

# District Service Bulletin

MICHIGAN AND OHIO



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## Governor Shelley's Letter

### Celebrating Service Across District Five

Service is the action of helping or doing work for others-and we serve our communities by showing up, giving back and making a difference.

While attending the International Convention in July, I witnessed the incredible power of Altrusa and meaningful service being carried out on the International level. District Five was proudly recognized for its outstanding contributions.

- District Five received second place for the President's Literacy Award, with an astounding donation of 74,808 books!
- Congratulations to Mansfield, winner of first place in the Mamie L. Bass Service Award for their impactful project, "First Read to Succeed"
- Highland County earned the 2025 Wilma B. Hogan Enduring Community Project Award for "Books for All Kids". They also received third place in the Letha H. Brown Award for "Windows to the World".
- Tuscarawas County was recognized as a newly chartered club

Great job by all! Let's also take a moment to show appreciation for all the ongoing projects taking place in District Five. You are changing lives!

*Shelley*



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## **Upcoming Webinar – Mark Your Calendar!**

“How to Seek Potential Altrusans”



**September 6 | 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM**

Don't miss this engaging session designed to help you identify and connect with future Altrusans. Whether you're new or seasoned, this webinar will offer valuable insights for growing our community!

## **Check us out on:**

Facebook: Altrusa District Five

YouTube: @altrusadistrictfive (Subscribe)

District Website: <http://districtfive.altrusa.org>

## **Important Dates:**

September 5	International Day of Charity
September 8	International Literacy Day
October 5	World Teachers Day
November 20	World Children's Day

## Club News:

Findlay Club participated in a local stuff the bus program collecting school supplies for local Findlay schools.

Youngstown Club created new social committee which planned several local outings for its members to participate in.

Highland County Club partnered with a local Wendy's to raise funds to purchase books for children.

Tuscarawas County Club is gearing up for their upcoming Literacy Bash. They will be hosting kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> grade students that will have guest readers, a book giveaway, food and other local organizations with fun activities.

Columbus Club wrote cards to lonely, home-bound seniors delivered by their Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging. Altrusans also enjoyed a floral arranging class during their club meeting.

Dayton and Hamilton Clubs gathered to celebrate Altrusa's 108th birthday with a dinner at Olive Garden in Middletown, Ohio. This is an annual tradition both clubs hope to continue far into the future!



Altrusa International of Marion, Ohio was organized February 3, 1925 and chartered September 7, 1925, with the help of Altrusa International of Columbus Ohio.

We assisted in establishing two groups: Altrusa International of Findlay, Ohio in 1928 and Altrusa International of Sidney, Ohio in 1943.

Marion Altrusans helped the World War II effort by assisting the Red Cross with the sale of war bonds and sponsorship of Nurses' Aid classes.

The Service Projects have been varied over the years including serving pancakes at the annual Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast, planting flowers for downtown Marion, Purse Bingo open to the public, and Little Free Library through the Big Brothers and Big Sisters.

Our 100th anniversary will be celebrated on September 20 at 2:00 p.m. at the Marion's Women's Club and Home.

**Altrusa International of Branch County Dedicates Literacy Statue to the City of Coldwater**

**Coldwater, MI** – In a heartfelt celebration of community and education, Altrusa International of Branch County proudly dedicated a new statue to the City of Coldwater today, honoring the organization's long-standing commitment to literacy and lifelong learning.

The dedication ceremony, held at the Four Corners Park, brought together community members, city officials, local educators, and members of the Branch County Altrusa chapter to unveil the inspiring statue—a symbolic tribute to the power of reading and the transformative impact of literacy.

Crafted by Randolph Sculptures, the bronze statue features two children sitting on a bench with book legs while they enjoy reading. We are hopeful the design will inspire generations of readers and learners to come. This statute is a reminder of our shared responsibility to empower children and adults alike through literacy, and a small part of our ongoing mission to serve and uplift the community that we are part of.

This dedication is part of Altrusa's broader community initiatives, which include book drives, reading programs, community outreach programs such as Happy Feet, Teen Share and the newest story walk that was unveiled at Water Works Park. The statue is not only a gift to the city, but a public symbol of the organization's enduring belief that literacy is the foundation of opportunity and empowerment.



