

## **2010 - 2019's**

### **2010-2011**

At the beginning of the club year, incoming President *Sharron Vance* asked members to "Reach for the Stars!" At the end of the year, she said that the club took her seriously by having a banner year in all areas, and surpassing all the goals. We raised lots of money, increased our membership, helped our community in various ways, had outstanding programs and speakers, and through it all had lots of fun as well. What more could you ask for in a sisterhood such as ours?

**Membership Development** was led by two of our newer members, *Jackie Robertson* and *Dee Parmer*. *Jackie* and *Dee* waded in knee deep from the very beginning. The membership goal was five new members and to get our overall total above the 40 mark. They presented Gain and Retain information at almost all of the meetings and gave out Altrusa Stars to those who went a little above and beyond. They set up New Membership kits and got us mentioned in the Dallas Morning News and the Dallas Business Journal. Then the committee put on an enchanted Afternoon Membership Tea at Lakewood Country Club that was an enormous success.

They held a very informative New Member Orientation at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital providing new members with answers to many questions to help give them the tools they needed to become exemplary members. The new T Boone Pickens Conference Center at the hospital was a perfect place. All were given a tour of the hospital before the meeting. None of the new members had a chance to feel left behind in any way as *Jackie* and *Dee* initiated them as quickly as possible and put them to work on various committees, so they could participate immediately in everything we do.

Membership also hosted a fun Club birthday party in October by having a party with several of our sisters from other clubs coming to celebrate with us. This party also honored three of our longtime members – *Sue Powell*, *Jan Howell* and *Sandra Blassingame*. This committee worked very hard this year. They also brought in speaker, Diane Hosey, a co-worker of *Jackie's* at the Embry Foundation advising us on "Getting Fit in 2011" regarding determining who is a "fit" for the Club and how to go about recruiting. And for their last meeting, Joan and Melissa Rivers (incarnated in the bodies of *Frances* and *Lara Thompson*) took us to Altrusa Through the Looking Glass. This was a fun spoof on the Red Carpet we had just had at Conference. Their chosen interviewees were *Betty Lawson*, *Dee Parmer* and *Jackie Robertson*. Joan and Melissa never looked so good.

The piece d' resistance was the installation of seven new members, which increased our membership from 37 to 42! All that hard work and enthusiasm multiplied as some of the new members brought in other new members. What a way to meet a goal! *Jackie* and *Dee* and all seven of our newest members were wonderful examples of Altrusans. Each of the new members accepted leadership roles in the coming year.

**Service Committee**, as always, shone. Service this year was led by two former Presidents, *Guadalupe Carvajal* and *Phyllis Meyerson*. The projects kept everyone involved and made such differences in so many lives. There were two very good visits to the Letot Center this year. Letot has been a Dallas Club project for more than 20 years. Everyone who attended one of the visits came away with an amazing sense of just how lucky we all are in our daily lives. *Phyllis* led this project with her famous "air-bobbing for apples" and decorating pumpkins as a Halloween party. The residents had great fun at this event and made those attending feel about as old as they are by the time we left, because we had as much fun as they did. We also made a second visit in February for a Valentines party for Letot. The kids created Valentine cards. Some were very artistic. Some of the things they wrote in their cards were very heartwarming and showed their appreciation of our efforts.

Texas Scottish Rite Hospital garnered our Literacy project as well as an add-on fun project this year. We made a donation to the dyslexia class to purchase specific text books and supplies to help the students there perfect their reading skills. The added fun project was decorating a Christmas tree during their Trim a Tree event, when various groups, such as Altrusans, decorated one of the 50 to 60 six-foot trees placed all over the hospital. Our members were among the approximately 500 people there that first Tuesday evening after Thanksgiving having the time of their lives. The hospital furnished dinner for all the volunteers after the trees were decorated. We "older" children came away feeling very blessed. We also donated around 650 children-appropriate magazines for all the various waiting rooms throughout the hospital, which saved a lot of trees! Scottish Rite also sent a speaker, who talked about their work with the discovery of the gene that causes scoliosis.

The Vogel Alcove was another of our special projects. We helped with their Christmas shopping event. Each year Vogel has a "shopping" day for the families that are served there. Their clients can select from tons of presents, and have them wrapped for their families. What a big job! We helped them by working to help the families pick and wrap their choices. Our members who helped definitely had the Holiday Spirit by the time they left. We also made a donation to the Alcove to help with some of their expenses. Our marvelous *Sidelle Illion* headed this project this year before she moved back home to New York. Lastly, we had a speaker from the Vogel Alcove tell us more about the happenings there.

We continued to support The Early CLASS, a one of a kind educational center to help children with Autism to more effectively communicate. Our donation assisted in paying a portion of tuition costs for a child to attend this very essential class. *Angela Weber* was able to have Jamie Cato, the director of The Early CLASS at the UTD Collier Center give us an update the class. She advised us that our donation allowed a young boy to attend their Summer Program. The children need to have their therapy without breaks such as regular schools have in the summer.

*Karen Wise* introduced us to the Dallas Children's Advocacy Center a year ago. The DCAC provides a multi-agency team approach to the investigation, prosecution, and treatment of child abuse cases. Most of our members brought school supplies for the Center. In July 2010, Ellen Magnis spoke to our club about volunteer opportunities to assist them with their annual Crimes Against Children seminar in August. We put together goody bags and passed out information. Our members continued to donate clothing, school supplies, toys, gift cards, and holiday gifts for the children. In May, we donated \$600 from our Ruth Behrens Fund for crime prevention to purchase three cameras for the police unit housed in DCAC.

Another of our older associations has been with City Park Elementary School. Throughout the years, we have maintained a school store, provided school uniforms, and held what we call Social Skills Saturday. This year Social Skills Saturday was our Make a Difference Day project. *Sandra Blassingame* has been our liaison with the school for many years. City Park Elementary School serves children from the local shelters and low socio-economic status. This year we provided 53 students with complete uniforms, as well as several pairs of extra large pants and shirts for their clothes closet. We reinstated Social Skills Saturday. Social Skills Saturday provided 19 fifth grade students (along with 13 Altrusans) with a nice lunch along with a demonstration on interacting with others using good social skills and appropriate table manners. Councilwoman Pauline Madrano spoke with the children and several of their parents, and stayed for lunch as well. The children were given a demonstration on how to set a table and how to properly use all the silverware, china, and glassware provided at a normal table setting. There was a lot of feedback from this event in that several parents came to help volunteer at the school with the distribution of the uniforms and later joined the school's PTA. We also received several letters from the children describing how they have had discussions with their parents and siblings about what they had learned and how much they enjoyed themselves. One of this year's goals was to reinstate the Social Skills Saturday project. This year was a very successful meeting of this goal.

Our Pets & People Project has continued to be a very popular annual event. The majority of our members participate in this event. *Ellen Heffner* chaired this event. Elizabeth Liser, Director of Development at the North Texas Food Bank spoke to our group earlier about the Food Bank, and came to help

with this project as well. It was unknown to most of us that the NTFB provides as much as they can for the people using their services for their family pets. As we all know, at times people will give their own food to their pets. Animals play such an important part in our lives providing love and friendship where in a lot of cases there isn't any otherwise. We were able to purchase at cost 150 natural cotton tote bags that are reusable and hundreds of pounds of dog and cat food as well as treats and toys for the cats and dogs. Ms. Liser told us that every bite of pet food that they received from Altrusa was one more bite of food in a person's mouth. The end result was we provided food for not only the animals, but for more people as well. This meeting turned into a fund raiser as well. While Ms. Liser was there, we took up donations during the meeting totaling enough to fund several hundred meals. The donations were presented to Ms. Liser at the end of the meeting.

