assistance league® Triangle Area

Community Link

2023-2024

Vol. XVIII Issue 1

Operation School Bell®: Growing with Our Community

by Martha Funsten

Family In-Store Shopping Event at the Target store in North Hills

(L-R) Lyric Hazel, Reedy Creek School Social Worker and Assistance Leage member Beth Everly provide clothing through the bag and delivery method

Our signature program, Operation School Bell, continues to grow along with community need. This program provides new clothing, shoes, school and health supplies to children in need.

Our "bag & deliver" program provides each child with two pants, two shirts, six pairs of socks and underwear, a pair of shoes, and a lined windbreaker.

We also have an "in-store shopping" program where we invite families to shop for their children and we pay for their purchase of up to $75 worth of clothing and shoes for school.

We served children at 123 schools across the Triangle during the 2022-23 school year, which included 87 elementary schools, 15 middle schools and 21 high schools.

This year we served 50% more children without stable housing. This expanded effort has made the program a critical resource for schools in the area.

We receive requests for help from school guidance counselors and social workers who go above and beyond to help us identify and serve children both through our bag and delivery method of providing clothes and our in-store shopping events.

Siblings receive hygiene bags and snacks after shopping

*Volunteers dedicated over **22,000** hours of their very valuable time this year.*

Operation School Bell 2022-2023 Achievements:

- Delivered bags of clothes and shoes to 1,364 children
- Hosted 699 children at in-store shopping events, where they were able to select $75 - $125 worth of clothing and shoes
- Served a record 762 children involved through the McKinney Vento program, which assists children experiencing homelessness
- Provided clothing for 80 children to clothes closets at a variety of schools

26 Years of Community Service

This year marks the **26th year** that Assistance League of the Triangle Area has been providing philanthropic programs and support to the community to impact the lives of so many, as indicated with a few highlights below:

★ Provided **423 scholarships** totaling over $1.5 million since 2000

★ Served **32,954 students** through Operation School Bell since the 1998-1999 school year

★ Returned over **$4.3 million** to the community through philanthropic programs since 1997

Visit www.altriangle.org for more information and how to support us

2023 Governor's Awards

Nona Wright & Governor Cooper at the Awards Ceremony

The Governor's Medallion Awards and Key Volunteer Awards are North Carolina's highest volunteer recognition awards.The Govenor's Medallion Awards are given annually to the top 20 volunteers in the state.

Nona Wright received the **2023 Govenor's Medallion Award** in recognition of her outstanding leadership and unwaivering commitment to philanthropic efforts in Wake County, as well as the **Key Volunteer Award for Perseverance in Volunteerism** presented by The Triangle Nonprofit & Volunteer Leadership Center (TNVLC).

(L-R) Nona Wright & Molly Bailey

Molly Bailey was a nominee for the **Key Volunteer of the Year Award** and the **Lifetime Achievement Award** by TNLVC for her commitment to the Operation School Bell program and her fundraising efforts as the volunteer scheduler at the A-Z Thrift Shop.

Kid's Place: Providing for Comfort Needs of Pediatric Patients

By Andi Seger

Cami Polfuss, Duke Children's Hospital (second from left) along with Assistance League members (L-R) Andi Seger, Janet Moyer, and Janice Carlton

Created by our organization in 1997, Kid's Place began as a single room "oasis" for kids being treated at Raleigh's WakeMed Emergency Center.

The primary purpose of the program is to provide comfort to children and their families during a very stressful time within emergency department facilities.

The program, expanded to Garner and Wendell, NC this year, now supports pediatric emergency care in 12 locations in the Triangle area.

This program provides the following to all Kid's Place locations:Assistance League teddy bears, children's books (in English & Spanish), crayons, coloring books, Play Doh, flavored chap ice and a treasure chest with small toys.

The teddy bears and treasure chest items are used for a variety of purposes—primarily for children being treated in the emergency room to provide relief from stress.

Sometimes the items assist in teaching about medical procedures or other patient comfort needs. Along with the teddy bears these items provide relief from stress, assist in passing the time and meet other emergency room patient needs.

We also provide each location with underwear and special request items such as sensory items for children with special needs, noise reduction machines and headphones, weighted blankets, and cell phone chargers for the waiting rooms.

