



Assistance League® Tulsa

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

February 2022

Volume 47, Issue 6

ACTION! Week Supports Community-Based Literacy

Since 2008, Assistance League® Tulsa has held an annual children's book drive to promote literacy in our community. **ACTION! Week**, February 21-28, 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 non-profit organizations: Tulsa Crime Prevention Network with Tulsa Police Department Book Nooks and Gaining Ground Literacy, Inc.



The Crime Prevention Network headed by Executive Director Karen Gilbert and with the assistance of Tulsa Police Officers has set up Book Nooks located in recycled newspaper boxes in low-income apartment complexes. The boxes have been cleaned and repainted by volunteer officers and filled with books. The children can select books to borrow then return and get another book. The program not only builds relationships but promotes reading and education.

This year due to the high crime rate around 61st and Peoria, Gilbert is focusing on two nooks located in apartment complexes in that area. The Crime Prevention Network is working with area community leaders to make it a safer place. Hopefully the children will be able to visit the well stocked nooks and read engaging books while feeling supported.

You Can Be Part of ACTION! Week

Help children grow and know that others care about them. Donations will be collected throughout February. Checks or cash donations can be mailed or brought to the Assistance League® Tulsa Office and will be used to purchase books from wish lists provided by our partners. Please indicate your gift is for **ACTION! Week**.

Yolanda Taylor, VP Philanthropic Programs, President-elect Pat Banzhof, Karen Gilbert, Crime Prevention Network, AL Tulsa President Kim Campbell, Suzanne McDonnell and Paula Naylor, VP Education discuss goals for this year's drive. AL Tulsa will provide high interest books to serve children living in the Hope Valley Neighborhood, near 61st and Peoria.



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Gaining Ground Literacy is a local non-profit, headed by Executive Director Lisa Shotts, that provides children living in economically disadvantaged areas access to books through their various programs. They serve students in Tulsa Public and Union school districts. The Home Library and Book Bus Programs work hand in hand. Children can trade out, write about and visit with volunteers about the books they have selected. The Book Bus stops throughout the Tulsa area and in the summer of 2021 scheduled over 30 weekly stops. In addition to exchanging books, the bus has become a community event for the families who can visit about literacy and enjoy the festive atmosphere of music, bubbles, and popsicles.



Last year, Assistance League® Tulsa's ACTION! Week book drive donated over 900 books to Gaining Ground Literacy and Tulsa Crime Prevention Network for Book Nooks. Your donation is needed to meet and increase that number.

~ Paula Naylor, VP Education

↑ Lisa Shotts, Gaining Ground Executive Director, Brenda Dinan, AL member and Kirby MacKenzie, Assistant Director loaded hundreds of children's books from our 2021 ACTION! Week drive. Let's support reading and make 2022's efforts a success!

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American author Jean Houston says "human connections are deeply nurtured in the field of shared story." Here at Assistance League® Tulsa we have deep connections and shared stories in abundance. It seems appropriate to think about relationships during the month of February by acknowledging special people who make us want to volunteer and belong to AL.. As we focus on these existing friendships we should also look forward to embracing new members during our upcoming Friends Day. We have spent the last two years in sporadic separation. The pandemic has been a drain on the time we have been able to be with friends so let's take a moment to reconnect.

When I joined Assistance League® Tulsa it was because of my mother. She was a long time member/volunteer and I remember her talking about all of the work she did and the friends, most still here, who meant so much to her. As I became involved I also met the most interesting people and developed fond friendships with many of you. We will open our February chapter meeting with a quick look at how we are all bound together.

Please tell me what connections brought you to AL and if you have discovered an acquaintance that you were able to reestablish. For example, we have familial ties: husband/wife (Jack & Michele Morris), sister in laws (Mary Dotson, Phyllis Dotson), there are work ties ("Oil industry friends" Pat Banzhof, Pris Brown and Julie Brockmeier), neighbors (Yolanda Taylor, Nancy Kingery), scrapbooking friends (Pam Glenn, Kay Quinton) and I know many more. So **email** me your connections at president@altulsa.org and we will celebrate at our next meeting. I hope that this will inspire all of us to think of people we love and would like to introduce to Assistance League®. It is not too late to invite a potential member to our February Friends Day. Our membership is holding strong but there is always room for more! I look forward to hearing all about your AL connections.



