



Assistance League® Tulsa

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

May / June 2021

Volume 46, Issue 9

AL Tulsa Helps Feed Hungry Neighbors

Not knowing when or where a next meal will arrive is a scary, unsettling experience for anyone. Still, hunger is a reality that one in six Oklahomans, including one in four children, deal with every day. Oklahoma consistently ranks at the top in the nation for the rate of people who struggle with hunger.



Eleven AL Tulsa members and spouses packaged **1,755 lbs.** of carrots into 3 lb. bags in two hours! Our carrot session benefited from experienced teamwork and frequent laughter. Participants agreed it was something we would like to do again. Thank you to President-elect Kim Campbell for organizing the event and to the volunteers who now have an in-depth knowledge of this nutritious, if sometimes quirkily shaped, root vegetable.



The Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma distributes food and other grocery items to 350 Partner Agencies in eastern Oklahoma, including food pantries, emergency shelters, soup kitchens, senior citizen centers and after-school programs. In Fiscal Year 2020, the Food Bank distributed more than 32.8 million pounds of food throughout the 24 counties of eastern Oklahoma. AL Tulsa is proud to have helped with their Mission.

Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope



Community **FOOD BANK** of Eastern Oklahoma



**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

AL Tulsa Mask Mandate Update



The city of Tulsa has lifted its mask mandate as of April 30. This means the mandate for masks in public places, the spacing requirement in restaurants, and the requirement of safety plans for events over 150 people will expire. It does NOT mean private businesses and property owners cannot make their own mask requirements.

Mayor G.T. Bynum made this statement in regards to what will still be in place, "Remaining in effect after April 30 will be my executive order requiring all restaurant and bar employees to wear masks at work and requiring an approved safety plan for events over 500 people in attendance. Public health officials recommend these regulations remain in effect until we reach herd immunity, and I agree with their recommendation. The improvement in COVID hospitalizations since statewide vaccination began has been dramatic." He continued "We remain in a pandemic. It is crucial that all of us continue to be smart and follow CDC guidelines (which states that masks should continue to be worn indoors) to protect ourselves and one another."

Assistance League® Tulsa's policy has always been to follow the Tulsa and CDC guidelines, so we will require masks to be worn in our Bargains shop and in all of the activities in our building through the month of May. At that time, we will determine if the mask requirement will be extended. Thank you for continuing to adhere to all our policies in regard to the pandemic.



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



AL,

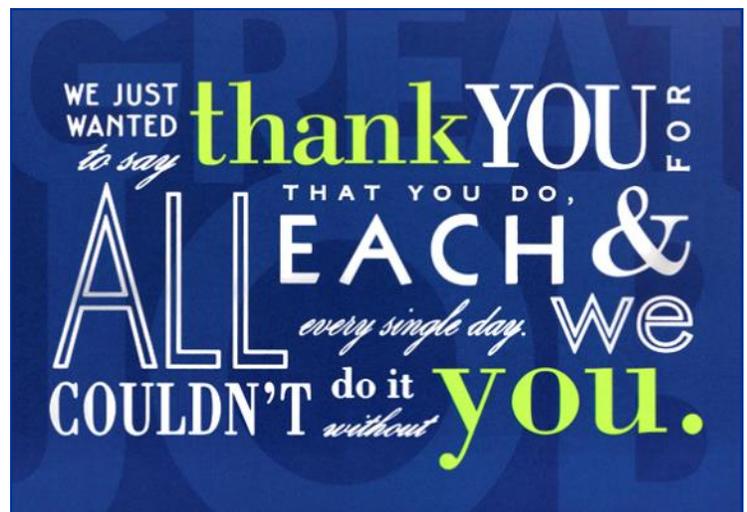
We are fast approaching the finish line for our 2020-21 fiscal year. It has been quite a year and part of me mourns the “what might have been but for...” Then, I am reminded that weeping may endure for a night but joy comes after the mourning as *IT* is more than a Stephen King novel.

Thank you, Assistance League® Tulsa, for always being willing to do everything you can to make *it* all work. Sometimes *it* was staying home to remain safe or wearing a mask in the building to get our organization up and running after being shut down with the rest of the world. And sometimes, *it* was chasing PPE or wiping down everything in sight to keep the germs, which threatened our very way of life, at bay. *It* might have been a phone call to another AL member who needed something more than an email. Perhaps your *it* was unloading, sorting, cleaning, or pricing items for Bargains in support of Operation School Bell® or was your *it* working in Operation School Bell® where members packed over 1,300 bags filled with clothing and supplies for students that were then delivered to area schools. Maybe, you determined your *it* was part of a team in Walmart helping over 1,400 students while providing 971 hours of volunteer service as part of the OSB off-site program. And then, there is the ever present *IT* of securing the necessary funding through grants and the Letter Campaign to allow the Assistance League® the opportunity to continue providing support for the vulnerable citizens we serve. Every member of the Assistance League® has a reason to still be here and *IT*, your every individual reason, is what sets us apart from many other organizations. You are selfless.