## Congratulations to our 2024-2025 Distinguished Clubs!

Branch County  
Chillicothe  
Columbus  
Dayton  
Hamilton  
Highland County  
Lima  
Mansfield  
Marion  
Troy



## Service Projects:

**Hamilton Club:** Hamilton Altrusans were pleased to support Hope's Closet as one of our newest service projects. Because childhood should be hopeful, Hope's Closet provides support to foster children. Forty-eight kits for children of all ages were put together by members who also generously donated their time. Kits consisted of full-size 3 in 1 shampoo/soap, bar soap, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, hair ties, comb, hairbrush and lip balm placed in two-gallon Ziploc bags. Since the children often leave their homes with only the clothes on their back, the kits are given to families as the children are placed with them.



**Battle Creek:** Altrusa International of Battle Creek made a commitment to "Pound the Pantry" for each of the new six homes being built across from LaMora Park School in Urbandale. Altrusa members helped organize the homes with the tools needed to cook meals, do laundry, wash dishes, and maintain the new well-built home. We provided dishes, pots and pans, cleaning supplies, and nonperishable food items. The Pound the Pantry project shows what can happen when a Service Organization, such as Altrusa International of Battle Creek, and a local nonprofit, such as Battle Creek Area Habitat for Humanity, work together to create positive changes in our community.



**Troy:** Altrusa Troy collected new and nearly new books that were distributed during Partners in Hope Christmas Shop in December. Every family who participated was encouraged to choose a book for each of their children, ages infants to 18 years. We collected kids' socks and Astra collected adult socks that were donated to schools and the homeless in Troy. We continue to stock five Little Lending Libraries every month. The 6th grade through THS Staff were given Appreciation treats in May.



**Highland County:** Altrusa International of Highland County proudly supports Kamp Dovetail, a volunteer-run summer camp for children with disabilities. Since 2019, our members have contributed by assisting with registration, serving meals, and passing out books to campers. In 2025 alone, we distributed 185 new books, helping to create lasting memories and promote literacy. Our time at Kamp Dovetail is a cherished tradition and one of the most meaningful service activities we look forward to each year.



**Dayton:** In partnership with Dayton Children's Hospital, Dayton Altrusa rescues undeliverable Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIL) books and redistributes them to community organizations that support children's literacy. Some of the books that are sent out to those registered in the DPIL program cannot be delivered for various reasons. These books are classified as third-class mail and cannot be returned to the sender. On a monthly basis, Club members pick-up the undeliverable books from local post offices. The plastic wrapping and mailing labels are removed. The books are then distributed to 25 local organizations whose emphasis is on children and literacy. In 2024, 8,379 books were saved and 8,204 books were distributed.



**Branch County:** The Community Changers Committee is thrilled to announce the launch of our newest service initiative—the Bright Futures Backpack Program. This project is designed to ensure that students in our community have the essential school supplies they need to succeed, no matter when the need arises. Working in collaboration with local schools, our committee will fill brand-new backpacks with grade-appropriate supplies and distribute them as requests are received throughout the school year. Beyond providing supplies, the Bright Futures Backpack Program aims to boost self-esteem, promote focus in the classroom, and help students feel confident and ready to learn. We look forward to sharing future updates and celebrating the positive impact this program will have on local students.





**Chillicothe:** Members of the Chillicothe Altrusa Club volunteer the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month to sort food donated by the Mid-Ohio Food Bank for the Hope Clinic's Mobile Market. This is a drive by market. In 2024, 10,080 individuals were served and 4,135 households. Through June 2025, 4,526 individuals (1,801 households) were served. This is our club's third year volunteering at the market. Our members really enjoy this hands-on project.



**Columbus:** Columbus Altrusans began implementing the grant from the Altrusa International Foundation for assisting homeless youth. The Columbus Altrusa Foundation provided \$3,500 and International awarded a \$2,500 grant. One of the service activities is providing laundry baskets filled with household supplies for young people who live in 62 transitional studio apartments operated by Star House. During the August Club meeting, members filled the baskets with dish soap, laundry detergent, sponges and other items. The following day, three Altrusans delivered half of the baskets to Star House. They were received by Naima Ilmi, Housing and Engagement Manager and Renea Williams, VP of Development. The remainder of the baskets will be filled and delivered in September. One of the young people said the supplies were truly appreciated.



