District Three Service Bulletin

Florida-Georgia-North Carolina-South Carolina

Summer 2026

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Governor's Message

The Summer Heat Is On,
and So Is Altrusa!



Mantha Young

Whew! What a summer! If you've spent any time outdoors lately, you know the heat has certainly made its presence known. Here in District Three, we might be ready to say goodbye to soaring temperatures, but there's one kind of heat I hope we keep going—the energy and enthusiasm of our Altrusans!

As summer winds down, our clubs across District Three are gearing up for a busy and exciting fall. Service projects are being planned, fundraisers are taking shape, new members are being welcomed, and Altrusans are continuing to find meaningful ways to make a difference in their communities.

October brings Make a Difference Day, and I hope every District Three club will find a special way to participate. It doesn't have to be a huge project. Sometimes the simplest act of service can have the greatest impact. Look around your community. Where is

there a need? Who could use a helping hand? How can your club live out our District Three message of Leading to a Better Community?

And, of course, literacy continues to be at the heart of so much of what we do. Every book placed into the hands of a child, every hour spent reading with someone, and every literacy project moves us closer to our International challenge of one million books and 500,000 literacy service hours.

So, as we trade our summer fans and iced tea for pumpkins and cooler evenings, let's keep one thing turned up—the Altrusa spirit! Thank you for showing your communities what it means to BEE Essential.

With gratitude,
Mantha
Mantha A. Young
Governor, Altrusa District Three





Bee Essential – Together We Buzz with Purpose!

Annual Club Report 2025-2026
Distinguished Club Awards

Nanci Shumaker,
District Three Governor-Elect


Nancy Shumaker

"Altrusa is practical idealism. Its service consists, not in saying great things, but in daily earnest practice of its principles." (Mamie L. Bass, 1921)

In this, number five of her twelve Principles of Altrusa, Mamie L. Bass explains in simple and clear terms what defines Altrusa and the service that we Altrusans undertake to improve the quality of life for those around us. As she notes, it is through our daily earnest practice of the Altrusa principles that we show how small groups of dedicated individuals can make major changes for the better in our communities, our nation, and the world. The Distinguished Club Award is one way Altrusa International makes clear how much our efforts are appreciated.

Altrusa International applies a set of guidelines to determine which clubs have made exemplary contributions in community service, leadership development, scholarships provided to worthy students, and benefits to the impoverished and disadvantaged. Clubs seeking the award complete an application that details their annual contributions to the improvement of their communities as well as their involvement in the governance and leadership of Altrusa itself at the club, district, and international level. Clubs receiving the award exemplify the commitment and dedication to serving others that we all strive to achieve.

Please join me in celebrating the recognition of the following nine District Three clubs as Distinguished Clubs for 2025-2026.

- Charlotte, NC
- Gainesville, FL
- Lake City, FL
- Lake County, FL
- North Georgia, GA
- Ocala, FL
- Orlando-Winter Park, FL
- Raleigh, NC
- Spartanburg, SC

Congratulations to these clubs and their members who have shown their commitment to the ideals of Altrusa through their dedicated service to their communities, our nation, and the world. You make all of us in District Three proud to be your fellow Altrusans!

Please submit DSB articles
and/or comments to:
Sandy Thompson
sandy@organizemehappy.com