Kid's Place Locations:

- WakeMed Emergency Departments - Raleigh, Apex, Brier Creek, Cary, Garner, and Wendell
- Duke Children's Hospital – Durham & Duke Hospital - Raleigh
- UNC Pediatric Specialty Clinics - Chapel Hill and Raleigh
- UNC Rex Pediatric Unit – Raleigh, Holly Springs

Women in Need (WIN): Committee Supports Partners

By Jonetta Dorn

The **Women In Need (WIN)** program, focused on supporting women, children and families in the Triangle area, provided 500 homemade meals to women experiencing homelessness at The Women's Center and Helen Wright Center. Additionally, over 800 essential items were delivered to WIN partners to help those in need.

We also created quilts, donated toys for the Kids Incentive Store, and assembled Housewarming Kitchen Baskets and auction baskets to benefit Durham families at Families Moving Forward (FMF).

Through our partnership with InterAct, we provided wish list items such as clothing, blankets, activity books, journals, fidget spinners, colored pencils, and door lock wedges to help support their mission of aiding assault survivors.

The Women in Need Committee members provide everyday necessities, gift cards, scarves, inspirational cards, and special occasion candies to residents at Garden View, a temporary housing facility, as they transitioned to permanent housing.

Toy Drive

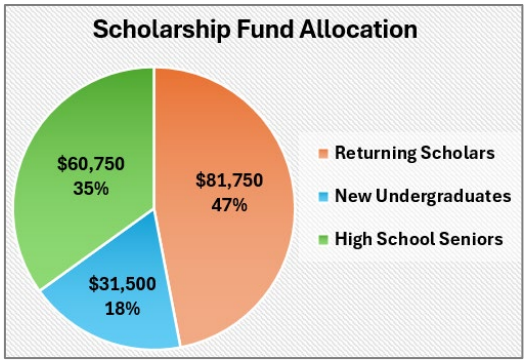
Bedding Kits & Housewarming Kitchen Baskets

"Working together can achieve far more than working alone."
- Helen Keller

Scholarships: Impacting College Education Accessibility

By Grace Fox & Phyllis Sullivan

This was another exciting year for Assistance League of the Triangle Area Scholarship Program—with $174,000 awarded to 34 recipients 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, the Yarger family, the Church family, proceeds from A-Z Thrift Shop and our Open Your Heart campaign.



Jasmine McElroy
Returning Scholar

Jasmine's *passion and determination to excel in her chosen career is demonstrated in her outstanding academic performance throughout her attendance at* ***Appalachian State University,*** *and she is a 4-year recipient of an Assistance League of the Triangle Area Scholarship. Jasmine is driven and committed to mastering her knowledge and design skills.*

Ray *will graduate from* ***Durham School of Arts*** *with a 3.6 GPA and attend* ***Campbell University*** *in the fall. He was introduced to the world of business and entrepreneurship during an internship with Durham Youth Works and now wants to study business. He has been a member of the Pathfinders Youth Organization for six years and is a junior counselor.*

Raymond (Ray) Allen
High School Senior

Ariana Vaida
The Church Family Scholar

Ariana. a returning scholar and sophomore at Duke University with a 3.8 GPA, is studying Biology with an emphasis on global health. She is already working in her field as a community resource navigator helping connect Duke patients with organizations that can help them. Since the fall of 2022, she has been an undergraduate research assistant at the Duke Cancer Institute and Southeast Region Youth Representative for UNICEF USA.

Luis *is studying Computer Engineering in his senior year at* ***North Carolina State University (NCSU)****. After a difficult transition from Durham Technical Community College to start his junior year at NCSU, Luis embraced the challenges of his new campus and performed well. His college advisor states, "He is a dedicated student who knows what he wants and does what it takes to reach his goals."*

Luis Carmona
Returning Scholar

Returning Scholars

Luis Carmona – NC State
Kamila Gonclaves – NC State
Grace Hall – UNC Willmington - The Yarger Family Scholar
Abdella Kamel – UNC Chapel Hill
Rayden Leeder – UNC Charlotte
Suong Lim – NC State
Marshall Mavhura – East Carolina
Melissa Mavhura – East Carolina
Jasmine McElroy – Appalachian State
Kayce Meuse – UNC Greensboro
Jennifer Phung – UNC Chapel Hill
Christina Rodgers – East Carolina
Ashley Smith – NC State
Larry Stroud – Western Carolina
Ariana Vaida – Duke

New Undergraduates

Connor Cannon - UNC Asheville
Sierra Focazio – Appalachian State
Julia Kearney – Elon
Ivy Tran – Western Carolina
Melissa Wilson – Wake Tech