Kim Campbell (right), AL Tulsa president, and Pat Banzhof, president-elect, have connected in lasting friendship during their year of leadership.

Recruitment

Friends Day is Monday February 7, 2022

Time for Friend's Day! It's scheduled for February 7th, 10am in the activity room. You can share the name of a potential new member by calling or texting Elisabeth Harrington at 918-381-8448, or sending her an email at elisabeth2029@gmail.com (note the s in elisabeth). Be sure to have the guest's phone number and email, as the date is too close to send an invitation through the mail.

Orientation for new members will begin on February 14 before our Chapter meeting and

continue, once a week, through March 14. We have committed to growing our mentoring program and are in the process of recruiting members to fill those roles for the incoming new members. We are seeking volunteers who are dedicated to AL Tulsa, are knowledgeable about the varied areas of service and who are willing to go through the orientation process with the new members.

Anyone who is willing to serve in this important role may contact me or any member of the Orientation committee. More information about the mentoring program will be coming in the following months.

~ Sherry Bowen, Orientation chair

Orientation

AL Tulsa Marches in 43rd Annual Tulsa MLK Parade



Hope and Action was the theme of this year's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Parade. AL Tulsa participated with marchers followed by a TPS school bus decorated by our talented members and community volunteers.

Assistance League® Tulsa also made a contribution to the MLK Commemoration Society's Scholarship Program.

The parade was attended by all ages, with many in the enthusiastic crowd waiting for hours to secure their spot. Along the parade route, our AL Tulsa marchers distributed **1,800 pairs of gloves** to children and adult spectators. These gloves were much needed and warmly received!

"Everybody can be great ... because anybody can serve."

~ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Assistance League® Tulsa is dedicated to helping those who do not have the financial means to dress their own children for the cold winter season.

Cold weather can be extremely dangerous for unprepared children. Whether walking to schools, waiting for the bus or playing outdoors, the biggest risks associated with going out in the cold underdressed are hypothermia and frostbite. Both can be extremely dangerous; lowering the body's immune system and threatening lasting effects on a child's health.

President-elect Pat Banzhof with Katie Russell and Sylvia Rocha, Kendall-Whittier elementary, picking up 800 pairs of children gloves requested by the school for distribution to students in need.



Operation School Bell® for elementary students is *finally* finished! It was a long, slow process getting the information from the counselors, but we did it! My deepest thanks for all the volunteers who worked so hard to provide clothing to the students. Many thanks also to Mary Sue Whitney and Melinda Carver for gathering books which were delivered along with the clothes. We heard many times from the counselors how much the clothes were needed.

2021-22 review of Operation School Bell® Onsite (Tulsa Public Schools) and Offsite (outlying school districts):

- ◆ TPS elementary schools served: forty-one
- ◆ students invited: 2,037
- ◆ students receiving clothes: 1,697
- ◆ foster children receiving clothes: 135
- ◆ Afghan refugee children receiving clothes: forty-five
- ◆ Offsite (at Walmart): 1,669 students from 59 schools in 11 districts

For a grand total of **3,546 elementary children!** We also helped stock nineteen school clothes closets, which served several hundred more students.

Project Restock will be February 22 - 25.

Surplus OSB clothing is distributed to help meet emergency needs for students in school. The 22nd we'll be setting up for the event; the 23rd will be from 10 am - 2 pm for schools that didn't meet their student allotment; the 24th will be 1 pm - 4 pm for clothes closet schools; the 25th will be "last chance" shopping from 1 pm - 4 pm. Volunteers will be needed for each day. An email will go out with more information.



We also have plans to reorganize the clothing room, to make it more efficient in the storage and display of the clothing. Some racks will be removed or replaced, and new shelves will be added. This project will start later in February, and will take several days to do, so watch for emails on these workdays.

It is our hope that the children will be back in our building next year, but if not, we know how to proceed.