We provided a Person-to-Person "gift" of \$500 to a very deserving woman that was in dire need. *Sandra Blassingame* was our chair for this year. This was a one time gift to help the person get through a particularly hard time.

We again offered support to our ASTRA club at Marsh Middle School. *Anne Reed* stayed in close contact with our sponsor there to help her keep things going while she had suffered an extensive illness. Our sponsor was back in good health again and we hope to have even more success in the coming year with our ASTRA club. *Sheryl Sclater* brought in our dear friend from the Downtown Dallas Club, *Martha Hardwick-Hoffmeister* to speak to us about their ASTRA Club. *Martha* brought with her *Kristi Francis* and her daughter *Katherine Francis* from their ASTRA Club to tell us of their experiences with their own ASTRA Club.

Our International Project was headed by one of our brand new members, *Deborah Hecht*. She put us in touch with Opportunity International. Through this organization we partially sponsored three loans to women to help build their businesses and become more self-sufficient. When the loans are paid back, the monies are then loaned again to others making these funds an ongoing gift. We gave \$75 of the \$275 needed by *Brigit Asamoah* of Kumasi Ghana to purchase cosmetics in bulk; \$75 of \$400 needed by *Comfort Gyau* of Kumasi, Ghana to purchase groceries in bulk for trade; and \$100 of \$350 needed to *Hawa Kiwaula* of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania for purchase of assets for a salon. These loans will be perpetuated long into the future helping many women along the way.

All of these service projects took money that came from our fundraising and time and energy from our members to make everything come together. This year we, as a club, gave 833.5 hours to our community, 1555.7 hours in service to our club and 996.5 hours of volunteer service outside of Altrusa. This made an average of 45.6 hours of service per member.

**Communications Committee** was headed by *Ellen Heffner* and *Jan Howell* this year. The committee did a spectacular job of bringing us many steps closer to the new state of things in communications. Thanks to the most talented *Angela Weber*, our monthly meeting handout took the place of our previous club newsletter – the *Communiqué*. It provided the essentials – the President’s monthly message; a motivational quote; short articles on the appropriate UN Observance; member birthdays; announcements; Club, District, and International websites. *Angela* doubled as our “e-mistress.” Everyday communication was so enhanced by this method of getting information out to our members. Anytime anyone had information that needed to go to the entire club, all she had to do was send it to *Angela*, who got everything out to our members almost immediately. Our reminders of meetings and the call for reservations for dinner went out under this method as well. We worked at getting our website updated as well. All meeting programs and budgets for both club and foundation are now on the website. With the rebranding efforts for Altrusa coming in July, our club and the District websites will be undergoing major changes that will help us move further into the future. With the restrictions of waiting for the new Altrusa brand to use on our website, we have met our communication goals.

Our communications committee worked even harder to get us into this century. *Angela Weber* arranged for our own *Sabra Klein*’s son Jeff Klein to speak to us about “Communicating Our Brand.” This was a most informative and fun meeting with Jeff guiding us through an interactive, entertaining discussion to help us define and then communicate our “Altrusa Brand.” *Shelley Traub* oversaw a Holiday Party in December. At the party, we had a white elephant gift exchange and tons of fun. Communications was the catalyst for bringing in Elizabeth Liser as a guest speaker from the North Texas Food Bank, which eventually led to the connection for our Pets and People Project. The last meeting hosted by Communications was an exchange workshop at our second meeting in April for the exchange of materials and ideas from outgoing committee chairs to the incoming committee chairs.

And let’s don’t forget the fabulous job *Shelley Traub* did on our yearbooks. They were lovely, informative, artistic, creative, and the handiest thing on the planet other than the small version that came with it that you carry in your purse. *Shelly*’s creative talents never cease to amaze.

As much as anything this year, our Star was reached and shone brightly for the coming year due to our diligent and extremely hard working **Finance Committee**. This committee was headed by *Carolyn Hollingsworth* as Treasurer and *Susie Stephenson* as Assistant Treasurer. One thing you could depend on with these two wonderful women was that our financials were always correct and up to date. They kept us informed and on track. *Betty Lawson* was our Ways and Means Chair. *Betty* put a lot of effort into the job and never stopped short, but went all the way with it. She was not only hard working, but innovative.

Our fundraising efforts this year garnered **\$13,631.41** at last count in the April Financial. We had some small fun things for several years that have brought in some funds. Those were things such as Al-Bay, Book Bux, Goodsearch, Macy's, and grocery cards. *Betty* upped our game. First of all, we had a yard sale in June (and it was hot), but President Sharron's front yard looked like bees buzzing around all day long. That sale brought in **\$1,699.85**—and we didn't even have to haul off the leftovers. *Betty* took care of that as well. Next on her dance card was a Casino trip to Durant. With a bus load of Altrusans and friends we made **\$860.00**. She didn't stop there. Next we sold nuts, which made **\$1,023.60!** There were a couple of other small things thrown in for good measure along the way.

Then *Lili Feingold* led us through our annual Glitterati "Holiday Boutique" bringing in an additional **\$2,308.92**. This has been our main fundraiser for several years. With *Lili's* guidance, it has grown each year. *Lili* went above and beyond this year as well. She became ill shortly before the event, but true to form, did not let us down. She dug in and made it the success it has always been. This was a very different kind of sale from what you normally find. Everything was of very fine quality and *Lili* has nurtured it from a seedling into an ever-growing event. We had more vendors to make it a quality event.

Another goal was to start another large signature event to go along with Glitterati. Well, guess who proved all the disbelievers wrong ---again. *Betty* and her committee put together a very fine event for Women's History Month at the Museum of Biblical Arts. This is a beautiful facility and Dolly Martig, the speaker was hilarious and serious at the same time. Our own wonderful and talented *Lana Ford-Carpenter* was our emcee and she was perfect for that job. This marvelous event brought us a profit of **\$4,325.50!!!**

Overall our year was fantastic. We had a myriad of informative speakers in connection with our various projects. We had Jeff Klein to inspire us and Reverend Bubba from the Austin Street Shelter who opened our eyes to many more needs in our community as well. We had a Birthday party honoring three of our own and shared with several other clubs in attendance. We had a Holiday party. We had 12 perfect attendances. We won an award at Conference for our Club Display Board (thank you *Ellen, Deborah* and *Phyllis*). *Susie Stephenson* won a special award given by Governor Kathy Folley for editing the *News of Mighty Ninth* for **six** years. We brought in seven new members. We had 75% participation at our Pets and People and Yard Sale events (another goal). It took special people to do all that.

The last section of President *Sharron's* report is repeated below.

"My road into the world of Altrusa started in October 1981 thanks to taking a job with *Betty Lawson*. There I learned about what you meant to each other, how you take care of each other and what you do for others. I did not learn this

from someone bragging about it. I learned it from just listening to the other Altrusans that came through our offices over that 14 year period. These were women to admire and look up to that cared about their community and way of life for everyone. Altrusa is a builder of women. Altrusa helped build this woman.

