

# District Service Bulletin

## Michigan & Ohio

### June 2021

## District Five Officers 2021-2023

Julie Stratos, Governor  
[GovernorDFive@gmail.com](mailto:GovernorDFive@gmail.com)  
Tammy Bader, Governor-Elect  
Shelley Kendrick, First Vice-Governor  
Linda Williams, Second Vice-Governor  
Sharmon Lesnak, Director  
Kathy Ballman-Parks, Director  
Nancy Kuenzig, Treasurer  
Carol Hodson, Secretary



### Governor's Message

My personal theme for this biennium is "Together we will grow." And we must grow to ensure the future of Altrusa as an international organization and the future of each of our clubs. If we don't move forward, we stagnate, decline, and eventually disappear.

I invite every Altrusan in District Five to join me this biennium in embracing the theme of growth – growth not only in membership, but in renewed club vitality, leadership, service, communications, and ASTRA. Now that many of you will be meeting in person, invite someone to a meeting. Talk about your community service projects to others.

Invite others to join in your service projects. Connect with other club members whether it's in person, via Zoom, telephone, or note. Think of ways to add to your service projects or plan a new one. Consider starting an ASTRA club. Think growth!

We have a great group of board members and committee chairs to assist your club in whatever way we can. Call on us. Tell us what you need or would like to see from us.

Now I ask a favor of you. Please make sure your Group Tally is up to date. Enter your new board members; make sure emails, phone numbers, and addresses are correct for each of your members. I will be updating the club presidents' roster soon and with your help, it won't take the many emails, phone calls, and hours it often takes to ensure it's accurate.

To a new biennium of growth!

~ Governor, *Julie*

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## GRANTS

The Altrusa International Foundation has awarded Cycle 2 Grants totaling \$142,348 in April 2021.

A total of \$12,000 went to District Five!

### Congratulations to the following Clubs:

DAYTON \$4,000 for their Altrusa Book Nook Project  
 YOUNGSTOWN - \$4,000 for their Read Across America Project  
 BRANCH COUNTY - \$4,000 for their "One Day at a Time" Literacy Calendar

Remember: Next Grant Applications are due September 15, 2021, with Grants awarded in November. Don't miss out on your chance to apply! Grant Applications and Guidelines can be found on the International website.

Tammy Bader, First Vice-Governor  
 International Foundation Liaison

Tammy Bader, First Vice-Governor  
 International Foundation Liaison



### SPRING BACK INTO THINGS!

Altrusa International Foundation has set up a website for Individuals and Clubs to make donations. You can renew your Club 21 membership, as well as make a gift to the Lamplighter Program, Grants Program, Disaster Relief Fund, Endowment Fund or Where Needed Most. The site also has a link to purchase Luci Lights.

**Service Grants** will be awarded to the top three Altrusa Clubs with the largest gifts and this is based on per capita of your Club. First place winners will be awarded a service grant of \$1,500, Second place \$750, and Third place \$500.

The Foundation will give an Altrusa face mask for contributions of \$50 and an Altrusa medallion for contributions of \$100.

If You or your Club purchased raffle tickets or made a donation during the District Five Conference, You and/or your Club will receive credit for the Spring Back Into Things Campaign.

This website will be available for contributions until June 30<sup>th</sup>. This link will take you directly to the website:

<https://app.mobilecause.com/vf/DISTRICT/team/District5>



TO THE WINNERS OF THE 2021 CONFERENCE GIFT CARD RAFFLE!!

- \$50 AMAZON to Gennie Hunter, Greater Birmingham
- \$50 KOHLS to Margaret Hoffner, Akron
- \$50 BATH & BODY to Karyn Evans, Highland County
- \$50 RESTAURANTS to Shelley Kendrick, Akron
- \$50 BARNES & NOBLE to Cynthia Keyes, Branch County
- \$50 VISA to Kathy Ballman-Parks, Dayton
- \$50 AMAZON to Paula Kiser, Highland County
- \$50 KOHLS to Kurt Kuenzig, Mr. Altrusa, Akron
- \$50 BATH & BODY to Connie Williams, Highland County
- \$50 RESTAURANTS to Tina Szarenski, Saginaw
- \$100 AMAZON to Sally Gesouras, Mansfield
- \$100 VISA to Cynthia Keyes, Branch County
- \$100 AMAZON to Sharmon Lesnak, Youngstown
- \$100 WALMART to Alice Luse, Akron
- \$100 WALMART to Courtney Kallegis, Columbus
- \$100 VISA to Barbara Webner, Akron
- \$100 AMAZON to Pat Myers, Branch County
- \$100 WALMART to Marilyn McFarland, Mansfield
- \$100 AMAZON to Tina Szarenski, Saginaw
- \$100 VISA to Mary Yee, Youngstown

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### CLUB 21 PROGRAMS ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR 2021

What does your Club 21 dollars support?? Altrusa International Foundation has allocated \$28,043.70 to Club 21 projects and has chosen the following camps to assist children and their families:

#### **Happy's Farm, Inc. \$2,500**

The "Buckaroos Reading in the Barnyard Quarters" project will be implemented in the farm's "THE NEW HOPES 2021 Project" and will help disadvantaged and special needs children with their literacy skills by reading to the animals. The objective is to provide a fun and safe place for volunteers and staff to work with children on their literacy skills by refurbishing the barnyard quarters into a reading oasis. With reading in this environment, the farm expects the children to become excited about their reading skills and see their school progress improve.