High School Seniors

Kamila Goncalves - Heritage - NC State
Raymond Allen - Durham School of Arts – Campbell
Richard Beamish – Green Level – NC State
Emmaline Cousins – Sanderson – Elon
Warren Gray – East Wake – East Carolina
Ayush Godhani – Panther Creek – UNC Chapel Hill
Andree Gunderson – Mary Phillips – UNC Pembroke
Sean Kearney – Middle Creek – Appalachian
Patricia McCall – Wakefield - UNC Greensboro
Justine Pennycooke – Green Hope – NC State
Madelyn Perry – Wakefield – NC State
Katie Pitalua – Knightdale – Meredith
Avery Riordan – Raleigh Charter – Appalachian State
Wynter Spencer – Raleigh Charter – NC State
Kate Van Farowe – Homeschooled – NC State

Message from the President

As you read about our Chapter and Program accomplishments, did you know that the National Assistance League organization was established in Los Angeles in the early 1890s?

It was the first nonprofit, nonpolitical, nonsectarian organization begun in the West to recognize the potential of volunteers in helping those less fortunate to a better, more meaningful life.

With our chapter in its 26th year, there are 120 chapters in 26 states with almost 22,000 members. In 2018-2019, these chapters served over 1.5 million people, returned over $43.7 million to local communities nationwide, and invested 3.34 million service hours.

As an all-volunteer nonprofit serving the needs of women, children, and families in Wake, Durham, and Orange counties through our community programs, Assistance League Thrift Shop is our program's most significant funding source.

Every time you donate an item for resale in this shop, make a purchase, or make a monetary donation, you help those at risk in our community. We appreciate donations of any size. Please bring your gently used items to the donation door at the shop.

We rely on involvement by our volunteers. Working with other community agencies, our members share a wealth of talents and backgrounds that help meet the needs of our citizens, from economically disadvantaged children to often-forgotten families.

Our vision is to meet the essential needs in our community so families flourish. To do so, we look deeply at today's community requirements as well as emerging needs for our philanthropic programs to be responsive for long-term success. Building awareness and partnering with our community are critical.

JOIN US IN TAKING ACTION

Assistance League Triangle Area can accomplish our goals by growing a diverse and committed membership, as well as seeking input from donors, members, community members, and community partners. We invite you to join us as members and community volunteers, – to support our quest to raise funds for philanthropic programs designed to improve the lives of children and adults in our community.

We encourage you to learn more about our chapter (**www.altriangle.org**) as well as how you can become involved and make a difference.

Thank you for your support.

Nona Wright, President

What We Did:

As of fiscal year-end 5/31/23

$174,000 awarded in the Scholarships program to 34 students

2141 students clothed by Operation School Bell at 123 schools

12 pediatric emergency departments serving patients at UNC, WakeMed and Duke

37,000+ items (stickers, bears and toys) provided to comfort young patients

$2,195 donated funds and in-kind food & new clothing during **AL Action Week**

1,347 women supported; meals & necessities

Who We Are:

100% volunteers with no paid staff members

95 active members in 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

$298,217 annual gross sales (excludes sales tax) from the A-Z Thrift Shop

22,067 volunteer hours contributed to the community

Volunteers of the Year Awards

(L-R) Andi Seger and Lupe Boyle receive awards

As voted by our membership, Andi Seger and Lupe Boyle were recognized for their contributions this year.

The Leadership Award, presented to Andi, recognizes a volunteer at the leadership level in the organization who has provided the most outstanding service during the year. Andi has been a member since 2017 and has dedicated her philanthropic work to the Kid's Place program where she has led its expansion to serve 12 facilities throughout the Triangle area.

The Founder's Award, presented to Lupe, 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. Since joining in 2019, she has diligently improved the workflow of the Operation School Bell program and now serves as our 1st Vice President on the Board of Directors.

AL Action Week Food Drive

To battle weekend food insecurity for elementary school children, **AL Action Week** raised funds and collected snacks for Power Pack Program in August 2023.

Donations totaling $2,195 included 1,189 snack items and $750 in cash/gift cards. Additionally, new t-shirts, long-sleeve shirts, and deodorant sticks were received for our Operation School Bell program.

Special thanks to our donors and chapter members for their support in this effort, which is part of the national effort called Childhood Hunger Initiative Power Pack (C.H.I.P.P.) project.

We presented the food to the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® – Psi Gamma Omega Chapter, our partners who operate the Power Pack Program at Central Elementary School in Orange County.

