



Assistance League® Tulsa

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

March 2021

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AL Tulsa and NCL: Partners with Purpose



National Charity League, Inc.® is a multi-generational philanthropic organization of mother and daughters who volunteer with over 6,000 charities throughout the United States. For the past decade, the Midtown Tulsa Chapter of NCL has partnered with AL Tulsa to improve our local community by contributing thousands of hours of hands-on volunteerism.

On February 21, National Charity League members sponsored a drive-thru donation event to benefit Bargains Thrift Shop and Assistance League® Tulsa. In two hours, an estimated 400 lbs. of clothing and household goods were collected! All proceeds from the sale of these items support AL Tulsa's many philanthropic programs. Unsaleable items were passed on to our non-profit Waste Not partners.

AL Tulsa and NCL share common values, providing service and support in our local community. Both organizations strive for integrity and excellence in everything they do. Hands-on experiences with AL Tulsa allow young National Charity League members to develop as leaders while improving the lives of others.



Throughout the year, but particularly in summer, NCL mother/daughter teams help Operation School Bell® by unpacking and processing children's clothing for distribution to students in Tulsa Public Schools. AL Tulsa is grateful for the many hours of service, creative efficiency and positive attitudes these wonderful teams bring to us!

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2020-2021**

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AL TULSA 2021 ACTION WEEK BOOK DRIVE EXTENDED!

Due to storms in February, AL Tulsa's annual children's book drive is being extended! To promote literacy in our community, we are working again this year with two outstanding partner organizations: Gaining Ground Literacy, Inc. and Tulsa Police Department Book Nooks.

Donations will be collected throughout March.

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 AL 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



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Friends,

On a recent morning, my son emerged from a long night at work to find that his car had been broken into and a bag stolen from his front seat. A short time later while reviewing the cameras that revealed the dastardly deed, he realized that not only was his window broken and bag stolen but the thieves had also helped themselves to his catalytic converter. A quick trip back to the parking lot, key in the ignition and start and the telltale sign of a missing catalytic converter was quite apparent. His 4-cylinder vehicle sounded like a mighty Mack truck. He sent me pictures from the scene and I was immediately upset for him. I bombarded him with text messages - Do you need a tow? Will it run safely to get you home? Did you file a police report? Could you see their faces and/or tag on the cameras? In other words, I did that thing moms do when trying to resolve problems for an adult child who is quite capable of handling his own issues. He responded to my many messages with "Mom, all is well!" All is well? Only my son, I thought, can find space to pivot and find a nearly silver lining in the theft of a pretty expensive automotive part from his vehicle. He showed up at our home a short time later and could be heard at least one block before pulling into the driveway. He had arranged for the glass repairman to meet him at our house because it was too difficult for the tech to find him in his large apartment complex with the many twists and turns. And, he finally purchased the catalytic converter and exhaust system of his dreams he had placed in an online cart nearly six months ago. Theft, he said was not quite the impetus he thought he needed to purchase the new exhaust system, but sometimes you just do what's necessary to continue to move forward. Again, there's that pivot—the ability to swing or turn around. He was able to change his view of the situation to see a better way to resolve his predicament.

There have been many times during the course of 2020-21 that AL Tulsa has had to pivot. Each time, our members have responded with a *what do you need and what time should I be there?* There have been days when I wasn't quite sure what we needed or when to ask for help. I have had to learn to pivot and I have had to learn to see the nearly silver lining in all that we've seen, worked around, endured, and laughed out loud at until reduced to tears. We've had to wear masks for nearly a year, take our temperatures now more than ever in the history of our entire lives, use enough hand sanitizer to float a boat, and stay at least 6 feet from one another. All of these things seem so unnatural for us. When did we think it would be okay to enter a bank in a mask? Weren't we told that too much hand sanitizer might affect our natural immune system and allow germs to become super germs? And, when did members of the Assistance League® Tulsa, who enjoy a good hug from a dear friend, choose to remain six feet from their very best friends? And yet, we did! We managed to pivot. It wasn't always easy but we did it because we care about one another and the communities we serve. We have been diligent in our safety and even as the COVID vaccine becomes increasingly available to us, I ask you to turn again and look towards the future of the Assistance League®. We are on the cusp of another significant moment in the history of our organization and we all want to be present the moment we set the tables and gather as a group to celebrate our turn to a new day sans masks and hand sanitizer. Until then, please continue to wear your masks, distance and use that blasted hand sanitizer unless you can wash, wash, wash your hands. Please take very good care and prepare to pivot. A new adventure awaits us and I cannot wait for us to say, All is well.

