We are truly grateful to Gunter Enterprises and McDonald’s for sponsoring our application for a generous grant from Ronald McDonald House Charities, along with a matching grant from their National organization designated for the Operation School Bell® program.

As a result, over 1,100 children were provided with items such as new clothes, new shoes and new backpacks with school supplies during the 2011-12 fiscal year. There were 158 children served through a new process, in-store shopping at Target Stores. The students attend year round schools and were able to shop with their families in the spring. The average amount spent per child was $74.52 for clothing and shoes suitable for school.

Overall, it was a wonderful opportunity to help more children! Chalk it up as another successful partnership between community leaders and Assistance League of the Triangle Area.

The Gunter family (right) presents the check to members Martha Funsten & Sharron Grant

The Wake County Board of Commissioners recognized outstanding volunteers with an award and recognition program during its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday October 15, 2012. The Board announced that Assistance League of the Triangle Area was named the Larry B. Zieverink Volunteer of the Year.

“Wake County is honored to recognize these community members for their volunteer and efforts,” said Commissioner Phil Matthews, chair of the Volunteer Award and Recognition Committee. “It is because of their passion involvement in the community that Wake
President’s Message

This past year was a banner year for Assistance League of the Triangle Area. We had a record year for both Funds and Grants and sales in our thrift shop, which in turn allowed us to clothe a record number of children through our Operation School Bell program, and also award our largest scholarship totals in our history to help area students pursue a college education.

We continue to try to build on our successes. This year, we have ten new members already and we were just awarded the Volunteer Service Award by the Wake County Commission. This recognition of our efforts means that we will move on as Wake County’s entry for the statewide Governor’s Service Award.

This fall our members are incredibly busy. In addition to working on our programs, we joined National Assistance League by participating in Make A Difference Day, a national day of community service, by holding a children’s book drive. We collected 1,168 books that we donated through our programs to the Wake, Durham and Orange Counties public schools, as well as Interact and Kid’s Place at the Pediatric Emergency Department at WakeMed.

We also worked with a local realtor and his sponsors on a Pig Pickin’ that was held at an area park for our benefit. Families donated gently used items for our shop in exchange for a bbq lunch. In addition to filling our thrift shop, this event also served to generate wonderful publicity for our group in the area.

Finally, we are excited to have found a wonderful location for our thrift shop that will serve as our new home when our lease expires in the spring. We are thrilled to stay on the same street while securing a larger space that will allow our sales and thus our philanthropic programs to grow.

With all volunteer members and no paid staff, we have an incredible group of women who are accomplishing incredible things in the Triangle area and who truly embody our vision: Caring and Commitment in Action.

Martha Funsten
Chapter President

ADVISORY COUNCIL

The purpose of the Advisory Council is to provide guidance and awareness of opportunities and resources in the community, advise Assistance League of the Triangle Area for future growth and service, broaden community relations, and unite with community leaders to jointly foster efforts to meet the needs that would enhance life in the Triangle Area.

Our Advisory Council members are:

- **Ralph Bartell** - Ralph is a member of Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) and a retired executive from the banking and computer software industries. Ralph donates his time as a volunteer business counselor to small businesses.

- **James Wright** - Jim is a retired attorney from Sprint and serves as our legal counselor. Jim also volunteers as one of our shop’s procurement committee members.

- **Dr. Debra Bynum** - Debra specializes in Geriatric Medicine at UNC School of Medicine in Chapel Hill. Debra is an Associate Professor of Medicine, Program Director of Acute Care of Elderly In-Patient Services. She is Course Director of AHEC Acting Internships.

- **Pam Weksler** - Pam has 30 years of banking experience in Florida, Texas, and NC with Southern Community Bank & Trust. Pam is very active in the community and walks in many Walk-a-thons for the Heart Association.

- **Susan Lilly** – Susan, our newest member is actually a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE.) She came to the triangle area in 2007 as the Executive Director of the NC State Veterinary Medical Foundation.

The Advisory Council meets with the Board at least twice a year in the spring and fall. The organization appreciates and values each member of the Council who volunteers his/her time and energy to support the organization, provide guidance and jointly strive to improve the lives of women, children and families in the Triangle Area.

Judy Thompson
Chapter President Elect
Assistance League of the Triangle Area has five philanthropic programs that focus on making a difference in the lives of children and women in need.

