ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN

FALL 2026 NEWSLETTER
October, November, December

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Dear Altrusans,

As the colors of fall begin to surround us, it is a wonderful time to reflect on the friendships we share, the difference we make in our community, and the opportunities that lie ahead for our Altrusa Club.

One of the things I value most about Altrusa is that we are more than a group of people who meet together. We are a group of dedicated individuals who believe in giving back, lifting others up, and making our community a better place. Each hour volunteered, each project completed, and each life touched is a reminder that even the smallest acts of kindness can make a lasting difference.

As we move into this fall season, I encourage each of you to stay involved, share your ideas, welcome new faces, and continue bringing your talents and enthusiasm to our club. Our strength comes from each member and what we can accomplish together.

We also have exciting opportunities ahead as we look toward our upcoming activities, district conference, and international convention. These events remind us that we are part of something much larger than our individual club and give us opportunities to learn, grow, and strengthen our commitment to Altrusa's mission.

Thank you for your continued dedication, your willingness to serve, and most importantly, for the friendships that make our club special. I am grateful for each of you and look forward to all that we will accomplish together.

Wishing you a beautiful fall filled with friendship, gratitude, and opportunities to make a difference.

Our fundraisers (purse bingo and spaghetti dinner) are behind us, and it is time for some fun! November 11th will be a Trivia Night with great food and door prizes. Please join us with a potential new member or best buddy. Looking forward to some fun!!

In Altrusa Service,

Pat Slayton
Club President

"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower." -Albert Camus

Let's Welcome Our New Member!

We are excited to welcome Kal Bowman to Altrusa Battle Creek!

Kal grew up in the Battle Creek area and has worked in the healthcare field for 10 years. She recently started doing marketing and recruitment.

She and her boyfriend of 15 years, Evan, share two dogs. In her free time Kal enjoys all things healthy, such as cooking and exercising. She also really loves spending time with her friends and family.

Kal became connected with Altrusa through working with Pat Slayton. She commented that she hadn't served the community much previously so she sent up a prayer and God helped close some other doors in her life, yet opened this one! Kal is really looking forward to getting involved and being an integral member of the club.

Let's all help Kal feel welcome, we're so happy she joined!



(from left to right) Pat Slayton, Susie Azuela and Kal Bowman. Kal was inducted at the October Social)

Read and Reach Literacy Program: Bringing Books Closer to Home

A collaborative community initiative is making books more accessible to children and families throughout Battle Creek, with a special focus on families and neighborhoods with limited access to books and literacy resources.

Through the **Read and Reach Literacy Program**, local nonprofit organizations, community groups, and volunteers are working together to build and refurbish 15 Little Free Libraries and book-sharing boxes throughout the community. The goal is simple but meaningful: help children develop a love of reading by making books available where families live, learn, and gather.

Habitat for Humanity, Charitable Union, AAUW, Willard Library, and **Altrusa International of Battle Creek** are among the partners supporting this effort. The libraries will be located at community sites such as the Salvation Army, Charitable Union, Habitat for Humanity ReStore, Inasmuch House, Isaiah House 117, Prairieview Elementary, Coburn Head Start, Trinity Neighborhood Center, VOCES programs, Northwestern Middle School, Helen Montgomery Neighborhood, and other accessible locations.

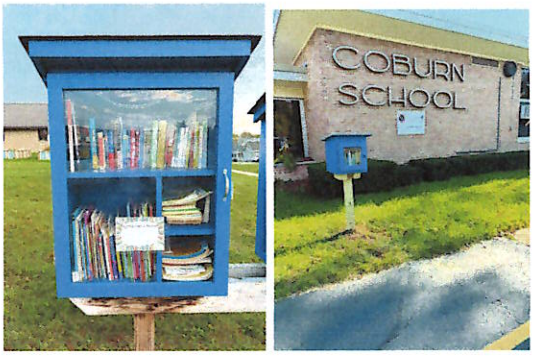
Bringing books into familiar community spaces helps make reading more accessible to everyone. Locations such as Inasmuch House, an emergency shelter, Isaiah House 117,

and Head Start programs offer valuable opportunities to place books within reach of children and families who may have limited access to reading materials. By creating welcoming opportunities to discover books in these everyday settings, the initiative helps reduce barriers related to cost and transportation while encouraging children and families to explore stories, build reading skills, and enjoy reading together.

Each partner brings valuable resources to the initiative. Habitat for Humanity contributes to building and refurbishing library units, with help from community volunteers. Charitable Union serves as the central collection and distribution point for donated books and acts as the program's fiduciary. AAUW, **Altrusa International of Battle Creek**, Willard Library, and participating community agencies help strengthen the collaborative effort to connect families with reading resources.