#### **Camp Dreamcatchers, Inc. \$3,000**

Camp Dreamcatcher will offer the Therapeutic and Educational Camp Session for 90-100 HIV/AIDS impacted youth August 22-28, 2021. We will provide a diverse variety of therapeutic, educational and recreational programming throughout the session. Over 200 counselors, medical personnel, professionals and community members will volunteer during the session. 98% of the youth served are from low-income households, and only 13% have access to free or affordable therapeutic programs in their communities. Campers come from PA, DE, MD, NJ, and NY.



#### **Wildlife Safari \$5,000**

Dreamnight serves chronically and terminally ill children and their families in/near Douglas County, Oregon. Dreamnight offers stress relief for chronically and terminally ill children and their families. The Altrusa grant will support medically-fragile children in/near Douglas County lacking opportunities for recreation as a family. Activities include driving through Wildlife Safari's 600-acre park, animal encounters, train rides, camel rides, food, games and arts and crafts. All activities adapted to current COVID-19 guidelines. 90% of participants surveyed will state that Dreamnight provided their family the opportunity to have fun, build a happy childhood memory, or relieve stress.

#### **Sherwood Forest Camp \$10,000**

Sherwood Forest's Quest Program offers low-income youth in the Greater St. Louis area the opportunity to learn and grow through a residential summer camp experience supported by year-round programs promoting ongoing engagement. The program focuses providing experiential adventures and evidence-based programs that focus on helping kids develop the social-emotional skills and academic attitudes necessary to succeed in school and later in life. A \$10,000 grant will be used to support a six-week in-person summer camp experience for an estimated 204 campers to participate in the Quest Program for 2021.

#### **Cavett Kids Foundation \$5,000**

Camp Cavett is the flagship camp program of Cavett Kids Foundation. It includes approximately 200 campers and 100 volunteers. This camp is offered at no cost to all of our campers. In order to qualify, campers must have a chronic or life-threatening illness. The mission of our organization is to develop character, coping, and connection for kids battling life-threatening illness. Our goal is to create an environment "where illness does not define the child," and at camp, we are able to do just that.

#### **Camp Sunshine \$2,543.70**

Camp Sunshine serves approximately 30 children who have a variety of physical, neurological, cognitive, and sensory disabilities, including, but not limited to: autism, down syndrome, apraxia, speech and language needs, traumatic brain injury, cerebral palsy, sensory processing disorder. The need for this type of camp in the Special Needs community is great. These children are not able to attend a traditional summer camp. Every year, our wait list grows. Our camp enables these children to attend a summer camp that allows them to play and learn with typical children and other children with disabilities in their age group. Each child has their own individual plan. Some children need help learning to socialize with peers and adults. Some need help learning to read and comprehend or help with math skills. Some children need help learning everyday living skills, such as toileting, dressing and eating. Camp Sunshine runs June 28, 2021 through July 22, 2021. Camp is Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am - 2:45 pm. All activities for our campers take place during these days.

### CLUB 21 PROGRAM MEMBERSHIP

Established in 1997, the Club 21 Program is committed to supporting programs for children affected by disabilities and disease.

For an annual contribution of \$21, you can be a Club 21 member and help these children and their families. Each Altrusa Club can be a club-level member by an annual donation of \$210.00.

Individuals will receive a Club 21 pin and Clubs receive a medallion on the initial contribution.

Already a member? Now is the time to RENEW!

A [link](#) to the application is included in this DSB for new memberships and renewal of existing members.

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*Many  
Thanks!*

The 2021 (First Ever) Virtual Conference was successful due to our very talented, very organized, very detailed Conference Program Coordinator: COURTNEY KALLEGIS.

**THANK YOU COURTNEY for all your time, hard work and dedication to Altrusa!**

**Shelley Kendrick, Second Vice-Governor**

The last year has certainly been challenging for all of us. Club visits became Zoom meetings and conference calls. The District Board embraced Zoom as well. Meetings via Zoom as well as hybrid meetings became our way of handling District business. Even though some have been reluctant to embrace the technologies, and these can be intimidating, technology has allowed us to continue to meet and serve. The 2021 Conference was certainly a first! After canceling in 2020, a way was found in 2021 to hold Conference as well as raise funds for the International Foundation. Although not in person, it was great to see the faces and hear the voices of our members! Who knows what the future holds for us as we find ways to continue to use these new technologies to our advantage?

As so many of us receive our vaccinations, hopefully we will return to some sort of normalcy. I personally look forward to in-person club visits, Club meetings in-person and a 2022 Conference in Youngtown!

**Peggy Collins, Treasurer  
Thank You Club Treasurers**

Kudos to all Club Treasurers who have performed their duties so well over the last two years. What a great group we have serving our Clubs in this important position. Everything has gone so smoothly from Clubs paying their International and District dues, along with the Convention and Conference fees, on time to completing the tax form by the filing deadline.

Treasurers have insured the Club's funds were kept safe with deposits made in a timely manner and checks for approved expenditures issued as vouchers were received. By providing reports at Club meetings, Treasurers have kept members apprised of the current budget status. Good recordkeeping has allowed the Treasurer, along with the Board, to track the current budget and develop new budgets.

Although challenging at times, Group Tally is an important tool in keeping membership records. Club Treasurers have learned to navigate group tally for paying dues, keeping Club officers information current and updating member information.

