



Assistance League® Tulsa

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

May - June 2022

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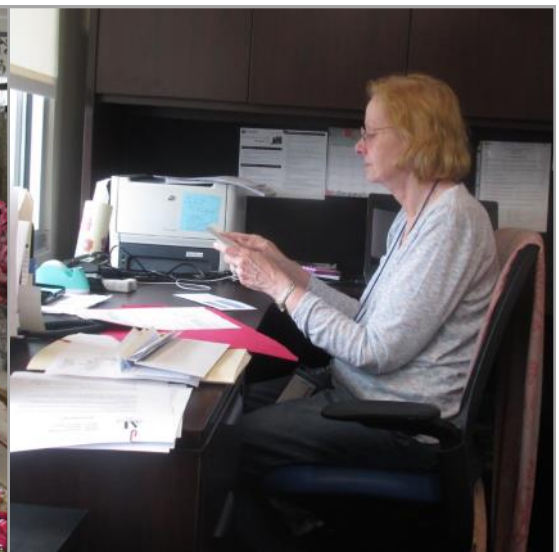
Our Dynamic Workforce of Volunteers



AL Tulsa is a force powered by volunteers. All aspects of this non-profit corporation are driven by the energy of passionate, committed and engaged people who give time, talents and themselves to our community. When there is a task to be done, the standard response is “how can I help?” Our dedicated member volunteers are essential to the operation, success and sustainability of the organization.



AL Tulsa’s many programs and activities require a full range of interests and skills. From retail sales to early childhood education; from accounting to building maintenance. Our member volunteers come from all backgrounds and aptitudes. Together, they work as a caring machine. The outcomes are philanthropic programs that touch the lives of thousands of area children and adults. The work can be challenging, but the rewards are lasting and our impacts are significant. Many people say they want to make the world a better place, but our volunteers take concrete actions to do just that.



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2021-2022**

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EIS/Fostering Connections: Deloris Taylor

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**We all work together to
transform lives and
strengthen community**

Assistance League® Tulsa Advisory Council

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"Once there was a tree...and she loved a little boy."

So begins the book "The Giving Tree" an unforgettable perception, beautifully written and illustrated by the gifted and versatile Shel Silverstein. This was a favorite of my children and is a simple parable about the love that goes into giving. Some see the story as negative, and others interpret it as positive. The main character, a boy, was always asking more from the tree, and the tree gave because she loved the boy unconditionally. It is open to your view and opinion about the message. Do you think there is a correlation to AL Tulsa? Last June when I took on the role of president, I had mixed feelings about how my year would go; I wanted to give my time and energy to our organization because I believe in and love the programs, but I also knew it would be a huge commitment. There is a great deal we do in our community. Many things are asked of us. Whatever came, it would be an adventure...

The summer began with great news, we were at Tulsa Country Club (in person because vaccines were available, and we felt safe to gather) celebrating our annual luncheon. Our new administrative assistant, Trina, had just come on board. Bargains was open and sales were strong. Many noticed the new vinyl pictures in our shop and there was great attention to our Facebook marketing posts. The activity room was full of merchandise in preparation for Operation School Bell® to begin. The office was touched up with a bit of polish. Assistance League® Tulsa was back!

As fall came, we kicked off Letter Campaign. We had an opportunity to collaborate with our partner, Fostering Connections, to participate in an event to give children in foster care a new outfit to wear the first day of school. Operation School Bell® onsite and offsite clothed over 3,200 area children (plus provided uniform shirts for over 20,000 TPS students) while the STEM committee assembled kits to include in the clothing bags. Mental Health Association asked us to provide dessert for a Thanksgiving meal. Lunch and Learn taught us all about preparing our soil for planting. The records were being updated and the AL newsletter hit the presses. Betty Bradstreet Arts Awards applications went out and grants (shout out to the committee and grant writer) began to come in.

Winter brought an opportunity to partner with LIFE Senior Services to provide Christmas gifts for designated clients. A Christmas celebration was hosted by our hospitality group; members and guests enjoyed food and friends. Resource Development sent Happy New Year cards to donors. The Martin Luther King Jr. parade saw a big yellow bus full of AL Tulsa volunteers giving gloves, beads, smiles, and waves to Tulsa area citizens. Once again, we asked for applications for the Ada Edwards Laughlin outstanding volunteer award and look forward to hearing the winner at our Annual Luncheon. The daunting job of filling a slate of officers was accomplished by our fearless nominating committee. ACTION Week gave us the joy of giving books to area students through Gaining Ground and Tulsa Crime Prevention Network Book Nooks. Last but not least a new printer, 2 years in the making, arrived at our building!