## **Club Fundraisers: Show Your Support!**

### **Youngstown: Shoppopalooza 2025**

Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm  
Avion on the Water, 2177 W Western Reserve Rd #A, Canfield  
Tickets \$40

### **Springfield: 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Altrusa "Literacy Sting"**

Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 11:30 am  
Springfield Courtyard by Marriott, 100 South Fountain Ave, Springfield  
Tickets \$25; Bee Team of 3 - \$300

### **Findlay: Altrusa Purse Bingo**

Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2-6 pm  
Old Mill Stream Building/Hancock County Fairgrounds, 1017 E Sandusky St, Findlay  
Tickets: \$50

### **Bucyrus: Halloween Designer Purse Bingo**

Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 5 pm  
Crawford County Fairgrounds, 610 Whetstone St, Bucyrus  
Tickets \$40 or table of 8 for \$350

### **Dayton: Altrusa Fall Luncheon and Auction**

Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am  
Presidential Banquet Center, 4548 Presidential Way, Kettering  
Tickets \$35

### **Highland County: Quarter Raffle**

Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, door open 5:30 pm; raffle starts at 6:30 pm  
Hillsboro Orpheum, 135 North High Street, Hillsboro

### **Chillicothe: Altrusa Bazaar**

Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 9am – 2pm  
Unioto Elementary, 138 Sandusky Blvd, Chillicothe  
Admission \$1

### **Marion: Designer Purse Bingo**

Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm (doors open at 1 pm)  
Marion Country Club, 2415 Crissinger Rd, Marion  
Tickets \$40 (includes set of cards, dauber, snacks, water)

### **Mansfield: Poinsettia Sales in November.**

### **Branch County: Diamond Raffle**

Drawing Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at noon  
Tickets: 1 for \$5 or 5 for \$20

### **Grand Rapids: Various events**

Parade of Homes in October, Beer and Wine Festival in November, and Poinsettia sales in December

### **Tuscarawas County: Stay tuned for small fundraisers listed on FaceBook @ Altrusa International of**

Tuscarawas County

### **Lima: Stay tuned for a Double Good Popcorn fundraiser. Date TBD.**

## **2026 Save the Dates**

**Mansfield:** Spring Bash, Saturday,  
February 28, 2026

**Troy:** Spelling Bee, March, 2026

**Lima:** Kentucky Derby, Saturday,  
May 2, 2026

**Branch County:** Golf Outing, Friday,  
May 22, 2026



## **Long Range Strategic Plan:**

District Five's Road Map for This Biennium  
Kathy Ballman-Parks, Vice Governor

Whenever you start a journey or new adventure, it is wise to have a plan on where you are going, what you want to accomplish and how you plan to get there. That is what a long-range strategic plan (LRSP). It is a roadmap that outlines a club's goals and the strategies to achieve them. It provides a framework for aligning your club's activity with the overall mission and vision, guiding resources allocation and progress measurement.

Not only does Altrusa International ask that clubs do a long-range strategic plan (LRSP), but it also requires that the Districts do the same. District Five is in the progress of developing their plan for this biennium with the focus on 'Embrace Change'.

District Five LRSP will continue to be developed and fine-tuned. This will be shared with the Clubs in the District, to ensure that this biennium will meet its goals to continue the success of Altrusa in our communities.

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Long Range Strategic Planning  
Joyce Kelley – District Five Chair (Club)

Hello everyone! In starting this new 2025-2027 biennium, as the new Chair of the Long Range Strategic Planning (LRSP), my first goal is to work with and make sure that all 19 clubs in our District have a good working LRSP. I do not pretend to be an expert on this, but together I hope we can accomplish this very important aspect of being organized and intentional about our club's goals.

I'm thinking that maybe in completing this task it may not be as difficult or daunting as it might seem to us. International has already provided us with a template, which is in Word format. The template can be found on the International website under Leadership; Leadership Toolkit; Strategic Plan Template. This template can be modified for each club. It gives us the five categories to cover in helping each club to set actionable goals, and what procedures are necessary to achieve them.