If your term as Treasurer is up, thank you for your hard work. If you are continuing as Treasurer or if you are new to the position, thank you for saying yes. Remember there is a lot of experience out there and many people ready to help.



*Closing Thoughts*

It is with bittersweet emotions that I write my last note. I began my term as Governor in June, 2019 with BIG PLANS, hoping to make a mark on the District Five Governorship that has been handed down from so many capable leaders. As we all know, those BIG PLANS changed drastically with the pandemic that shut many Altrusa activities down, including the two in person Conferences that were to be held during my Biennium. However, as strong leaders and servers to our Communities, many of you continued to support and provide Altrusa activities with innovative and revised events. I am proud to have been the Governor for such a wonderful group of people and am passing the baton to the very capable and admirable, Julie Stratos. She will lead with vision and new ideas.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the support you provided during the last two years. I would also like to give a big shout out to Courtney Kallergis for the extreme work she did on our very successful, first time ever Virtual Conference. I was amazed at the nonstop dedication she put into the planning and follow up for everything that needed to be accomplished in order to pull off that event.

I look forward to serving all of you in my new roll as Immediate Past Governor.

Yours in Altrusa,

~ Suzanne

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**Kathy Schrein, Chair-Rep for Altrusa International to the UN's Dept of Global Communication's Civil Society Unit/NGO**

The United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945. It is currently made up of 193 Member States. The mission and work of the United Nations are guided by the purposes and principles contained in its founding Charter.



### Main Organs

The main organs of the UN are the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice, and the UN Secretariat. All were established in 1945. Altrusa International is a

NGO (non-governing/non-voting organization) listed since 1978 (although we have had observers since 1945 according to Altrusa archives at Ball State U.)

under Economic and Social Committee (ECOSOC)'s

Dept. of Global Communication, Civil Society Unit.

### Member States

Each of the 193 Member States of the United Nations is a member of the General Assembly. States are admitted to membership in the UN by a decision of the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council.



### **Courtney Kallergis, Program Coordinator**

I had the pleasure of working with the District Board in coordinating the program for District Five's first ever virtual Conference: it was great seeing so many of you, if even from afar! Despite how much things have changed in the past year, it was heartwarming to see your shining faces 'on screen' showing how much things have also stayed the same! Our collective resolve in 'Leading to a Better Community' still resonates, and I so enjoyed hearing how Altrusans across the District have grown and adapted to the changing world around them: finding new and creative ways to serve their communities, raise valuable funds to support that service, and stay in touch despite the 'difficulties' of virtual meetings!

To share just a few observations from our April Conference:

- Friday afternoon's training sessions brought together Altrusan leaders from many Clubs throughout the District, sharing knowledge and building on each other's experiences from the past year. Imagine the opportunities for other training sessions in the virtual space! Options abound, coupled with the ease of meeting from afar: Can we gather a council with service chairs from several clubs to pool ideas? Maybe membership chairs could organize a brainstorming session on how to recruit and retain members during this time?

- Several Altrusans organized socially distant groups to join the Virtual Conference together – another example of our flexibility!
- Breakout groups on Friday evening allowed for informal sharing and networking.
- The awards ceremony was a wonderful way to recognize Clubs and individual Altrusans continuing a ton of wonderful service throughout the pandemic. Congratulations to the award winners!
- Our keynote speaker, Kay Frances, engaged attendees with humor and motivated us in continuing our mission to serve our community.

The virtual Conference allowed us to meet despite ever changing pandemic recommendations. Our theme: Flexibility, Bending Not Breaking, weaved throughout the agenda, and we truly benefitted from everyone's openness to change. With an eye towards inclusion, and ensuring that technical issues or 'tech hesitancy' did not limit anyone from attending, we will be sharing video clips from Conference. The District also plans to host other webinars on varying subjects in the coming biennium: look forward to more communication and updates – and thank you for your input on the conference evaluations!

A new biennium brings new ideas, new members, new projects: we have so many opportunities for growing together to create a bright future for Altrusa! I look forward to seeing each other in person to share our successes in Youngstown next year!



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### Penny Hunt, Service/Awards Chair 2019-2021

Congratulations to District Five clubs (and individuals) who supported the recent request from Days for Girls to meet the demand to send 21,000 kits to the country of Chad!

They knew they could count on Altrusa to help out....and we did!!



I can't believe it has been two years since I accepted the position of District Five Service and Awards Chair. I am so honored that I was able to serve Governor Suzanne and the Board in this position. This past year, as we all know, has been a challenge to clubs to complete their service goals, but you did the best you could! I just hope I didn't "bug" the club presidents and service committee chairs too much for information. This will be my last article, and I thank the clubs who sent me information for the article. Here are some of the projects from the clubs who responded.

Days for Girls has a podcast available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Stitcher and RSS.

**Altrusa of Chillicothe:** The club provided over 900 newborn books to Adena Regional Medical Center along with our peek-a-boo booklets that provide creative ideas for playing and relating to young babies. We collaborate with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and Easter Seals. Even with a 50% cut in our budget, the newborn project met our goals of a book for every baby born at the hospital! We also donated to 2 local charities including a check to the local free Hope clinic because we were unable to help in person at their July meal for volunteer workers (which our Altrusa club normally provides) due to COVID restrictions. Several

members provided food for the blessing boxes in our community, ordered black underwear for Altrusa international's Days for Girls project, and provided used books for the local AAUW sale.