2027 Awards Criteria

By Scott Frieser, Vice Governor

Name of Award	Description	Level of Award	Due Date	Please note	Send to name/address	Judging Committee
Mamie L. Bass Service Award	Recognize outstanding community service projects that benefit the community	District Three & International	January 31, 2027	District winner is submitted to International for competition in the biennium Convention year.	Awards Chair / Vice Governor Scott Frieser 13212 Providence Greee Ct. Charlotte, NC 28277 vicegovernordistrictthree@gmail.com	3 Prominent members of the general public
Letha H. Brown Literacy Award	Recognize outstanding literacy projects that serve the community	District Three & International	January 31, 2027	District winner is submitted to International for competition in the biennium Convention year.	Awards Chair / Vice Governor Scott Frieser 13212 Providence Greee Ct. Charlotte, NC 28277 vicegovernordistrictthree@gmail.com	3 Prominent members of the general public
Ernestine Milner Program Excellence Award	Recognize excellence in club program planning	District Three	January 31, 2027		Awards Chair / Vice Governor Scott Frieser 13212 Providence Greee Ct. Charlotte, NC 28277 vicegovernordistrictthree@gmail.com	3 Prominent members of the general public
Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award	Recognize projects that promote international understanding and goodwill	District Three & International	January 31, 2027	District winner is submitted to International for competition in the biennium Convention year.	Awards Chair / Vice Governor Scott Frieser 13212 Providence Greee Ct. Charlotte, NC 28277 vicegovernordistrictthree@gmail.com	3 Prominent members of the general public
Outstanding Community Service Award	Recognize a club's commitment to making community service a priority	District Three	January 31, 2027		Awards Chair / Vice Governor Scott Frieser 13212 Providence Greee Ct. Charlotte, NC 28277 vicegovernordistrictthree@gmail.com	Submissions that meet criteria are recognized
Newsletter Award	Recognize timely and informative club newsletters	District Three	January 31, 2027	Send 3 consecutive issues from previous calendar year	Awards Chair / Vice Governor Scott Frieser 13212 Providence Greee Ct. Charlotte, NC 28277 vicegovernordistrictthree@gmail.com	3 Prominent members of the general public
Todd Jordan Yearbook Award	Recognize outstanding annual club yearbooks	District Three	January 31, 2027	Send electronic copy of current Club Yearbook in PDF format to Awards Chair.	Awards Chair / Vice Governor Scott Frieser 13212 Providence Greee Ct. Charlotte, NC 28277 vicegovernordistrictthree@gmail.com	Submissions are recognized
Governor's Outstanding Club	Recognize excellence in overall club achievement	District Three	February 28, 2027	Submit application to the District Governor	Governor Mantha Young PO Box 292 Lake City, FL 32056 altrusadistrictthreegovernor@gmail.com	Governor Mantha
Extension Award	Recognizes the successful chartering of a new Altrusa club	District Three	No Application Required	Determined by District records	Awards Chair / Vice Governor Scott Frieser 13212 Providence Greee Ct. Charlotte, NC 28277 vicegovernordistrictthree@gmail.com	Governor Mantha
Myrtice H. Price Membership Award	Recognize excellence in membership growth	District Three	No Application Required	Computation obtained from District Treasurer's records as of January 31, 2027	Send membership changes to District Three Treasurer Scott Tice 7610 SW 63rd Place Rd. Ocala, FL 34474 districtthreetreasurer@gmail.com	Based on computation from Treasurer
New Member Incentive Award	Recognize clubs for sponsoring new members	District Three	No Application Required	Computation obtained from District Treasurer's records as of January 31, 2027	Send membership changes to District Three Treasurer Scott Tice 7610 SW 63rd Place Rd. Ocala, FL 34474 districtthreetreasurer@gmail.com	Based on computation from Treasurer
Membership - Greatest Net Gain	Recognize the club with the greatest net membership growth	District Three	No Application Required	Computation obtained from District Treasurer's records as of January 31, 2027	Send membership changes to District Three Treasurer Scott Tice 7610 SW 63rd Place Rd. Ocala, FL 34474 districtthreetreasurer@gmail.com	Based on computation from Treasurer



Scott Frieser

Please note the following change, as approved by the District Three Board:

The monetary awards are funded through the District Three $10,000 Myrtice H. Price Endowment. Interest is calculated annually as of January 31.

First, Second, and Third Place winners will receive checks for 50%, 30%, and 20%, respectively, of the annual interest earned by the Myrtice H. Price Investment Fund.

In the event of a tie:

- If two clubs tie for First Place, the First and Second Place awards will be combined and divided equally.
- If three or more clubs tie for First Place, the First, Second, and Third Place awards will be combined and divided equally.
- If there is a tie for Second Place, the Second and Third Place awards will be combined and divided equally.
- If there is a tie for Third Place, the Third Place award will be divided equally among the tied clubs.