My very own *it* this year has been persistence. There were days when I cried on my drive into the office and had sleepless nights filled with worry amid the painful acknowledgement that we simply weren't going to be able to do things the way we have in the past. I sought the advice of my peers and predecessors, listened intently to our members, made adjustments as necessary, and tried diligently to be present. I attempted new things and they weren't always successful but I continued to show up and tried to do the best I could on behalf of AL--one day at a time. There are a few things that will go undone but I am excited about everything we accomplished together this year.

Persistence, my *IT*, for 2020-21 also provided me with opportunities to laugh out loud, meet new members and future leaders, celebrate our successes, lean in to support members with an infectious indomitable spirit of giving, and learn new things about myself. I will always be grateful for the opportunity to serve the Assistance League® Tulsa. But this year, well, *IT* was the *Year of a lifetime!*

My heartfelt thanks to all,
Yolanda



Worth the Wait! Save the Date!

Assistance League® Tulsa May Chapter Meeting

will take place *IN PERSON* for the first time in over a year at our building on:

May 10, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

Please be watching your email for an evite invitation. You will need to open that evite and rsvp so that we will have plenty of seating. There will not be a luncheon. We will sit in “stadium style” seating but we will once again be together! A Zoom option will also be available for those who want to participate in that way. Again, watch your inbox for the evite and for further details.



Nominated Slate

2021 - 2022 Board of Directors

Election will be held at our May Chapter Meeting.

Board members will serve with Kim Campbell, our incoming President, as the governing body of Assistance League® Tulsa.

President - Elect - Pat Banzhof

Finance - Cathy LeMaire

VP Philanthropic Programs - Yolanda Taylor

Operations - Julie Guy

VP Resource Development - Patti Ross

Orientation - Barbara Walters

VP Membership - Elisabeth Harrington

Bargains Thrift Shop - Amy McAbee

VP Marketing & Communication - Marsha Darden

Operation School Bell® - Julie Burton

VP Education - Paula Naylor

Strategic Planning - Donna Spielman

Secretary - Sam Keel

Parliamentarian - Appointed by the President

Treasurer - Laurie Brumbaugh

Special thanks to the 2021 - 2022 Nominating Committee: Glenna Morison (chair), Priscilla Harris, Nancy Kingery, Martha Nichols, Marianne Pickering, Sharon Coffman (Board alternate) and Madeline Gilbreth (member alternate).

By Julie Burton

School is still in session, but we are already planning for the fall! We don't know if the children will be back onsite, so we are planning to serve the schools the same way as this year.

We need to fill several lead positions:

- ◆ **Shoes** – someone to order shoes and track the shoe supply.
- ◆ **Scheduler** – this person calls the schools for counselor emails, receives the student information, and assists the chair with scheduling the schools.
- ◆ **Inventory Manager** – oversees the ordering and stocking of clothes. (Pam Glenn, our current manager, is taking care of her ill great-grandson).



