

ALTRUSA SERVICE

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2026

Committee Members

District Liaisons



Scott Tice, Chair
Districts One, Eleven,
and Fourteen



Lorraine Brewer,
Vice Chair
Districts Three, Twelve,
and Fifteen



Samantha Berven,
Member
Districts Two and Eight



Ann McDaniel,
Member
Districts Four and Seven
Five and Ten (Interim)



Vickie Kilgore,
DFG Liaison



Jody Walencewicz,
Member
Districts Six and Nine

Days for Girls

Thank you for your continued support of our international service project. In 2025, Altrusans donated a total of \$11,964.89 to Days for Girls. I know we can do even better in 2026! Go to daysforgirls.org to donate online or mail a check to Days for Girls International, P.O. 2622, Mount Vernon, Wa 98273. Remember to annotate "Altrusa International" in the comments or on the memo line of your check for tracking purposes. Let's shatter the stigma of menstruation!



DAYS FOR
GIRLS

At the International Convention last summer, members voted to transition from Club 21 to **Club 52**. Share the video below with your club to learn more about this program and become a charter member:
<https://foundation.altrusa.org/giving-programs-2/club-52/>



ALTRUSA SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Service Hours

Important information for all members regarding service hours:

All service hours will be counted in one combined category, including Club service projects and fundraisers; time given to Clubs, Districts, and International as an officer or chair; working on Altrusa projects; planning and implementing Conference or Convention; and volunteering in the community. Community hours will count only when wearing your Altrusa pin or official Altrusa apparel, which has been adopted by your Club, District, or International.

(Volunteering with your Altrusa Club banner clearly displayed is also acceptable)*

Why are service hours so important? Recording your service hours is one way of documenting Altrusa's impact in the community. Our collective service hours demonstrate the real-world difference we make to our members, supporters, and the world at large.

ASTRA

Our ASTRA liaison, Nancy Kilgore, recently shared with us the ASTRA team's goals for the year. They include working on a list of ASTRA advisors by district, developing a group project that all ASTRA clubs can participate in, improving communication through the website, newsletters, and presentations, and ensuring that all advisors know how valued they are.

All clubs are encouraged to identify a service project to complete with their sponsored ASTRA Club in reaching out to support others.



We're on Facebook!

Altrusa members around the world, we invite you to join our Facebook page and share the amazing acts of service you provide in your communities while seeing what other clubs are doing. Search for our page, **Altrusa Service**, and request to join by entering your local club name. We look forward to seeing you!

MORE WAYS TO SERVE

United Nations

Altrusa's partnership with the United Nations continues in this biennium! Here are a few key dates coming up as possibilities for club serve projects. If you organize an event around one of these dates, be sure to share with us so we can document our ongoing support of the UN!

- **February 11: International Day of Women and Girls in Science**
 - 2026 Theme: "From Vision to Impact: Redefining STEM by Closing the Gender Gap"
 - Ideas: donate books about women in science to your local schools or other student groups
- February 20: **World Day of Social Justice**
 - 2026 Theme: Empowering Inclusion: Bridging Gaps for Social Justice
 - Ideas: donate to a local food bank or homeless shelter
- March 7: **World Wildlife Day**
 - Ideas: Sponsor an endangered animal or organize a local clean up, plant native species, plant a tree in someone's honor
- March 30: **International Day of Zero Waste**
 - Ideas: sponsor a recycling project, organize a clean up of a local beach, park, or river, create recycling/composting posters with local student groups

Literacy Book Challenge

President Chris DeVlieger is continuing the One Book at a Time challenge, and we can all be a part of this worthy endeavor! Our goal is for Altrusans to distribute 1,000,001 books throughout the world and/or devote 500,000 literacy service hours to our communities during the 2025-2027 biennium.

How can your club participate?

1. Develop a literacy project (or expand one) in your community.
2. Assign a record keeper to keep track of the number of books distributed and/or the service hours dedicated to your literacy project.
3. Continue the project into next year.
4. Send your number to the International Service Committee before June 1, 2026. Use the entry form on the International website to record each time you donate books (have your record keeper log in and scroll down to the Book Challenge for the form).
5. Spread the love of reading throughout your community and around the world!

ALTRUSANS IN SERVICE



Altrusa of Roseburg continues to grow their Biblioteca Ruperto library, filled with children's books in Spanish.



Three times a year, Altrusa of Nanaimo provides their local hospital with 21 "Baby Bundles" for new mothers in need.



Altrusa of Ames awarded grants to programs in their community, including Cultivating Hope Farms, which will provide a therapeutic literacy program for youth with autism.

Altrusa of Martinsville-Henry County prepared and delivered 40 meals to their local MHC Warming Center, sharing warmth and care with the community.

Altrusans in Puerto Rico provided local children with food and a Three Kings Day gift donated by members of Altrusa de Cayey, Altrusa San Juan, Altrusa Humacao, Altrusa San Sebastian, Altrusa de Cabo Rojo, Altrusa de Moca, and Altrusa Caguas.



ALTRUSANS IN SERVICE



Altrusa of Yaquina Bay collaborates with Hearts with a Mission each month to celebrate the birthdays of those who may not have a family to lift them up and remind them that they are a valued part of the community.



Altrusa of Longview-Kelso members collect, clean, label and sort gently used donated books to deliver to local schools, child care centers, and organizations in need.



Altrusa of Golden Valley provided much needed library books to the students of the Cuyama Valley Unified School District..



Altrusa of Etowah County donated 100 new patient bags for the two cancer treatment centers in Gadsden.

Altrusa of San Diego is partnering with Days for Girls Spring Valley to sponsor outreach to the East Africa Seeds of Change Project in Southern Ethiopia.