Operation School Bell® is our hallmark program. All chapters participate in this program in some fashion. Our goal is to help elementary children in need in Wake, Durham and Orange counties. We provide new clothing, shoes, school supplies and toiletries.

Women in Need (WIN) is our program to help and assist women in crisis. We work with The Women’s Center of Wake County to help women improve their lives by providing needed resources. We also provide Assault Survival Kits® for women who have been abused and/or sexually assaulted.

We provide teddy bears, books and toys for the children who come into Kid's Place at WakeMed Children's Emergency Department.

Our Scholarship program focuses on providing scholarships to college students in financial need throughout the Triangle Area.

Distribution of surplus thrift shop donations through Community Sharing is designed to distribute gently used items, that are not saleable or are in excess at the Thrift Shop, with other nonprofit organizations in the Triangle Area. This program increases exposure in the community, encourages collaboration with other nonprofits and helps to meet some of the unmet needs in our community.

Karen Schindler  
VP Philanthropic Programs

OPERATION SCHOOL BELL

In 1998, Assistance League of the Triangle Area introduced its first Operation School Bell Program with two schools reaching 137 children.

This year our goal was fifteen schools including clothes closets and assistance for emergency and homeless students for a total of 945 children.

Our fall schedule was our traditional format of clothes buying, packaging and delivery, accompanied by measuring feet and delivery of new shoes. Backpacks with school supplies and hygiene items were delivered to eleven schools and a clothes closet delivery for thirty children was made to one other school. Also, we presented 65 books from the Children’s Book Drive to each of the fifteen schools that we plan to serve. The schools are located throughout the Triangle in Wake, Durham and Orange counties.

Additionally, we received a request for assistance from a newer Raleigh school for help with hygiene issues. We delivered thirty hygiene kits along with extra toothbrushes and toothpaste to the school counselor who was very appreciative.

Last spring, Operation School Bell was able to run a trial program of in-store shopping at Target Stores due to a generous grant from Ronald McDonald House Charities. This year we have been able to incorporate the in-store shopping as part of the Operation School Bell program. We served 45 students from one Triangle Area school in November and three more schools are scheduled for early in 2013.

Assistance League of the Triangle Area is privileged to partner with several corporate sponsors. Employees of NVIDIA Corporation donated backpacks with school supplies, several dentists supplied toothbrushes and toothpaste, Shoe Carnival employees measured children’s feet and Eric Vaughn, DNA Group provided wonderful office space for the packaging of clothes. Community volunteer support was great. Remax loaned their truck to us and four realtors volunteered to help with the move from storage. We had additional volunteers for each shift who were realtors or who worked in the building. In total, we had 30 shifts filled by community volunteers to sort and package clothes for children in need.

Penne Sheppard and Barbara Townson  
Co-Chairs, Operation School Bell

WOMEN IN NEED
Exciting things are happening with our Women In Need (WIN) program. Last year, our chapter provided support for 1,067 women. We anticipate the number of women receiving assistance to increase with the addition of a new WINning partnership.

This year marks a new collaborative effort with Interact, which is a private, nonprofit agency that provides safety, support and awareness to victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Our chapter will purchase, assemble and deliver Assault Survivor Kits® to the Solace Center at Interact. The Solace Center was created to improve overall services for sexual assault survivors in evidence collection, crisis intervention and collaboration and serves as a resource to hospitals throughout Wake County. The kits include sweat suits, underwear, socks and flip-flops along with bags of toiletries.

The WIN program continues to provide emergency overnight housing, laundry vouchers, gas cards and bus tickets, as well as special need items for the clients at The Women’s Center of Wake County. Additionally, we are assisting women in transition at two housing sites by providing a variety of items including toiletries, paper products, clothing, birthday gifts and cakes. A gardening project which will create both a flower and a vegetable garden for the housing sites is planned for the spring season.

Working in partnership with Interact and The Women’s Center of Wake County allows for our mission and vision to be realized. The WIN program allows opportunities for members to support and engage directly with community organizations supporting women in transition.

Gail Park
Chair, Women In Need

SCHOLARSHIPS

In May 2012, our scholarship committee proudly presented $17,000 in scholarship funds to our winners. We are delighted to be able to support these deserving scholars in achieving their dreams.