The program is designed for lasting impact. Partners will monitor library locations, book distribution, replenishment needs, and feedback to help ensure the libraries remain stocked, accessible, and useful to the community.

Fifteen small libraries can open the door to countless possibilities. Through partnership, volunteerism, and community support, Read and Reach is helping put books into more hands, encouraging a lifelong love of reading, and creating more opportunities for children and families throughout Battle Creek to experience the joy and benefits of reading.



Little Free Library outside Coburn Head Start

IMPORTANT UPDATES ON RECENT SERVICE PROJECTS

Altrusa International of Battle Creek raised nearly $5,000.00 at this year's Purse Bingo with the proceeds being donated to the Charitable Union and Post Foundation to support their local literacy efforts! Approximately 160 attendees enjoyed 21 games of bingo. Winners took home some very classy purses and an evening of memories with friends. Both coverall purses were valued at over $1,000.00 retail! We are all looking forward to the event next year. See photos of the event below.

In other news - the Spaghetti Dinner at Barista Blue's and the breakfast that was served to the homeless at Full Blast were both hugely successful. Approximately 265 people were served food! Thank you to the Altrusans who volunteered their time to make a difference in the lives of others.



Purse Bingo Committee Chair Joy Webster posing with a selection of purses.



The Kitchen Crew (from left to right) Judy Beam, Donna Hazel, Beverlyn Coy



Diana Ramirez and Dolly sell extra bingo sheets



Bingo callers (from left to right) Susan Brooks, Barbara Ramsey, Cindy Cheyne



Club President Pay Slayton addresses bingo attendees



Purse models Suzanne Azuela and Victoria Unger



(From left to right) Peggy Quinlan, Sharon Mileski, Sally Hierons, Mary Vasquez check in attendees

UPCOMING PROJECTS & IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

Mark your calendars!!

We will be **ringing the bell at Horrock's for the Salvation Army on November 28 and December 12** - please see Suzie Azuela if you haven't had the opportunity to sign up!

Bring your checkbooks and/or wallets to our November and December meetings! We will be collecting internal donations from members so that our Club can make a nice, Christmas gift donation to Isaiah 117 House.

STAY TUNED for more information on the dates and times we will be handing out books on behalf of Post Foundation. This normally happens the week prior to students being released for their winter breaks.

Any Altrusans who are available **Friday, November 20, please help us clean and apply stickers to all the books being used for the Little Free Libraries!!** Plan on arriving at The Charitable Union at 9:30am and staying for two hours.

EMERITUS MEMBER - LYNNE TAYLOR



Lynne posing with her Emeritus certificate

INTERNATIONAL/DISTRICT NEWS:

2027 International Convention

Save the date - the International Convention dates have been announced! It will be held in Columbus, Ohio July 21-24, 2027. It would be wonderful if Altrusa Battle Creek was represented!

Altrusa International District Five Conference is scheduled for April 23–25, 2027, in Lima, Ohio, and will be hosted by the Bucyrus club.

BIRTHDAYS:



October:

4 - Victoria Unger
24 - Ann Bobrofsky

November:

1 - Kal Bowman
4 - Mary Vasquez
14 - Joy Webster
19 - Sandy Bosrock
28 - Ginny Mahrle-Cook

December:

5 - Cindy Cheyne

OFFICERS:

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11116 9 ½ Mile Road
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Victoria Unger, (1st) Vice President
Diane Ramirez, (2nd) Vice President
Sharon Mileski, Treasurer
Judy Beam, Secretary
Judy Montych, Director (One Year);
Beverlen Coy, Director (Two Year)
Christi Losinski, Newsletter Editor, Communications
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UPCOMING MEETINGS:

****Reminder - our socials will be held at NorthPointe Woods at 5:30pm and will be $15.00****

October 2026
October 8 - 5:30pm, Social
October 28 - 11:30am, Business Meeting at NorthPointe Woods

November 2026
November 11 - 5:30pm, Social, Trivia Night
November 25 - 11:30am, Business Meeting at NorthPointe Woods

December 2026
December 9 - 5:30pm, Social, Christmas Party
December 23 - NO MEETING

https://districtfive.altrusa.org/battle-creek/

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61590573383968

If you haven't already, please "Like/Follow" our Facebook page and share any posts!

Please remember to make calls, send cards or visit those who are sick or are unable to attend our meetings. God Bless!