Altrusa International District Three, Inc. Membership Report

By Scott Tice
District Three Treasurer





Scott Tice

Altrusa District Three, Inc.
Membership as of August 15, 2026

Count of Member Type	Column Labels						
Row Labels	Active	Affiliate	Dual Member	Emeritus	Life	Young Adult	Grand Total
Atlanta, GA	5		1				6
Charlotte, NC	17			1		1	19
Citrus County, FL	22						22
District Three Virtual Club	14		9	1		1	25
Gainesville, FL	38			9			47
Gastonia, NC	12			1			13
Lake City, FL	76			6		1	83
Lake County, FL	22						22
Live Oak, FL	26			1			27
Marianna, FL	21						21
Monticello, FL	22			3			25
North Georgia, GA	38			4			42
Ocala, FL	29			1			30
Orlando-Winter Park, FL	36			1			37
Raleigh, NC	14				1	1	16
Salisbury, NC	8			1			9
Spartanburg, SC	31			2		1	34
St. Augustine, FL	15						15
Starke, FL	34			2	1		37
Statesboro, GA	33		1	5			39
Affiliates		9		3			12
Grand Total	**513**	**9**	**11**	**41**	**2**	**5**	**581**

District Three New Members

By Scott Tice
District Three Treasurer



Scott Tice

Altrusa District Three, Inc.
New Members - May 16, 2026 - August 15, 2026

New Member	Sponsor	Joined
Gastonia, NC		
Tracy Glover	Lynn F. Jimison	5/29/2026
Margaret Trueman	Lynn F. Jimison	5/29/2026
Lake City, FL		
Kelsey Lollis	Tricia Delrio Ashton Crowder	6/1/2026
Live Oak, FL		
Cierra Butts	Millie Schneider	5/28/2026
Marianna, FL		
Kathy Donofro	Kathy Milton	5/17/2026
Monticello, FL		
Beverly Demott		6/1/2026
Marisa Duber		5/28/2026
Melanie Southerland		5/28/2026
North Georgia, GA		
Sandra Culver	Julie Ford Becky Hitch	6/8/2026
Ocala, FL		
Chrissy Vickers	Anita Winter Becky Long	6/11/2026
Raleigh, NC		
Lynn Bessette	Rana VanName	5/30/2026
Salisbury, NC		
Cassandra Janney	Stephanie Bruce	6/12/2026
Spartanburg, SC		
Jane G. Johnson	Mildred Finch	6/2/2026
Donna Smiley	Diane Howard	6/30/2026
St. Augustine, FL		
Christine Jenne	Linda Herrera	7/3/2026
Catherine O'Dell	Linda Herrera	7/3/2026
Virtual Club		
Debra Bagnall Haines		7/30/2026

Friendship First: Building Membership One Connection at a Time

By Amanda Seyfang
District Three Membership


Amanda Seyfang

What if growing our membership began with something as simple as friendship?
As Altrusans, we know the value of connection. We build friendships while serving our communities, supporting one another, and making a difference in the lives of others. Yet sometimes, when we want to grow our clubs, we can feel pressure to find the "right" person to invite—and then find the perfect moment to ask them to join.
What if we took the pressure away?

Friendship First is a simple approach to membership: invite people to get to know us before we ever ask them to become members.

Friends, neighbors, coworkers, family members, and community acquaintances may not know what Altrusa is—or may have an idea that doesn't capture the fun, fellowship, and friendships that come with being an Altrusan. A relaxed social gathering gives them an opportunity to experience our club for themselves, without feeling like they are walking into a membership pitch.

A Friendship First event doesn't need to be elaborate or expensive. In fact, the best events may be the simplest ones. Host a **game night** and invite guests to join the fun. A lively evening of Bunco or Bingo can create plenty of opportunities for conversation, laughter, and getting acquainted. Turn one of your regular **service projects into a "Bring a Friend" opportunity**. Invite someone to work alongside you as you serve the community. They can see Altrusa in action, experience the satisfaction of giving back, and meet the people who make your club special. The goal isn't to fill out membership applications that night. The goal is to create **connections**.

Let Them See Who We Are

People are often drawn to organizations because of what they see and feel—not because someone gave them a list of benefits.

Let them see that Altrusa is more than a name or a meeting. **It is people coming together to make a difference—and enjoying the journey together.**

When we lead with friendship, we create an environment where guests can decide for themselves whether Altrusa feels like a place where they belong.



ALTRUSA International | Leading to a Better Community

2027 Conference in Gainesville, Florida

By Rebecca Golden
District Three Conference Co-Chair



Rebecca Golden

Get ready to buzz your way to Gainesville for the 2027 Altrusa District Three Conference! We'll be swarming into the Hilton University of Florida Conference Center, 1714 SW 34th St, on April 23–24, 2027, for two days of energy, excitement, and service-driven fun. This year's theme, Buzzin' with Service, celebrates the hive-minded spirit that makes Altrusans unstoppable. Expect a hive full of ideas, sweet connections, and plenty of opportunities to pollinate new projects across our district. We can't wait to see the whole colony gather in Gainesville—let's make this conference the bee's knees of 2027!