“You know they say it takes a town to raise a child. It takes a club to perform miracles large and small each and every day. *Frances* keeps us in line in legalities and then makes us laugh because, well she’s *Frances*. *Aunt Sue* takes care of all—always has and always will. You are all there behind the scenes---*Maxie*; *Valetta*; *Beth* (Governor-Elect---we are so proud of you); *Lou* who can out dance any of us; *Sidelle*, whom we miss terribly; *Sabra*; *Carolyn Rash* who keeps track of our hours and keeps our history in tact (thank goodness for you); *Anne* who is always there in a pinch and always has a smile on her face; and *Sheryl* (the back up every new President should have). Then there is *Cheryl Keen*---what would I have done without you this year. *Cheryl* is the kind of person that tries to stay behind the scenes, but we always know she is steady and she is there for us and willing to do anything we ask at the drop of a hat.

“Love, guidance, support, mentors, sisters. This is what it takes to make the most wonderful Altrusa Club there is. Everyone pulls together for the best of the Club. You met each and every one of my goals for the year as “**We Reached for the Stars**”. You were already stars, but I believe we got really, really close to those stars up in the sky. I have thoroughly enjoyed myself this past year. Thanks to everyone who was there to help and lend a helping hand as well as give advice when it was needed. I thank you for allowing me to participate in this role and for being a very important part of my life.”

*Editor’s note: The club was recognized as a Club Level Club 21 club and as third place of clubs with the highest number of new Club 21 members at District Conference held in Waco April 20-22, 2012. In addition, the club won the following awards:*

- *First Place – Edith DeBusk President’s Award*
- *Second Place – Club Display Award*

## 2011-2012

At the beginning of the year, *Ellen Heffner* stood before us and thought that she had her goals and theme, "*Partners in Service*", but she felt that she still had to take that first step. There's a saying, "*Every journey begins with a single step*". She felt that she was stepping into something she had never done before and was more than a little nervous about taking that first step as our club President. With her usual confidence, she took a deep breath and jumped right in. So at the end of the year, she stood before us and said, "**ya'll made me look good! Or more importantly, ya'll made US look good!**"

Having the entire club's support and willingness help do whatever was needed truly made this year another resounding success. We worked in partnership within our club. We partnered within our communities. We were effective and successful. **Altrusa Dallas made a difference!**

The emblem on the Altrusa pin encourages us to strive for Patriotism, Efficiency, Service. Our new branding that came alive this year includes the tag line "*Leading to a Better Community.*" And lead we did! The Communications team launched a new website to kick-off the year. Ways and Means planned and hosted not one but two major fund-raising events. And the Service Committee organized a variety of projects to help our community. Everyone stepped up and took the lead and in doing so made this a very successful year.

First the **Communications Committee**. A big thank you for the dedication of the entire team led by co-chairs *Deborah Hecht* and *Sheryl Sclater*. This committee hosted programs where we learned how to use our personal Facebook pages to invite friends to Altrusa events. We celebrated the club's birthday in October, and hosted the annual holiday party in December. The committee brought a new website online early in the year, and gave us a social media presence on Facebook. It published an excellent Yearbook jam-packed with information. It absolutely exceeded the goals this year!

Social media has grown in importance. The new Altrusa Dallas Facebook pages sprang to life this year. Our Communications team launched several new pages including a members' only page, a public fan page, and pages for major events such as Glitterati. Our Glitterati page was so successful, with numerous posting from vendors, fans, and club members that had hundreds of hits on the page leading up to the Glitterati Holiday Boutique last October...amazing!

Our annual **Yearbook** was a key communications tool that all members eagerly await at the start of the new year. *Beth Blair* produced a beautiful Yearbook that included all of the important information each member needs at their fingertips. She did so in a stylish publication that included various design elements mirroring our new Altrusa branding. She filled it with our club calendar, member contact information, project descriptions and much much more, including those funny looking "quick response" or QR codes in the yearbook.



Members could use their smart phones with a free QR scanner app on any of these codes to instantly take them to the location tied to that code—perhaps to our club website, or to the District Nine website, or to the website of one of the community organizations we support. *Beth* also served as the club's eMaster and sent all club communications via email, including meeting bulletins, general announcements, event information, news of members, District and International news and more. These timely messages throughout the year kept everyone informed and made our club's electronic communications seamless and consistent.

*Deborah Hecht, Sheryl Sclater and Meg Muller* worked with International office in Chicago to get our new club website updated and "live" for next year. Our current website was to be hosted by International which gave the Altrusa Dallas website a new home, more support, and a consistent look for the future.

The club's birthday in October was celebrated with the individual birthday cupcakes. *Deborah Hecht* really "kicked it up a notch" by baking and icing cupcakes for the party in individual mason jars topped with the colors of our new Altrusa brand. And if that wasn't enough, she tied color-coordinated ribbons on each little cupcake jar with a tag that had a tidbit of information about a past Altrusa Dallas club President. What a special and delicious way to celebrate the club's birthday and our history!

Our **Finance Committee** was charged with keeping our financial records accurately. The committee was supported by our two hard-working treasurers – *Susie Stephenson* and *Sabra Klein*. They kept the accounts balanced, our records up to date and our club membership informed of all club and foundation financial business.

Our fundraising efforts this year were led by President-Elect *Dee Parmer* who stepped up to chair the **Ways & Means Committee**. Through the committee's efforts and the support of club members, we raised funds with a casino visit, a holiday boutique and a special dinner at the Lakewood Country Club all to support our 2012-2013 club projects. *Dee* and her team kicked things off by presenting the slate of programs to the membership by having W&M committee members dance through the club meeting carrying signs introducing each planned fundraiser. We had music, dancing, Mardi Gras masks and feathers....and a fun introduction to our plans for the new club year. *Dee* and her team planned, worked tirelessly and achieved results. We started the year with a Casino trip to Oklahoma where Altrusans and guests had a fun day of gaming and Ways & Means netted **\$900**. Next came the 7th Annual Glitterati "Holiday Boutique" in October. This signature fundraiser has been an ongoing event of Altrusa Dallas and with *Lili Feingold's* dedicated efforts, and lengthy list of excellent vendors, it has grown each year. This unique event is not your average holiday sales event as every vendor is hand-picked for their high-quality and unique wares. Because of this we have continued to have success and, with

over 90% participation from the club membership this year, we netted another **\$2,931** for Ways & Means.

Another goal was to have two major fund-raising projects and *Dee* and her committee stepped up to the challenge with “A Night Among The Stars”. This lovely dinner event, held at the Lakewood Country Club, featured special guest emcee Tracy Rowlett, a former local Dallas television news anchor. *Margie Wright* coordinated this event. Special guest speakers from three of the community organizations we serve with our volunteer hours and donations also spoke to the group throughout the evening and shared information about their organizations. The speakers included Keith Price, Executive Director of the Austin Street Centre, Ellen Magnis, Chief of External Affairs with the Dallas Children Advocacy Center and Jeremy Howell, Asst. Administrator at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. In addition to the dinner and guest speakers, we had a Giving Tree for donations and a silent auction of wonderful items that combined to raise additional funds. All together this event netted the club approximately **\$2,800**.

