



President's Message

Impressions of San Antonio Convention

Eleven of our members went to our International Convention in San Antonio. We met up with our Queens-town sister club members Kay Edwards and Margaret Melhop, District Fifteen Governor Elect. A strong bond was formed and plans for a common service project are in the works.

The speakers were inspiring, the hotel and meals were very good and the entertainment; Mariachis, Folklorico, Dueling Pianos and more were great fun.

We did a lot of important business in a timely manner and were so efficient that the last scheduled meeting of the convention was cancelled because we finished everything early. There were a good variety of work-shops to choose from. Our delegates will submit arti-cles to Tidings about some of them.

There were 125 clubs represented at convention, so you can imagine the beautiful Parade of Banners! I think I will always remember the Presentation of Flags at the opening banquet when each country's flag was presented with their national anthem and people sing-ing in different languages.

The first convention speaker was Alex Johnson from Plano, TX. He coaches business CEO's and nonprofits to grow. **What I was most impressed with was his advice NOT to invite people to our meetings, but rather, to invite them to our service projects.**

It brought to my mind a woman who came to our infor-mation table at the 150th celebration and asked me, "Can I come to a service project and not be a mem-ber?" Of course, I know the answer, but the question

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For more information go to the Events page at altrusarichardson.com

August Events

August 1 *Volunteer Hours due*

August 1 International Friendship / Recruitment Event at Desperado's 5:00 pm Potential members 5:20 pm All

August 2 Community Outreach Mtg 6:30pm Zoom

August 5 Ability House – Robert's BDay 1:30 pm

August 9 Honoring Gerry Carron 6:00 pm

August 10 Board of Directors Mtg. 6:30 pm

August 17 Monthly Meeting 6:30 Social 7:00 pm Meeting

August 19 Honoree Committee Meeting 10:30 am

August 28 Altrusa Wine & Chocolate Society 6:00 pm

August 30 OWT chairs, Team Leaders and Members Event

August 31 Leadership Committee Meeting - Zoom

September Events

September 1 *Volunteer Hours due*

September 6 Feed My Starving Children project 11:30 am

September 8 International Literacy Day

September 11 Conference Committee Meeting 1:30 pm

Patriot's Day—Remember 9/11

September 14 Club Board of Directors Mtg. 6:30

September 18 Foundation Trustees 6:00 pm

September 21 North Texas Giving Day

Monthly Meeting 6:30 Social 7:00 pm

September 21 International Day of Peace

September 25 Altrusa Wine & Chocolate Society 6:00 pm

September 26 Richardson Reads One Book

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

*Altrusa International
Convention 2025*

Quebec City, Canada

Wednesday, July 23– Saturday, July 26

President's message continued

took me back a bit. I gave her my card and told her I would be happy to go with her to any of our service projects if she liked. I went home thinking inviting to service projects would let people **experience** what Altrusa is all about more than sitting through a meeting for a first impression.

Another thing that made a big impression on me is our new Houston club that a young woman decided to start and went to the district for information. She had a club ready and chartered in 3 months! She is pretty remarkable and put the club together totally using social media. She made a YouTube video inviting anyone who wanted to join her for some information about her new Altrusa club & then she made a video inviting people to just **come on for fun doing a service project!** You need to see them. Google: Kelli McBee Altrusa of Houston youtube.

Christine Hart

President 2023-2024

MORE CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

August Birthdays

August 1 Kimberly Kierce

August 8 Shari Barat

August 11 Brenda Boston

August 18 Jean Stuart

August 20 Samantha Slaight

August 26 Brenda Duckett

August 29 Cindy Murray

September Birthdays

September 6 Pam Johnson

September 16 Norma

Hammerlund

September 20 Elizabeth

DeBose Smith

Happy Birthday!



Having fun exploring the River Walk the first night. Front row L-R: Cindy Murray, Pam Johnson, Kimberly Kierce Back row L-R: Nancy Rohm, Ginger Mayo, Sue McElveen, Christine Hart, Bobbi Klein, Jean Stuart and MaryBeth McLemore.



Pausing for a photo op on Fiesta San Antonio night with our new friends from our sister club in Queenstown, New Zealand. Front Row L-R: Kay Edwards (Queenstown); President Christine Hart; Governor Elect District Nine Kimberly Kierce and Governor Elect District Fifteen, Margaret Melhop (Queenstown) Back Row L-R: Jane Tucker; Pam Johnson; Sue McElveen; Nancy Rohm; Cindy Murray; Bobbi Klein; Ginger Mayo; MaryBeth McLemore and Jean Stuart

MORE FROM CONVENTION

NOT exactly wasted again in Margaritaville...

We couldn't resist one last meal together on the riverwalk. Our Queens-town friends Kay and Margaret happened by and joined us.

The ambience was fun and the food was delicious and the view wonderful.