Introducing our new District Three Foundation Trustees



Joanne Brown

By Joanne Brown
District Three Foundation Chair

I am delighted to introduce the new District Three Foundation board members elected at the Spartanburg Conference. We have added two world travelers.

Jane Lewis, a member of the Spartanburg, SC club since 2019, served as President in 2023-2025 and is now President of the club's Foundation Board. Jane also served as the club's New Projects Chair and has been Chair of the Chili Sponsorship since 2021. She has recently acquired a South Carolina state insurance license and is certified to handle Medicare and the Affordable Care Act. Her next step is to get assigned to various insurance agencies to assist clients in these matters. Jane has been to Australia and is currently preparing to go to Greece and will be visiting the towns of Athens, Santorini, Náxos, Nafplio and Spartan with a native Greek. Upon return, she is looking forward to making a meaningful impact on the District Three Foundation Board







Carol Thomas, a retired graphic designer has been a member of the Orlando/Winter Park, Florida club since 2003. She served as President of the club in 2010-2012 and has been active at both the District Three and International levels, serving in 2013-2015 as Co-Chair of the District Three Support our Soldiers service project and in 2015-2017as a District Three Director and International Chair of the Support our Soldiers service project. In 2021-2023, Carol took on the responsibility as Editor of the District Three Service Bulletin. You may recognize Carol because she has had a booth selling her jewelry at our conferences. As an amateur photographer she enjoys taking many photos on her travels. After her husband's retirement in August 2026, they started the beginning of many trips and are currently on a Land and Sea Cruise in Alaska. She and her husband have two sons. Their eldest Richard is in Florida, but their younger son Sam and his wife and sons Rory and River live in Germany. She will be another world traveler.



International Foundation and Grants


Martin Houston

By Scott Tice
District Three Treasurer

I hope everyone is doing well.

I want to take this time to update you on the International Foundation. We recently had our 73rd Annual District Three Conference in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Thanks to Tina Luca, Rosemary Leake and all the members of the Spartanburg Club for hosting and having a great Conference.

The International Foundation raised $197,687 throughout all of the Districts. Thank you, District Three, for your support and donations.

At our Conference, we raised $4,601.50 through the 50/50 Raffle, popcorn sales, Bingo, Club 52, and donations. We had one Lamplighter renewal. Thank you, Past Governor Dimple Overstreet from the Starke, Florida Club. Thank you also to International President Elect Kitty McElhaney from the Lake City Club. We missed you at our Conference, Kitty. And to all of the District Three members who were at Conference and for your donations through the year, THANK YOU.

Don't forget the deadline for the next cycle of grants is **September 15, 2026**. You can find more information at the International Foundation website: and Grants Programs & Awards

Thanks again,
Martin Houston
International Foundation Liaison
Club President, Altrusa International of Atlanta, GA Inc.





Partner with Us to Grow Altrusa: Let's Build the Future Together!


LaShone Surrency

By LaShone Surrency
District Three New Club Building Chair

Are you ready to expand our impact and share the joy of Altrusa? District Three is looking for vibrant, passionate clubs ready to sponsor or help start a new club in a neighboring community. By branching out, we can bring hands-on literacy, leadership, and community service to even more areas that need our support.

Sponsoring a new club is a deeply rewarding experience that re-energizes your current members, fosters regional collaboration, and creates a lasting legacy of service. Whether you have a specific town in mind, want to explore a virtual/hybrid club model, or simply want to brainstorm how to sow the seeds of Altrusa nearby, your ideas and enthusiasm are needed.

Let's keep our momentum strong and keep **Buzzin' in Service** across District Three!

Got ideas, questions, or a community in mind? Reach out today:

- **Contact**: LaShone Surrency, New Club Building Committee Chair
- **Email**: lsurrency@elcgateway.org
- **Phone**: (386) 961-0121



Your Story Matters: Share It with the District!

By Sarah Long
District Three Communications Chair



Sarah Long

As Altrusans, we know that service makes a difference, but sharing our stories can multiply that difference. Every project your club completes has the potential to inspire another club to try something new, reach more people, or build on an idea in their own community.

