All Smiles for New Clothes & Shoes

by Barbara Townson

Our signature program, Operation School Bell®, continues to support local children in need by providing NEW clothing, shoes, personal hygiene kits and school supplies.

During the 2016-2017 school year, our volunteers provided direct support to 1,827 children. Our goal is to reach even more children annually!

The children who receive in-school delivery are provided with new clothing including a lined jacket, two pairs of pants, a long-sleeved shirt, a short-sleeved shirt, 5-6 pairs of underwear, 6 pairs of socks, new athletic shoes, and personal hygiene items including a toothbrush and toothpaste. The students, who attend the Target in-store shopping with their families, select much needed school apparel. They are provided with hygiene kits as well.

The National Operation School Bell Award was presented to NVIDIA Corporation for the employees’ continued support of our program. For the past 10 years, they have donated over 200 backpacks and school supplies each year.

Operation School Bell 2016-2017 Achievements:
- In-school delivery of new clothes and shoes to 1023 children in 14 schools
- In-store shopping of $75 per student at Target for 461 children from 11 schools
- New clothing, shoes and/or hygiene kits for 299 homeless children
- Gently-used clothing for 44 children for emergency needs at school

A-Z Thrift Shop: Funding Community Programs

by Judy Thompson

The A-Z Thrift Shop at 1621 N. Market Drive in Raleigh is operated by 100% volunteers. It is the major source of funds to support the philanthropic programs featured in this publication.

The success of this shop originates with the fantastic items that individuals donate from their homes, attics, friends, and family. Additionally, we coordinate with estate sale companies to receive donations. The overall generosity makes it possible for customers to shop for treasures, much sought-after items, unusual pieces of art, and even everyday kitchen utensils.

Our mission is to offer affordable quality furniture and household items, and subsequently, to fund programs to transform the lives of women, children and families through community programs.

To donate, please call 919-875-8901 for directions or to schedule a pick-up. Tax deductible forms are available upon request.
This was another exciting year for Assistance League of the Triangle Area Scholarship Program—with $144,000 awarded to 35 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 the Gipson Family Foundation and proceeds from the 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>$113,000</td>
<td>$70,500</td>
<td>$42,500</td>
<td>28 of 47 applicants (60%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Durham</td>
<td>$24,000</td>
<td>$13,000</td>
<td>$11,000</td>
<td>5 of 15 applicants (33%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>2 of 6 applicants (33%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$144,000</td>
<td>$86,500</td>
<td>$57,500</td>
<td>35 of 68 applications (51%)</td>
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**Scholarship Recipients**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Returning Students</th>
<th>High School Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sandra Addo – East Carolina (2)</td>
<td>Dionna Boone - UNC Greensboro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renuka Gogusetti – NC State (2)</td>
<td>Jaxon Bunton - East Carolina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chekera Hunter – NC Central (2)</td>
<td>Tiffany Burk - East Carolina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayesha Jaleel – Wake Tech (2)</td>
<td>Zahra Fatima - NC State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zena Jeffers – NC A&amp;T State (3)</td>
<td>Jean Carlos Ferman - NC State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessie Jefferys – East Carolina (4)</td>
<td>Daniel George - NC State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hannah (Kailtlyn) Jordan – NC State (2)</td>
<td>Hamza Kidwai - UNC Chapel Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milena Korobkina – UNC Chapel Hill (4)</td>
<td>Alexis Long - UNC Greensboro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelby Lawrence – UNC Greensboro (2)</td>
<td>Kurtis Nguyen - UNC Chapel Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erin Lemin – UNC Greensboro (3)</td>
<td>Arianny Sanchez - Wake Tech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca Lepore – UNC Chapel Hill (2)</td>
<td>Sara Sanders - East Carolina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evan Martinez – Western Carolina (3)</td>
<td>Karen Silva-Flores - NC State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sari Martinez – Elon University (3)</td>
<td>Isis Telombilla-Mouanga - UNC Pembroke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kayli Nichols – UNC Asheville (4)</td>
<td>Julia Wielgus - NC State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin Panameno – NC State (2)</td>
<td>Christina Wilkins - NC State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marilyn Reyes – UNC Chapel Hill (3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Summers – Wingate University (3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exleys Thomas – East Carolina (2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magdalena Wielgus – NC State (3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Health Care Student**

Jennifer Beasley – Central Carolina C. C.

Note: (#) Indicates the number of times that returning students have been recipients.

Special thanks to PNC for sponsoring our event by providing lunch to recognize the efforts of our volunteers.
Scholarship Spotlight: In Their Own Words

The notes received from our scholarship recipients are truly appreciated and especially rewarding for our hard-working volunteers!

Thank You to you and the Scholarship Committee.
I graduated from Wake Tech Community College with my Associate Degree in Nursing.