And the company can't be beat.



L-R: Kimberly Kierce, Nancy Rohm, MaryBeth McLemore, Sue McElveen, Christine Hart, Ginger Mayo, Cindy Murray, Pam Johnson, Bobbi Klein, Jean Stuart and Jane Tucker

Altrusa International Convention

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION REPORT

By Cindy Murray, Convention Delegate

Since 1962, the Altrusa International Foundation has demonstrated a strong and enduring commitment to serve communities both here in the United States and abroad. They advance this commitment by supporting local Altrusans in their community efforts to provide for the care and enrichment of those most in need.

Each year the Foundation awards grant funding to Altrusa and ASTRA Clubs, as well as to international agencies; to support healthcare, educational, and economic development initiatives that impact thousands of children and other under-resourced communities. Moreover, through the disaster relief aid program, they provide timely response and financial support to communities affected by natural disasters and other devastating crises.

Foundation Grants: The Foundation provides assistance to individuals and helps Altrusa Clubs carry out the independent programs of community service with funds for vocational assistance; graduate school assistance to international students from developing countries; literacy projects; and community service projects sponsored by local Altrusa Clubs.

Scholarships: The Altrusa scholarship is designed to help students who are passionate about giving back to their communities. The scholarship is worth up to \$10,000 and is open to students who are currently enrolled in an accredited college or university. Students who are interested in applying for the scholarship must submit an essay detailing their community service experience and how they plan to use their education to give back to their community.

Club 21 Grants: Established in 1997, the Club 21 Program is committed to supporting programs for children affected by disease and disabilities; as well as international healthcare curriculum. As members of Club 21, you are given an opportunity to extend a hand to these children and families.

Disaster Relief Aid: Funds designated to Disaster Relief Aid assist the Foundation's efforts to provide timely response to district-specific disasters. It also may go to relief agencies to enhance overall first responders' efforts.

Endowment Fund: Established in 1992, designed to be the legacy for the future and the chief source of income for all charitable activities of the Foundation.

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION REPORT

By Cindy Murray, Convention Delegate

Through the generous financial support of Altrusans, the Altrusa International Foundation awarded over \$780,000 in grants, scholarships, awards and relief aid during the 2021-2023 biennium.



Ways to give:

Make a financial donation for any amount to the Altrusa International Foundation, Inc. Funds can be designated to a specific program or not. Funds designated to “Where Most Needed” will support a broad range of the Altrusa International Foundations’ operational and programmatic needs.

Club 21 donation: Make a financial donation of \$21 annually. You receive a Club 21 recognition pin with your first donation. Clubs can also be Club 21 clubs.

Lampighter, Lucente or Hofmeister giving levels:

Lampighter: Earned after \$500 donation. You receive a Lampighter pin and are awarded a diamond for each subsequent \$500 donation (pin holds 24 diamonds)

Lucente: Earned after 10 donations of \$500. You receive a Lucente pin.

Hofmeister: Earned after 25 donations of \$500. You receive a Hofmeister pin which contains diamonds and sapphires.

Legacy Giving: This is a deferred gift.

JOINT MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Altrusa International Richardson Membership and Community Outreach Committees Event United Nations International Friendship Day Event

Laura Trainor-Collins, Membership Committee Co-Chair

The Membership Committee and the Community Outreach Committee held a joint *United Nations International Friendship Day (UNIFD)* event on August 1, 2023 at Desperados Restaurant. Thirty Altrusans, guests and potential members attended. The Retention Team provided a fun game to get to know our newest members and mingle with potential members.

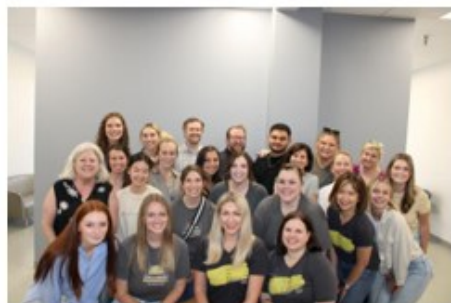
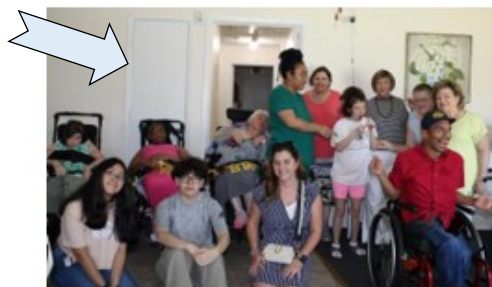


Enjoy this photo of the gathering. There are too many friends to name individually.

A *Friendship Food Project* for Network was organized by the Community Outreach due to the fact that food insecurity is a major problem for many families in our community. Desperados served as a food collection point. We delivered 193 lbs. of food to Network. Way to go Altrusans!

