



Photo above:

Breckinridge Elementary Magnet School was awarded \$2,000 as the designated local non-profit by Virginia Smith, the 2025 Anna H Settle Community Leadership Award recipient.

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Welcome to a Special Edition of The Impact

Message from the Foundation Chair: LaVone Arthur

It is both a privilege and a joy to greet you for the first time as Chair of the Altrusa International Foundation. Coming off the energy of the Altrusa International Convention, I am inspired by the passion, creativity, and commitment I witnessed from each and every Altrusan in attendance. So inspired, in fact, that we could not wait to share highlights from the Convention along with several exciting announcements as we enter the second quarter of this Biennium!



The success of the Convention is not measured solely by the number of Altrusans in attendance, the engaging and meaningful educational sessions, or even the dollars raised to support our many initiatives—whether through Club Grants that fuel vital projects, Disaster Relief that strengthens communities in times of need, or the new Club 52 program that allows children to simply be children. Its true success is reflected in the meaningful connections we made, the innovative ideas we shared, and the collective spirit that reminded us of *Why We Became Altrusans and Why We Give to the Foundation*.

As I step into this role, I am eager to build upon the strong foundation laid by those before me and to work alongside all of you to carry our mission forward with renewed momentum. I especially want to thank our outgoing Board members—Leslie Johnson, Marie Pike, and Phyllis Corman—as well as our immediate past Chair, Karen Robinson, and immediate past Finance Chair, Jane Hart. We are grateful that Karen and Jane will remain on the Board for another biennium, continuing to share their experience and expertise. *(Continued on page 2)*

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I am also delighted to welcome three new Board members: Sherral Nelson, Shannon Schell, and Connie Stoker. Alongside continuing Board members Dorothy Bowen, Anne Condran, and Melanie Hodges, our Association Representative Kitty McElhaney, and our Legal Advisor Martha Hofmeister, this group of dedicated Altrusans is committed to ensuring that the Foundation remains effective, ethical, and impactful - fulfilling its mission today while safeguarding its future.

Finally, I want to express heartfelt appreciation to our small but mighty staff, Dr. Kantrice Rose and Natalia Lopez Vazquez, whose dedication and hard work help make all we do possible.

Together, we have the opportunity to make an extraordinary impact. I look forward to all that we will accomplish in the months ahead as we continue to serve, to give, and to transform lives through the work of the Altrusa International Foundation. The best of our journey is yet to come!



2025 International Convention Foundation Award Winners

Wilma B. Hogan Enduring Community Project Award Winner

Altrusa International of Highland County, OH

Project: Books for all Kids

At the 2025 Convention in Quebec City, the Altrusa International Foundation, Inc., was honored to present the first Wilma B. Hogan Enduring Community Project Award to the Altrusa International Club of Highland County, Inc., Ohio.

This Award is a prestigious recognition given by the Foundation to a Club that has a demonstrated exceptional long-term service project that has had an impact on the community, shown growth and development, and has achieved successful outcomes. This award is a tribute to Wilma B. Hogan, a dedicated member of Altrusa International of Tampa Bay, Florida, Inc. The Altrusa International Club of Highland County's initiative, Books For All Kids, promotes literacy and seeks to change lives one book at a time.

The initial project began with delivering books to students in grades 1, 2, and 4. This project was made possible from fundraising activities and support from the community for those fundraisers, such as the annual Quarter Raffle and Book Sales.

Grants from South Central Power, the Elks, NCB bank, Altrusa International Foundation, and sponsoring a golf tournament opened funds to begin giving books to students in grades K-5. Recently the club has received money from Merchants National Bank, Weastec and Hillsboro Eagles and will be expanding the book project to include preschool and supporting 6th grade teachers with needed literacy materials.

For over 20 years, this impactful initiative has placed more than 27,000 books into the hands of Highland County children promoting literacy, sparking joy, and changing lives one book at a time.



Karen Robinson (left), Foundation Chair 2023–2025, presents the monetary award check to Karyn Evans (right), member of the Altrusa Club of Highland County, OH.



Bright Elementary principal and students with Altrusa members.