That's why communication is so important!

The District Service Bulletin is a wonderful way to showcase the incredible work happening throughout our district. We encourage every club to share its projects, accomplishments, and the people who make your service possible.

Great photos tell your story. A photo of Altrusans serving, working together, or connecting with the community can often communicate the impact of a project better than words alone.

Celebrate your members. Take the opportunity to recognize the members, community partners, and volunteers who give their time and talents to make your projects successful. They deserve to be celebrated!

Remember: Every project inspires another club. Your club may have an idea that another Altrusa club has never considered. By sharing what you are doing, you could spark a new project or partnership somewhere else in our district.

As we work toward our biennium goal, remember that every club is encouraged to submit at least TWO DSB articles each year. It doesn't have to be a major project; your club's everyday service matters, too!

So, take the pictures. Tell the story. Celebrate your members. Share your success. You never know whose next great Altrusa idea might be inspired by something your club is doing today!

We want to hear from you—and we want the district to see the amazing work you're doing!



Leadership and Fun

By Yvette Pue
Leadership Chair


Yvette Pue

For all of you in Altrusa who have taken on a leadership role – THANK YOU!!!!

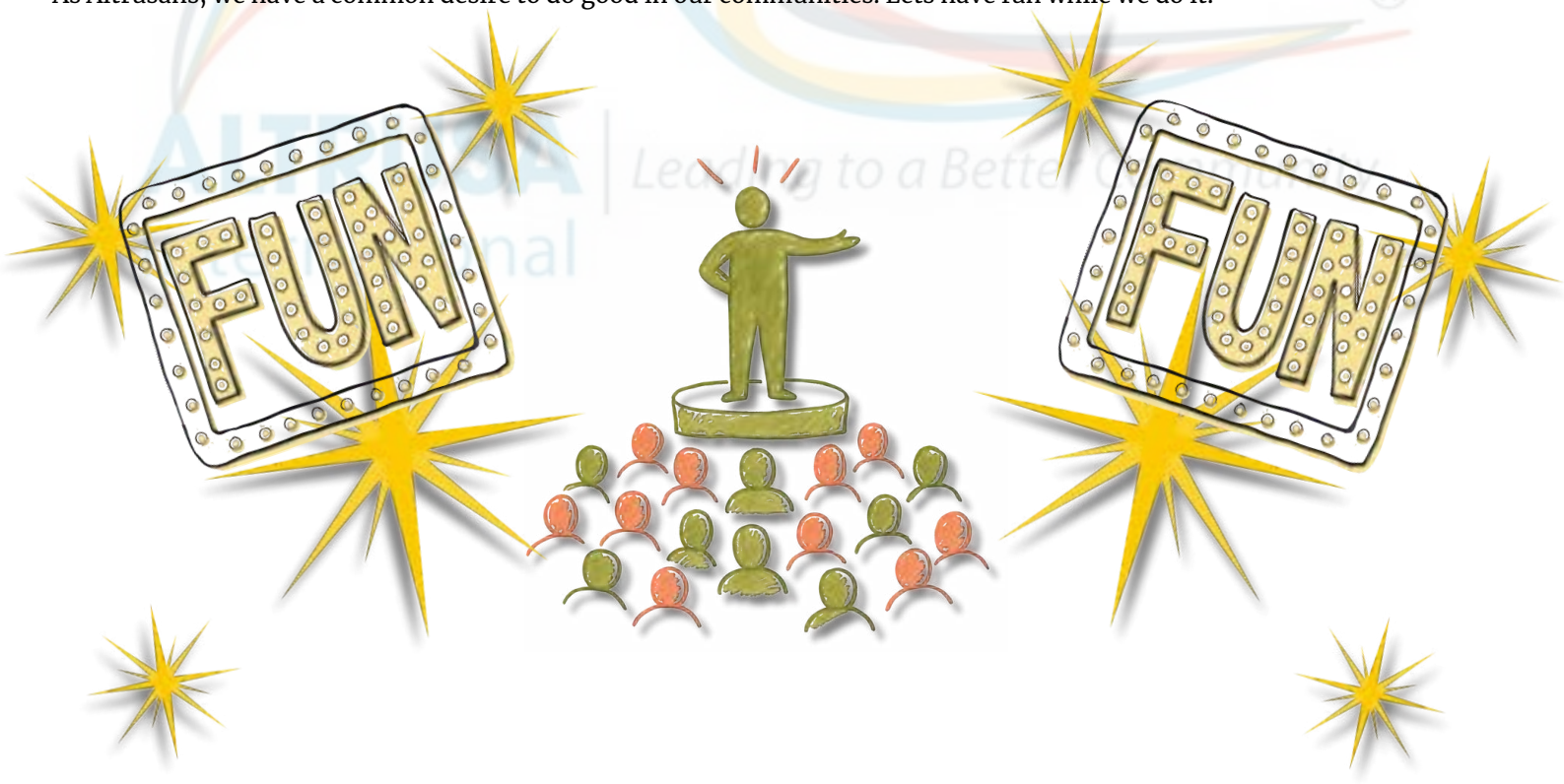
Taking on a position of responsibility and leadership isn't always easy. Regardless of where we are in our circle of life, we all have a lot going on that requires our time and energy. But we need people to take on those leadership roles and help keep our Altrusa clubs on track and moving forward. Sometimes it's not in our comfort zone but we do it anyway because we understand the need to have people in charge of things, planning and organizing so that the rest of the club can step in and help implement amazing projects that help lead to our better communities. So if you've stepped into a leadership role, pat yourself on the back and be proud of what you're doing.