Additional funds from our holiday nut sales, our GoodSearch online search engine, and our Tom Thumb/Safeway grocery cards combined to add nearly **\$600** more. We also had numerous donations from generous members and friends of Altrusa, some with matching corporate amounts, which added **\$2,190** as of the preliminary April Foundation financial reports.

**Membership Development** was led by *Guadalupe Carvajal*. She worked diligently to meet two goals – one of retention and one for development -- with new ideas for programs and orientations to inform and inspire our membership. This committee planned programs that honored our new members and taught us ways to recruit new Altrusans. The Membership Committee also held a 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Fun night early in the year and invited the members to Blue Mesa Grill for the chance to gather and have some fun and get to know one another a little more. Each member was asked to wear their most fun pin -- large, small, loud, beautiful, ugly, or just FUN – and it was fun! Two New Member Orientations were held. The first was an informative meeting on July 9th at the beautiful meeting center at TSRHC with *Betty Lawson* as program chair. This was shortly before the International Convention in Rapid City, SD and *Betty* did a fantastic job of educating all of us about the proposed changes that would come before the Convention later that month. The second orientation was a leadership event on April 29th at *Lili Feingold's* club house with guest speaker and former District Governor Kathy Folley. This last event of the year focused on how we grow, how we communicate, and how we learn from each other and truly come together as an organization. *Angela Weber* helped coordinate this event and *Lili* coordinated the facilities. It was a special afternoon and with Kathy there to guide us.

We also added a new member this year and what a member she has turned out to be! *Cyndi Schrob* is a very special lady who stepped up during the year to help with many projects and programs. Following the Glitterati event she

took all the contact listings and updated our contacts database which is used when the club reaches out to the community for our various fund-raising events.

Our **Service Committee** was busy all year bringing a variety of excellent projects that each made an impact on the community and involved volunteer hours, donations, new ideas, and familiar faces. The Service Committee was led by two dynamic co-chairs *Karen Wise* and *Jackie Robertson*. As leaders, our Service Co-Chairs guided each effort, coordinated everything and encouraged participation.

The Service Committee started the year with a wonderful new project called **Patriot Paws** and it was one of our most popular programs of the year! Chair *Guadalupe Carvajal* described the mission of this organization to train and provide service dogs of the highest quality at no cost to disabled American veterans. We had the opportunity to meet Rhonda Lee and her service dog Jazz at our meeting where they gave us a demonstration of the extensive training for these special animals. Ms. Lee showed how the dogs can act as aides assisting in activities for their veteran partner such as picking up and retrieving items, opening and closing doors, taking off shoes and socks and other daily activities that we all take for granted. Patriot Paws also trains service dogs for other needs which was described by Thad LaBarre and his service dog, Roper. Now, Roper is a large golden retriever and was described as a Patriot Paws “drop-out”, which was a little harsh! But Roper soon showed us what a very special animal he is as well. Thad demonstrated how this special dog lives at the Dallas courthouse and fills a need by simply spending time with and calming young children that are called upon to testify in court in Dallas. We ended the evening’s program by providing a \$500 check to our guests to further assist the valuable work they do for our disabled veterans and for our community.

We had two special visits again this year at the **Letot Center**, part of the programs provided by the Dallas County Juvenile Department. This program has been supported by Altrusa Dallas for over 20 years. The young residents at Letot generally have committed no other offense other than being a runaway and they range in age from 10 years up to 17 years. This year we combined the annual Halloween party with our **Make A Difference Day (MADD)** event. For our MADD program we worked with the Letot residents to paint motivational words and sayings in their gym. The program, called “Character Education”, is an educational movement that supports the social, emotional and ethical development of students. We provided the supplies and the young residents applied their creativity to paint their gym area walls with Character Ed words and sayings. In addition we donated funds to update/supply this ongoing program at Letot. After the hard work it was time for fun – the annual Halloween party! Now if you’ve been to Letot for a past Halloween party, you know what a treat it is to see *Phyllis* hanging apples from the ceiling for a unique Altrusa version of bobbing for apples. The children have so much spirit and energy and this event always has everyone laughing before it’s over – Altrusans, staff and residents alike! We also served lunch and made time for the kids to paint and decorate

pumpkins showing off their creativity. *Phyllis* also arranged for us to host a 2nd visit to the center in February for a Valentine's Day party. We provided supplies and the kids created their own special Valentine's Day cards again showing us their creativity and their ability to make us all smile. While the new requirements to work with the Letot residents seemed a bit challenging this year, many members stepped up and got it done so we could continue to visit Letot.

**Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children (TSRHC)** was supported by several club projects. *Sharron Vance*, a long-time volunteer at the hospital was our project chair for our Literacy Project this year. Based on needs and input from the hospital staff, we were able to blend two years of donations to truly make a difference for the Dyslexia Class at the hospital. In June 2011 we gave TSRHC a \$1,000 donation for their dyslexia class rooms and then followed that with a donation in August 2011 for another \$1,500. The decision was made by the hospital to combine these donations and apply the \$2,500 to purchase their first "SMART" board this year for their classroom. At our September meeting we heard from guest speaker Gladys Kolenovsky, Director at TSRHC about the wonderful work going on at the hospital, the different research programs underway, and their plans for the future Dyslexia Clinic programs. She told us about the SMART board which is an interactive white board that allows educators and students to use technology to build and enhance learning. In essence, a SMART board is an extension of the teacher's computer, so any file, document, image or video can be created or manipulated and transmitted through the SMART board.

But that's not all. This board is also being used with the regular classes at the hospital to teach students. And, it has further enhanced the program in that they are using it to teach the teachers so they, in turn, can teach their students. This means that with our club's help we not only touched the lives of the 30+ regular students at the hospital, but touched the lives of many more students with dyslexia through this method of teaching.

We again participated in the annual TSRHC Holiday "Trim a Tree" event. This is one of the largest events in the hospital with hundreds of people showing up the week after Thanksgiving to enjoy a live band playing holiday music, to enjoy the lighting of the huge tree on the main floor, and to place customized decorations on up to 60 trees throughout the hospital. Each tree is decorated by a different volunteer community group and many groups have been on waiting lists to be able to get a tree at this popular annual event. This year we added a special touch by creating all new ornaments for our assigned tree with a theme aligned with our literacy project for the hospital. We created decorations from wooden alphabet blocks with hooks and ribbons to complete each ornament. And using the wooden wagons from each set of blocks, we filled the empty wagons with stuffed animals and placed them under the tree. *Deborah Hecht* and her "Altrouser" husband Eric added all those little eye hooks to each and every little block. Several members met to add the ribbons to complete each ornament and for coming to help decorate the tree.

Finally, *Sharron Vance* acted as our “magazine lady” ,because she routinely collected appropriate magazines at our meetings and delivered them to the hospital. *Sharron* was recognized by the hospital this year for completing 2,500 hours of volunteer service for TSRHC. She now has her name on a new brass plate on the Volunteer Services wall at the hospital. Our club also marked the event with the presentation of a floral bouquet to *Sharron* in recognition of an Altrusan that continues to give her time and her energy to help others.

**Early CLASS** was another of our ongoing projects brought to our attention by project chair *Angela Weber*. We have supported the program for the last few years with donations to this classroom-based speech, language, and communication program for children ages 2 ½ to 5 years old with ASD or Autism Spectrum Disorder. The class is located at the Callier Center for Communications Disorders at the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) which serves as an educational laboratory for the communications sciences program at the school. Our \$1,000 donation this year assisted in paying a portion of the cost of tuition for a child to attend this very essential class. *Angela* and her very special son *Schmuli*, a former Early CLASS student, delivered our donation to The Early Class this year.