Yolanda

Bargains Thrift Shop by Amy McAbee

Bargains Thrift Shop is in need of volunteers to work in the store. If you have any problems with SignUp Genius, I would be glad to help you. Loretta Raschen can add anyone to the SignUp list or you can get in touch with me.

Thank you! Amy



AFTER MY VACCINE... DO I STILL NEED TO WEAR A MASK?

YES! This is the recommendation of the national and local government, no matter if you are vaccinated or have previously recovered from COVID. Vaccine talk is everywhere. Hopefully, many of you have received yours or are in the process of obtaining your COVID vaccine. It seems that this will be a huge step in ending the pandemic and getting us fully back to business.

Bargains has of course reopened, and we are still asking that everyone **SIGN IN** when they enter, **TAKE YOUR TEMPERATURE** on arrival, **WEAR A MASK**, continue vigilant **HANDWASHING** & sanitizing and be mindful of **SOCIAL DISTANCING**. The same when working in OSB or other in-house meetings.

Previously, in-person meetings were limited to no more than 10 people; now we will allow larger meetings so long as proper distancing (that is about 6 feet) is observed. This would allow the Board to meet in the activity room or other bigger committees to meet in spaces large enough to comply. Also know that we will continue to have a Zoom option available for those who would prefer. It is our goal to allow as many people as possible the opportunity to participate whether in person or virtually. Simply let someone in the office know and we will make other options available.

Please remember it is especially important to maintain adequate social distance as you take breaks to drink and eat. Everyone needs a break but not at the same time. Eating is considered a high-risk exposure activity when you are in a closed area seated together. Additionally, it would be very courteous to wipe down the tables with sanitized wipes when you are finished-just a bit of kindness for each other.

All these actions will keep us compliant with the "Tulsa Safely" distinction so that the public knows we are doing all we can to cautiously continue operations. Kudos to all our members who have been so cooperative and worked so hard to keep our building and each other safe. We know it has been a great effort and it is appreciated. As the weather warms and more people are vaccinated, we look forward to seeing one another in person and being there for our community as it recovers from this pandemic.

Special Committee on COVID & Reopening / Kim Campbell, chair



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.





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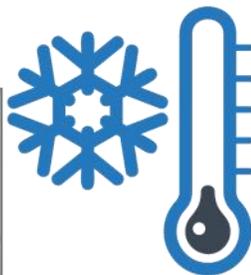
Operation School Bell's year-end inventory prepares for our annual audit and guides purchases for 2021-2022.

Many thanks to everyone who has helped with the count!



Dr. Ebony Johnson, Senior Director of Student Engagement for Tulsa Public Schools, notified us that many students in middle and high schools needed coats and layered clothing. Operation School Bell® coordinated a pickup for requested items to get the clothing, especially the coats, where they would do the most good. However, the very weather pattern we were concerned about disrupted pickup and distribution. Tulsa Public Schools closed and was unable to pickup.

The Parent Resource Coordinator reached out to AL Tulsa member Maura Browne, who then called Mary Dotson. Mary called President Yolanda Taylor, who authorized release of the items and shared the contact at TPS who was scheduled to pickup the clothing . The relationships and contacts of our members are far and wide, leading to phone calls between contacts that eventually led to the students getting warm clothing in the midst of the most frigid weather we've had in years.



OSB Responds to the Big Freeze!

On February 5, with forecasts predicting temperatures to drop below 0° , Marcy Landis, Julie Burton, Kim Campbell, Pam Glenn and her granddaughter Dacey gathered coats, gloves, shoes, clothing and other items for delivery to TPS students in need. The bags and boxes included 72 pairs of new shoes and dozens of warm coats.



Betty Bradstreet Arts Education Awards by Betsy Manis



Betty Bradstreet Arts Education Awards support classroom projects in the fine arts for students attending area public schools. Endowed in 2005 by a gift from the Emma R. Showman Trust, the awards honors Betty Bradstreet, one of AL Tulsa's most inspiring founding members.

