Comforting Young Patients: Kid’s Place at WakeMed

by Beverly Buttaci

In addition to providing toys, books and games for children awaiting treatment at WakeMed’s Children’s Emergency Department and treasure chest prizes for children following treatment, we supply teddy bears for patients needing special comfort measures.

“Yesterday, my son and I were in an awful car accident. We were taken to the Trauma Center at WakeMed. While there, he and I were separated while they worked on us. My son only recently turned three. He was hurt and scared—and mommy couldn’t hold his hand right away to ease his anxiety.

He was given a Teddy Bear with an AL shirt on it. He clutched onto that bear for comfort. To know my son is to know he has never cared for stuffed animals very much.

But THIS bear has turned into a special friend. Even now at home as we are healing, he is still taking comfort in his new friend.

I want to thank you for making that available to comfort a (my) child in distress. I’m positive it helped keep him calm. It sounds like such a little thing, but that bear has really made an impact on him. He insists on sleeping with him.”

Thank you! – Cathy Burke Warren

Visit www.altriangle.org for more stories
President’s Message

When you feel a grateful hug by a 2nd grade student for their new clothes…

When you see a child’s shoes so worn that their toes stick out the front of them…

When you hear that a high school senior does not have tuition to attend college…

That is when and why our Assistance League of the Triangle Area volunteers are extremely involved and willing to step up when a need is identified.

The teamwork is inspiring as our organization moves into another year with philanthropic programs, and our primary fundraiser—the A-Z Thrift Shop.

In September, five of our volunteers attended National Assistance League’s Annual Meeting in Dallas, Texas. The “Power of Change” was the focus of the conference with nationally known speakers, discussion groups, committee presentations, and opportunities to meet volunteers from the 120 other Assistance League chapters throughout the United States.

Our chapter is grateful and excited to receive a Gipson Family Foundation Grant that has enabled us to greatly increase the Scholarships program. The annual scholarship selection process takes place in spring and scholarships are awarded in May.

We are proud of the fact that 100% of funds raised by our nonprofit remain in the Triangle Area. In addition, we have no paid staff as all activities are completed by volunteers.

With the support of our volunteers, individual donors, grants, donations to our A-Z Thrift Shop as well as shoppers purchasing items, we feel confident that we are making a difference in our community.

Thank you for your support and encouragement.

Janice B. Carlton, President

Honored with 2015 Neil Blair Award

InterAct presented the Neil Blair Award to Assistance League of the Triangle on April 9, 2016.

This award recognizes organizations in the community who advocate and support the empowerment of victims of domestic violence.

“For the last several years, Assistance League of the Triangle Area has supplied InterAct with assault survivor kits, gas cards, bus tickets, personal and household items, summer survival kits, food pantry items and holiday gifts through their Women In Need philanthropic program.

They also volunteer during our annual Elf Party and Holiday Bazaar.

Anytime we have an urgent need for a client or for the agency, Assistance League is just a phone call or email away.

A client needed a bed - they found one. Children in the shelter needed Valentine cards to give out at school – they brought some. The list goes on…

We are grateful for Assistance League of the Triangle’s vision for caring and commitment in action in our community. Most importantly, we are grateful for their commitment to our mission and helping individuals and families in need.”

- Christina Brewer, Development and Communications Officer

Make a Difference Day: Book Drive

by Mary Markov

For five years, Points of Light has sponsored Make a Difference Day—this national day of community service which connects people with opportunities to serve, increases the strength of communities and promotes civic engagement.

With the collection of 2,208 books in October 2016, we’ve collected a total of 8,909 books in the last five years.

These books were distributed to 20 Triangle-Area elementary schools, Kid’s Place at WakeMed, InterAct, and Read & Feed; who then provided them to children who might not have books of their own at home.

The success of this effort was due to the strong partnership between community members who agreed to accept collection boxes and our volunteers who gave of their time and talents.
This was another exciting year for Assistance League of the Triangle Area Scholarship Program—with $137,500 awarded to 27 students in need of financial assistance.

These scholarships support students who will attend North Carolina colleges, universities or technical schools.

This year’s scholarships were made possible thanks to a grant from the Gipson Family Foundation and proceeds from our A-Z Thrift Shop.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Total Funds Allocated</th>
<th>Funds to Returning Scholars</th>
<th>Funds to High School Seniors</th>
<th># and % of Applicants that Received Money</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wake</td>
<td>$103,000</td>
<td>$58,000</td>
<td>$45,000</td>
<td>21 of 32 applicants (65%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durham</td>
<td>$18,000</td>
<td>$14,000</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>3 of 7 applicants (43%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>$16,500</td>
<td>$11,500</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>3 of 5 applicants (60%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$137,500</td>
<td>$83,500</td>
<td>$54,000</td>
<td>27 of 44 applications (61%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special thanks to PNC for sponsoring our event by providing lunch to recognize the efforts of our volunteers.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for the annual scholarship presentation. Contact us at join@altriangle.org.