*Karen Wise* served as our chair for the **Dallas Children’s Advocacy Center (DCAC)** projects. These included donating school supplies, which *Karen* collected at meetings in August and delivered to the DCAC organization, and the purchase of holiday gifts for the children served by the DCAC programs. She also arranged to have *Ellen Magnis*, Chief of External Affairs with DCAC, to be one of our guest speakers at our spring fund-raiser. As you know, DCAC employs a multi-agency team approach to the investigation, prosecution and treatment of child abuse cases. As fund chair for the Ruth Behrens crime prevention foundation fund, *Karen* also arranged for the club to fill a special need for this organization. We donated funds to purchase a television and video equipment to be used by DCAC staff to review their forensic interviews of abused children.

Project co-chair *Sandra Blassingame* was our liaison with the City Park Elementary School and again our **DUNK project** with the school. **DUNK, or “Dallas Uniforms for Neighborhood Kids”** has been an ongoing project for Altrusa Dallas that was started when the Dallas Independent School District began to require all students to wear uniforms to school. Many families, particularly at this school, could not afford to purchase the required clothing. Over the years we have helped many students at City Park Elementary with uniforms, backpacks, school supplies and books. This year *Sandra* received several requests for uniforms and all together we provided uniforms for 56 students plus belts and other supplies. The uniforms provided consisted of shirts and pants for both boys and girls. At an October meeting *Sandra* arranged for *Graciela Pontus*, the principal of City Park Elementary and *Donna Garcia*, a staff member at the school, to come and talk to us about their programs. Ms. Pontus spoke about the students progress reports and noted that last year the school

achieved “Recognized Status” in the district. At this meeting our members completed a hands-on project folding the uniforms and then placing them in marked bags along with small colorful notebooks, notes for the students and bookmarks. Ms. Pontus and Ms. Garcia both mentioned how thankful they are for the uniforms Altrusa donated to City Park every year and what this means to the students and their families.

One of our long-running and most popular Service projects is **Pets & People**, which is traditionally done as a hands-on project during a club meeting. This year we were purchased 150 reusable all-natural cotton tote bags and loaded them with many pounds of pet food, treats and toys. We were completely unbiased -- we created half for dogs and half for cats! And we stuffed and labeled all for ease of delivery to those in need. Ms. Elizabeth Liser, Director of Development at the North Texas Food Bank, was our guest speaker at the meeting where we stuffed the bags. She talked to us about the NTSB programs and how the pet food program is such a help to the community. As Ms. Liser explained, pets are members of the family too and even though a family may be what is called “food insecure”, they will still share their available food with their pets. Our donations helped ensure the food the NTSB provides to the family is used by the family as they can also now provide food for the family pets as well.

Our International Project “iBOW”, introduced to us last year by *Deborah Hecht* was continued this year with new loans to new women entrepreneurs. We did this through Opportunity International which has a mission to empower people to work their way out of chronic poverty by applying for and using available services to expand a business, provide for their families, create jobs for their neighbors and build a safety net for the future. The method is really quite simple. They provide the opportunity for organizations such as our club to donate funds that then are used to provide micro-loans to clients in over 20 countries in the developing world. And it works! Here are a few statistics:

- \$142 = the average amount for a first loan
- 84% = the number of loans made to women
- 96% = the loan repayment rate which allows Opportunity International to keep more money circulating in new loans – keeping the funding working into the future.

With these loans businesses grow, homes are improved, and women gain status—which leads us to why iBow was the Altrusa Dallas international project. With our \$1,000, we helped six entrepreneurs from the Philippines to Columbia to Kenya.

Here are just three examples of how a small loan can make a big difference:

- **Eduijes Plantizeta**, a mother of six and grandmother of 10 with a fish market in Cartagena, Columbia. With the \$300 from our club she can begin to hire more workers and expand her business.
- **Celedonia Fuentes**, a mother of three with a clothing business in the Philippines. You donated \$50 and are now one of 7 donors funding this loan to help her grow her business and support her family.
- **Anastacia Nderitu** of Nairobi, Kenya a mother of three. She operates a food kiosk in Nairobi and her annual business profits amount to 24,000 Kenyan shillings – the equivalent of \$286 US dollars annually. Anastacia requested a loan to renovate her business and attract more customers with an eventual goal to open a restaurant in Nairobi. You donated \$220 and she has attracted 2 other donors in addition to Altrusa Dallas to fund her micro-loan and help her realize her dream.

Altrusa is a builder of women and our iBow project took that motto to a whole new level. We became an International Builder of Women!

There was so much more, it's hard to believe we did it all! Our **Person-to-Person** project provided \$500 this year for the project. Chair *Valeta Gentzler* found a very deserving recipient with a dire need for this support. Through our one time gift we helped a woman through a very difficult personal time.

We supported the **Austin Street Centre**, a Dallas shelter for the homeless, with a \$500 donation. Keith Price, Executive Director at the shelter came to our meeting in September and told us about their mission to provide emergency shelter and related services to the homeless person in a compassionate faith-based community.

**ASTRA** chair *Anne Reed* hoped to revitalize our ASTRA club, since there was a new sponsor at our chosen school. We had a program this year on the **Vogel Alcove**, which provides childcare and related services for homeless families with a stable and nurturing environment for homeless children from birth to 5 years. The service hours, collected by *Carolyn Rash*, tell the story. For the club year, our members gave **1,647 hours of service to our community, 1,043 hours in service to our club, and 648 hours of volunteer service outside of Altrusa**. That is an average of over 43 hours of service per member.

Altrusa Dallas was recognized at the District Nine Conference in April for a number of awards including an award for the Club Display, created by *Deborah* and *Lili* that tells the story of who we are and what we've done this year. The club was recognized for the number of new Club 21 members and with a club-level award for becoming a Club 21 club. *Deborah Hecht* and *Angela Weber* were recognized for sponsoring two new members during the last club year. *Sue Powell* was at the podium in Waco to present for the first time the District award

now named to honor her - the *Sue R. Powell* Perfect Attendance Award. We had eight Altrusa Dallas members recognized for perfect attendance. And finally who could forget how excited and surprised *Sharron Vance* was to hear her name called to come forward to receive the 1<sup>st</sup> place Edith DeBusk President's award!

From President Ellen's speech:

"You continue to inspire me with all you do and the impact we make as partners in our communities. This is a time of looking back but I also have to say I am looking forward to what comes next with this special group of unique ladies I've come to know as friends. We know that Altrusa is a builder of women and for me I know Altrusa has helped me to grow. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the support I have received from this club especially three months ago when I faced a major surgery. Knowing Altrusans were standing by helped me through and I know you will always be there for a sister Altrusan. That's just what you do. Whether it was to call and check on me, to fill in when I couldn't be here, to bring food, or to stop by my house for pizza and a chat when I was home-bound following my surgery, you were always available for whatever I needed. You each helped me through some difficult times in my life by simply listening and letting me know that you cared. And through that encouragement, you truly lifted me up and helped me move forward.