Trisha Banks, the art teacher at Bixby East Intermediate, requested basic supplies. Her art room, which is only a year and a half old, needed stocking and restocking. Color markers were running dry and she needed drawing supplies, paint, paintbrushes, paper, books, clay, sculpting materials and cleaning supplies. The school currently does not budget art supplies. Prior to receiving the Betty Bradstreet Arts Education Award, Trisha had to fundraise to get supplies; a difficult task during COVID.

← Proud student from Bixby East Intermediate displays artwork, created with materials supplied by AL Tulsa.

POSTPONED

Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope

FOOD BANK

Community **FOOD BANK** of Eastern Oklahoma



AL Tulsa's work session at the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma was cancelled in February due to extreme weather.

Please watch for a rescheduled date in April to be announced soon!

Mental Health Association Oklahoma

During the months of January and February 2021, the Mental Health Committee has been very active. We purchased and delivered many of the items requested by the four MHOA facilities that AL Tulsa supports:

Walker Hall - 50 Bus Tokens
Two 5 drawer Dressers
Two Bikes with Combination Cable Locks

Altamont House - 50 Bus Tokens
20 Twin Fleece Blankets
12 spray cans Glade Air Freshener
Feminine hygiene products
Microwave

Denver House - 14 Sleeping Bags
5 Boxes Hand Warmers
14 Tarps
5 Folding TV Tray Tables
12 Backpacks
14 Tote Bags
11 Belts in various sizes
14 Ponchos
14 packs of 550 Parachute Cord
50 Bus Tokens
56 Health Kits

Yale Apts - 10 Twin Mattress Protectors
50 Bus Tokens



In the months to come, the MH Committee will continue to coordinate with the four MHAO Facilities and work to provide their much needed items.

Debra Lockerman & Laurie Brumbaugh
Co-chairs



CAN YOU HELP?

Items requested from AL Tulsa members

The Mental Health Overflow Shelter is in need of pre-packaged plastic cutlery (like the ones received with takeout orders) and cloth tote bags. A labeled box will be placed in the Bargains Sorting Room to collect donations.

Your help would be greatly appreciated!

↑ Debra Lockerman and Laurie Brumbaugh deliver bikes requested by Walker Hall. This MHAO facility provides transitional housing for young adults who have overcome homelessness or have a serious mental illness. In some cases, residents are in transition from state custody or foster care.

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

Jeanne Brixey

Pamela J. Cecil

Francie Faudree & Dale Gillman

Bill & Linda French

Carla Gilbert

In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Dick B Mason, III

Jessica S. Grover

In honor of Judy Kay Thomas

Hank and Nancy Harbaugh

Ann Harrolle

Jan Keegan

In memory of Marion Dunn

Donna Nolen

Robert & Kimberly Norman

Mary V Peterson

Laura Russell

In memory of Peggy Henry

Sweets and Cream, LLC

Patricia Vantriest

Anne Waller

In memory of Leif Redditsch

Generous Anonymous Donors

Grants and Gifts

Brannin Family Fund

Thank you!

Waste Not Wish List

AL Tulsa's Waste Not program supports a number of area non-profit organizations by distributing unusable or unsaleable items donated to Bargains Thrift Shop.

Can you help with items requested by our partners?

- ◆ Clean **paper grocery bags**
- ◆ New or slightly used **shoe insoles**...all sizes
- ◆ New or slightly used **shoe laces**...all lengths

Bags are used to distribute food and other essentials to people in need. Inner soles and laces can make old shoes wearable again.

Tubs for these items are located in Donations.

MANY THANKS !!!



AL Tulsa Supports the REDress Project

The REDress Project is an art installation created by Canadian artist Jamie Black to raise awareness about missing and murdered indigenous women.

On behalf of AL Tulsa, President Yolanda Taylor contributed one of her dresses to the artwork.

The REDress Project will be displayed at Gilcrease Museum March 12-14 with a concurrent installation downtown at Guthrie Green.





President: Yolanda Taylor
Newsletter Editor: Marianne Pickering

www.altulsa.org



Assistance League® Tulsa

A chapter of National Assistance League®

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Assistance League® Tulsa values our long-standing partnership with the Tulsa Midtown Chapter of National Charity League®, and appreciates the many hours its members contribute to Operation School Bell® and other community programs.

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