So where does the fun in the title come into play with leadership? There are so many books and articles and discussions we could have about Fun and Leadership but lets just have a couple little "leadership snacks" to think about. If you as a leader are already using them, You Rock!!!! Keep it up.If not, give these at try, see how they work. And you don't have to use them just in Altrusa. They work great in other aspects of life as well.

First – As a leader, don't forget to make things fun. Implementing projects and activities can often require a lot of hard work. I've watched tempers flair and people get grumpy (in full disclosure I use myself as the example) while under stress but finding a way to add some fun to the execution of the event can make all the difference. Weather it's stopping for five minutes to have a silly dance break or reminding everyone that at the end of the activity is a group lunch somewhere fabulous, ensuring some fun during or after the event gives everyone something to enjoy or look forward to doing.

Second – As a leader, make sure you're having fun. A positive attitude from even one person can be infectious and help lighten the mood if things get stressful or keep the atmosphere from getting stressful at all.Remember to stop and do something fun in the middle of things if you can. A quick few minutes to laugh and reset can be a great stress reliever. It can be as quick as grabbing a few minutes to kick off your shoes, have a refreshing beverage, survey your progress and get ready to get back at it. Or maybe it might be a group of Altrusans having an hour at the end of a long day at conference to have a pajama party with adult beverages, yummy snacks, crazy kid games and competitions and time to just sit and fellowship.

As Altrusans, we have a common desire to do good in our communities. Lets have fun while we do it.



Club Service Projects & News

By Cheryl Malloy
Altrusa Intl of Orlando Winter Park, FL

OPERATION HOMEFRONT BACK-TO-SCHOOL BRIGADE

The Orlando-Winter Park Altrusa Club recently celebrated 10 years of support to our Military Families as part of the Operation Homefront's Back-T-School program.

During the month of July, designated members of our club collected school supplies from assigned Dollar Tree stores. Due to the generosity of Dollar Tree store shoppers, we collected an all-time record high of 4,200 items this year – 1,000 items more than last year.

On August 13th, 15 Altrusans met at an Orlando Army National Guard facility and sorted and stuffed 100 backpacks provided by Operation Homefront.Since we had an abundance of supplies each bag was loaded with everything needed by students to help them be successful in school.

On August 15th, 10 volunteers from our club, along with a few other helpers, distributed those 100 backpacks to the children of military families in our area. All families who signed up also received gift cards to help with other school related needs.As a part of the distribution effort, those registered were able to pose for a family back-to-school picture, have a snack, put together a craft item, and select an activity book, a lunch bag, novelty pens, and other assorted items. A few vendors were also available to discuss other military family related needs and pass out literature.

Additionally, on Auguste 13th, our club had filled another 25 totes with school supplies for those who did not sign-up for the program. The totes were handed out to soldiers who were at the facility for drill weekends. We were able to divide the remainder of the collected school supplies which members delivered to local schools and organizations in Orange, Seminole, Polk, Lake, and Volusia Counties.

This is one of our clubs' favorite activities, supporting our military families, as well as other students as they begin their school year.It is always heart warming to see how excited and thankful the children are to receive their backpacks and supplies.Our rewards are measured in smiles!