2025 International Convention Foundation Award Winners

2025 Anna H. Settle Community Leadership Award Winner

Virginia Smith “Ginny”



Virginia Smith

Virginia Smith, better known as Ginny, was recognized as the 2025 Anna H Settle Community Leadership Award. She is a member of Altrusa International of Lexington, KY and has long been committed to serving her community through with a particular focus on education and literacy.

Her project, Breckinridge Elementary Magnet School, has a population of 520 students from 28 countries, who speak more than 17 different languages. Ginny recognized the significant special needs of this school and saw an opportunity for the Altrusa Club of Lexington, KY to provide meaningful supplemental support to these students beyond a once-a-year program. Since 2010 Ginny has spearheaded the following projects for Breckinridge:

- The Dictionary and learning for third grade students
- Books as Bridges Projects promoted literacy, education and global friendships between students from Breckinridge with students in classrooms in Bosnia and Herzegovina and then Tokyo.
- In 2022, a project was developed to bring Altrusa volunteers into each classroom for interactive reading activities and with each student received books for their home libraries.
- Ginny also spearheaded an annual essay contest. Now in its third year the contest is open to 4th grade and 5th classes.
- She has secured two grants totally \$2,500 to secure a Scholastic Book Vending Machine for the school and purchased subscriptions for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders through Storyworks.
- “One School – One Book” program for the entire school enrollment is Ginny’s most recent project. Each student receives a copy to read at home as a family and at school students can discuss and explore the novel with their classmates. This strategy involves families in their student’s learning, bridges home and school connections and creates a community of readers to discuss and share their thoughts.



Karen Robinson (left), Foundation Chair 2023–2025, presents the monetary award check to a member of Altrusa International of Lexington, KY, on behalf of Virginia Smith, who was unable to attend Convention.

In his letter of support for Ginny’s nomination Principal Price states, “Ms. Smith’s work is not driven by accolades or recognition, but by a deep-rooted belief in the limitless potential of every child. She is a true volunteer in every sense of the word, living and leading in our community without compensation, dedicating her time, heart and talents selflessly -- she brings hope, joy, and opportunity to those who need it most. Her leadership is a beacon of the values that the Anna H. Settle Community Leadership Award seeks to honor.”

VIP Donor Recognition Reception

One hundred and three Altrusans were invited to attend the VIP Donor Recognition reception held during the 2025 Convention. These Altrusans donated at least \$500 to the Intentional Acts of Giving Campaign and Lamplighter program during the 2023-2025 biennium.

Invited donors enjoyed light refreshments and beverages in the company of fellow honorees as they were recognized and thanked for their generosity. Each donor received a Lamplighter paperweight donated by Doc Morgan, Inc. at the conclusion of the event.

Charter sponsors of the reception were Shackelford, Doc Morgan, Inc., Francis & Associates, McMillan, and The Suter Company.



Introducing Club 52: Honoring Our Legacy, Building the Future



The name Club 21 was chosen in anticipation of the 21st century, which began just three years after Club 21's launch. Now, we celebrate the 30th anniversary of this powerful initiative.

Over the past 30 years, Club 21 has grown from a single camp for children with AIDS/HIV to supporting a wide range of programs for children facing physical, mental, and emotional disabilities, cancer and blood disorders, and other medical and socioeconomic challenges. Our reach now extends even further, encompassing international education and health initiatives.

With this growth, the need—and the cost—has naturally increased. What was once a meaningful \$21 donation in 1997 is equivalent to nearly \$50 in 2025.

At the 59th International Convention in Québec City, we officially transitioned from Club 21 to Club 52. Two Hundred Seventy-Four Altrusans attending the Convention became Charter Members of Club 52. This new chapter invites everyone to contribute **\$1 per week for 52 weeks—or a one-time donation of \$52**—to continue and expand the legacy we've built together.

All who donate from July 2025 through May 31, 2026, including at Spring 2026 District Conferences or via our website—will be recognized as Charter Members of Club 52.