Scholarship Recipients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Returning Students</th>
<th>High School Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Martine Charles</td>
<td>Wake Tech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annie Dang</td>
<td>NC State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janvier Dingaoyo</td>
<td>UNC Greensboro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessie Jefferys</td>
<td>East Carolina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milena Korobkina</td>
<td>UNC Chapel Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelby Lawrence</td>
<td>UNC Greensboro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erin Lemin</td>
<td>UNC Greensboro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evan Martinez</td>
<td>WCU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sary Martinez</td>
<td>Elon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dakota Minear</td>
<td>UNC Wilmington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kayli Nichols</td>
<td>UNC Asheville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marilyn Reyes</td>
<td>UNC Chapel Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Summers</td>
<td>Wingate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magdalena Wielgus</td>
<td>NC State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payton Baker</td>
<td>Wake Forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaleb Barfield</td>
<td>JD Clements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashley Bisby</td>
<td>Wake Forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cynthia Correa</td>
<td>Millbrook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blair Gattis</td>
<td>Orange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renuka Goguseti</td>
<td>Enloe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayesha Jaleel</td>
<td>Broughton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hannah Jordan</td>
<td>Wake Forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca Lepore</td>
<td>Middle Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yuanming Mei</td>
<td>Enloe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin Panameno</td>
<td>Wake Forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheyla Pinder</td>
<td>Panther Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elexys Thomas</td>
<td>Gardner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We were honored to be selected as Charity of the Month for WNCN, the local CBS TV affiliate, to participate in their 3-Degree Weather Forecast Accuracy Program. Karen Perry, one of our many dedicated volunteers, submitted the chapter’s information. We were selected from many charities to receive publicity and funds as part of this program.

In March, WNCN in conjunction with a local business, Allen Kelly & Company, awarded $100 per day when the weather forecast for the day was within three degrees of the actual temperature.

One of the weathermen, Bill Reh, accompanied members to an In-Store Shopping event where he interviewed Operation School Bell Coordinator, Barbara Townson, along with parents and children. This video was donated to the chapter for publicity.

We are so grateful to have been selected as the Charity of the Month and to receive $2600 to support our philanthropic programs.

Volunteers of the Year Awards

Every year, we recognize two volunteers for their contributions—and this year Charlotte Weldon and Marvene Carroll were the worthy recipients of these honors, as voted by our entire membership.

The Founder’s Award, presented to Charlotte, is given to a volunteer who has rendered the greatest service to the organization during the year and shared in the spirit and enthusiasm for Triangle Area initiatives. She’s been with the organization for four years—donating a total of 448 hours last year. In addition to being actively involved in the A-Z Thrift Shop, she also served as the Operation School Bell coordinator for Merrick Moore Elementary school and supported the in-store shopping events at Target stores.

The Leadership Award, presented to Marvene, recognizes a volunteer at the leadership level in the organization who has provided the most outstanding service during the year. Marvene has been a volunteer for four years, served as Education Chair on the Board of Directors, and has assisted with many programs including Operation School Bell. She volunteered 425 hours last year.
Site Visit Elicits Positive Feedback
by Janice Carlton & Phyllis Sullivan

Every four years, representatives from National Assistance League perform a site visit to become familiar with our chapter, philanthropic programs, activities, and to discuss areas of special interest or concern.

In March 2016, a team spent two days meeting with the Board, Committee Chairs as well as members, and visited our A-Z Thrift Shop.

One may wonder why have site visits? As a tax-exempt charitable corporation, there are administrative matters that impact fundraising, bylaws, policies, and procedures. Feedback from the team indicated that the Board operated at a very professional level and all compliance considerations and policies were met in a timely manner.

They also stated the chapter should be commended on:

- Diverse philanthropic programs filling a need in the community
- Excellent Strategic Plan with clearly defined objectives and measures
- An impressive return to the community
- A well-organized Thrift Shop that benefits the community from two perspectives: supporting fundraising endeavors and providing economical shopping for the local community
- Membership growth and effective new volunteer orientation procedures

We are extremely proud of our review and look forward to a very productive, successful future.
In addition to the net proceeds of our Thrift Shop sales, we’re often asked where we obtain funding for all of the great programs that Assistance League supports. Sharron Grant, Chair of the Funds & Grants Committee, provides answers to these frequently-asked questions.

How much of the donated funds stay in the local community?
- We ensure that 100% of the donated funds remain in the Triangle Area by providing assistance to residents of Wake, Durham and Orange counties.

What percent of income is used for operational expenses?
- With the sales from the A-Z Thrift Shop sustaining its own expenses, we spend less than 4% of our income on management and general expenses including leadership development. Our philanthropic programs, fundraising and non-profit operations are conducted by volunteer members of our chapter. There are no paid staff members.

How does Assistance League of the Triangle Area ask for grants?
- We continually search for sources of funding and complete online applications for most of our grant requests. We are fortunate that several corporations and foundations recognize the value of our efforts by regularly providing grants that range from $500 to $100,000 annually.

Are there any restrictions when you submit grant requests or solicit funds from donors?
- Yes, we can only solicit funds from organizations that conduct business in North Carolina and individuals that reside in North Carolina.