**Altrusa of Hamilton:** This club contacted school nurses at three elementary schools in Hamilton. They received lists of clothing items needed, members bought & delivered clothing to schools. For the Adopt a Teacher project, they provided funding for the second-grade teacher to purchase books for her students. They also provided snacks for her classroom. The club purchased \$200.00 worth of Girl Scout cookies from a local troop. Members then delivered the cookies to workers & volunteers at COVID-19 vaccinations sites. They delivered books collected and donated for the Butler County Veteran's Affairs office. The books were collected just prior to the COVID pandemic. We were finally able to deliver them when the Veteran's office re-opened in April. The club also donated \$100.00 sponsorship to Missions in Motion. They are planning \*A Day of H.O.P.E. Homeless and Low-Income Outreach\* in Hamilton in September.

**Altrusa of Battle Creek, MI:** The club is still doing "Little Free Libraries" in two places and making Blessing Bags (putting in things like toothbrushes/paste, mouth wash etc.) These will be given to veterans and others as needed. Members plan to make more in the future. They are also planning to resume doing some service hours at Charitable Union.

**Altrusa of Monroe, MI:** Monroe Altrusans, in January, supplied each resident at the Fairview Home Transitional Shelter for Disabled Men and Women with a warm fleece blanket. In the past, Altrusans had also shopped & assembled MOVING ON boxes for residents that were "moving on" into new housing. With the ongoing pandemic restrictions curtailing the MOVING ON boxes, it was voted that the

club instead would provide a new set of pots & pans for each resident that moved into their new homes, with the first set ordered & shipped in by Amazon! Altrusans always can find ways to overcome challenges and still help those in need.

In March, they held a ZOOM call with the founder of Paula's House to find out their needs. Paula's House provides housing for women coming out of prison for substance abuse who are rebuilding their lives and their bonds with their children. Dr. Paula Whitman, whose vision and determination had created Paula's House, reported that with the \$400 gift from Altrusa, they had purchased & installed 6 new cost-cutting shower heads, 8 new toilet seats, 6 new shower curtains, & a new microwave for the Family Dining Room!

During April, we improvised again during COVID and hosted a scheduled "DRIVE-UP" PJ PARTY that occurred during a freak spring snowstorm! This event was to benefit the Sunrise House for victims of abuse. We netted \$2,105 in monetary donations, 270 pairs of PJs, 519 pairs of underwear, 621 pairs of socks, & many other needed items for incoming women & children!

The month of May will find this club holding their first ever Altrusa Mother's Day On-Line Auction Fundraiser to benefit our local Altrusa Foundation!

**Altrusa of Mansfield:** Mansfield Altrusa has kept busy! Since February we have accomplished the following service to and within our community:

Provided a meal one time a month for residents of the local homeless shelter, Harmony House. Featured meals have included a taco bar, Italian fare, and ham! Simple craft packs were provided to the children. We plan to clean and organize storage areas at the shelter on May 15th.

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- Requests from 33 teachers were filled for school supplies needed for students in the classroom through our Tools for Schools program.
- A special request for the SAFE Homeless Program in Mansfield City Schools was filled for 500 packs of notebook paper, 106 pencil pouches, 106 rulers and 106 pencil sharpeners.
- Members volunteered to read and complete crafts with students at the Dewald Community Center at least 3 days/week with social distancing and mask-wearing in place. The students are part of learning pods that were established at sites around the community for remote learners needing extra support.
- Three (3) backpacks were filled with school supplies and donated as prizes for the winners of the Third Grade Spelling Bee in Richland County.
- Members volunteered to help the Madison Rams Boosters to staff one of their BINGO nights.
- The \$1000 Marilou Schwan Scholarship (named in honor of a charter member of the Mansfield Club) was awarded in May to a graduating senior at Mansfield City Schools who will be attending North Central State College.

**Altrusa of Highland County:** Altrusa of Highland County has kept busy despite the pandemic. Our 9 Little Free Libraries have been utilized by many citizens in the county. Members have kept them filled with books and non-perishable items. Community members continue to donate books for the Little Free Libraries. Several members participated in the Virtual Conference. We were honored and excited to receive the Leola M. Heiss award. We held our first face to face meeting in April (our last one was in October). It was a busy meeting as we worked on our budget,

made plans for our summer service projects of donating books to campers at Kamp Dovetail and preparing books for the summer food programs in the county. A highlight of the meeting was "showering" member, Ashley, with books for her new baby which is to arrive in May.

**Altrusa of Youngstown:** Because of Covid-19, the club once again couldn't do our "Plant the Seed to Read" Book Festival which is held in April. At present, our club's last service project for 2020/2021 year is Altrusa International of Youngstown, Kim Cunningham-Tiberio Memorial Scholarship for Respiratory Care Majors at Youngstown State University (YSU). There is normally an award ceremony the first week of May at YSU when the presentation takes place.

As you can see, a pandemic can't keep an Altrusan down! Congrats to **ALL** the clubs in District Five!

### Nancy Kuenzig Communications/Webmaster

Communication has taken new forms this past year. As Altrusans we have met the challenge and continued to connect. Last year 4 DSBs were printed.

### Communications News for the next Biennium:

It is my pleasure to introduce you to a new member of my team: Peggy Rowan of Columbus, OH. She will be the Co-Chair of Communications and gradually taking on this role. I would ask that going forward you send items to be placed on the District Website and DSB to use this email address: [Altrusad5@gmail.com](mailto:Altrusad5@gmail.com).