Once your club has completed the task of putting together your LRSP, I think you will be surprised at how much more aware and comfortable everyone is with knowing exactly what your club's purpose is, what you plan to accomplish, and a way to review/measure whether or not you are meeting those goals.

Club presidents, you will be receiving a letter from me in the near future with some instructions and also letting you know that you and your club members that are working together on your LRSP are welcome to contact me with any questions you may have. Like I said, I am not an expert, but by working together we should be able to accomplish this task. I am looking forward to getting to know many more of my fellow Altrusans by working together on our LRSP's.

## Financial Reports:

### Altrusa International, Inc. District Five Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Member's Equity As of May 31, 2025

#### Assets

##### Current Assets

##### Cash

Cash in Checking	\$ 8,814.53	
Certificate of Deposit, 6 Month	10,274.46	
Money Market Savings	10,632.58	
Total Cash		\$ 29,721.57

##### Prepaid Expenses

Conference Venue Deposits: 2026, 2027, 2028	1,500.00
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<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 31,221.57</b>
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#### Members' Equity

##### Restricted Funds

Six Month's Operating Reserves	**	\$ 9,568.00
Conference Reserves		3,000.00
Total Restricted Funds		12,568.00

Unrestricted Reserves	18,653.57
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<b>Total Members' Equity</b>	<b>\$ 31,221.57</b>
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**Altrusa International, Inc. - District Five**  
**Income Statement - Cash Basis**  
**For the Period Ended May 31, 2025**

**Income**

Dues	\$ 19,790.00	
Interest Income	1,439.11	
Conference Fees	380.00	
Conference Store Sales	1,109.18	
International Intentional Acts of Giving	5,724.00	
Club 21 Memberships	2,184.00	
International Foundation Raffle	8,770.00	
Fundraising Challenge	4,127.29	
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>\$ 43,523.58</u>	

**Expenses**

Bonding Insurance	202.00	
D & O insurance	971.00	
Copy Machine/Computer Maintenance	290.67	
Postage	912.60	
Supplies	526.06	
Norma Hiner International Foundation Memorial	1,000.00	
Conference Administration	773.01	
Conference Fees	400.00	
Conference Loss	654.65	
Conference Meals and Lodging	7,504.92	
Conference Travel	3,032.17	
International Intentional Acts of Giving	5,724.00	
Club 21 Memberships	2,184.00	
International Raffle/Silent Auction	8,770.00	
Conference Store Sales	1,054.85	
International Convention Travel/Lodging/Meals	2,671.96	
Registration for Gov/Gov Elect/First VG	1,350.00	
Club Visit/Lodging/Travel	3,323.62	
New Club Building	451.57	
Mid Year Conference Planning	7,201.12	
Governor Elect Training	850.00	
Governor's Award	100.00	
Governor's Pin	259.78	
Officer Workshop/Orientation	1,700.47	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>51,908.45</u>	

<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<u>(8,384.87)</u>
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Carry-Over Funds 2021 - 2023	<u>39,606.44</u>
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<b>Total Funds</b>	<u>\$ 31,221.57</u>
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**Altrusa International, Inc. District Five**  
**Budget for the Two Year Period Ended May 31, 2025**  
**For the Two Years Ended May 31, 2025**

	Budget for the Two Years Ended May 31, 2025	Actual	In Kind
<b>Receipts</b>			
<b>Operations</b>			
Dues (based on 580 members)	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 19,640.00	\$ 0.00
Partial Dues (based on 20 members)	200.00	150.00	0.00
Interest Income	20.00	1,439.11	0.00
Conference fees (21 clubs)	420.00	380.00	0.00
Carryover from 2019-2021	2,630.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Receipts from Income</b>	25,270.00	21,609.11	0.00
<b>Conference Income</b>			
Store	500.00	1,109.18	0.00
International Intentional Acts of Giving	0.00	5,724.00	0.00
Club 21 Memberships		2,184.00	
International Foundation Raffle	5,000.00	8,770.00	0.00
Conference Income	4,500.00	-	0.00
<b>Total Conference Income</b>	10,000.00	17,787.18	0.00
Fundraising Challenge	3,000.00	4,127.29	0.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	\$ 38,270.00	\$ 43,523.58	\$ 0.00