Ability House Committee
**Recognition from Ability
Connection**

From their August
Newsletter



**Amazing Corporate Volunteer
Support!**

Thank You!!

Altrusa - Richardson

Big XII Conference

Citigroup

HPA Design Group

Nexstar

Altrusa International Service Project

**Days for Girls Service Project Up-
date**

By Jane Tucker

This past year our club helped the Highland Village Days for Girls Team by cutting ribbons for drawstring bags prior to a club meeting last September and then threading those ribbons through bags during our KAN weekend in April.

After KAN weekend the Days for Girls Team completed assembling these kits of reusable hygiene supplies. In mid-April, Rotary District # 5819 which includes 60 Rotary Clubs in North Texas delivered 164 of these kits to Roatan, Honduras in connection with the Roatan Rotary Club and 164 kits to Cozumel, Mexico in connection with the Cozumel Rotary Club.

In June, the Highland Village Days for Girls Team personally delivered over 900 kits to the Palabek Lamwo Refugee Camp in Uganda to help women and girl refugees from South Sudanese. Our club received pictures of the delivery to all three locations It is very gratifying to know our club had a hand in helping bring reusable hygiene products to a thousand women and girls.

Membership Retention Update

Lunch Bunch Event

by Lynn Solomon and Judy Blome

Altrusa Lunch Bunch was held at one of Richardson's best seafood restaurants, Anaya's Seafood Restaurant on Wednesday, July 26th. Ten Altrusans enjoyed the great food and fellowship. As we used to say—back in the day, a good time was had by all!!

The next Lunch Bunch will be in October. Stay tuned for details!



Pictured around the table L-R: Nancy Rohm, Lynn Solomon, Judy Blome, Mary McLemore, Alma Benoit, Alisha Gimble, Ginger Mayo, Christine Hart, Janet McCulloch and Jackie Scrivener.

KINDNESS COMMITTEE UPDATE

KINDNESS COMMITTEE PLAN MANY PROJECTS

Sue McElveen and Terri Morgan, Co-Chairs



Front row L-R: Board Liaison Gloria Sandoval , Nancy Crowe, Bobbi Klein and Samantha Slaight Back Row L-R: Mouna Al Rashed, Sue McElveen, Cindy McIntyre and Terri Morgan

The Kindness Committee held it's first planning meeting of the year at Sue McElveen's home on August 15th. Members volunteered to head up the on-going projects .

Jane Tucker will be the International Choose Kind libraries liaison and has received a grant for locations in Germany and possibly Africa. Bobbi Klein will work with the RISD for our libraries here at home.

There is a substantial budget earmarked for continued Military and New Friends/New Life projects.

We will continue to work with the local-Days for Girls group. They have requested donations of suitable material for DfG projects and making quilts to be distributed to the homeless, also.

Plans are underway also for the KAN Weekend coming up the first weekend in April. The committee is open to suggestions from the club members at large. Contact Sue McElveen or Terri.

Most importantly, we will be working at *Feed My Starving Children*, located at 1680 N. Glenville in Richardson. This is a hands-on project, filling food bags to be distributed by the agency and all members are invited to help. We will be working from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm and may do lunch together afterwards.

ABILITY HOUSE COMMITTEE UPDATE

ROBERT'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

From Rosemary Gouger, Co-Chair

Though he lives at Wentworth House, Ability Connection helped by bringing Robert to Ability House so that he could celebrate with his friends there. Robert LOVES his birthday and counts the months and days the whole year long. Seven Altrusans came to celebrate, too. The theme Robert requested was "Evan Almighty--Noah's Ark". The photo at the right shows the delicious cupcakes provided by Rosemary Gouger among some of the animals from Noah's Ark.



KINDNESS COMMITTEE UPDATE

DON'T FORGET NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY

From Club Runner Email

In the photo at the right Samantha Slaight and Rosemary Gouger remind us that we can increase our donation to our favorite service agencies with a partial matching grant on North Texas Giving Day, **September 21, 2023**. Early donations start September 1. Support your favorite agencies, starting with Altrusa Richardson!!

www.northtexasgivingday.org/giving-events/ntx23



District Nine Altrusa International Update

DISTRITCT NINE CLUB IN FORMATION

From Club Runner Email

BE A MEMBERSHIP-BUILDING SUPER-SPREADER FOR ALTRUSA - DOWNTOWN FORT WORTH!