In the near future you will be receiving a request to update your Club page. I ask that you respond as quickly as possible so that we can bring the District Website up to date.

We will also be rolling out guidelines for posting items on the Website or in the DSB. Keep your eyes open for this important information.

### Carole McWilson & Chris Hanrahan Membership & Revitalization

As is probably the case with some other Committee Chairs, the pandemic we've all been battling has prevented making visits to Clubs in the District.

HOWEVER - we are very pleased to report that we were able to meet with the Akron Cub via Zoom in March! There was a good exchange of information - and we've also agreed to work together to discuss how social media can be better utilized to help Altrusa's name shine a little brighter, and to attract members. That particular activity will be underway in the next month or so.

Since this is our last DSB article, we want to share Youngstown's marketing plan to grow our organization, which doubled in size in two years. Our idea was really very simple: we all used the same mantra: "**EACH ONE REACH ONE**" - and this will continue to be our focus through May 2022. Below are steps to ensure Revitalization and Membership growth - which go hand-in-hand!

- Ensure Board members are in agreement on the need and/or wish to grow
- Present the idea/plan to membership - *with enthusiasm*
- Be clear that the idea is NOT to fill seats - but to add members who understand and support Altrusa's local, District and International goals
- At some point during each meeting, repeat "Each One Reach One"; keep the idea front and center

This simple approach was stress-free. There was no pressure to bring someone to a

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Membership event, or to focus on a particular month – both of which require both time and money. This was an ongoing “event”, which yielded great results!

As this article is being written, we have no idea how many members will renew/. Regardless—now that we are able to meet more freely in person, AltrusaYoungstown will re-invigorate our EACH ONE – REACH ONE concept!

We continue to send thoughts of healing, health & safety to all.

Yours in the spirit of service & connection!

Carole McWilson:

[carolemcwilson@aol.com](mailto:carolemcwilson@aol.com)

Chris Hanrahan:

[chanrun@zoominternet.net](mailto:chanrun@zoominternet.net)

### Club News

#### Columbus, OH

##### **Columbus, Ohio Club Fundraisers**

Spring ushered in three fundraisers to support the club foundation’s ability to serve those most in need in our community and multiply how much our club and our grantees can do in the future.

##### **Claudia’s Spring Fling:**

This 2-week online silent auction led up to a virtual event on May 22 and honored our friend and longtime Altrusan, Claudia Speakman. Thanks to the commitment of the Fundraising Committee led by Courtney Kallergis and the teamwork of all our members, Claudia's Spring Fling opened for bidding from May 8-22. As the largest fundraiser of the year for our club’s foundation, 100% of the proceeds went toward community service projects and educational grants for Columbus and beyond. The goal was to increase the number of bidders for this year’s virtual silent auction to 100 individuals.

Marketing and publicity efforts included a social media marketing plan, sharing event posts on personal Facebook pages, media releases to local newspapers and a community service announcement. With a nicely leveraged use of social media, Peggy Rowan posted exciting auction items and encouraged engagement through the club’s Facebook and Instagram pages. Her creativity led club members to wear spring clothing and accessories for the Zoom event (as if we were meeting in person), and to submit in advance a personal selfie of their attire for the program.

Among the silent auction items were the dazzling and the unusual: 14K White Gold Stud Earrings featuring round brilliant cut diamonds (0.37 carats) from Diamonds Direct; a getaway package to the Smoky Mountains; dinner and dancing; digitally guided scavenger hunt for four people through the app Let’s Roam; and vintage Persian lamb coat.

Our Zoom event, May 22, at 7:30 pm, capped the fundraiser with an entertaining hour program including trivia contests with prizes, Altrusa and grantee information, and a memorial to Claudia Speakman. All donors and bidders on the auction website through May 22 were automatically registered for the Zoom event. Each Zoom event invitation sent to donors and bidders included a recipe for the signature cocktail, Altrusamosa, that Pat Hadler designed to separate into layers of the Altrusa colors.

##### **‘Drive in to Donate’ at Swenson’s:**

The club hosted a 'Drive in to Donate' fundraiser at three Swenson's locations from 4-9 pm on May 24. This was one more way to raise funds for the foundation and enjoy a delicious burger in the process. When patrons mentioned “Altrusa,” fifteen percent of their purchase was donated. We announced this opportunity at the end of the Claudia’s Spring Fling Zoom event.

##### **Altrusans only Boozy Raffle!**

Because the liquor license would not work for our Spring Fling event on the Acelevents website, we removed all alcohol from the silent auction and we will hold an exclusive Altrusans only Boozy Raffle to benefit the foundation. The drawing will be at our June 3rd club meeting. Thank you to Wild Ohio Brewing and Peggy Rowan for the donations!

#### Branch County, MI

##### **23rd Annual Golf Scramble!!**

This is Altrusa’s biggest fund raiser of the year. All money raised goes right back into the community. Since its inception in 1999 this event has raised over \$200,000 All net proceeds go back to our community.



Tara of Studio 17 presents Altrusan, Carol Hodson, with a gift basket to be raffled off at next Friday’s golf outing at the Coldwater Golf Course.



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### Marion, OH



Norma Castanien loading blankets

In March the Marion Club donated bags of blankets to the Marion Police, Fire Department, State Highway Patrol and Sheriff's office.



Norma Castanien and Kathy Brinkman with three members of the Marion Highway Patrol.