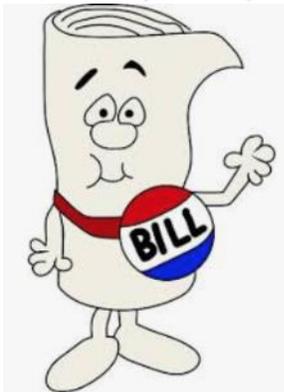
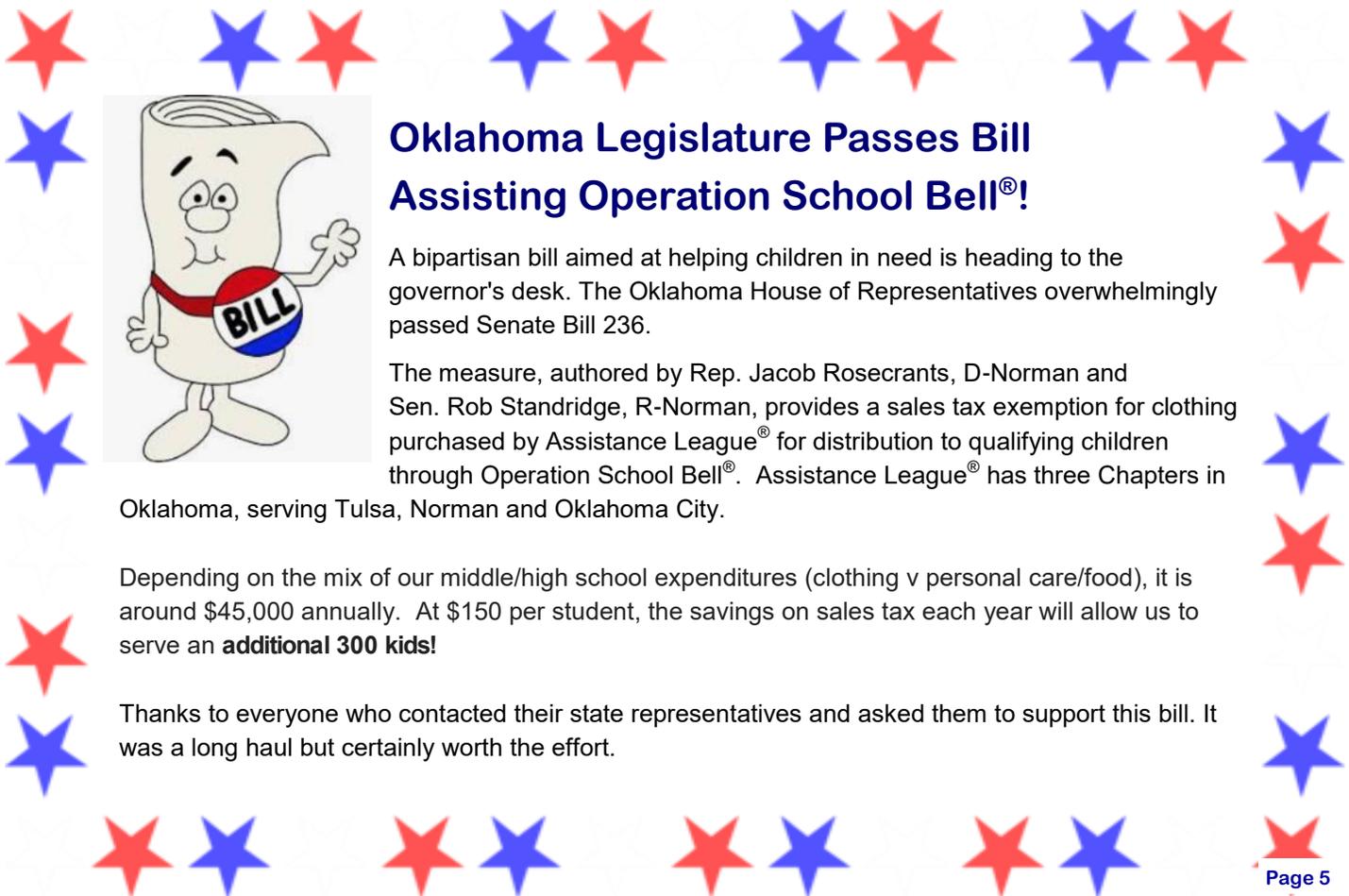
After inventory has been audited, we will have one or more “Pack the Racks” workday and restock the racks to prepare for fall. We'll start with the boxes in the Activity Room. We will lose the shoe storage room, so we'll need to do some rearranging of the clothing room. It will take 10-20 people to do this, so watch for more announcements by email blast and SignUp Genius invitations.

Training for volunteers, Day and Desk Chairs will be sometime after the workdays.

We will still be following safety protocols – masks, temperature checks and sanitizing.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Julie Burton, Chair



Oklahoma Legislature Passes Bill Assisting Operation School Bell®!

A bipartisan bill aimed at helping children in need is heading to the governor's desk. The Oklahoma House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed Senate Bill 236.

The measure, authored by Rep. Jacob Rosecrants, D-Norman and Sen. Rob Standridge, R-Norman, provides a sales tax exemption for clothing purchased by Assistance League® for distribution to qualifying children through Operation School Bell®. Assistance League® has three Chapters in Oklahoma, serving Tulsa, Norman and Oklahoma City.