~ Julie Burton, Operation School Bell® chair

Operation School Bell® services for middle school, junior high and high school students continue during the spring semester. *Look for an update on OSB Secondary in our next issue.*

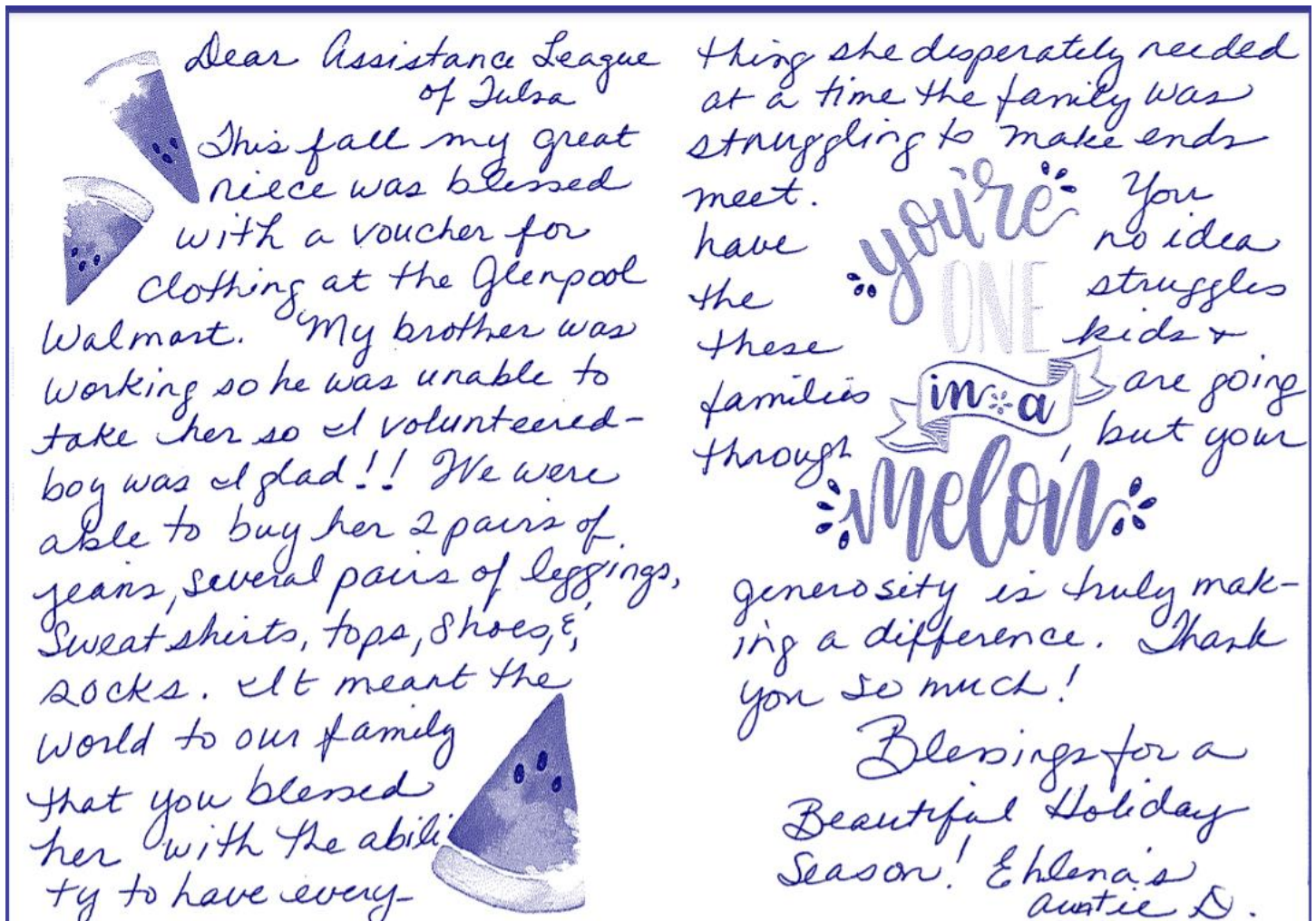
History of AL Tulsa's Operation School Bell®: Offsite

By Loretta Raschen

We began the Offsite program in 2015 to aid the districts we served beyond Tulsa Public Schools. Instead of asking them to pay for busing their students to our building, causing the children to often miss an entire day of school, we invited the parents of students recommended by school counselors to meet us at area Walmart stores after school. There, a team of our AL members assist the families with directions for shopping, how much money they would be allotted, a list of approved items and payment of those items. Parents shopped with the children which gave them an opportunity to choose exactly what each child needed. We had learned from other AL Chapters at a Texas Networking Meeting that this program design was serving their communities very well.