Clubs and Districts contributing **\$252 or more** during this period will also be recognized as **Charter Members** and will receive a **Club 52 patch** for their banners as a symbol of their commitment and impact.

Club 52 Charter Members

July 25, 2025-September 10, 2025



District One

Catherine Baybutt
Hilda C. Schmidt
Carlita Cotton
Hollis Cotton
Tina Craig
Diane English
Patricia Jackowski
Christine Johnson
Debbie Lemieux
Pamela Lemieux
Jackie Maciejewski
Patricia Maxim
Victoria Nimirowski
Carole Norrish
Diane O'Reilly
Wanda P. Pettersen
Marie Pike
Susan Porazzo
Linda Ring
Diane Robinson
Ann Marie Snyder
Jodi Walencewicz

District Two

Allison Baker
Roxanne Barzona
Tammy Boyd
Sandra Butler
Robin Cain
Lisa Carey
Phyllis Corman
Kathy Cox
Linda Dorr
Antonetta Fleming
Shari Gomez
Cindy Jennings
Christine Johnson
Kimberly Lillie
Maureen McGough
Donna Miller
Amy Miller
Sherral Nelson
Martha Porter
Lisa Quinby
Jessica Rollison

Marcia Royal
Brenda Ruby
Roy Satterwhite
Silvia Silverman
Barbara Speight
Patalia Tate
Margaret Ann Tyndall
Laura Ullrich
Roberta Wertz-Hoy
Jeanette Wolfe
Patricia Woodward
Patricia Yerkes

District Three

Christine Brewer
Christy Bryant
Trina Cothrin
Lori Davis
Doris Dugger
Colleen M. Duris
Dolores Hall
Tammy Hall
Michelle Hanks
Traci Jones
Randi Kahl
Carole Khoury
Mary Kirley
Roberta Klusmeier
Constance Larsen
Rose Leake
Dawn Mainville
Donna Marzek
Kathryn E. McElhaney
Deborah McLendon
Elizabeth Michalec
Kimberly Pue
Karen Robinson
Shannon Schell
Nancy Shumaker
LaShone Surrency
Carol Thomas
Sandy Thompson
Scott Tice
Martha Young

District Four

Gillian Allen
Samantha Berven
Janet Charles
Melinda Dill
Jennifer Gatlin
Judy Gooch
Pam Grantham
Jane Grossbeck
Beth Hickman
Jean Lantrip
Connie Larimer
Regina Lawson
Bobbie McClaren
Jane Palmer
Carolyn Robinson
Julie Walters
Rhonda Watlington
Jenna Watson
Mark Watson
Malia Wyatt

District Five

Tamara M. Bader
Sylvia L. Clark
Laura Collins
Linda Collins
Karyn Evans
Cassie M. Gamble
Michele Haverfield
Penelope Hunt
Wilma J. James
Shelley Kendrick
Kathleen Velarde
Linda Williams

District Six

Kay Bales
Kathleen Benz
Karen Brunson
Sherrell Bryant
Mary Anne Burford
Stephanie Clark
Anne S. Condran
Jill Deege
Christine DeVlieger
Donna Gable
Della D. Gregory
Laura Helms
Beverly Herzog
Susan Huck
Linda J. Johnson
Mary Kane
Beth Kroehler
Cathy McConnell
Marsha McCormick
Nancy Norris
Priscilla Palmer
Hope Rold
Carolyn Scruggs
Virginia Smith
Georgette Smith
Catharine Stewart
Christine Stewart
Dana Vierck
Sue Whitaker
Brenda Williamson
Elaine Wolf

District Seven

Chanda Anderson
Nancy Barthel
Suzanne Chowen
Janice Golliher
Judi Lundstrom
Deanna Sargent

Club 52 Charter Members

July 25, 2025-September 10, 2025



District Eight

Sarah Akin
Ronda Blakley
Lorraine Brewer
Christen Clift
Jacqueline Cook
Glenna Cunningham
Penny Daugherty
Tama Davidson
Patricia Fielding
Jane Hart
Margaret Hershberger Kilyanek
Vickie Kilgore
Linda Lunde
Jill Morris
Michele Nightingale
Cassandra Poole
Brenda Smith
Connie D. Stoker
Kathy Surratt-States
Jane Wild

