



Assistance League® Tulsa

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

April 2021

Volume 46, Issue 8

AL Tulsa's Newest Community Partnership



Assistance League® Tulsa is proud to partner with Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance, a non-profit organization that promotes education in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Their mission is to build broad pathways for all students to access high-impact careers. For our initial project, AL Tulsa purchased materials and assembled hands-on STEM kits geared for elementary students and families.

STEM education develops children's 21st-century skills. Benefits of getting kids excited about Science, Technology, Engineering and Math include:



- ◆ STEM fosters curiosity and creativity
- ◆ STEM builds resilience
- ◆ STEM encourages problem-solving and teamwork
- ◆ STEM prepares kids for tomorrow's technology
- ◆ STEM is cool!



↑ 30 AL Tulsa volunteers put together 500 STEM kits in less than 60 minutes. That's Math . . . and Teamwork!

→ The kits will be distributed at an event for Tulsa Public Schools. In the future, students participating in Operation School Bell® will also receive a STEM kit!



Five different STEM kits were assembled at our recent work session:

- Build a Bridge
- Alka-Seltzer® Rocket
- Coding with Cards
- Cryptology
- George Washington Carver

Thank You AL Tulsa 2020-2021 Board of Directors

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: Amy McAbee
 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

Membership

Placement: Mary Peterson

Philanthropic Programs

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

Assistance League® Tulsa is governed by officers and standing committee chairs elected by and from our membership. The Board is responsible for the general management of our corporation and has the power to act for the corporation between meetings of the membership. This year of pandemic has been particularly challenging for our organization. We appreciate the committed leadership and service our Board has provided to see us through!



Seated L to R - Brenda Dinan (Treasurer), Yolanda Taylor (President), Kim Campbell (President-Elect), Pat Banzhof (Secretary)

Standing L to R - Priscilla Harris (Education), Amy McAbee (Bargains Thrift Shop), Patti Ross (Resource Development), Ginny Thomas (Finance), Julie Burton (Operation School Bell®), Sharon Coffman (Philanthropic Programs), Marsha Darden (Marketing and Communication), and Julie Guy (Operations)

On Zoom: Bottom row L to R - Donna Spielman (Strategic Planning) and Betsy Whitmarsh (Parliamentarian). Top row L to R - Elisabeth Harrington (Membership) and Nancy Kingery (Orientation)

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

Dr. Ebony Johnson
 Executive Dir. of Student and Family
 Support Resources,
 Tulsa Public Schools

Nancy McDonald
 Community Volunteer

Gary Percefull
 NeWSolutions

Rodger A. Randle
 Honorary British Consul (OK)

Clifton Taulbert
 The Freemount Foundation

Steve Turnbo, APR
 Chairman Emeritus
 Schnake, Turnbo, Frank/PR

Mollie Williford
 Chairman of the Board
 Williford Companies

Spring Greetings,

I am so excited about the hub of activity in the building. Members coming and going to various meetings and volunteer activities. I believe the sound I hear outside my window is a collective exhale from members ready to return to the business of living their best lives. Lives, of course, that include the Assistance League® Tulsa. It is good to see our members, together, for the first time in many months. And, while I still mostly see only your eyes, you look good!

We couldn't let this year go (well, really we could let this year just go!) without a group photo of the 2020-21 AL Tulsa Board of Directors. We have primarily conducted our board meetings via Zoom for the 2020-21 year. Zoom meetings are interesting—sometimes you can't hear the speaker, sometimes you can't see the speaker and then there are the times you can't hear or see the speaker. But, when Zoom worked well, it allowed us to see one another without a mask. It offered a glimpse into the well-being of our members and provided an opportunity to dress very casually for meetings. I know I tried to look presentable while at our meetings via Zoom but shoes were definitely not required when "Zooming" from home.