- ◆ In 2015, we did a pilot program with Rosa Parks Elementary in the Union district to see how we would manage it and how it would work for the families
- ◆ In 2016 we expanded to include all Outlying districts we served. We provided clothing for **903** students and allocated each child \$90 to spend on school appropriate clothing.
- ◆ In 2017 we were able to serve **1,154** students by reducing the amount to \$75 per child.
- ◆ In 2018 we were able to serve **1,264** students at \$75 per child.
- ◆ In 2019 we were able to serve **1,379** at \$75 per child.
- ◆ In 2020 we were able to serve **1,436** students at \$80 per child.
- ◆ In 2021 we were able to serve **1,669** students at \$90 per child.

Thank You from an OSB Offsite Family



Dear Assistance League
of Tulsa

This fall my great
niece was blessed
with a voucher for
clothing at the Glenpool
Walmart. My brother was
working so he was unable to
take her so I volunteered -
boy was I glad!! We were
able to buy her 2 pairs of
jeans, several pairs of leggings,
sweat shirts, tops, shoes, &
socks. It meant the
world to our family
that you blessed
her with the abili-
ty to have every-

thing she desperately needed
at a time the family was
struggling to make ends
meet.

you're the one in a million
You have no idea
the struggles
these kids &
families are going
through, but your
generosity is truly mak-
ing a difference. Thank
you so much!

Blessings for a
Beautiful Holiday
Season! Ehlenda's
Auntie D.

Betty Bradstreet Arts Education Awards

Assistance League® Tulsa

Due to the COVID 19 surge, we are not scheduling many of our school site visits. Scheduling will begin once students are back in the classroom on a regular basis and schools are allowing visitors.

During the month of January only one visit was completed and one had to be canceled and will be rescheduled. A site visit is scheduled for Catoosa High School on Thursday, February 10 at 1:30pm. Please contact Mary Sue Whitney if you would like to attend. Art teacher Jessica Scheffel will have her students demonstrate throwing clay pots using their new potter's wheel. This wheel is unique in that the students who are left handed are able to use it - in the past they had to struggle to use their non-dominant hand.

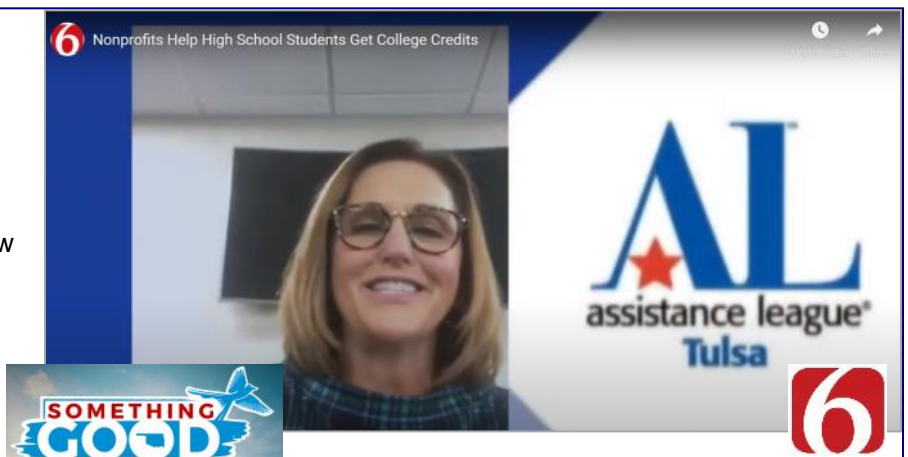
~ Kathy Stephen, Betty Bradstreet Arts Education Awards chair



Students from Genevieve Dismukes art classroom, Thoreau Demonstration Academy, practice silk screening techniques.