### **Spring Flower Sale!**

The Spring Flower Sale. The Marion Altrusa Club also helps with the Marion RX Program. In cooperation with the Ohio Health Marion General Hospital Foundation, they help provide one-time prescription medications to those in need.

### Dayton, OH

~ Kathy Ballman-Parks  
(Author unknown)

Plant three rows of Peas

1. Peace of Mind
2. Peace of Heart
3. Peace of Soul

Plant four rows of Squash

1. Squash Gossip
2. Squash Indifference
3. Squash Grumbling
4. Squash Selfishness

Plant Four Rows of Lettuce

1. Lettuce Be Faithful
2. Lettuce Be Kind
3. Lettuce Be Patient
4. Lettuce Really Love One Another

No Garden is complete without Turnips

1. Turnip for Meetings
2. Turnip for Service
3. Turnip to Help One Another

To Conclude our Garden, We Must Have Thyme

1. Thyme for Each Other
2. Thyme for Family
3. Thyme for Friends

Water Freely with Patience and Cultivate with Love.

There is Much Fruit in your Garden because You Reap What You Sow



### **Altrusa of Dayton IS TURNING 104...Let's Party**

Altrusa of Dayton has had a long tradition of sharing the Altrusa's birthday with the Hamilton club. Each club has invited the other to attend their April meeting, alternating as host. Not allowing COVID to end that tradition, the 2 clubs will be having a combined Zoom Birthday Party on Tuesday, April 20 at 7 pm. Members of the former Xenia club will also be invited.

Birthday Party update:

On April 20, the Altrusa Clubs of Dayton & Hamilton, along with former members of the Xenia club, joined for a Zoom meeting, celebrating 104 years of Altrusa. There were 18 attendees (12 from Dayton, 5 Hamilton, 1 Xenia).



Kathy Brinkman and Norma Castanien with the fire chief.



Kathy Brinkman and Norma Castanien with two representatives of the police department.

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Each attendee had the opportunity to introduce themselves. Sue Ciarlariello shared some historical tidbits about the clubs, found in the archives. The Dayton club sponsored the Hamilton Club, along with Springfield. Kathy Carmack provided a brief history of the Hamilton Club, Joyce Kelley did likewise for Dayton, and Barbara Stafford for Xenia. All were thrilled that Linda Beaver, former Xenia charter member, joined in the celebration.

### Chillicothe, OH

Altrusa Club of Chillicothe, OH met almost every month (twice in April) either by Zoom or in person! We are pleased to have Cassie Gamble transfer back and also to have inducted a new member, Linda Collins, last October. Our membership now totals 16.

Even though our Chillicothe club was unable to have the annual Holiday Bazaar last November due to Covid, we were able to complete our normal number of service projects! Our club provided over 900 newborn books to Adena Regional Medical Center Hospital along with our "peek-a-boo booklets". These provide creative ideas for playing and relating to young babies. We collaborate with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and Easter Seals (whose sheltered workshop adults stuff the plastic bags). Even with a 50% cut in our budget the newborn project met our goals of a book and bag for every baby born at the hospital!

We applied for and received a grant of \$10,000 from the local Burton E. Stevenson Endowment Fund from Community Foundations, Inc. that provided books and supplies to disadvantaged K-4th graders in all the Ross County public schools.

We also donated to several local charities including a check to the local (free medical and dental) Hope Clinic. Because we were unable to help in person at their July meal for volunteer workers due to continued

covid restrictions, several members provided food for the Chillicothe blessing boxes, sewed masks, bought black underwear for Altrusa International's DFGs, and provided used books for the local AAUW sale. Our Chillicothe members also donated to District Five's (virtual) raffle again this year! And we are also awarding our largest scholarship this spring. We are so very proud to continue helping both locally and internationally!

### Hamilton, OH

Pictured Altrusa Hamilton members giving donations to the Lakota Schools Pantry to help students in need. They provided children's clothing, toiletries, supplies, and snacks. School Officials said our donations would be used right away! Glad to help our local school kids! (Photo from Leah Aguilar, Parent Engagement and Community Outreach Coordinator, Lakota Local Schools).



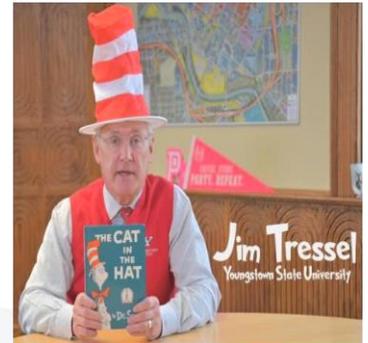
### Youngstown, OH

#### One Book, Two Book, Red Book, Blue Book

Altrusa Youngstown was a proud contributor to YSU's 2021 Read Across America celebration on March 2nd. The YSU Youngstown Student Education Association (YSEA) hosted the annual event held in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday and the promotion of literacy. Just up our alley!

Due to Covid restrictions the event was a little different this year with drive by bags for the children and virtual events online. President Jim Tressel read the *Cat in the Hat*, receiving accolades for his rendition of the childhood classic.

We are excited to be included in this literacy project and hope to continue our support in the future.



On another note:

Congrats Ro Parisi! Ro was the winner of the lottery tree at our Kiss 2020 Goodbye zoom celebration. While this little gathering didn't make up for missing our annual club Holiday Brunch, the members who participated had a great time "socializing" distantly. Thanks to Patty Zitello for creating and delivering the prize!!