We are eager to help a new group of scholars from Wake, Durham and Orange counties. Our 2013 applications and guidelines are available for download at www.altriangle.org. Just select scholarship under the philanthropic programs tab and download the appropriate application and guidelines. We offer scholarships to single working mothers, women entering health care fields and high school seniors. Anyone who has been awarded an AL scholarship in the past can reapply as a returning scholar. The scholarships are needs based. Applicants should read the guidelines carefully to make sure they qualify for the scholarships.

Grace Fox
Chair, Scholarships

2012 Recipients

HIGH SCHOOL CATEGORY (6)
Hannah Celemen         Panther Creek HS
Alexandria Higgins     Knightdale HS
Alayna Hill            Garner Magnet HS
Joel D. Nguyen         Millbrook HS
Colin Johnson          Wake Forest-Rolesville HS
Jessie Puffer          Wake Forest-Rolesville HS

RETURNING SCHOLARS CATEGORY (2)
Kathleen Boodee        University of North Carolina
Erin LePage            University of North Carolina

HEALTH CARE CATEGORY (2)
Angela Curry           Shaw University
Palestine Small        University of North Carolina

KID’S PLACE AT W

In 1997 Kid’s Place at the Pediatric Emergency Department at WakeMed was created by chapter members as a true oasis for children being treated in
the Children’s E.R. An integral part of this program was to provide a reading and educational center for the small patients’ families.

In April 2012, Assistance League presented Erin Stanley, Child Life Specialist at WakeMed with 1,000 teddy bears. Ms. Stanley explained that the teddy bears play an important role in comforting her patients. The bears undergo treatments before the child to ensure that the patient understands what’s about to happen. “Bears have been given IVs, breathing treatments, needles and blood pressure cuffs. Sometimes a bear goes to the OR with the child when a parent can’t go.” Both parents and staff love the bears and kids love to take the bears home.

Maintenance of Kid’s Place also requires purchasing and stocking of toys and educational games, renewal of subscriptions to children’s magazines and furnishing a supply of small toys for the treasure chest.

Margaret Pasquale
Chair, Kid’s Place

OPEN YOUR HEART

Open Your Heart, our annual direct mail campaign, commences on December 1 and runs through February 2013.

This campaign is one of our larger fund raisers and money received goes directly to our philanthropic programs: Operation School Bell, Women in Need, Kid’s Place at WakeMed and our Scholarship Program.

We mail out 400 “invitations” to members, members’ families and friends, and other community supporters who have donated to our organization in the past or who have expressed interest in us during the year. The invitations briefly outline each of our programs and offer the donor an opportunity to direct their donation to a specific program and/or make a donation in honor or memory of someone. We have updated our web page to allow for direct donations via credit card thru PayPal.

Through the 2011-2012 campaign we had a 32% return rate and we hope to increase that number this year. While 98% of our members participated by donating, 24% of the total monies collected came from non-member donations.

If you are interested in contributing, please visit our web site at www.altriangle.org or send a check payable to Assistance League of the Triangle Area, noting that it is for the Open Your Heart campaign. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 98477, Raleigh, NC 27634.

Kathy Faust & Callie Underwood
Co-Chairs, Open Your Heart

Established in Los Angeles in the 1890s, Assistance League was the first nonprofit, nonpolitical, nonsectarian organization in the West to recognize the potential of volunteers in helping those less fortunate to a better, more meaningful life. In 1935, the national organization of Assistance League was organized with the vision of a nation-wide effort to carry the principles of Assistance League to other cities. Assistance League of the Triangle Area was founded in 1997 and chartered in 1999. Annually, Assistance League returns over $37.7 million to local communities, assisting 1.4 million people. This is made possible by 26,000 member volunteers in 120 chapters who contribute 2.86 million service hours. Operation School Bell, our signature national program, served 337,000 children last year. Since 1958, more than 3 million children have been assisted.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT - FUNDS & GRANTS
assistance League of the Triangle Area is extremely appreciative of the community support received to assist in furthering our Philanthropic Programs: Operation School Bell, Women in Need, Kid’s Place at WakeMed, Scholarships and Community Sharing. Because of the generosity and assistance from the following businesses, foundations and individual donors in 2012, we have continued to make an even greater difference in our community.