“Nonprofits Help High School Students Get College Credit”

Assistance League® Tulsa announced a new philanthropic program in partnership with Foundation for Tulsa Schools. Concurrent enrollment means that qualifying high school juniors and seniors can take courses that not only allow them to graduate, but also earn college credit. AL Tulsa will cover the fees associated with concurrent enrollment at Tulsa Community College, eliminating barriers for some Tulsa students. Current fees are \$93 per course.



President Kim Campbell and Advisory Council member Anhna K. Vuong, President and CEO Foundation for Tulsa Schools were featured on NewsOn6 *Something Good*.



The Mental Health Committee had a very busy holiday season. Committee members donated food and snacks for Yale Apartments. Our members are so generous! We were able to provide food and party supplies for their Christmas Party, as well as additional snacks for the holiday season. Our committee adopted 6 Angels from the Yale Apartments. We shopped and had fun wrapping and delivering the presents. The clients were so excited to see us delivering these items. We were also able to purchase 3 apartment sized refrigerators and had them delivered.

We will be contacting the Mental Health Association Oklahoma for new wish lists, so we can continue to purchase items they need. They expressed so much appreciation for all the Assistance League does to support them. For more information about the committee and how you can help, contact co-chairs Madeline Gilbreth or Debra Lockerman.



MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

To date in 2021-2022, the STEM Committee has assembled 2,100 In-a-Bag activities. We are scheduled to assemble 2,500 straw rockets **Thursday, February 17**, bringing our total to 4,600 kits!

The Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance is in the process of moving their headquarters. With this big move and COVID issues, many of their employees are working from home. Classrooms still utilize distance learning and the STEM Alliance requested 300 kits from us for their math mentoring program. Those were delivered the first part of January.

Efforts are being made to reach elementary schools to offer these activities to science teachers. One school accepted and two sets of kits were delivered. Those efforts will continue, but with so much offsite learning this endeavor becomes more of a challenge.

~ Nancy Sacra, STEM chair

**Assistance League® Tulsa thanks the following
people for their generous contributions in
the second half of November 2021 through
the first half of January 2022.**

Steve and Phyllis Anderson

Donald M. Barnum

In honor of Farryl Stokes

Jane Berg

Sherry Bowen

Marilyn and Jim Brill

In memory of Tom Clements and Ron Reitz

Julie and Roy Brockmeier

In memory of C.R. and Joan McKean

Laurie Brumbaugh

In memory of Ken Oliver

Ken Busby

Marva and Phillip Carnahan

Bryan Close

Marsha Darden

Katherine Elliott

In honor of Judy Roberts

Donna and Jerry Goodman

In honor of Sharon Coffman

Julie Gustafson

Hank and Nancy Harbaugh

Susie Hyden

Janet Hollan

Clark and Carolyn James

Tom and Nancy Kirby

*In honor of Julie Guy, Paula Reno
and Debbie Grillot*

Kaye Klintworth

Dru Madamba

Mary Ann Mechfessel

*In honor of her grandchildren Caleb, Nicole,
Colin and Gabriel*

Kathleen Moss

Ruth K Nelson Revocable Trust

Judy Ott

In honor of Nancy Kirby

Evelyn Painter

Assistance League® Tulsa

Marianne and Bob Pickering

In honor of Yolanda Taylor

Joyce E. Powell

Peggy Rock

Sandy Rusher

In memory of her mom, Sharyn Rusher

Robert Saltiel

Paul L. and Helen Sisk Charitable Trust

Farryl Stokes

Deloris and Robert Taylor

Ron and Yolanda Taylor

In memory of Melvin Davis, Sr.

Theta Master Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi

Peggy Upham

Jacqueline Vinson

Peter Walter

In memory of Sharyn Rusher

Generous Anonymous Donors

Grants

The Sharna & Irvin Frank Foundation

Fellowship Lutheran Church



270 members of AL Tulsa
work together to
transform lives and
strengthen our community.



Assistance League® Tulsa

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Tulsa

President: Kim Campbell

Newsletter Editor: Marianne Pickering

www.altulsa.org



Mary Sue Whitney and Melinda Carver (not pictured) prepare children's books for Operation School Bell®.

Each participating elementary student from Tulsa Public Schools and outlying districts received two books.

6,732 books were distributed by the program this year!

This month we will support literacy for local children through ACTION! Week. Please consider making a gift to purchase titles requested by our partners.

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