It was exciting to see Spring come, and new members (shepherded by the orientation & membership groups) joined our ranks. Members filled the activity room for chapter meetings and the luncheon committee created beautiful tables for us to gather around. Schools were invited to shop at our OSB Restock Event to fill Clothes Closets for children who may need new clothes to feel confident about being at school. OSB was also thrilled to offer an education awards program to pay fees for TPS students participating in concurrent enrollment.

~ Continued page 4 ~

President's Message continued ~

The treasurer and finance committee labored to create a budget to move us forward. We had an opportunity to tour the wonderful new space of our partner, Tulsa Day Center; and we once again provided graduation tokens for 12and12 Recovery Center. What a pleasure to give 36 new car seats to Fostering Connections and 51 new Pack and Plays to Emergency Infant Services. Did I mention a beautiful afternoon tea was enjoyed by members?

When we did not do all of this-we culled, sorted, folded, restocked; plus, we met, planned, organized, and implemented numerous projects. The Operations Committee worked all year, nonstop, to keep our building in tip top shape and oversee the newly formed Technology Committee to provide a new donor management system and other improvements. The Strategic Planning group put in the work to make sure we achieved a Platinum rating on the GuideStar website. We were led by an active and attentive Board who spent time all year making sure we were heading in the right direction. This is only the tip of the iceberg-there was so much more. I could write on and on, but you get the point.

So, in summary, I end as I began...

"Once there was a group (AL Tulsa) ...and they loved their local community."

This is our story and I have been honored to be your president this year. There is not a more giving organization in talent, time, money and most importantly, love than AL Tulsa. Looking forward to next year and what comes next...



Our new Operation School Bell® Education Awards has a Name!

Assistance League® Tulsa Scholar Award - ALTSA

**ALTSA Awards will pay concurrent enrollment fees for TPS students
to take coursework at Tulsa Community College**

Thank you to our members for name suggestions and votes.

Assistance League® Tulsa thanks the following people for their generous contributions in the second half of March through the first half of April 2022.

Laura S. Hunt

In memory of Anne Tucker

Marge Kahle

In memory of Mary Gelsey

Liz Roberts

Generous Anonymous Donors

Grants and Other Gifts

Sanfor and Irene Burnstein Foundation

Thank You



**PLANNED
GIVING**

Leave a Lasting Legacy that will impact the future of our community. Consider making a gift to Assistance League® Tulsa in your estate plans.

Bargains Thrift Shop

We have had a great year at Bargains. I have to thank our *Bargaineers* for making 2022-2023 the best. Our business hours of 3 days/12 hours a week have been very successful. Our volunteers are great and our sales are phenomenal.

We will wrap up the year with our annual inventory. If anyone has any time and loves to count, May 31st is the place to be. Then we will have the changing of the guard. Welcome to Ora Harrison & Carol Bradley. I know you will be great.

Bargains has expanded our Framed Art Department. Our customers can't get enough. Thank you Kathy Phillips & Janet Word.

Dayon Smith has shown another of her talents. She has been making beautiful arrangements from our floral donations. The customers love them and you can see them flying out of the store on any given day.

Thank you to all of my new friends for welcoming me into the AL Tulsa Family. What an amazing group. I'm so proud to be part of this group.

~ Amy McAbee, Bargains Thrift Shop chair



Dayon Smith uses her talents to refresh and enhance donated floral arrangements.

**Mark Your
Calendar**

Bargains Inventory

Tuesday May 31, 2022



Operation School Bell®: Secondary

Assistance League® Tulsa

Operation School Bell® provides clothing, personal hygiene products, school supplies and other essential items for secondary students in greatest need at participating Tulsa Public Schools. Under the leadership of Donna Hickman (high schools) and Marilyn Brill (middle schools/junior highs), OSB Secondary has made a difference in the lives of so many students.

One of the schools served under this program is TRAICE Academy, an alternative placement middle and high school. School counselor Elizabeth Hughes reports that 150 students (seven to ten new students a week) have been clothed as a result of their participation in the program. Elizabeth writes how Operation School Bell® has impacted students in a positive way by purchasing spirit shirts for the student body:

"I am officially the school counselor but wear many different hats including that of quasi social worker. We have never had a mascot or logo for TRAICE and I was looking for a play on words to go with TRAICE. I considered the homonym trace and how we could "trace" something that would denote progress, success, achievement, or something equally positive. We are trying to change our image in the community, as everyone always thinks of TRAICE as the school for bad kids. This is not true. We have good kids, many of whom have made bad choices. We want our kids to be proud of what they've accomplished here, not be ashamed. I thought of tracing a path and then went looking for clip art with paths. When I saw the image of the path leading to the tree, it made me think of tracing a path to success. Then I just played with the wording in relation to the image and viola, we have our shirt!"