A-Z Thrift Shop: Funding Our Philanthropic Programs

By Joyce Poole

YMCA teen volunteers enjoying a day of service

A-Z Thrift Shop, the primary fundraiser for our organization, is made possible by the generous donations from the community, dedicated volunteers and loyal customers. Our annual event, Baubles & Bags, returned for another successful Saturday, along with great sales during the following week. Additionally, we celebrate each holiday in our seasonal section and restock our sales floor with unique finds including furniture, home decor, household items, and women's accessories every Monday and Tuesday. Our business hours are Wednesday-Saturday 11am-4pm. You will find one-of-a-kind items every time you visit!

Want to get involved?

Use this QR code to become a volunteer!

Check out our Facebook page, Instagram, and weekly customer email where we highlight the most recent additions to our sales floor, special events, and upcoming philanthropic activities. Follow us on social media and visit www.altriangle.org to sign up for customer emails.

Funds & Grants Highlights

By Shelley Stirling

A heartfelt thank you to all of our generous donors who supported Assistance League of the Triangle Area from June 1, 2022 through May 31, 2023. The following list recognizes both financial and in-kind donations and may include designated and/or matching funds. We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this list, so please accept our sincere apologies if your name is not included or it is misspelled. If you would like your name removed from our recognition list or have any other corrections, please email President@altriangle.org.

Thank You to the Following for Their Generous Support!

Grantors

Access Family Dental (Dr. Robert A Bailey)
Bull City Street Rodders
Carol & Ken Horn
Carolina Arbors
Carolina Hurricanes Foundation
Clingman Family
Connie & Phil Church
Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation
Duke Energy Foundation
Duke (Health-Education) Doing Good Community Grants
Gipson Family Foundation
Guirlinger Family Fund
IBM
Joan Edwards Charitable Fund
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LUX Salon
North Raleigh United Methodist Women
Nvidia Corporation & Employees
Pinnacle Financial Partners
PNC
St. Francis of Assisi
Scheick-Verrochi Family Foundation, Inc.
SkinWellness Dermatology (Dr. Brooke Jackson)
Stangler Family Foundation
Susan & Larry Yarger
Target
Triangle CompuDocs
Wake Electric Care, Inc.
Wegmans

Individuals Donors

Becky & Jim Aldrich
Tracy Alston
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Arnold
Pam & Lyn Aubrecht
Dr. Kevin Bailey
Molly & Tom Bailey
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Lupe Boyle
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Margaret & Robert Cohen
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Carrie Cronin
Wendy & Ken Crosson
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Ellen & John Czinege
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Johann & Bill Hoke
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Kathy & Gary Jackson
Tara & Frederick Kay
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Marva Lucas
Peggy Lyle
Molly & Scott Mahoney
Maria & Rafael Mantilla
Mary & Jim Markov
Cindy McCarty
Linda McSwiney
Julie & Larry Meese
Anna & Tim Merrett
Helen Moe
Pat & Jim Morrison
Joyce & Bob Moser
Nancy & John Moses
Janet & Jack Moyer
Karen & Barry O'Neill
Gail Park
Margaret Pasquale
Bonnie Pearson
Karen & Mike Perry
Joyce & Buck Poole
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Dr. Jean Steelman
Shelley & David Stirling
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Judy & Bill Thompson
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Barbara Tuson
Susie Unruh
Gail & Eric Vaughn
Carole Walker
Lisa Webster
Charlotte & Dennis Weldon
Julia & Charles Wells
Jayne Werner
Debra & Pitch Woolfolk
Nona & Jim Wright

Q: How can I donate to support philanthropic efforts and help make a difference or impact in our community?

A: We have an **Open Your Heart** campaign each year and online donations are always appreciated using the QR code to the right, or:

- Visit: www.altriangle.org
- Select **Donate Now** to donate through PayPal or Cash App

Donations are tax deductible and benefit **all** philanthropic programs.

Volunteer Spotlight

By Charlotte Weldon & Cora Shores

Our A-Z Thrift Shop is run through donations and furniture is a best seller. Special thanks to Realtor, Linda Craft for use of her truck for most of our Monday "pickup day" furniture donations. While there are many that help with pickups, the work wouldn't go as smoothly without the help of these volunteers: (L to R:) Bryan Coffey, Henry Kidd, Pitch Woolfolk and Billy Mabe.