Thanking all of you for helping me **tremendously** for reaching my dreams by affording tuition and books. Without the assistance, I would have been juggling a lot more with work hours and maintaining my studies but I didn’t have to and was able to focus without the added stress.

Thank you for helping students like me realize this lifelong dream. I am so appreciative of everything and I wish the best to the new recipients. Thank you for all of your hard work and to the donors who contribute to the scholarship.

Martine Charles

Dear Scholarship Committee,
As a former scholarship recipient, I am extremely grateful to once again be selected to receive this scholarship for the 2017-2018 school year. I would like to thank your organization for the financial support awarded towards my education. I am extremely appreciative for the opportunities it provided my first year of college.

I have had a very exciting and successful year at North Carolina State University.
I joined the Animal Science Club, Pre-Veterinary Club, and (WISE) Women in Science and Engineering.

I earned NCSU Dean’s List membership to the National Society of Collegiate Scholars NCSU Chapter and NCSU Scholars Program.
I also participated in a highly-coveted position at NCSU Equine Education Unit which provided an amazing introduction to large animal training. Since my long-term goal is to pursue a degree in veterinary medicine, without a doubt, your scholarship will help achieve that goal.

Thank you again for investing in my future. I will do my very best in achieving my academic and career objectives. It is my hope to one day help future students achieve their goals just as you have helped me.

Sincerely,
Hannah Jordan
President’s Message

Assistance League of the Triangle Area is growing in members, thrift shop sales and philanthropic programs.

However, I still feel like we are the best kept secret in town.

We have been working hard with our marketing and communications.

We have seen positive results with donations, new members and new programs, but we still need to do more.

Our signature program, Operation School Bell, serves over 1800 children in three counties, Durham, Orange and Wake. I hope this year we can focus on growing our membership and our programs into all three of these counties as well.

All of our programs could not exist without the revenue from our donations to the A-Z Thrift Shop, grants and individual donors. We are so grateful and appreciative for the support we get from everyone in the community.

We are proud of the fact that we operate with 100% non-paid volunteers. We have 104 members who work hard to support our A-Z Thrift Shop and philanthropic programs. We volunteer because we see what good a new set of clothes and pair of shoes does for a school child or a hot meal for a homeless woman. We ARE transforming lives and strengthening our community.

Thank you for your support and encouragement.

Julia Wells, President

Kid’s Place at WakeMed

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

Collaboration is Key

Assistance League volunteers have a passion to help women that may have fallen on hard times by providing essential needs to women in transition.

Carroll’s Kitchen, a nonprofit social enterprise, is dedicated to ending homelessness for women in Raleigh. They create opportunities for single women by empowering them through job training, life skills, and even housing. We partnered with Carroll’s Kitchen by painting the entire interior of a house they leased; and then jointly with the program participants, we selected many items from our thrift shop to furnish the house including: a couch, bed frames, lamps, mirrors, desk, dressers and dishes. We hope to also offer support in other areas, such as providing wish list items and lifestyle sessions to the ladies.

Additionally, the Helen Wright Center for Women is a program for single, homeless women without children in their care. The nonprofit center has 36 beds for overnight shelter which is operated by Urban Ministries of Wake County. Their goal is to help homeless women obtain jobs and housing. We supply and serve meals and purchase essential items that are needed by their program participants. This effort is a natural extension of our current philanthropic program, Women In Need.

We enjoy working with other local nonprofits and know that collaboration is key to expanding our reach.
Volunteers of the Year Awards

As voted by our entire membership, Judy Thompson (left) and Lauretta Holloway were recognized for their contributions.

The **Leadership Award**, presented to Judy, recognizes a volunteer at the leadership level in the organization who has provided the most outstanding service during the year. She has been a volunteer for 10 years and has served as the A-Z Thrift Shop manager for 5 years. She has also held other leadership roles in the organization including: VP of Membership, President-Elect and President.

The **Founder’s Award**, presented to Lauretta, 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 in our chapter for four years—donating 500 hours last year. She’s very involved with the thrift shop and Operation School Bell.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board of Directors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President - Julia Wells</td>
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<tr>
<td>President-Elect - Sharron Grant</td>
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<tr>
<td>VP Membership - Charlotte Weldon</td>
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<tr>
<td>VP Philanthropic Programs - Patti Cunningham</td>
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<td>VP Resource Development - Donna Wooster</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary - Susie Unruh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer - Mary Shelton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education – Marilyn Bensinger</td>
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<td>Marketing Communications - Anna Merrett</td>
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<td>Strategic Planning - Deb Woolfolk</td>
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<tr>
<th>Advisory Council</th>
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<tr>
<td>Christie Burris – Retail</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tia Coppus – Banking</td>
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<tr>
<td>Darryl Fisher, Sr. – Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Lilly – Professional Fundraising</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michelle Mozingo – Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ana Quintana – Marketing</td>
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<td>Jim Wright – Legal Counsel</td>
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Our Mission Statement: Assistance League volunteers transforming the lives of women, children and families through community programs.