District Nine

Karen Allen
LaVone Arthur
Shari Barat
D'Anna Bates
Mary Black Pearson
Deborah Bourland
Carol Bowens
Melissa Broughton
Laure Bruner
Sherry Burk
Angelia Caronia
Guadalupe Carvajal
Cynthia Castleberry
Frances Dalbey
Michelle DiGaetano
Susan Even
Deborah Fendrick
Tommi Fettig
Kennedi Fettig
Cindy Hanerhoff
Tina Hampton
Martha Hardwick Hofmeister
Anne Harris
Jan Hemphill
Laura Hornung
Linda Hurt

Julia Huff
Kimberly Kierce
Betty Lawson
Debbie Llacuna
Beverly Luedke
Debbie Mabry
Victoria Madden
Holly McCoy
Sue McElveen
Mary McLemore
Phyllis Meyerson
Beth Miller
Linda Moore
Cindy Murray
Sharon Nash
Marla Naylor
Stephanie Noland
Cynthia Norris
Mary Osentowski
Mary Powlen
Anne Rahm
Shirley Raymer
Shirley Raymer
Elle Reese
Laura Roach
Nancy Rohm
Betty Sainz
Anna Scruggs
Beatrice T. Self
Marina Silver Frenchak
Kathleen Smith
Mary Standfield
Linda Taylor
Laura Trainor-Collins
Sharon Tramonte
Sharon Walzel
Debby Weber
Kathleen Witte

District Ten

Karen Little
Debbie Blanchard
Sonja Horn
Gail Kubik
Lori Michaels
Cozetta G. Moore
Mandi Park
Linda Riba
Judy H. Stubbs

District Eleven

Margaret Beaman
Melinda Aguirre
Ann Banwell
Margaret Beaman
Michelle Bell
Lina Cestero
Mary Clark
Kathleen Girard
Valerie Higgs
Melanie Hodges
Glenda Hogg
Leslie Johnson
Carol Latham
Donna Newman
Kimberley Painter
Patricia Schlichting
Hillary Sloan
Helyn Sloan
April Smith
Patricia A. Young
Patricia A. Zoller

District Twelve

Tami Atkinson
Dorothy Bowen
Denna Burian Blacklaw
Bonnie Canaday
Lisa Clark
Jan Kerby
Ilona Kerby
Julie Livingston
Debbie McBee
Karen Rose
Bettina Schempf

Clubs and Districts

Altrusa International of Centre County, PA
Altrusa International of Charlotte, NC Foundation
Altrusa International of Charlotte, NC
Altrusa International of Chula Vista, CA
Altrusa International of DeKalb County, IL
Altrusa International of Eastern Sierra, CA
Altrusa International of Greater Kansas City, KS
Altrusa International of Ocala, FL

District Fourteen

Mabel Acevedo
Sally Carlo Acosta
Carmen Agosto
Gloribel Agrinsoni
Virginia Caballero Santos
Adelaida Cruz-Zayas
Myrna Fuentes
Neysa A. Gonzalez Martinez
Carmen Irizarry
Sylvia Juarbe
Norma Lucena
Annette Martinez
Nilsa Martinez Camacho
Ada Montalvo
Maria Negron
Ileana Pacheco Morales
Kimberly Perez Fuentes
Raquel Quiñones Roman
Brenda Ramos
Iris Ramos Cofresi
Zwinda Rivera
Alejandrina Roman
Noemi E. Serrano
Zaida Serrano Cruz
Carmen Ivette Texidor
Elizabeth Troche Cordero

District Fifteen

Jenette Borrell
Margaret Melhop
Leanne Milligan

To join Club 52, [click here](#). (Choose option \$52)

Welcome New Lamplighters

New Lamplighters from the 2025 International Convention

Karen Allen, Altrusa International of Downtown Dallas, TX
Laura Roach, Altrusa International of DFW, TX
Hope Rold, Altrusa International of Evansville, IN
Nancy Shumaker, Altrusa International of Statesboro, GA

Georgette Smith, Altrusa International of Lexington, KY
Mark Watson, Altrusa International of Oak Ridge, TN
Jane Wild, Altrusa International of Lawrence, KS

Debby Weber Award Winners



Debbie Weber, second from right and Christine DeVlieger right present checks to 2025 winners.

