiber arts, and our supplies will be heavily used to individualize each students' project.

Thank you for all you do. You truly make a difference and have impacted our students in a huge way this year.

With Tremendous Gratitude,

Jordan Butler  
East Elementary Art

## Arts improve academic performance.

Students with an education rich in the arts have higher GPAs and standardized test scores, and lower drop-out rates—benefits reaped by students regardless of socio-economic status.

89 percent of Americans believe that arts are part of a well-rounded K-12 education.

[www.AmericansForTheArts.org](http://www.AmericansForTheArts.org)

## CAN YOU LEND A HELPING HAND?

Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, like many groups, have had a decline in volunteers since the pandemic began. They need groups to come pack food boxes for people in need.

A group of AL volunteers is going on **Friday, February 12 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.** to help out.

If you would like to participate, contact Kim Campbell. Email: [preselect@altulsa.org](mailto:preselect@altulsa.org) or 918-344-2170.



## Community Action Programs:

### Mental Health Association Oklahoma

AL Tulsa's Mental Health committee was busy during the holiday season with various activities and requests. The Denver House Overflow Facility served pecan pies, provided by AL Tulsa, for dessert at their Thanksgiving lunch. Our committee also purchased additional sleeping bags for Denver House. Altamont received a Christmas tree and ornaments along with various prizes for their Christmas Party games.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the AL Tulsa was unable to host our annual MHAO Christmas Party at Yale Avenue Apartments. Instead, we sponsored and fulfilled 10 residents' wish lists for their Christmas Celebration. Wrapped gifts were delivered to Yale Avenue Apartments which included clothes, shoes, towels, food, healthcare items, home and kitchen products and writing supplies.

Looking ahead, our committee will continue to coordinate with the various MHAO residential apartments; which Assistance League® Tulsa supports by providing needed items.

Debra Lockerman and  
Laurie Brumbaugh, Co-Chairs



### LIFE Senior Services

Since 1989, AL Tulsa has partnered with LIFE Senior Services in support of their clients. This Christmas, we delivered gifts for 43 homebound seniors, up to \$50 value per person, through their Angel Tree project.

AL Tulsa is currently working to fulfill wish-list requests from the three LIFE Senior Services adult care centers. Watch for updates on this valuable community program.



Co-chairs, Sharon Atcheson and Liz McDoulett along with AL Tulsa President, Yolanda Taylor load Angel Tree gifts for homebound seniors. Requests ranged from linens, small appliances, clothing, and robes to air purifiers and craft items.

**Assistance League® Tulsa thanks the following  
people for their generous contributions in the  
second half of November 2020 through  
the first half of January 2021**

Assistance League® Tulsa

Lucille Barker

Jane Berg

Sherry and Ronald Bowen

Marla Brierly

Julie and Roy Brockmeier

Alma Buscomb

Helen Carlton

Carmichael Foundation

*In honor of Mark and Sarah Wilson*

Avonelle and Roger Chitwood

Bryan B. Close

*In honor of Mollie Williford*

Mickey Coats

Thomas and Diane Colson

Kathy Craft

Suzann Crockett

*In honor of Sharon Coffman*

Robert J. Darby

Cheryl Davison

Lois Diehl

Bruce and Beverly Dieterlen

*In memory of Carol Bethell*

George and Phyllis Dotson

Katherine Elliott

*In honor of Judy Roberts*

Randy and Mary Elliott

Ruth Ann Fate

Nancy Ferguson

*In memory of Rex Coppedge*

William and Susan Flynn

Mike Fretz Foundation

Marjory Gaberino

Donna D. Glocker

Lloyd Grigsby

Julie Gustafson

John Hamill

Donna J. Hickman

Richard and Lynne Hoe

John and Clara Holderman

Janet Holland

Paige Hora

Meg and Warren Hubler

*In honor of Phyllis Dotson*

Ruth Ann Hudspeth

*In memory of Rex Coppedge*

Faye Hutcherson

Sussie Hyden

*In memory of Verena Hopper*

Janet Hyne

Bob and Susie Jackson

Jeff and Jill James

Elizabeth Johnson

Sam Keel

*In honor of Betty Oswald*

John and Lina Kratzert

Carol Krueger

Denice Brice Kurtz

Marcella and Forrest Landis

*In memory of Dr. John Phillips*

Cathleen LeMaire

Beverly Marquardt

Nancy Mason

*In honor of Loretta Raschen*

Martie McCain

*In memory of Dave Bush, Emma Sue Karstetter,  
Jerry Mayes and Margueritte McCain*