**Vision**: Essential needs are met in our community and families flourish

**Values**: Commitment and accountability

What We Did:

As of fiscal year-end 5/31/17

**$144,000** awarded in the Scholarships program

**1,827** students clothed by Operation School Bell®

**4,715** women & family members were provided Assault Survivor Kits®, lunches & personal items by the Women in Need program

**45,000** young patients touched by Kid’s Place at WakeMed program

**30** senior citizens reached by the Senior Multi-Interest program

**2,208** books distributed as a result of *Make a Difference Day*

**974** individuals clothed by redistributing to a clothing closet

**127** people cheered with flower vases at a flower recycler

**98** children received 3 books in a mobile classroom

Who We Are:

**100% volunteers** with no paid staff members

**101** active members in 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

**$252,856** annual gross sales (excludes sales tax) by the volunteer-operated A-Z Thrift Shop

**26,352** volunteer hours contributed to the local community
Thank You to the Following for Their Generous Support!

- 4 Others Foundation
- Amazon
- Capital Area Decorative Artists NC
- Caring Transitions
- Carolina Arbors
- Carolina Preserve Cares
- Cary/Kildaire Rotary Club
- Dr. Robert A. Bailey, Access Family Dental Care
- Duke Energy Foundation
- Gipson Family Foundation
- IBM
- Ida Terbert Group
- Kids ‘N Community
- Kroger
- Linda Craft Realty
- NC Community Foundation
- NVIDIA Corporation & Employees
- Pest Pros
- Pinnacle Financial Partners
- PNC
- RE/MAX Preferred Associates
- Riley Lewis Contractors
- Ronald McDonald House Charities of North Carolina
- Wake Electric Foundation

Barbara Townson (right) accepts The Carolina Hurricanes Kids ‘N Community Foundation $10,000 Game Changer Grant to support Operation School Bell and provide 139 participating students with new clothes, shoes, hygiene kits and school supplies.

The 4 Others Foundation awarded a grant of $5,000 to provide 715 expanded hygiene kits for children in transition through the Operation School Bell program.

Funds & Grants Highlights

Q: How can I donate to support your philanthropic efforts?

A: We have an Open Your Heart campaign each fall and online donations are always appreciated by going to our website www.altriangle.org and selecting Donate Now.

The Highest Level of Recognition

Assistance League of the Triangle Area is committed to transparency and full disclosure of our financials. We encourage all donors to view our online profile which includes an overview of philanthropic programs, description of our operations, and concise historical metrics.

“GuideStar Platinum encourages nonprofit organizations to share their progress and results in important new ways—moving way beyond simplistic financial ratios—to reflect the changes organizations are making in the world.”

- From GuideStar website https://learn.guidestar.org/platinum
Statement of Financial Position


ASSETS
Cash & Cash Equivalents $ 296,882  $ 266,922
Accounts Receivable 2500 --
Prepaid Expenses 10,079 10,062
Inventories 68,812 52,950
Property & Equipment 15,821 18,148

TOTAL ASSETS $ 394,094 $ 348,082

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS
Liabilities $ 3,640  $ 4,300
Net Assets 390,454 343,782

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS $ 394,094 $ 348,082

Statement of Activities

SUPPORT & REVENUES
Thrift Shop Revenue $ 250,061 $ 208,305
Contributions & Grants 188,298 200,753
Membership 6,052 5,888
Interest income 2,249 2,052
Noncash Contributions 31,239 23,173
Other 1,625 1,451

TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUES $ 479,524 $ 441,622

EXPENSES
Program Services
Operation School Bell $ 136,062 $ 126,318
Kid’s Place at WakeMed 12,122 12,451
Women In Need 15,136 17,277
Scholarships 145,999 139,663
Senior Multi-Interest (SMILE) 20 82
Community Sharing 25,319 19,285

Total Program Service Expenses $ 337,708 $ 315,076

Support Services
Fundraising (Thrift Shop) Expense* $ 77,956 $ 69,176
Other Fundraising Expenses 4,731 5,115
Management & General 7,903 10,241
Membership Development 4,554 5,725

Total Support Services Expenses $ 95,144 $ 85,142

TOTAL EXPENSES $ 432,852 $ 400,218

INCREASE IN NET ASSETS $ 46,672 $ 41,404

NET ASSETS—BEGINNING OF YEAR $ 343,782 $ 302,378

NET ASSETS—END OF YEAR $ 390,454 $ 343,782

*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, 2017 are available upon request.

Mary Shelton, Treasurer
Visit the **A-Z Thrift Shop** 1621 North Market Dr. Raleigh, NC.

**Hours of Operation:**
- Wed: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Thurs: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Fri: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Sat: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

For questions or to schedule a pickup of donations, please call: 919-875-8901.

Visit [www.altriangle.org](http://www.altriangle.org) for more information about our organization.