# District Service Bulletin

## June 2021

Another successful delivery of pillowcase dresses happened in February 2021 and it looks like we had quite a few happy customers! See pictures below:



Sewing ladies continue to create these fashion masterpieces for the children in Liberia. If you are interested in helping, please contact Carole McWilson.



### Akron, OH

~Author~ Margaret Hoffner

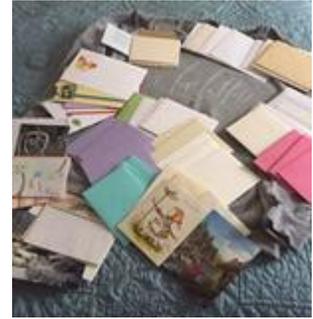
In November of last year, I started tutoring adults in reading and social studies via Zoom. The organization is a wonderful nonprofit called Seeds of Literacy, located in Cleveland with both an east side and west side location. They tutor anyone older than 18 who has not been able to receive their high school diploma or the equivalent. We have both tutors and students from out of state as well. The Zoom calls are going so well that that will remain an option permanently once the pandemic is over. They are always looking for math tutors and science tutors in particular.

So.... if you are interested, their website is [seedsofliteracy.org](http://seedsofliteracy.org).

Tutoring takes place Monday Through Thursday 9-11 a.m. 1-3 p.m. 6-8 p.m.

### **Love Letters to the Elderly**

Thank you to all our Altrusa members who contributed 70 cards to send to Love for our Elders. The attached photo provides a visual of your service contribution. The backdrop is a sweatshirt from Love for Our Elders website to support this organization.



### **Scholarship**

Altrusa of Akron awarded scholarships in the amount of \$1000 each to three women pursuing very different career paths: One a CNC Machining; Another in, Criminology and Criminal Justice; and finally, Sterile Processing Technician. Deborah and Ramona study at The University of Akron, and Pa Kou Amy recently completed her training at Akron CNC Training Center. All three women will benefit from our help with tuition and tuition debt as they pursue a more sustainable career path for themselves.

### **Princess Night Dresses on the Move!**



Our Beautiful Prom Dresses for Princess Night are on the move ! Special thanks to **TWO MEN AND A TRUCK** of Akron and Messiah Lutheran Church for all their support!

# District Service Bulletin

## June 2019

### Lima, OH

~ Author, Penny Hunt

Well...darn...the pandemic continues! Thought we would be done with it by now. But...things are looking up. Many of us have been vaccinated and starting in May, our club will be having meetings in person. Many of us have missed seeing each other and sharing ideas. We have been having telephone conference calls, which are not always conducive to sharing.

Fortunately, we have been able to keep up with some of our service projects. Usually, every February we participate with the Lima Literacy Council by helping supply appetizers and desserts for their Scrabble Fundraiser. This year, due to social distancing and crowd restrictions, they were not able to hold the event. Altrusa of Lima knows this is a major fundraiser for them. We made a monetary donation in the amount of \$500.00 to the Council to help with their expenses.

We have been doing some food drives throughout the year and decided to hold one at Easter time. We made this donation to the Veteran's Food Pantry as part of our SOS (Support Our Soldiers) International Project. They are always so grateful for the contributions. Also, in March, we donated pizza, drinks, and chips to the Allen County Health Department to feed the staff and volunteers during one of their mass vaccine clinics.

Our next service project is to deliver Mother's Day cards and carnations to the residents and staff at Liberty Community Retirement Center. We have "kind of" adopted this retirement center over the years - having meetings there and doing hand massages for the residents before COVID hit. We also are going to contribute underwear to Days for Girls to help them meet the request they recently put out to Altrusa.

As for fundraisers, we were pleased with the response we got from our "Stay-at-Home" Tea. Who knew how easy it could be to make a little money this way? We have also finished up the Nut Sales Fundraiser and even with the pandemic, we did almost as well as we have in previous years.

Our summer months are going to be used to concentrate on member retention and membership growth. We hope to hold a "Grow With Us" social event later in the summer and invite potential members to learn all about Altrusa. We also will be participating in the yearly "Back to School" event in August. This event is sponsored by the Lima City Schools and Altrusa, as well as other local organizations, contribute towards the purchase of school supplies to be handed out to the students.

Some of us will be attending the International Convention in Charlotte, NC July 28-31, 2021. We cannot wait to see our Altrusa sisters there! Safe travels to all and stay healthy!

### Grand Rapids, MI

We had a great day Saturday, May 22, 2021 getting together to sew, pin, cut, trace, iron, and gab all while getting so much accomplished for Days for Girls Rockford South MI Team! Thank you Christina Lynn for leading this great cause to help end period poverty around the world.



# District Service Bulletin

## June 2021



### Branch County, MI

#### Happy Feet Service Project

Thirteen years ago, our club took action to create our "HAPPY FEET PROGRAM". We provide shoes, boots, and socks to the needy children of Branch County. The program covers children ages 1-19 and families are not screened for financial need.

We promote health and wellness for those we serve by promoting healthy feet now and in the future, enhancing their learning when they are not experiencing painful or cold feet, and promoting their attendance because they have appropriate footwear during the winter months. Also, children can be healthier throughout the school year and the chances of being bullied in school are reduced.

This is an "all-volunteer" program carried out by an Altrusa Committee. A local businessman provides space for our inventory and his staff assists us with the distribution of orders. We provide close to 500 pairs of footwear each year. Through the years we have provided over 5000 pairs of footwear at a cost of just under \$80,000.