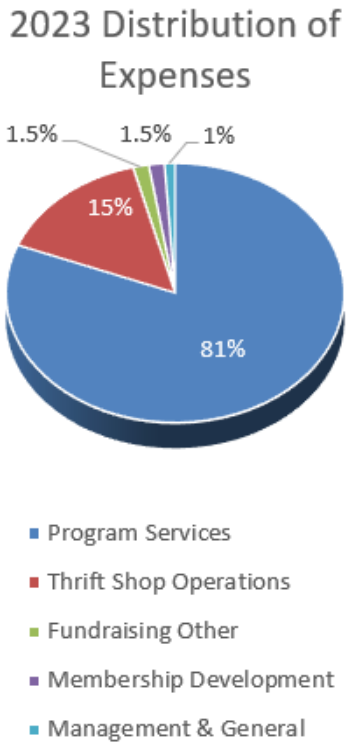
Financial Statement for Fiscal Year Ending May 31, 2023

Statement of Financial Position

Assets	2023	2022
Cash & Cash Equivalents	$ 435,329	$ 425,920
Prepaid Expenses	$ 10,762	$ 10,607
Inventories	$ 98,167	$ 109,043
Property & Equipment	$ 6,534	$ 8,048
Operating Lease Right of Use	$ 137,919	$ 202,681
Total Assets	**$ 688,711**	**$ 756,299**
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities	$ 3,750	$ 3,656
Deferred Revenue & Lease Liability	$ 138,243	$ 202,681
Net Assets	$ 546,718	$ 549,962
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	**$ 688,711**	**$ 756,299**

Statement of Activities

Support and Revenues	2023	2022
Thrift Shop Revenue	$ 276,167	$ 286,999
Contributions & Grants	$ 213,114	$ 207,171
Membership	$ 4,530	$ 4,313
Interest Income	$ 6,222	$ 5,337
Noncash Contributions	$ 42,603	$ 26,881
Other	$ 3,723	$ 3,469
Total Support & Revenues	**$ 547,279**	**$ 544,671**
Expenses		
Program Services		
Operation School Bell	$ 194,739	$ 182,098
Kid's Place	$ 25,637	$ 22,273
Women In Need	$ 23,508	$ 22,385
Scholarships	$ 174,063	$ 174,977
Community Outreach	$ 108	$ 1,100
Community Sharing	$ 7,799	$ 12,579
Total Program Services & Expenses	**$ 445,854**	**$ 415,412**
Support Services		
Fundraising (Thrift Shop) Expense*	$ 84,790	$ 79,554
Other Fundraising Expenses	$ 7,913	$ 7,892
Management & General	$ 7,846	$ 6,319
Membership Development	$ 4,120	$ 4,312
Total Support Services Expenses	**$ 104,669**	**$ 98,077**
Total Expenses	**$ 550,523**	**$ 513,489**
Increase (Decrease) In Net Assets	**$ (3,244)**	**$ 31,182**
Net Assets – Beginning of Year	**$ 549,962**	**$ 518,780**
Net Assets – At End of Year	**$ 546,718**	**$ 549,962**



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

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 of operating expenses. Complete Financial Statements for the year ending May 31, 2023 are available upon request. EIN:56-2013094

Barbara Townson, Treasurer

Assistance League
P.O. Box 98477
Raleigh, NC 27624
(919) 875-8901

Visit the **A-Z Thrift Shop**
1621 North Market Dr. Raleigh, NC.
Hours of Operation: Wed. – Sat. 11 am – 4 pm

Visit **www.altriangle.org** for more information and to view a list of monthly events

To get involved email: **join@altriangle.org**

Questions or to schedule a pickup of donations?
Call: **919-875-8901**

Board of Directors

President – Anna Merrett
1st Vice President – Lupe Boyle
VP Membership – Jonetta Dorn
VP Philanthropic Programs – Judy Thompson
VP Resource Development – Gail Park
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Treasurer – Barbara Townson
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Marketing – Lauretta Holloway
Strategic Planning – Janet Moyer

Advisory Council

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Tracie Gant - CEO and Chief Strategist
Les Long - Entrepreneur
Michelle Mozingo – Wake County Public Schools
Jim Wright - Legal Counsel

Mission Statement
Volunteers transforming the lives of women, children and families through community programs.

Vision Statement
Essential needs are met in our community and families flourish.

Values
Transforming Lives • Strengthening Community.

How Can You Support Assistance League?

- **Join:** Become a Member
- **Shop:** A-Z Thrift Shop
- **Donate:** Funds or Household Goods
- **Match:** Contributions through Employer Programs
- **Watch:** eBay.com/str/shopaltriangle
- **Receive:** A-Z Thrift Shop weekly email
- **Follow Us:** On Instagram and Facebook

Writer/Editor: Lynn Lewis
Proofreaders: Martha Funsten, Lauretta Holloway, Anna Merrett, Barbara Townson & Nona Wright