**Expenses****Administration**

Bonding Insurance	\$ 700.00	\$ 202.00	\$ 0.00
Director's and Officer's Insurance	950.00	971.00	0.00
Norma Hiner Int'l Foundation Memorial	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
Copy Machine/Computer Maintenance	200.00	290.67	0.00
Duplication	100.00	0.00	0.00
Postage	200.00	912.60	11.10
Supplies	600.00	526.06	618.08
<b>Total Administration Expense</b>	<b>2,750.00</b>	<b>3,902.33</b>	<b>629.18</b>

**Conference**

Administration	100.00	773.01	79.92
Conference Fees	420.00	400.00	0.00
Conference Loss	0.00	654.65	1,957.81
Meals/Lodging	5,000.00	7,504.92	100.62
Travel	4,000.00	3,032.17	4,148.89
<b>Total Conference Expense</b>	<b>9,520.00</b>	<b>12,364.75</b>	<b>6,287.24</b>

**International Convention**

Governor Per Diem & Travel	1,500.00	598.57	0.00
Lodging	2,250.00	1,609.43	0.00
Governor-Elect Per Diem	500.00	463.96	0.00
Registration for Gov/Gov Elect/First VG	1,350.00	1,350.00	0.00
<b>Total International Convention Expense</b>	<b>5,600.00</b>	<b>4,021.96</b>	<b>0.00</b>

**Membership Support****Committees**

Club Visit/Lodging/Travel	4,500.00	3,323.62	5,250.08
District Chair Expenses	200.00	0.00	0.00
New Club Building	500.00	451.57	820.51
<b>Total Membership Support</b>	<b>5,200.00</b>	<b>3,775.19</b>	<b>6,070.59</b>

**Mid-Year Conference Planning**

Food/Lodging	3,500.00	4,904.44	0.00
Travel	3,000.00	2,296.68	2,756.61
<b>Total Mid-Year Conference Planning</b>	<b>6,500.00</b>	<b>7,201.12</b>	<b>2,756.61</b>

**Miscellaneous**

Governor-Elect Training	850.00	850.00	0.00
Governor's Award	100.00	100.00	0.00
Governor's Pin	250.00	259.78	0.00
Officer Chair Workshop/Orientation	2,000.00	1,700.47	682.88
<b>Total Miscellaneous Expense</b>	<b>3,200.00</b>	<b>2,910.25</b>	<b>682.88</b>

**Conference**

Store	500.00	1,054.85	0.00
International Intentional Acts of Giving	0.00	5,724.00	0.00
Club 21 Memberships		2,184.00	
International Foundation Raffle	5,000.00	8,770.00	0.00
<b>Total Conference Expense</b>	<b>5,500.00</b>	<b>17,732.85</b>	<b>0.00</b>

<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 38,270.00</b>	<b>\$ 51,908.45</b>	<b>\$ 16,426.50</b>
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## DISTRICT FIVE “ROCKIN THE TARTAN” AT 2025 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION



What a wonderful time District Five members had at the 59th Altrusa International Convention. Quebec, the “Queen City”, welcomed Altrusans from around the world sharing it’s wonderful history and charm. District Five had seven Altrusa Clubs in attendance: Akron, Chillicothe, Dayton, Highland County, Lima, Mansfield, and Tuscarawas County and we definitely stood out with the many awards we received.

There were inspiring keynote speakers, informative workshops, and interaction between friends, old and new. Thursday’s business session displayed the “rainbow of colors” with every District sporting their various colors of district t-shirts during the Parade of Banners. Updates were made to our bylaws, and our new International Board was elected. International President, Chris DeVliieger was installed in a beautiful ceremony on Saturday night. Chris’s theme for the 2025-2027 biennium is “Love-Literacy-Legacy” and she shared her vision of membership and marketing for the next two years.

The 2027 Call to Convention featured District Five members and friends as we danced to “The Lion Sleeps Tonight” wearing animal headbands because the 2027 Convention will be held in Columbus, Ohio and we hope to have an event at the Columbus Zoo. This will be the first International Convention in District Five in 50 years. Mark your calendars and save the date - April 21-24, 2027 and let’s share the spirit of the Ohio/Michigan Altrusa hospitality!