We have developed brochures for use by the public and by social workers or those placing orders. We carry out an annual evaluation of this program.

We have also partnered with many in our community to receive grants, private donations, and discounts. We utilize local television and newspapers as well as our club and district newsletters to promote our program. We have received local, district and International awards.

This is a rewarding program for our club. With this program children do not attend school in tattered and torn footwear. They wear shoes that fit. Because of our commitment, children have "Happy Feet."

Our club is making a difference!



#### Altrusa Park Beautification Project

The Altrusa Park Beautification Project began as a Mamie L. Bass project in 1984. Janice Koss, a member of the club at the time, initiated the project. The purpose of the project was to beautify the Four Corners Park and attract people into the downtown.

The Altrusa Park is located on the northwest corner and is maintained solely by Altrusa members. It contains several war memorials and monuments, and numerous community activities occur in the downtown park throughout the year. The monuments include the Veterans Memorial, Korean and Vietnam War Memorial, World War II Memorial, and a Flagpole Memorial. Besides attracting people to the park, it also pays tribute to those who served in the armed forces.

The park is planted every spring by the Altrusa members with beautiful annual flowers. Altrusa members also weed and deadhead the flowers throughout the growing season. It is fertilized every two weeks to keep the flowers in full bloom. An underground sprinkling system is utilized to water the flowers automatically. The flower beds are cleaned up at the end of the growing season by Altrusa members as well. A sign is proudly displayed to reflect the flowers are maintained by Altrusa.

Many events occur in the downtown Four Corners Park throughout spring and summer drawing people from all over the area. Some of the events include Strawberry Fest, Entertainment Under the Stars, Farmers Markets on Saturdays, sidewalk sale days, Apple Fest, as well as parades for holidays.

These events bring people to Coldwater which helps downtown businesses, provides fresh produce and fruits for county residents, provides vendors an opportunity to sell arts and crafts, and provides social activities for participants. Altrusa Park is a wonderful event venue for the community and for visitors as well.

# District Service Bulletin

## June 2021



### Mansfield, OH

**In 2021, the Mansfield Altrusa Club proudly celebrates 70 years of service!**

On April 6, 1951 an organizational dinner meeting was held in Mansfield with more than 100 in attendance. The new Mansfield Altrusa Club operated with 21 women executives for the first 6 months and officially chartered on October 12, 1951. The Altrusa Club started with \$19 in the treasury and ended the year with a balance of \$847.48! In the first year two service projects were launched: the First International Coffee Hour and the Public Speech contest for high school girls. Club membership was 27 at the end of the first year. Current members celebrated our birthday in April with games, prizes and birthday cake!

Mansfield Altrusa members sold 406 hanging baskets as part of our annual Spring Flower Sale. Of course the flowers were delivered, tagged and picked up on a breezy, cold day!

FORE!!! Mansfield Altrusa has a first ever Golf Outing planned for Saturday, June 5th. The event will have 2 flights of 18 teams each. A catered meal, 50/50 raffle, silent auction baskets, booze wagon raffle, prizes and lots of good fun are in the works.



### District Five Conferences

- 2022 Holiday Inn  
Youngstown  
Hosted by Youngstown  
April 8-10
- 2023 Hosted by a Mansfield, OH

### International Conventions

- 2021 Charlotte, NC - July 28-31, 2021

# District Service Bulletin

## June 2021



### President's Message

Welcome to our 2021 Call to Convention publication. We have included a preview of information you need to know for planning to come to Convention in beautiful Charlotte, NC, "The Queen City". Yes, previously our Convention was planned to take place in Quebec City, Canada. However, due to the global pandemic of COVID 19 that was not possible. I am convinced that our new location is as wonderful as the one in Canada and it will not disappoint!

I would feel remiss if I didn't address this past year and all the trials we have successfully navigated as an organization. The year 2020 was indeed a year that imposed many challenges on our individual members, clubs, districts and yes on the International level also. With so much pressure on our members, it can be hard to come up with just the right words to express new year wishes for friends, family, and my cherished Altrusa membership. This is especially true if this past year's challenges still linger for our organization. I'm so proud of all Altrusans accomplishments this past year in spite of all the restrictions we have been under.

The future is our story to write ... so let us make 2021 the best one yet. This year is a chance to welcome a fresh start to reinvigorate our enthusiasm and accomplish new goals for Altrusa Leading to a Better Community.

We can start with making new memories and accomplishing our goals by embracing our individual District Conferences this next Spring. As an organization we must make every effort to participate in our 2021 Convention in the last week of July. Altrusans we need this after all we have been through this past year! The COVID vaccine is out and everyone who chooses to take it will be covered by July. I feel very encouraged that this will help many, if not all, feel comfortable attending in person. The Convention will begin Wednesday July 28, and end on Saturday July 31st with the installation of our new International Board. The registration fee of \$350 will remain the same as in previous conventions.

You will see a lot more advanced promotion of the Convention as requested, starting with this call to Convention and then after the International Altrusan in May 2021 there will be special Pre-Convention Newsletters for registrants and First Timers information packs. We will have lots more information also readily available on the International website. Enjoy the following information about our upcoming Convention. Looking forward to seeing many of you there!

Yours in Altrusa service,

Beverly Hardy  
International President

- Find all information about the convention on the International Website