These Clubs awards are named in honor of former International Foundation Trustee Debby Weber. The top three Altrusa Clubs with the largest donations to the International Foundation, and top three Altrusa Clubs with the largest donations per capita to the Foundation. The 2025 winners were:

Largest Donation Per Club

1. Altrusa International of Muncie, IN
2. Altrusa International of St. Louis, MO
3. Altrusa International of DeKalb County, IL

Largest Per Capita Donation

1. Altrusa International of St. Louis, MO
2. Altrusa International of DeKalb County, IL
3. Altrusa International of Fox Valley IL

Why I Give



Jill L. Morris

I give because I truly feel called to give as I have been blessed. I believe God blesses us not only to provide for our own families, but to help others out of our abundance. I give because it brings me joy to see my donations making a difference in the lives of others. I give to help with today's needs and also to plan and provide for an unknown future that my donations might benefit the work that is done. I give to Altrusa International because it is the one organization I have been a part of that benefits not only those we serve but also our Club members. The first Principle of Altrusa is "Altrusa is a builder of women." I am fortunate to have experienced this from ladies I respected who encouraged me to go farther and reach further than I dreamed possible. Lastly, I give to Altrusa to help build a future and legacy that our women (and men) will continue this first principle and continue reaching.

Jill Morris
Member of Altrusa International of Janesboro, AR

2025 International Convention Revenue

A **BIG THANK YOU** to all who donated and/or purchased an item in the silent or live auction. This year's revenue from the Convention can be described as outstanding, wonderful, better than everything else, stellar, and exciting! Preliminary results include donations to:

Where Needed Most	\$ 32,500
Grants	\$ 800
Disaster Relief Aid	\$ 7,500
Endowment Fund	\$ 300
Club 52	\$ 13,600
Auction	\$ 14,200
TOTAL	\$ 68,900

ASK DOROTHY

Dorothy Bowen, Grants Committee Chair, answers your grant-related questions.

It was wonderful to meet many of you who attended the Altrusa International Conference in Quebec City, Canada, in July. It is always a positive experience to meet other like-minded individuals from so many places around the globe.

As a member of the Altrusa International Foundation Board of Trustees, I had the privilege of helping to present two workshops on successful grant application preparation and requirements. I was joined by Karen Robinson, Past Chair of the Foundation Board, and by Dr. Kantrice Rose, Executive Director for the Foundation. Attendees were a mix of “first-time” application writers and those with prior experience writing grant requests to the International Foundation. (We even had one attendee via “FaceTime” from India!)

Regardless of the level of grant experience, the message we offered was that the application process has been designed to help your Club “develop a viable project” and to submit a “competitive application”.

In closing, we reiterate our willingness to answer questions regarding the Foundation’s grant application processes, project in development, or a currently funded project experiencing setbacks.

Thus, we have instituted an “Ask Dorothy” column and a reminder to send an email seeking assistance. Be sure to include your return email, phone, and Club information.

Send your questions to: shadowhawkenterprises@gmail.com

– PLEASE NOTE: “Ask Dorothy” in the reference line.

Dorothy Bowen, Grants Chair
Altrusa International Foundation Board of Trustees

Ways to Give to the International Foundation

Support the Altrusa International Foundation in Meaningful Ways

Did you know there are smart and impactful ways to support the Altrusa International Foundation beyond writing a check? You can help strengthen our mission through:

- **Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from your retirement accounts**
- **Gifts of appreciated stock**
- **Legacy gifts by joining the Donor Roundtable**

These giving options can provide lasting benefits to both you and the communities we serve around the world.

To learn more about how you can give, visit: <https://foundation.altrusa.org/donate/>
Together, we can continue leading to a better community.

Celebrating the 2025 Charter Corporate Sponsors



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