Grants and Donors:
Bank of NC
BB&T
Board of Realtors, Community Service
Daughters of the British Empire, Raleigh House
Enloe High School Key Club
NC Ronald McDonald House Charities
Global Ronald McDonald House Charities (matching grant to the NC Ronald McDonald House Charities)
Pest Pro
Southern Community Bank & Trust
United Technologies
Wake County Community Foundation
Wake Electric Care Foundation

In-Kind Contributors:
NVIDIA Corporation & Employees
Dr. Robert A. Bailey
Drs. Julia Zervos & Amy Earwood
Drs. Dustin Durden & Katina Pittman
RE/MAX Preferred Associates
RE/MAX ONE Linda Craft and Team
United Parcel Service
Susan M. Myers

Phyllis Sullivan
VP Resource Development

CHAPTER STRATEGIC PLANNING

In an effort to keep our chapter focused on our Strategic Plan, a new streamlined one page strategic plan has been developed. This document identifies strategies that the chapter will undertake to support our Mission Statement, Vision, Values, and Goals. The status of our strategies will be reviewed with the Board and membership periodically throughout the year. The Strategic Plan document can be found at www.altriangle.org.

Janice Carlton
Chair, Strategic Planning

Mission Statement:
“Assistance League of the Triangle Area is a volunteer organization dedicated to improving the lives of women, children and families in our community.”

FINANCIAL SUMMARY
### Statement of Financial Position

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>$ 144,368</td>
<td>$ 109,529</td>
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<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
<td>$ 12,519</td>
<td>$ 11,797</td>
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<td>Inventories</td>
<td>$ 20,861</td>
<td>$ 25,169</td>
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<td>Property &amp; Equipment</td>
<td>$ 2,380</td>
<td>$ 793</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>$ 180,128</td>
<td>$ 147,288</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
<td>$ 4,015</td>
<td>$ 3,407</td>
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<tr>
<td>NET Assets</td>
<td>$ 176,113</td>
<td>$ 143,881</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>$ 180,128</td>
<td>$ 147,288</td>
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### Statement of Activities

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUPPORT &amp; REVENUES</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>NET Thrift Shop Revenue</td>
<td>$ 70,453</td>
<td>$ 52,572</td>
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<td>Special Events Revenue</td>
<td>$ 14,228</td>
<td>$ 14,740</td>
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<td>Contributions &amp; Grants</td>
<td>$ 50,360</td>
<td>$ 19,799</td>
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<td>Membership</td>
<td>$ 3,730</td>
<td>$ 3,735</td>
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<td>Interest Income</td>
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<td>$ 843</td>
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<td>Noncash Contributions</td>
<td>$ 9,418</td>
<td>$ 42,105</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$ 258</td>
<td>$ 724</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL SUPPORT &amp; REVENUES</strong></td>
<td>$ 158,797</td>
<td>$ 134,518</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPERATION SCHOOL BELL</td>
<td>$ 73,787</td>
<td>$ 69,426</td>
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<td>Kid’s Place</td>
<td>$ 5,791</td>
<td>$ 4,803</td>
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<td>Women in Need</td>
<td>$ 7,634</td>
<td>$ 10,017</td>
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<td>Scholarships</td>
<td>$ 17,475</td>
<td>$ 10,851</td>
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<td>Community Sharing</td>
<td>$ 12,283</td>
<td>$ 21,461</td>
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<td><strong>Total Program Service Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$ 116,970</td>
<td>$ 116,558</td>
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<td>Support Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Events/Fundraising Costs</td>
<td>$ 2,910</td>
<td>$ 3,324</td>
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<td>Management &amp; General</td>
<td>$ 3,044</td>
<td>$ 3,315</td>
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<td>Membership Development</td>
<td>$ 3,641</td>
<td>$ 4,205</td>
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<td><strong>Total Support Service Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$ 9,595</td>
<td>$ 10,844</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>$ 126,565</td>
<td>$ 127,402</td>
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<td><strong>INCREASE IN NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>$ 32,232</td>
<td>$ 7,116</td>
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<td><strong>NET ASSETS- BEGINNING OF YEAR</strong></td>
<td>$ 143,881</td>
<td>$ 136,765</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS-END OF YEAR</strong></td>
<td>$ 176,113</td>
<td>$ 143,881</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
- 92% expenses were for philanthropic programs.
- Thrift shop revenue is NET.
- There are no paid employees.
- It is our policy to retain a reserve equal to one year’s operating expense.

