



Mamie L Bass Service Award

Entry Form

District: **NINE**

Name of Altrusa Club **Altrusa International of Richardson**
Address **1952 Eastpark Dr**
City **Richardson State TX**
Country **USA** Zip/Postal Code **75081**
Contact Person **Christine Hart**
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Date (day, Month, year): **May 31, 2023**
Club Membership (as of entry date): **68**

Project Title: Kindness to Animals

Kindness to Animals

Name of Project

Nomination for Mamie L Bass Service Award

May 31, 2023

Date

Altrusa International of

Richardson

, **Texas**

USA

District Nine

Club Year

2022 - 2023

Executive Summary / Synopsis:

A 60-word count synopsis of your project providing brief outline of key aspects of the project. This synopsis will not be counted towards the project description count and will not affect submission eligibility. The synopsis will be used if your awards is selected as the winning entry.

The purpose of this project was to assist the City of Richardson in celebration of their 150th anniversary in rehoming and/or helping numerous cats and dogs. Many people adopted pets during Covid and, unfortunately, when the pandemic ended, many were returned, causing significant overcrowding in city rescue and shelter locations.

Project Description: *(1,000-word limit)*

This year, the needs of many animal shelters and rescue organizations were evident throughout the community. Animals that were adopted during Covid were returned when people started going out again. The local shelters were inundated and overcrowded. Our project's objectives included increasing public awareness, supplying needs not covered under the city's budget, and increasing public awareness of Altrusa of Richardson.

We have a Kindness committee that determines important needs in our community and our purpose for this project is to address those needs.

Altrusa partnered with the City of Richardson's 150th year celebration to promote volunteerism.

We met with the Richardson Animal Shelter, and their biggest need was for "kitten kits" to assist with the 70 litters of kittens born each spring and "dropped off". The kitten kits contained a scale to weigh the kittens, syringes and bottles for feeding, toys to entertain, spray bottles for bathing and debugging, eye drops, and treats. Prior to having these kits, the foster family had to bring each kitten to the shelter daily to be weighed.

This project helped our community because these items are not covered by the city's budget, and the kits could be reused annually! Each kit cost approximately \$70 and allowed approximately 560 kittens to be safely raised until old enough to be brought back to the shelter to find loving homes.

On our April 1st Kindness to Animals event, the shelter brought their mobile unit trailer with adoptable animals. Through contact with the city leaders, Altrusa obtained the use of a large, shaded parking lot on a busy street with high visibility. Part of our publicity included new feather flags with the Altrusa Brand to place along the street and engage passers-by, and bandanas for the animals and the Altrusans to wear.

The Kindness committee asked the membership for names of rescue groups in our area and received great feedback. Five rescues, one obedience training group, and one retail store with animal supplies joined the Richardson Shelter and the Richardson Humane Society to fill up the parking area.

Within the Kindness committee, we divided up work assignments. We interfaced with the shelter and one committee person ordered the items for the kitten kits. On the day of the event, volunteers assembled the kits. We had a member assigned to design the feather flags and the bandanas for the volunteers with the Altrusa Brand and the City of Richardson 150th celebration logo. We had a specific Communication team that kept everyone informed and put out the word to rescue groups. The City of Richardson also put the event on their website and helped greatly with social media publicity. Because we were partnering with the City of Richardson for this special celebration, we were able to take advantage of all the publicity reaching every citizen in Richardson.

Prior to the Kindness event, teams of 5 Altrusans, over consecutive weekends, baked and assembled 150 treat bags which contained 9 homemade dog biscuits in each bag: 1,350 dog treats! Biscuits were shaped like paws, hearts or bones stamped with ALTRUSA! Business cards with our club contact info and biscuit ingredients were attached to the "paw-

printed” bags. These were given out to all visitors who donated to the shelter or rescue groups. All the treats were distributed on that day. Chewy and PetSmart donated items for gift basket drawings; one for dogs and one for cats worth over \$200 each. From this drawing, we received many people’s contact information for our Altrusa mailing list not to mention two very happy winners!

Altrusa’s one big annual event, Outstanding Women of Today Luncheon, in 2022, provided funds for this project. Club members and guest volunteers recorded 990 hours in planning and executing this project! Over 95% of our members participated in some way. Members of our community were also able to be involved in an Altrusa service project. In addition to the pet items and adoption opportunities, the club also assembled over 400 Days for Girls kits and Personal Item Baskets for trafficked women. High schoolers from the National Honor Society also joined the fun.

The feedback from the community was wonderful, and the shelter and rescues were pleased with the exposure they received. This was the first time the rescues had been together since pre-Covid. Members of the City Council came, and community leaders attended the presentation of the kitten kits at the Shelter. It was widely covered in the local media. Also, we were able to present the Richardson Humane Society with 18 crate blankets along with a \$25 gift certificate. These gift cards allowed the foster families to buy what they wished for their animal as our “thank you” for the important role they play in our community.

Our original objectives of increasing awareness of our local rescue organizations and providing needed supplies to our Richardson Animal Shelter were achieved as well as increasing public awareness of Altrusa of Richardson.

The city’s goal was to promote volunteerism. This project touched hundreds of people; foster families, shelter and rescue workers, high schoolers, and citizens who came

to volunteer as well as all the animals that benefited. As one Altrusan put it, “Best Kindness project ever!”

PLEASE NOTE:

Optional Supplemental Material (No points) Judges place primary importance on the written narrative. Substantiating materials do not earn points and are considered only in a supplementary perspective.

ENTRY SUBMISSION:

Submit your entry by June 30 to the email address shown on the District Nine Webpage www.altrusadistrictnine.org under Members Only/Reports and Awards.