"Just a few final thank you's this evening before it is time to pass the gavel. Thanks to *Jan Howell* for offering advice and always being willing to help. Thank you to "Crash" -- I have learned a great deal from *Carolyn Rash's* quiet wisdom and appreciate all she has done for me personally and for our organization whether collecting service hours or keeping our club history current. Governor-Elect *Beth Blair* -- I don't know how you do it all but I am looking forward to the next biennium and seeing you installed at conference next year as our new governor. *Anne Reed* -- you are simply a force of nature who will not only get ASTRA revitalized but will be an exceptional Vice President next year.

"Thank you to my officers and directors this year -- to *Sharron Vance* as Immediate Past President and someone that has always been there to help me. *Sharron* you are a hard act to follow and I appreciate your support all year. Thanks to *Susie Stephenson* and *Sabra Klein* as our outstanding treasurers. Thank you to *Jackie Christensen* and *Carolyn Hollingsworth* as our secretaries who, in spite of challenges aplenty in your own lives this past year, you still made time for Altrusa business. Thank you *Phyllis Meyerson* for serving as my Vice President and always being there to offer advice and help. *Phyllis* is the reason I am here today having sponsored me for membership in 2003. Thanks to directors *Jackie Robertson*, *Betty Lawson*, *Lara Thompson*, and *Shelley Traub*. Your input and work this year was valuable and much appreciated. A very special thank you to *Frances Maloney* for being a world-class parliamentarian and for keeping me in line all year -- not an easy task to be sure!



“And finally, a big thank you to *Dee Parmer* – you were a dedicated President-Elect and always said “YES” each time I had to call on you even though you had quite a busy year yourself with new job and many other challenges. I truly appreciated knowing you were there and available to be called upon all year long.

“I have enjoyed my year as your President and can only say again that it is because each of you were willing to give of your time and your special talents that I was able to do my work this year and represent this very special Altrusa club. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your President and thank you for, well... for just being you – an ALTRUSAN!”

*Editor’s note: The club was recognized as a Club 21 club and Club Lamplighter at District Conference held in Frisco April 19-21, 2013 and hosted by our club. In addition, the club won the following awards:*

- *Second Place – Edith DeBusk President’s Award*
- *Third Place – Yearbook Award*
- *Third Place – Communications Award*
- *Third Place – Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award*

## 2012-2013

Incoming President *Dee Parmer* chose "Altrusa is a Way of Life" as her theme for the club year. The Board elected to have their meetings on a separate night from our regular meetings. The meetings were more than Dee imagined, with new ideas flowing and all Board members taking an active part.

The year started with Membership Development. New member *Cyndi Scrob* served as Chair of the committee and presented our first meeting honoring new members. Unfortunately, Cyndi resigned from the club after a few meetings. After this little bump in the road, Ways and Means Co-Chairs, *Ellen Heffner* and *Phyllis Meyerson*, stepped in and took responsibility of Membership, which kept us moving forward. *Beth Blair* led a recruiting workshop. Orientation was "Trick or Treat". In December we welcomed our first new member, *Gillian Allen*, who was honored at our second orientation in March at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital.

*Phyllis* and *Ellen* served as the all-important Ways and Means Co-Chairs and presented eight projects that earned a total of \$12,106.09 for the year. Donations and holiday cards brought in \$2,163.00. Derby for Dollars was a surprise fund raiser, which was brought to us by *Sheryl Sclater's* daughter, a member of the Dallas Derby Devils. By this connection, 5% of ticket sales for the September game - \$475.34 was donated to our club. "Friend Raiser" was a chocolate and wine tasting experience at Chocolate Secrets in Dallas that netted \$236.50. This was a wonderful experience and later on, gifts were purchased there for Conference representatives. "Shop For A Cause" was a repeat fundraiser with Macy's. For each gift card that was sold, \$5.00 was donated to the club. And, our members occupied a table at Macy's for more sales and recognition. \$125.00 was added to our income. *Deborah Hecht* and her husband, Eric, conducted a virtual garage sale on E-bay. Members donated the items for sale. Eric took it from there by packing and shipping it. This effort earned \$965.65 by the end of the year.

Several of our members and friends spent an enjoyable night at *Mooyah*, which gave us a percentage of the sales for members and guests who ate on a certain night. This restaurant promotion netted \$19.48. *Margie Wright* and *Sabra Klein* found *Mooyah* for us. By registering Altrusa at Tom Thumb/Safeway and by using the card when shopping, we were given a percentage of purchases. The intake for this was \$329.65.

Glitterati Holiday Boutique and Raffle Ticket Sales was our main fundraiser. *Deborah Hecht* and *Lili Feingold* did a fantastic job. *Lili* secured the vendors, which provided beautiful art objects, clothing, jewelry and many other high-end products. Our club had a special table for member-donated items for sale. *Deborah* was relentless in selling raffle tickets for \$1,000.00 in North Park Gold and a beautiful bracelet donated by Emily Armenta, a local jewel company. *Lou Boucher* donated the \$1,000.00 for the purchase of the North Park gift certificate. *Jan Howell* donated 100 American Express points to make the third

raffle prize of \$100.00. In addition, gift donor cards were sold prior to the holidays. *Deborah's* raffle efforts brought in \$3,367.00 to make a total of \$9,425.85 for our Glitterati extravaganza.

While attending an incoming President's meeting at District Nine Conference, President *Dee* learned that we should participate in service projects that would have more impact in our community. *Sharron Vance* and her Service Committee went to work and found projects that met the IMPACT message. Austin Street Center, Dallas, Texas, was awarded \$2,000.00. We earmarked this donation for day-to-day operations of the shelter, because they have a hard time raising funds for operating costs. Some of its clients, many of whom have mental problems, stay long-term, while others return to the working world. In a 6-month period of time, 305 lives changed; 173 people were referred or placed in transitional, permanent supportive or public housing; 47 families were reunited; and 71 people went back to work. Austin Street is unique because it can shelter women with children, and not like some, it is air-conditioned for the summer months. *Jackie Robertson* worked with Executive Director, Keith Price and John Bruce, Director of Marketing & Retail Operations and chaired the project.

Our DUNK (Dallas Uniforms for Neighborhood Kids) continued as an impact project. Due to the closure of City Park Elementary, we moved this support to Martin Luther King Learning Center, a DISD school of some 750 students. MLK enrolls students whose families reside in the shelters of the city. In the fall, 107 student uniforms were purchased for the students in the school. At our September 4th meeting, members folded one pair of pants and one shirt into plastic bags and organized them by size for distribution. This year, plus-size uniforms were purchased for children who required larger sizes. Five Altrusans delivered the uniforms, visited the school for a tour and met with the staff. Mrs. Freeman, principal, noted that "when students look their best, they perform their best". *Sandra Blassingame*, project Chair, organized this project.

Our Make a Difference Day project this year was a combination of things centered within Letot Center. This year, our Club participated in the International Book Grant project. We applied for the \$50.00 book grant and received it. Then we matched it for a total of \$100.00. Our \$100.00 plus member donations totaled approximately \$200.00. A total of 32 books were purchased for the Letot library, including the classic *To Kill a Mockingbird* and the *Twilight* series, which were on their "want" list. *Phyllis Meyerson* chaired this project and was assisted by *Sharron Vance*.