Again, I am so glad to see our members returning to the building. It's been a long year and we have much to talk about. There have been engagements, weddings, births, new homes, surgeries, and significant personal losses. Take some time to catch up with friends you haven't seen in person in a very long time. Yes, there is work to do but there are stories to tell and we want to hear what you've been up to for a year. My stories? Glad you asked--I have a new grand pup named Toni who eats everything and I do mean everything she can get her pretty little paws on, Toni and I FaceTime daily, my daughter (Toni's mom) was admitted to and attends Johns Hopkins for graduate school, my son promised he would sit for the LSAT sometime soon (non-committal committal), same son gave me the gift of time for my birthday and helped me to clean my garage (best gift ever from my favorite son), my hot water heater did not go gently into that dark night and flooded a portion of my house, I was in an auto accident with a distracted driver, I have Melasma on my face and now I look like I have the moustache of Zorro (all I need now is the mask of Zorro), I am an emotional eater and so I've gained a lot of weight, I am on a diet, my sister sent me Praline candy from New Orleans to sabotage my diet, I called my sister while eating a piece of the candy to thank her (best sister ever), I received a call from a man I met in Sam's Club (too long a story to share here and will require wine), served as President of the Assistance League® Tulsa (best job ever!), husband planning a road trip to wherever once my term ends (I just need a mani/pedi), children are playing in my neighborhood (I LOVE THE SOUND OF CHILDREN PLAYING), my New York brother finally received notification around midnight a few days ago that he was eligible to receive a COVID vaccine, brother scheduled the earliest possible appointment and jumped out of bed to arrive in time for his 2:30AM appointment, same brother called me at 5:00AM while eating pastry from my favorite Russian bakery near his home to celebrate his one and done J & J vaccine, added Moderna, Pfizer, J & J, and mRNA to my vocabulary, had both shots of the Pfizer vaccine (had a hard time with the first shot but not hard enough that I didn't show up for the second), I am tired but not weary, I am distracted but still engaged, and I am happy. I pray that you are as well.

Now, pardon me while I kick off my shoes and get comfortable and listen while you share your stories!

My very best to you,

Yolanda

Bargains Thrift Shop by Amy McAbee

I am excited that we have several members that have returned to work in the store. Welcome back Marge Kahle, Avonelle Chitwood, Farryl Stokes and Jacque Hickman. A special welcome back to Bud Martin, he is working in Donations and has made us a new shelf to hold all of our Art. I know that this is the start of a great spring and summer.

Our Waste Not program is also growing. Two new partners, 100 Men of North Tulsa (part of The Dream Center) and Espiritu Santo Episcopal Church, benefit from unsalable items in our Men's Department. Another new partner, Pamela Smith Foundation, works with women just released from prison. A big thanks to Mary Dotson who coordinates with our many Waste Not partners.

Great things are happening in Bargains! Amy

Bargains Thrift Shop needs volunteers to work in the store. If you have any questions about 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



Bargains Wants Buttons!

Do you have any buttons (all types) that you would like to donate? Please bring them to Peggy in the Children's Department. During our quarantine, my crafting has included making button art to sell in Bargains. Trees seem to be popular for a child's room, and ← pictured is an example of a piece that recently sold.

I can also use stretched, blank canvases if anyone has an abandoned art project and would like to donate the canvas. Canvases are also very sellable in the crafts area of our shop. Thank you!

Peggy Rock, Children's & Crafts Departments

COVID Policy Changes

Spring is here and everyone seems anxious to be out and about. More friends are returning to volunteer and things just feel better. As we move into the warmer months you will notice some changes regarding COVID protocol. Beginning April 1, you will no longer be required to take your temperature when you come into the building. The thermometers will be put away and hopefully stay away! We will also reduce some of the signage on the doors and windows. As we have moved through the pandemic it was necessary to post in detail our policies and procedures including disclaimers suggested by Nationals. There will still be postings, but they will be less intrusive. Assistance League® will continue to follow the recommendations of the City of Tulsa about how we pursue reopening all activities. Last month it was decided that we could have larger groups in the activity room; we had a great turn-out for the STEM kit packing event. It looks very promising that more of these events can resume. However, we will still restrict non-AL members from volunteering. Limiting the number of people seems the most prudent course until we are vaccinated or have high public immunity. Rest assured that while we are very eager to "get back to normal" we are listening to leaders, professionals, and you-our members, while putting our plans in place. We appreciate all our members and community supporters especially during this exceedingly difficult period.

Kim Campbell



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.



By Julie Burton

Many, many thanks to the volunteers who helped with inventory! It's not the most *exciting* thing, but we needed all of you to get it done!

We are looking ahead to the upcoming school year, even as we close out 2020 - 21. The uniform requirement was relaxed last fall, but uniforms will be required going forward. I'm not sure if the children will be onsite, but if they aren't, we will do the same process: have counselors get student's sizes, we fill bags and have them delivered. I will keep you posted on that.