Elizabeth McDoulett

Robert and Ann McGregor

Mary Ann Meckfessel

*In honor of her grandchildren*

Deanna Mendenhall

Karen Mildren

John and Pat Minielly

Norma J. Morrison

Kathleen and Bard Moss

Glenda Murphy

Nancy L. Neal

Martha and Richard Nichols

Robert and Sandra Norman

Judith Ott

*In honor of Nancy Kirby*

Mary Ellen Ourada  
 Bill and Becky Queen  
 Pamela Penix  
 Clara Perkins

*In honor of all teachers*

Deni Phillips  
 Charles and Patti Pitcock  
 Charles and Kathryn Purser

*In honor of Linda French*

Tom and Betty Rains  
 Judy Ray  
 Clarence and Catherine Riser

Dolores Ritter  
 Pat and Liz Roberts  
 Wanda Robinson

*In memory of Don Neal*

Sharyn Rusher

*In memory of Rex Coppedge*

Rob and Karen Saltiel  
 Esther and Bob Sanborn

Beverly Schafer

Richard Scott  
 Robert W. Sears  
 Reinta Shofner

*In memory of D. Burdette Blue III*

Donna Spielman

*In honor of Bridget and Dave Muller*

Deloris Taylor

Dr. C.T. Thompson

*In memory of Anna Thompson*

Peggy Upham  
 Kent Van Valkenburgh  
 Barbara and Larry Walters

Mary Weddle

Jeanette Winkelman  
 Cynthia Wright

Bette Zell Wozobski

Mac and Suzanne Young

Generous Anonymous Donors

**Grants and Gifts**

The Oxley Foundation  
 QuikTrip  
 Sisk Charitable Trust

## Coming this Spring

Last year Assistance League® Tulsa approved new partnerships with three non-profit agencies. However, a pandemic hit, and we were stalled. Priority was making sure our existing programs could continue to provide essential services. With a bit of ingenuity, we managed to meet those obligations and help our community as promised.

Now we are ready to focus on launching the new programs - working once again with:

- ◆ **Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance** (TRSA) providing opportunities for Tulsa area students to explore science, technology, engineering and mathematics
- ◆ **12 & 12, Inc.** a comprehensive, community addiction program recovery center for adults...and
- ◆ expanded work with **Tulsa Day Center**, dedicated to providing services and support to people experiencing homelessness.

We are in the first stages of meeting with these agencies to assess how we can best support their programs. There will be opportunities to work this spring and beyond on some of these projects so be watching for more information to come. As always, we are striving to find ways that we can transform lives and strengthen our community.



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.



## AL Tulsa Letter Campaign 2020 - 2021

### OSB Letter Campaign and Your Lunch Money

The OSB Letter Campaign is in its final stages! With income from Bargains down this year, it is even more important that we, as members, support the work of our organization to better the lives of those needing help in our community.

Since we have missed 7 months now of chapter luncheons at \$10 a meal, would you consider giving some of your "lunch money" to our OSB Letter Campaign? Perhaps you'd like to give a donation in honor of someone who has been on the front lines of the pandemic. Maybe you are happy with a new year and would like to donate \$2021 (or \$20.21) towards helping purchase clothes for 2021 Operation School Bell®.

We are still hoping in these final campaign days to hit 100% member participation. Put a check in the mail soon!

### AL TULSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Two members and one alternate are elected by and from the Board and three members and one alternate are elected by and from the voting membership.

#### Approved Nominating Committee for 2021 - 2022

##### From the Board:

- Priscilla Harris
- Nancy Kingery
- Sharon Coffman (alternate)

##### From the Membership:

- Glenna Morrison
- Martha Nichols
- Marianne Pickering
- Madeline Gilbreth (alternate)

This committee will be seeking a slate of nominees to serve on AL Tulsa's Board of Directors next year. If you are interested in serving or know someone who could excel in a leadership role, please contact a committee member.

### Strategic Planning Committee

would like to say thank you to AL Tulsa's Vice Presidents for taking the time to update us on your Action Plans. This organization is great and all of the work that has been accomplished is fantastic.

~ Donna Spielman, chair



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[smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)



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You can support AL Tulsa by starting your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)  
Click AmazonSmile on the top banner to learn more.



President: Yolanda Taylor  
Newsletter Editor: Marianne Pickering

## Assistance League® Tulsa

A chapter of National Assistance League®

5350 E. 31th St.

Tulsa, Oklahoma 74135

Phone: 918-832-8832

[www.altulsa.org](http://www.altulsa.org)



Action Week for Literacy!

February 22 - 28, 2021



Support a love of reading for kids in our community!

Donate new or gently used books to

AL Tulsa's annual Children's Book Drive.

Cash donations to purchase books are most welcome!

### 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