Depending on the mix of our middle/high school expenditures (clothing v personal care/food), it is around \$45,000 annually. At \$150 per student, the savings on sales tax each year will allow us to serve an **additional 300 kids!**

Thanks to everyone who contacted their state representatives and asked them to support this bill. It was a long haul but certainly worth the effort.

Bargains Thrift Shop by Amy McAbee



I am so excited to begin another year with Assistance League®. Since coming on board I have met some of the most generous and kind people. I am very thankful to Ginny Greek for introducing me to Assistance League®. I hope that our next year together in Bargains will be even better. It has been a tough year for all of us and I want to thank each of you for all of your help and guidance in making Bargains the great shop that it is. People compliment me constantly about how great the store looks and I am the first to tell them that it is not me, it is all of you.

Welcome back Janet Word; you got here in the nick of time. Janet, Iris Lebeck and Nancy Ferguson tackled all of our framed art and got it out in the store and it flew off of the walls.

Janet Davis and Debbie Grillot put together another Jewelry sale and it has been very successful. You can tell that they have done this a time or two.

I was excited to see so many guests at our "Friends Day" and cannot wait for them to get started upstairs. They are coming to us at the perfect time, who doesn't love to count shoes, books, cups and everything else that fits into our many categories.

Great things happen in Bargain. If you don't believe me, just come on in and see.

Amy McAbee

DO YOU REMEMBER?

While visiting in Bargains today, I had the opportunity to see some of the creative work from the Linens Department. Do you remember when your mother or grandmother offered you her handkerchief to wipe away your tears or runny nose? Do you remember when your gentleman dad pulled out his pocket square, otherwise known as a hanky, to wipe away remnants of the ice cream on your face he promised mom you would not have before dinner? I remember the very valuable and versatile role of the handkerchief. In our disposable goods society, the paper napkin or paper towel seems to have taken over the role of the handkerchief. However, there was something beautiful for me about the soft lavender scented handkerchief my grandmother kept in her handbag. It was always freshly cleaned, pressed and ready for duty. And so, while in Linens today, Pris Brown shared a wonderfully creative way of marketing the beautiful handkerchiefs which afforded me a stroll back in time to remember something so small that brought so much comfort and beauty to my world. Jan Reynolds color-coordinated the handkerchiefs, put them in individual zip lock bags and placed them on the shelf for sale. Pris reports they literally flew off the shelves. Seems there were quite a few people who also saw the beauty of the handkerchief and decided to make something old new again. Thank you Linens for your great work, the beautiful picture and a warm comforting memory. Any day we can add beauty to the world is a good day!

Yolanda



Betty Bradstreet Arts Education Awards

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by Betsy Manis

Pictured are students in Rebecca Jones' music class at Bixby Central Elementary and Central Intermediate. Ms. Jones was awarded funds to purchase new xylophones and glockenspiels. Her goal was to give students the opportunity to develop their creativity through improvisation and build their listening skills by playing in an ensemble. As a result, she said that students were able to play more frequently and without having to wait for a turn or share an instrument. She said she looks forward to having committee members visit in-person next year.



AL Tulsa Community Action Programs



Assistance League® Tulsa provided canvases for Metro Christian Academy's high school art classes. Students are painting artworks for clients of Tulsa Day Center as they transition from homelessness to permanent housing. Clients receive a painting to hang in their new apartment!

Assistance League® Tulsa's Mental Health committee had a productive year of fulfilling the wish lists for the Mental Health Association Oklahoma facilities.

Recently, the committee provided to Yale Apartments three wooden planters and raised bed soil for their above ground garden project. Walker Hall received four bed frames and two dozen bath towel and washcloth sets.

Various items for 40 welcome baskets for Altamont were obtained. The items included laundry baskets, deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste, laundry soap and bath towel and washcloth sets. Bed pillows, brooms and dustpans, shampoo and bar soap were also purchased for their clients.

Denver House requested, and the committee purchased, men's and women's sneakers and underwear and socks along with men's jeans, belts and jackets. Tarps, ponchos, paracord packages, sleeping bags, reusable water bottles, electrolyte packets, back packs, tote bags and feminine hygiene products were also bought. Fifty health kits were assembled and each one contained a toothbrush and toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, comb, washcloth and bar soap.

Bus tokens are always needed at each facility and the committee was able to meet that need.

The MHAO along with the committee's contacts at Yale Apartments, Walker Hall, Altamont and Denver House expressed their gratitude and appreciation to AL Tulsa and its members for their generosity and support for 2020 – 2021.