Can a donor designate the funds for a particular cause?
- Yes, we have several donors that specify where the funds must be allocated. For example, they may choose a particular philanthropic program that touches them or aligns with their values.

Thank You to the Following for Their Generous Support!

- Amazon
- Bank of North Carolina
- Captrust
- Carolina Arbors
- Carolina Preserve Cares
- Cary Community Foundation
- Discovery Child Development Center
- Dr. Robert A. Bailey, Access Family Dental Care
- Duke Energy Foundation
- Gipson Family Foundation
- IBM
- Kids ‘N Community
- Kisco Cares
- Kroger
- Linda Craft Realty
- Lux Salon
- NVIDIA Corporation & Employees
- Pest Pros
- PNC
- RE/MAX Preferred Associates
- Ronald McDonald House Charities of North Carolina
- South Coast Group
- Wake Electric Foundation
- Wake Forest H.S. English Department

Are there other ways besides grant requests and your thrift shop that you receive funds for your philanthropic efforts?
- Yes, we have an Open Your Heart campaign each year with special invitations mailed in November.
- To make an online donation, click the “Donate Now” button on our website www.altriangle.org.
Statement of Financial Position  
May 31, 2016  
May, 31, 2015

**ASSETS**  
Cash & Cash Equivalents  
$ 266,922  
$ 221,663  
Prepaid Expenses  
10,062  
13,607  
Inventories  
52,950  
53,002  
Property & Equipment  
18,148  
19,634  
**TOTAL ASSETS**  
$ 348,082  
$ 307,906

**LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS**  
Liabilities  
$ 4,300  
$ 5,528  
Net Assets  
343,782  
302,378  
**TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS**  
$ 348,082  
$ 307,906

Statement of Activities

**SUPPORT & REVENUES**  
Thrift Shop Revenue  
$ 208,305  
$ 219,423  
Contributions & Grants  
200,753  
168,912  
Membership  
5,888  
5,717  
Interest income  
2,052  
1,692  
Noncash Contributions  
23,173  
33,798  
Other  
1,451  
1,452  
**TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUES**  
$ 441,622  
$ 430,994

**EXPENSES**  
Program Services  
Operation School Bell  
$ 126,318  
$ 102,229  
Kid’s Place at WakeMed  
12,451  
12,976  
Women In Need  
17,277  
18,199  
Scholarships  
139,663  
135,454  
Senior Multi-Interest (SMILE)  
82  
40  
Community Sharing  
19,285  
25,809  
**Total Program Service Expenses**  
$ 315,076  
$ 294,707  
Support Services  
Fundraising (Thrift Shop) Expense*  
$ 69,176  
$ 72,330  
Management & General  
10,241  
8,621  
Membership Development  
5,725  
4,419  
**Total Support Services Expenses**  
$ 85,142  
$ 85,370  
**TOTAL EXPENSES**  
$ 400,218  
$ 380,077

**INCREASE IN NET ASSETS**  
$ 41,404  
$ 50,917

**NET ASSETS—BEGINNING OF YEAR**  
$ 302,378  
$ 251,461

**NET ASSETS—END OF YEAR**  
$ 343,782  
$ 302,378

*Thrift Shop expenses are occupancy costs only. There are no labor costs nor cost of goods sold. The A-Z Thrift Shop sustains itself and all monetary donations go directly to philanthropic programs.

Our reserve policy is to retain one year operating expenses. Complete Financial Statements for the year-ending May 31, 2016 are available upon request.

Martha Funsten, Treasurer
How Can You Support Our Community?

Join Us!
- To become a member, email join@altriangle.org or stop by the A-Z Thrift Shop.

Follow Us!
- Follow our Facebook pages (AL Triangle and A-Z Thrift Shop) and our Twitter accounts (@altriangle and @az-resale) to help us spread the word about our programs and A-Z Thrift Shop!

Shop!
- Visit the A-Z Thrift Shop at 1621 North Market Dr. Raleigh, NC
  - Hours of Operation:
    - Wed – Fri. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
    - Sat. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Shop Amazon.com. Every time you shop, we’ll receive a percentage of the purchase price—at no cost to you.
  1. Go to our website: www.altriangle.org
  2. Click in the top right corner of the homepage to access and begin your online shopping!
- Link your Kroger Plus Card to Assistance League. To do so:
  1. Go to: krogercommunityrewards.com
  2. Sign in using your Kroger account #
  3. Enter Assistance League’s code 94400
  4. Each time you shop & use your Kroger Plus Card, we will receive a percentage of your purchase

Consider Us!
- Add us to your organization’s Gift Matching and/or Employee Volunteer programs
- When you see grant opportunities, please email information to us at: join@altriangle.org

Donate!
- Give your gently-used household goods and furniture to our A-Z Thrift Shop
- Provide financial support, send monetary donations to:
  Assistance League of the Triangle Area
  P.O. Box 98477
  Raleigh, NC 27624
  - Click the DONATE NOW button on our website: www.altriangle.org
  - Our 501(c)(3) donor privacy policy is located on our website

For more information call: 919-875-8901 or go to: www.altriangle.org