Do you have friends/business associates/relatives in Fort Worth who might be interested in joining a new Altrusa club there? Please send their names and email addresses to Gail Woods (info.swdc@gmail.com) or Linda Hurt (hurtlj@aol.com) so that they will receive an invitation to our upcoming Altrusa – Downtown Fort Worth Membership-Building Event on:

Saturday, September 30, 2023

10:00 Am to Noon (Continental Breakfast will be served)

University of Texas Arlington (UTA) – Fort Worth Campus

1401 Jones Street, Fort Worth, TX



COMMUNITY EVENTS For Your Information

From Compassionate DFW Newsletter

SUPPORT MILITARY FAMILIES

On Sept. 11, we recognize **Patriot's Day**
and **Remember 9/11!**

The **Vocal Majority** is giving a Concert of Remembrance at Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas. **100%** of net proceeds from this concert will be donated to three organizations, all who serve families of those who serve in our military and as first responders. To learn more and purchase tickets, go to <https://www.vocalmajority.com/blog/2023/8/23/911-concert-details>. Tickets are available here: <https://www.dallassymphony.org/productions/vocal-majority/>

RICHARDSON PUBLIC SAFETY EXPO

September 23, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Huffines Park - 300 N. Plano Rd. (near Huffines Children Park)

Join the Richardson Police Department for a free and fun family event. There will be police and fire department vehicles on display along with demonstrations from our K9 Unit and UAS (drone) Team. Visit with SWAT Team members and Bike Unit of officers. Get an up-close view of PHI Medical helicopter. Vendors and City services will provide information about safety and emergency preparedness. Special Guest, Miss Texas - Ellie Breaux! Meet Chase from Paw Patrol, Nat the National Night Out Knight, McGruff the Crime Dog and much more. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Contact the Community Relations Unit at 972-744-4955 if you have questions.

FROM OUR SISTER CLUB – QUEENSTOWN, NEW ZEALAND

Remarkables Rambler



- A - Amity
- L- Loyalty
- T- Talent
- R - Reciprocity
- U - Unity
- S - Service
- A - Achievement

Lest we forget!

This page is all from the Queenstown August newsletter. They include a link to our newsletter! Their link is:

<https://districtfifteen.altrusa.org/files/2021/07/queenstown0721.pdf>

Interesting note: Queenstown is 40 miles from the “Remarkables” Mountains and is sometimes called Remarkable.

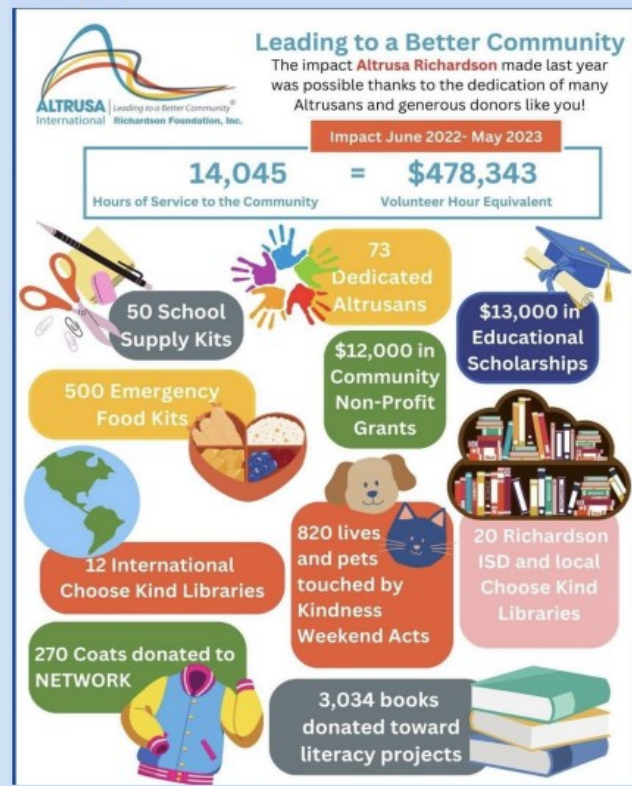
Below: Pictures from San Antonio Convention



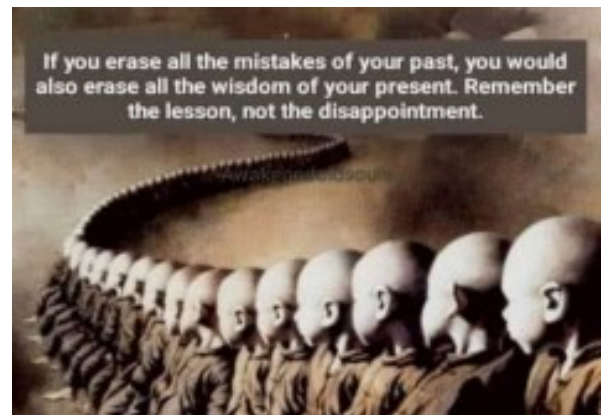
With our sister club

From Our Altrusa ‘Mother Ship’

So what has our sister club been up to?
Need some inspiration ladies? - look at this amazing result that the Richardson Club achieved last year!
Well Done!



Words of wisdom from Queenstown!



Above: A page from Queenstown August Newsletter. Love that they call us the Mother Ship!