Debra Lockerman and Laurie Brumbaugh





Baskets for Homebound Seniors

Life Senior Services committee gathered on Friday, April 30th to fill 50 baskets with 10 items of personal care and cleaning products for clients of LIFE Senior Services' Advantage program. These clients are the poorest of the poor, and they each have a case manager who checks on them weekly to see if they need transportation to an appointment or any necessary items.



LSS Case workers pick up baskets of essential items. →



Art Therapist Hired

LIFE Senior Services has hired an Art Therapist for clients at the Day Centers located on 31st Street near Sheridan, North Tulsa and Broken Arrow. Assistance League® LSS committee will be purchasing art materials for each center including, colored pencils, construction paper, markers, scissors, beads, popsicle sticks, paint, paint brushes and canvases.

↓ Dayon Smith will work her magic with a LIFE Senior Services Style Show!



Bargains Style Show LIFE Senior Services Health and Wellness Fair Tuesday July 13, 2021 Exchange Center at Expo Square



Assistance League® has been invited to present a Bargains Fashion Show at this year's LIFE Senior Services' Health and Wellness Fair. Dayon Smith has graciously agreed to help with the show.

LIFE Senior Services plans to feature Assistance League® and the Fashion Show in the July issue of Vintage Magazine. Some LSS employees will pick out outfits at Bargains and wear their fashions for a picture in the magazine. In coming weeks, a reporter will interview committee co-chairs Sharon Atcheson and Liz McDoulett, visiting our AL building to see who we are and what we do!

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

Martha Alford
Ellen and Gene Amberg
In memory of Gail Bernadine
Sharon Atcheson
Feryal and Carlos Atik
In memory of Gail Bernadine
Susan Banschbach
Pat Banzhof
Carmen Baum
Deloris Beaty
In memory of Betty Rayl
Marilyn Brill
In memory of Jeanne Parnell
Julie Brockmeier
Karen Brown
In memory of Jeanne Parnell
Laurie Brumbaugh
Kim and Jack Campbell
Rose Canahl
In memory of Jeanne Parnell
Cheryl Earl Creekmore
In memory of Gail Bernadine
Mary Deisenroth
In memory of Gail Bernadine
Diana Earl
Justin Etheredge
In memory of Gail Bernadine
Patti and Jeff Fanning
In memory of Gail Bernadine
Patricia Fischer
In memory of Betty Rayl
Eileen Robert Gerdes
In memory of Gail Bernadine
Carla Gilbert
In memory of Dr. Jack Nettles
Michele Gillen
In memory of Gail Bernadine
Corless and Micheal Hall
In memory of Gail Bernadine
Marjorie and Robert Kahle
In memory of Mary and Ray Gelsey
James and Jean Kerlin
In memory of Dr. Jack Nettles
Anne Kindrick
Tina and Wayne Lucarelli
In memory of Gail Bernadine
Helen Madden
In memory of Gail Bernadine
Kathleen and Dale Maronek
Ann Maslanka
In memory of Jeanne Parnell

Dorothy and Sammie Mosier
In memory of Betty Rayl
Mary Ellen and Laurence Ourada
In memory of Gail Bernadine
Nancy and Michael Phillips
In memory of Gail Bernadine
Peggy Rock
Mary Ross
In memory of Gail Bernadine
Nancy Sacra
Alan Siegert
In memory of Betty Rayl
Donna Spielman
Rich Schwab
In memory of Gail Bernadine
Alice Stanish
In memory of Jeanne Parnell
Linda and Larry Vorba
Anne Waller
In memory of Gail Bernadine
In memory of Dr. Jack Nettles
In memory of Jeanne Parnell
Mary Sue and Herb Whitney
In memory of Jeanne Parnell
Jeanette Winkleman
A.B. Young
Mary Lou and Ronald Young
In memory of Gail Bernadine
Generous Anonymous Donors

Resource Development

by Patti Ross

Please remember to turn in your volunteer hours. Many grant applications ask for the number of hours contributed by our members. It is something every member can do to help obtain grants!



CALLING ALL EXPENSE FORMS

Assistance League® Tulsa's fiscal year ends May 31, 2021.

All purchases must be made and expense forms submitted to the office before May 31, 2021.

Please contact Brenda Dinan at treasurer@altulsa.org with any questions



President: Yolanda Taylor
Newsletter Editor: Marianne Pickering

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www.altulsa.org



980 Books!

AL Tulsa's Action Week Book Drive collected and purchased children's books for our partner organizations.

Tulsa Police Department Book Nooks and Gaining Ground Literacy received 980 books to support their community reading 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