Texas Scottish Rite Hospital was another IMPACT project. Our monetary donation of \$2000.00 was given to the Dyslexia unit and was presented by four Altrusans who received a personal tour. . The *Dyslexia Training Program* has been used by half of the independent school districts in Texas and was purchased for use throughout the United States and in several English-speaking schools around the world. *Top Flight* has been adopted by 17 other dyslexia therapist training centers nationwide, and the total number of specialist trained in

Take Flight is over 1100. SMART BOARD technology is being used to supplement the training videos and animated instruction of the more challenging components of phonemic awareness, phonics, word analysis and spelling. Gladys from Scottish Rite said, "With the generous gifts from the Altrusa Club, our dreams of impacting children have grown beyond our imagination". The SMART BOARD technology coupled with ATI Connect enabled Scottish Rite to teach training live in one location and project to a second location for interactive distance learning, allowing them to double the number of teachers they train. Another opportunity for us at Scottish Rite Hospital was the annual Christmas Tree decorating event. This was our sixth year to participate. Last year we upgraded our tree with ABC blocks. This year we added crayons. Stuffed animals sit under our "Reading Tree." *Sharron Vance* is the project chair for both of the Scottish Rite projects.

With the Pets and People project, we provided dog and cat food to the North Texas Food Bank. This allows people who visit the food bank to get food for their animals that are their "family". This year, we purchased, and redistributed bags of dog and cat food into smaller bags for easier distribution. Our donation of food was \$800.00. Our own *Lou Boucher* delivered the packages. *Karen Wise* and *Lili Feingold* chaired the project.

IBOW, International Builder of Women, benefiting Opportunity International, was our International project. We donated \$1,340.00 to women entrepreneurs in the Philippines, Latin American, and African countries. These women operate small businesses and need loans to expand. This was a fun night. Our money was divided among all present and each one of us chose whom we wanted to give our money to. This was done online. We were shown pictures of each person and how much money they were asking for. The women that we benefited in turn help other women in their situations. We recognized the following International dates in our monthly newsletters: International Woman's Day - March 8; World Health Day - April 7; International Day of Peace - September 21; World Food Day - October 16; United Nations Day - October 24; and International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. A report on International Youth Day, August 12, was given to the club members during our regular August 7th meeting. A report on Human Rights Day, December 10, was given to the club members during our regular December 4th meeting.

For this year's Person to Person project, *Deborah Hecht* found a lady who was having automobile repair problems. Our donation of \$500.00 repaired her automobile. This project was not publicized and is kept on a personal basis.

The Ruth Behrens Fund for Crime Prevention was chaired by *Karen Wise*. The Altrusa Club of Dallas Foundation Board of Directors approved a proposal to donate \$441.00 for 12 flashlights and 24 batteries to patrol officers who cover the Dallas Children's Advocacy Center.

Our members were very generous and dedicated to Altrusa. This year our service hours totaled 5,945 hours and that was 2,717 more than the previous year. We were a club on the move.

We hit another little block in the road this year. Our President-Elect, *Carolyn Hollingsworth*, had to take a leave of absence due to the illness of her husband. *Carolyn* was also Communications Chair. Even so, *Carolyn* maintained a fulltime job, took care of her husband, and published our yearbook and the monthly newsletter. *Meg Muller*, our E-mistress, kept us all updated with club correspondence and she worked diligently on the new webpage with International. *Betty Lawson* and *Sue Powell* were our telephone ambassadors, who kept in touch with those who were absent and/or ill.

Another little unavoidable block was another illness. *Margie Wright*, our secretary, also dealt with an ill husband. Whenever *Margie* could not attend meetings or board meetings, Assistant Secretary *Deborah Hecht* stepped in and recorded our meeting minutes.

Our thoughts and prayers went out for these members and we thanked all who stepped in to help. *Lili Feingold* was our "card" person. She handmade beautiful birthday cards, get well cards and other appropriate cards. We were all excited to receive one of *Lili's* cards. *Lili* has relocated to San Diego, California.

We upgraded policies and procedures. *Carolyn Rash* revised our Long Range Strategic Plan and *Betty Lawson*, *Lou Boucher*, *Jan Howell* and *Frances Maloney* updated our Club Bylaws. *Betty Lawson*, *Karen Wise* and *Margie Wright* updated our BRR/Protocol policy.

We had several speakers at our meetings this year. We had programs on Alzheimer's, Girl Scouts, financial fitness and other programs from our service projects. We had another birthday party and we had a fun, holiday party at Maude's Tearoom.

One very good thing that we did this year was to develop a "sister" club. Several of us know members from Altrusa DFW and this seemed like a perfect match. We asked and they accepted. It has been very rewarding to our club. By both clubs members participated in each other's projects. We have gotten know each other well and have many more Altrusa sisters. Plans this next year included building a multi-club service project to make a larger impact in our communities.

Another excellent addition we made this year was a Club photographer. *Cheryl Keen* was "Johnny or Jeanie" on the spot. This year has been recorded in pictures. Pictures were shared with members and *Cheryl* worked diligently on the president's scrapbook all year long.

On top of all of the activities and the few road blocks, Altrusa Dallas was the host club for District Nine's 57th Annual Conference. It was fabulous.

Conference co-chairs *Susie Stephenson, Karen Wise and Guadalupe Carvajal* outdid themselves as did the numerous member chairs and committee members.

*Sharron Vance*, Registration Chair, and her committee had their hands full with registration. Almost 300 guests came through their desk. But they, as true Altrusans, delivered the goods, answering questions, giving directions, handing out conference packets and handling just about everything that came their way.

*Betty Lawson* was in charge of the Everything Room and *Ellen Heffner* collected, prepared and filled our goody bags. *Deborah Hecht* found time to print everything imaginable. *Carolyn Rash* was in charge of Hospitality. *Meg Muller* was everywhere. *Jackie Robertson* and President *Dee* purchased the wonderful Chocolate Secrets chocolates for our District board and International representatives. Twenty-one of our club members attended conference and eight of our members were awarded the *Sue R. Powell* perfect Attendance Award. Aunt *Susie* personally gave the certificates to us at our club meeting after conference. *Phyllis Meyerson* chaired the Conference Service project and members from all clubs donated 702 pounds of food and \$792.00 to the North Texas Food Bank.

Club member *Joan Kelly* passed this year and she along with other Altrusans were honored at the Sunday morning memorial. Joan joined Altrusa Dallas in 1973 and participated in many activities. It was an outstanding conference. President *Dee* gave the "Welcome" and presented new Governor *Beth Blair* the Lamplighter Award. We are all thrilled and excited for *Beth* and she knows that we will be there to support her in all of her efforts. She has worked long and hard to become an Altrusa Governor and she joined *Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun, Edith Debusk, Aileen Aiken, Sue Powell, Betty Lawson, and Carolyn Rash* as Governors from Altrusa Dallas.

Even though we had a few stumbling blocks, we picked them up, threw them out of the way and moved on to a very successful year. President *Dee* thanked all members for their efforts, time and monetary contributions. They proved that Altrusa is a way of life.

*Editor's note: The club was recognized as a Club 21 club and Club Lamplighter at District Conference held in Austin April 25-27, 2014. In addition, the club won the following awards:*

- *Second Place – Linda Nichols Foundation Total Club Contribution Award*
- *Fourth Place – Highest number of Club 21 members*

## 2013-2014

Incoming President *Sabra Klein*'s vision for the year was to have each committee work hand-in-hand to help each other with their projects / programs, in order to encourage more members to participate in those activities.