~ Elizabeth Hughes, Counselor TRAICE Academy



Elizabeth Hughes, counselor at TRAICE Academy, has also been a dedicated community volunteer at AL Tulsa for many years. On most Saturdays, Elizabeth sorts, prices and stocks donated books for sale in Bargains Thrift Shop!



Two of Assistance League® Tulsa's Community Outreach Programs are Emergency Infant Services (EIS) and Fostering Connections. EIS is another 501 c (3) nonprofit organization that offers emergency assistance with basic needs for children 5 years old and under whose families are in crisis and facing financial and personal challenges. Through their unique one-on-one interview system, they are able to determine the specific needs of each family they serve, whether it be formula, diapers, clothing or baby equipment. This year, we furnished EIS with **51 Graco Pack'N Plays**. This is a much needed piece of equipment because many of the families they serve have infants who often don't have a safe place to sleep or play.

Fostering Connections is a part of the Oklahoma Child Welfare system and seeks to improve the lives of children and youth by providing needed resources of clothing and equipment for the fostering families. AL Tulsa provided **36** five-point harness convertible **infant car seats** to them this year. All of the Pack'N plays and car seats were picked up by EIS and Fostering Connections at our building. In addition to the equipment we provided to both organizations, when they came for pick up, Operation School Bell® surprised each organization with a gift of several cases of boys underwear.

As I learn of the many ways we fill the needs of our community, I am humbled and filled with pride to be a member of Assistance League® Tulsa. Great job fellow AL members!

~ Deloris Taylor, Community Action chair



Community Action Programs

Assistance League® Tulsa

The Mental Health committee has continued to fill needs requested by our partner, Mental Health Association Oklahoma. We purchased 12 tents, 15 sleeping bags, 18 tarps, 12 lanterns, 12 flashlights and batteries, as well as 4 large packages of men's underwear for Denver House.

We delivered 4 twin bed comforters, pillows and pillowcases, 6 towels and 18 wash clothes to Walker Hall. We were also able to provide new jeans for a client who was interviewing for a job. With our remaining funds for this year, we will be purchasing additional tents and sleeping bags. They are a constant need for Tulsa's homeless community. AL Tulsa is greatly appreciated for providing a wide variety of items to our mental health community.

~ Madeline Gilbreth and Debra Lockerman, Mental Health committee



The first full year of the STEM Committee has been successful. It has been a learning experience, but we have learned a lot. We are eager to continue our work next year.

Many thanks to those who signed up for this committee. Many thanks to those who came, both on the committee and some not even signed up for this committee, to assemble our STEM in a Bag activities to be distributed at Operation School Bell® and to several schools in the area.

I will look forward to next year and working again with my committee.

~ Nancy Sacra, STEM chair

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Tuesday, July 12, 2022

8:30 am - 2:30pm

Exchange Center at Expo Square

LIFE Senior Services hosts the area's largest event focused on seniors.

AL Tulsa will present its annual Style Show featuring fashions from Bargains Thrift Shop.

**Interested in helping?
Contact Dayon Smith**



The members of the Betty Bradstreet Arts Education committee have very busy this past month. Members of the committee have visited classrooms in Tulsa, Broken Arrow, Collinsville, Sapulpa, Mannford, Bixby and Union Public Schools. We have seen students creating works of art with various mediums, heard children playing musical instruments and learning about rhythm. Each teacher we have visited with expressed their sincere thanks for the funds we provided for their much needed materials.

Our committee members will all attest to the fact that the Fine Arts are alive and well in our schools!

~ Marva Carnahan, Committee Member



← ↑ Catherine De Camp's students at Sequoyah Elementary create 3-D plaster masks with materials received from the Betty Bradstreet Arts Education Award.



← ↑ Students in Kathleen Kendall-Walker's art class at Mannford Elementary created books, snakes and other works using lamb's wool and a variety of materials and techniques.



Betty Bradstreet Arts Education Awards



Kathy Rad, a “traveling” music teacher for four TPS schools, purchased violins with a Betty Bradstreet Arts Award.



Nathan Jones is Band Director at Will Rogers College Middle and High School. His award supplied percussion pads for students, including the middle school class pictured above.



Trombones and trumpets were added to the music program at Holmes Park Elementary in Sapulpa. Teachers M. Schmidt and E. Engdahl-Yaylor proposed them to enhance percussion instruments awarded last year.





Assistance League® Tulsa

A chapter of National Assistance League®

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Tulsa

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Newsletter Editor: Marianne Pickering

www.altulsa.org



UPDATE on April's Cover Story

Adam Carnes, Art teacher at McLain High School received a Betty Bradstreet Arts Education Award to fund the sculpture. 71 students worked collaboratively on the project for 61 school days.

The McLain OG Sneaker will be exhibited at Philbrook Museum on June 4 for their *Sneaker Soirée* celebrating Black culture, businesses, artists and more!

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