There will be some changes in the Activity Room soon, creating more storage and rearranging the room. We've been there long enough now that a little sprucing up is in order. We may schedule a workday to get things done.

We are still taking health precautions, wearing masks, distancing, sanitizing and taking temperatures. Many members have gotten the COVID vaccine, but we remain vigilant in keeping our volunteers healthy.

Julie Burton, OSB Chair



Back to In-Person Classes!

In March, Tulsa Public Schools advanced to a hybrid model and students are now receiving both remote and in-person instruction. Kids continue to grow and uniforms are required to attend the classroom.

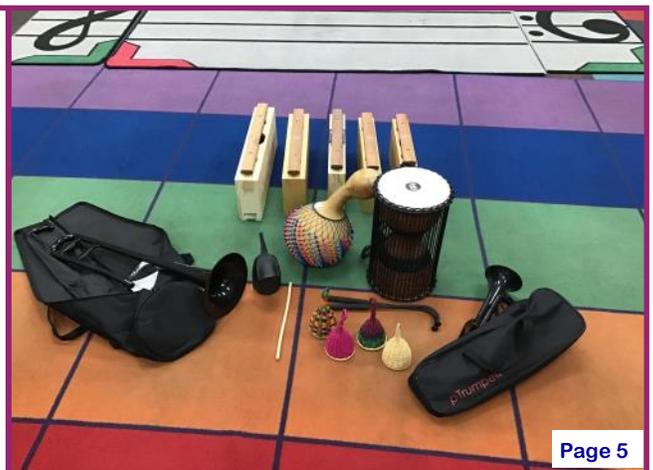
↑ Derrick Alexander, Tulsa police officer and school resource officer at Emerson Elementary, recently visited Operation School Bell®. Julie Burton, OSB chair, selected uniform pants for numerous elementary students who needed them before returning to school. AL Tulsa has kept busy helping our community during the pandemic!



Betty Bradstreet Arts Education Awards

by Betsy Manis

Mike Schmidt, art teacher at Holmes Park Elementary in Sapulpa, received a BBAE award to purchase musical instruments. A variety of rhythm instruments will supplement their world drum ensemble. Mike thanks the Betty Bradstreet Arts Education fund and AL Tulsa for our continued support and generosity. The award allowed the school to purchase quality instruments that will last a long time.



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



AL Tulsa Letter Campaign 2020 - 2021



Letter Campaign on Track to Meet Goal!

The 2020 - 2021 Operation School Bell® Letter Campaign is on track to meet the goal of \$100,000! Only a few more weeks remain to send in any contributions before May 31. Thank you to all the members and friends of OSB who have given generously this year! These contributions fill a special need with Bargains being closed and then opened only 3 days a week.

Thanks to co-chairs ↑ Sussie Hyden and Lynne Hoe for their diligence in sending letters and thank-yous to our supporters and to all the AL Tulsa members who helped make this a successful campaign!

Patti Ross, Vice-president Resource Development

- Dolores Abraham
In memory of Lou Abraham
- Nancy Anderson
In memory of Dan and Winnie Thomas
- Pris Brown
- Lin and Roger Cleary
In memory of Marion Neblett
- Marsha Darden
- Judy Ellis
- Michele Gillen
In memory of Gail Bernardine
- Janet Graham
In honor of Judy Thomas
- Lyndia Gratopp
- Lynne Hoe
- Marcy and Foss Landis
In memory of Bernard McGauley
In memory of Joseph Lenhardt
In memory of Dr. John Phillips
- Helen Madden
In memory of Gail Bernardine
- Coe Ann Patton
- Loretta Raschen
- Sue Warner
In memory of Don Warner

Grants and Gifts

- The Grace & Franklin Bernsen Foundation
- The David E. and Cassie L. Temple Foundation
- Fellowship Lutheran Church



Thank you!

Special thanks to Fellowship Lutheran Church for their generous gift to Operation School Bell®.

Members of the church who are also members of Assistance League® Tulsa are: Marilyn Brill, Julie Brockmeier, Ginny Greek, Donna Glocker, Audrey Kittelson, Mary Peterson, Sue Warner, Jeanette Winkelman and Janet Zerger.





President: Yolanda Taylor
Newsletter Editor: Marianne Pickering

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www.altulsa.org



Xan Black, executive director of Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance, and Kim Campbell, AL Tulsa president-elect, load 500 STEM kits provided by Assistance League® Tulsa. We are excited to collaborate in this new community partnership!

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