She asked Membership, headed by *Deborah Hecht*, to reach out to current members to get them more involved, to contact former members to find out how to get them to rejoin, and to encourage members to invite prospective members to programs that would interest them in becoming members. Membership distributed recruitment and retention tips at each meeting. Our "Add and Altrusan" program was held in April. These efforts resulted in four new members and two rejoining members.

President *Sabra* asked Ways and Means, headed by *Guadalupe Carvajal*, to expand Glitterati and to develop other fundraisers to supplement Glitterati and to expose Altrusa to more people. Unfortunately, an economical site that would accommodate more vendors could not be found for Glitterati. With little money raised by mid-December, four members – *Betty Lawson, Dee Parmer, Jackie Robertson, and Sharron Vance* – stepped to plan a luncheon celebrating Women's History in March. With little time, they put together a fabulous project that netted almost \$3,900 from the meal tickets and silent auction. The speaker for the luncheon was Lori Palmer, a former Dallas City Council member and CEO of Girls, Inc.

She asked Communications, headed by *Beth Blair*, to work on publicity with the other committees. While only two newsletter issues were distributed, constant e-blasts kept our members up-to-date on all club activities. *Beth* created a fabulous yearbook and accompanying pocket roster of members.

She asked Service, headed by *Dee Parmer*, to evaluate current projects and to get more involvement from all the members. Here are the projects for 2013-14:

- DUNK (Dallas Uniforms for Neighborhood Kids) – DUNK was our signature service project. We gave 120 uniforms to Martin Luther King Learning Center. We expanded the project to include school supplies and books. Books were presented to 75 first graders and 53 fifth graders for their own personal libraries. The total donation for DUNK was \$4,000.
- Ronald McDonald House of Dallas – Our club partnered with McKinney Club Scout Pack #531 in collecting pop tabs to donate to the Ronald McDonald House. The tabs are sold to support the operation of the House. In addition, members donated 105 books for the parents of the children at the House to read and take home.
- Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children – our club donated \$2,500 for the "smart board" for the Dyslexia Center at TSRHC. This

project benefits not only the children served by the hospital but also children in DISD and other states through the training provided by the hospital staff. One meeting was held at the hospital. The club participated in the annual Christmas decorating program, decorating a tree with a literacy theme.

- IBOW (International Builder of Women) – The club participated with an on-line organization that gives micro loans to women and men in Central American countries to increase their small businesses. The club allocated \$1,000 for this project. Fake money was divided equally among the attending members, who then decided which business women to support. The money allocated is later paid back by the recipients to help of participants in the program.
- Mosaic Family Services – This organization serves survivors of human rights abuses from around the world and within our community. It creates access to opportunities for our clients, empowering them toward independence. A representative from Mosaic presented a program at a November meeting. Club members donated personal items to assist with some of their needs. A Bunco party was held at *Deborah Hecht's* house with the admission items for Mosaic.
- DCAC (Dallas Children's Advocacy Center) – Club members donated school supplies to the center.
- Pets and People – The club donated \$100 to the Friends Forever of North Texas, a cat and dog retreat founded by Lori Palmer. \$400 was donated to SAFER, a spay and neuter program.
- North Texas Food Bank – 14 members joined other local District Nine club members to make sort and separate canned food on a Saturday in November. Quality canned food was also donated by the participants.
- Person-to-Person - \$500 was given to a person in dire need of a car repairs.
- West, TX Intermediate School Fund – Right after the explosion that destroyed all the schools in West, our member, *Gillian Allen*, asked what we could do to help. Gillian contacted Jan Hungate, Assistant Superintendent of West ISD. *Gillian* and *Beth Blair*, District Nine Governor and our club member, wrote and submitted a grant request to Altrusa International asking for funds for books for West. A \$6,000 grant was awarded. This was added to the \$1,000 allocated by our club. It was determined that this money would be used to supply books to the intermediate school library. Some books were donated a seventh grade class. This is a two-year project, since the library will not be complete until the fall of 2015.

Accents were presented on the following U.N. International Observance Days: Day of Peace, Youth Day, Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women, Human Rights Day, Day for Social Justice, and Day of Families.



Our Friendship Trust Fund is used to help members in need. For the first time in years, we used \$1,000 to help the family of our deceased member. The club was again a Club 21 Club with a \$210 donation to the International Foundation.

Our scholarship night was again one of the highlights of the year. The scholarships are names for our club's two members who served as International president and our longest surviving charter member.

- Edith DeBusk Scholarship for Legal Studies – *Betty Lawson* was the coordinator for this scholarship. A scholarship was given to a law student from SMU law school and to a paralegal student from El Centro College.
- Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun Scholarship for Nursing Studies – *Dee Parmer* was the coordinator for this scholarship. Scholarships were awarded to nursing students from several local programs.
- Leita March Scholarship for Pharmaceutical Studies – *Frances Maloney*, Leita's daughter, was coordinator for this scholarship. One scholarship was awarded to a student at UT Southwest Medical School.

The Ruth Behrens Fund for Crime Prevention is named for a past president who was murdered in her home. Under the direction of *Karen Wise* and *Anne Reed*, we gave \$750 for an armored vest for Dallas Police Department service dogs.

President *Sabra* thanked all those mentioned above. In addition, she thanked *Valeta Gentzler*, *Jan Howell*, *Carolyn Rash*, and *Frances Maloney*. She thanked *Angela Weber*, her sponsor, for getting her involved in Altrusa, and her son Jeff, who was the reason she became a member.

*Editor's note: The club was recognized as a Club 21 club and Club Lamplighter at District Conference held in San Antonio April 17-19, 2015. In addition, the club won the following awards:*

- *First Place - Yearbook Award*
- *Fourth Place – Linda Nichols Foundation Total Club Contributions*
- *Fourth Place – Linda Nichols Foundation Average Contributions per Member*

*The following Members were recognized in the Conference Program:*

<i>Beth Blair – Governor, Lamplighter, Perfect Attendance</i>	<i>Sue Powell - Lamplighter</i>
<i>Deborah Hecht – Membership Development Co-Chair, Perfect Attendance</i>	<i>Carolyn Rash – Edith DeBusk President Award Committee, Lucente, Perfect Attendance</i>
<i>Ellen Heffner – Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award Coordinator</i>	<i>Jackie Robertson - Perfect Attendance</i>
<i>Sabra Klein - Perfect Attendance</i>	<i>La Tonya Spencer - Service</i>
<i>Betty Lawson - Lamplighter, Perfect Attendance</i>	<i>Susie Stephenson – District Secretary</i>
<i>Phyllis Meyerson - Lamplighter</i>	<i>Sharron Vance - Membership Development</i>
<i>Dee Parmer - Perfect Attendance</i>	

**2014-2015**

**2015-2016**

**2016-2017**

**2017-2018**

**2018-2019**

**2019-2020**

Presidents during this decade were:

<i>Sharron Vance</i>	2010-2011
<i>Ellen Heffner</i>	2011-2012
<i>Dee Parmer</i>	2012-2013
<i>Sabra Klein</i>	2013-2014
<i>Deborah Hecht</i>	2014-2015
<i>Sharron Vance</i>	2015-2016
<i>Gillian Allen</i>	2016-2017
	2017-2018
	2018-2019
	2019-2020