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**Barbara Townson**
Treasurer

Complete Financial Statements for year-ended May 31, 2012 available upon request.
The Antiques to Zippers Thrift Shop continues to be a growing and successful fundraiser for our organization. This is due to the many volunteer hours given by our Assistance League members and the generous donations from our community.

Our annual Baubles and Bags sale was held on October 3, 2012. Our customers enjoyed shopping among tables and displays loaded with purses and lovely jewelry. This event was a success by bringing in $2,850 for one day.

Our thrift shop is an unparalleled shopping experience with beautifully arranged departments, friendly staff and plenty of treasures. Stop by to do some shopping and please consider donating your gently used furniture, household items, accessories, toys and books by calling 919-875-8901 for directions or to schedule pick-up service. All donations are tax deductible. The hours of operation are Wednesdays-Saturdays 10am-4pm and Thursdays 10am-6pm.

As the end of this year approaches, we are looking forward to the new challenges and adventures of 2013.

Joyce Poole
Shop Manager

Don Johnson’s Pig Pickin’ and Community Fundraiser was held on Saturday November 3, 2012 at Ritter Park in Cary. The event included BBQ lunch, DJ and activities. Assistance League was the recipient of his clients’ generosity. Don asked vendors to help cover the cost of the food and equipment and he requested that his clients bring items to donate to our thrift shop.

Assistance League members attended the event to distribute tax receipts, collect gently used household items and load/unload the items into a truck. Donna Moran of Gresham Lake Storage Unit generously donated the use of a truck as well as her time throughout the day.

The Keller Williams Don Johnson Realty Team promoted the event through his newsletter and website. Not only did we receive publicity, we expanded our public visibility into another geographical region of the Triangle and we acquired a truckload of saleable items for the shop as well as monetary donations. Another successful community partnership for our organization! Thank you Don!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY
NATIONAL EVENT WITH LOCAL IMPACT
As part of USA Today’s “Make a Difference Day”, National Assistance League encouraged each chapter to hold a Children’s Book Drive. Our event was scheduled for Saturday October 27, 2012 from 9:00-11:00 am at the A to Z Shop. During the month of October, we collected new and gently used books and A to Z cashiers sold $1 and $5 book decals at the shop. We secured a photographer, Tara Davis, face painters and many AL members to oversee activities. In continual partnership with McDonald’s and McKeeman Public Relations Firm, we worked together to plan a fun-filled kid-friendly event. The McDonald’s promotion was called Give Back, Get Lunch. Our volunteers received t-shirts, lunch totes and coupons for McDonald’s extra value meals. Additionally, five wonderful McDonald’s employees volunteered to work at our event.

When the big day arrived, so did the winds from Hurricane Sandy! Despite the undesirable conditions, we had a great day. Our members enjoyed a social event that promoted both Assistance League and The A-Z Thrift Shop. The five McDonald’s volunteers worked efficiently to add AL nameplate to the front of each book. The children had fun getting their faces painted, dressing up for our photo studio and creating bookmarks.

We collected 1,168 books which includes 208 books from the sale of book decals. We shattered our goal of 500 books! Four representatives from the recipient organizations attended the presentation. The recipients were Wake County Schools, Durham Public Schools, Interact, and Kid’s Place at WakeMed.

Overall, we had a very successful local event and witnessed lots of smiles. Initial results of our National Book Drive indicate that 103,829 books were collected by more than 17,000 volunteers.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Our goal is to increase membership by 5% per year. Our aim this year is to have 85 members by the end of May. We hope to have 100 active members in the future. We anticipate reaching and exceeding our goal.

It’s a rewarding and inspiring time for our chapter members. The rewards come from the reactions of the individuals that we assist. The inspirations come from our fellow members who give so much of their time to ensure our chapter is making a difference in improving the lives of women, children and families in our community.

Please join us in making a difference!

Sharron Grant
VP Membership
Mission Statement

Assistance League of the Triangle Area is a volunteer organization dedicated to improving the lives of women, children, and families in our community.

Vision
Caring and commitment in action in our community.

Values
Commitment with accountability.