Boxes of supplies to be sorted



Lots of Altrusan helpers make quick work of sorting and packing backpacks



The thrill of a completed assembly line.



Distribution Crew on August 15th





Distributing extra supplies to other Orlando organizations and schools





Club Service Projects & News

By Yvette Pue

Altrusa Intl of Orlando Winter Park, FL

Orlando Winter Park Summer Social / Bring a Friend

On July 18th members of the Orlando Winter Park Club met at Board and Brush for our summer social where we made amazing wooden plaques, boxes and decorations. We also used the social event to "Bring a Friend and Potential new Altrusan." This was the second year in a row we met at Board and Brush as the group had such a great time last year that we decided to do it again. Alas, Board and Brush is closing it's doors so stay tuned to see where we go next year.

Over the course of a couple of fun filled hours, we fellowshipped, snacked, and let our inner artists come out to play. And one of the guests at the event will be initiated as a new member at our September meeting. While our meetings and projects help us to plan and serve our communities, taking the time to connect in a totally fun environment allows us to deepen our current relationships and build new ones.

We all had a great time and even threw in a bit of philanthropy after all, as several members provided personal care items that our West Side Morning Group will provide to the Matthews Hope charity we support.

Good food, great friends, fun crafting, amazing fellowshipping and still helping to make our community better. What more could we ask for on a summer afternoon?









Club Service Projects & News

By Dawn Jones

Altrusa Intl of Orlando Winter Park, FL

On Wednesday, August 12th, Altrusa Orlando-Winter Park was honored to be invited to the back-to-school celebration at Quest Kids Academy, a school supporting kids with autism and other developmental disabilities. This is their first school year in the new facility. We were encouraged to make signs and bring pom poms to welcome the kids as they were dropped off. Josh, one of the staff members, had a Michael Jackson soundtrack being pumped out, encouraging some of the students to show off their dance moves! It was a highly energized morning and it definitely brought smiles to their faces and was an uplifting experience for the volunteers.





Club Service Projects & News

By Judy Perkin

Altrusa District Three Virtual Club

The District Three Virtual Club remains committed to service and the promotion of literacy. As a Club, we support Days for Girls, Bess the Book Bus project, and the Altrusa International Literacy Challenge. To date our members have donated 119 books to the Bess the Book Bus project and a grant from the Altrusa Foundation enabled us to donate to this group in the amount of $500. We also packed 64 hygiene kits at the April 2026 District Three Conference which went to A PLACE CALLED HOME. Our Club members individually donated $12,348 dollars to service/literacy projects and we donated another $725 dollars as a Club. Our members logged in 655 service hours during this past year.

We have expanded our Club outreach to members through adding quarterly Program meetings in addition to our regular Business meetings. Our first program meeting featured an author/illustrator who is about to publish a children's book and our Fall program will feature a speaker on the Bess the Book Bus project. The Club also launched a Virtual Bulletin Board to improve Club communication and we also started an ADD A MEMBER OR TWO! Campaign which runs from June1, 2026-May 21, 2027. Membership in the Virtual Club is a good way to remain in Altrusa if you are not near a geographic Club. It also helps Altrusans link with others not only in District Three but in other parts of the country. Please consider joining us and/or letting others know about us. You can contact me at: batesperkin@gmail.com. Please include Altrusa District Three Virtual Club in the subject line.







A Place to Call Home

Club Service Projects & News

By Christine Brewer
Altrusa Intl of Lake City, Florida

Every child deserves to feel confident, cared for, and ready to learn. One small act of kindness can make a world of difference. Through our Bright Shiny Faces project, the members of Altrusa Lake City have provided hygiene supply bins to all 11 Columbia County schools. Each bin is filled with essentials like toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, shampoo, deodorant, soap, washcloths, laundry detergent, dish soap, and multi-purpose cleaner.

These supplies are placed in the trusted hands of each school's guidance counselors, who can quietly provide them to students whenever the need arises. Throughout the school year, Altrusa is committed to replenishing these bins so no child has to go without these basic necessities.

This project will touch the lives of approximately 200 students this year, helping ensure they can walk into school with confidence, dignity, and the peace of mind that comes from knowing their community cares.

Thank you to everyone who supports our mission of serving others. Together, we're doing more than providing hygiene products. We're restoring confidence, preserving dignity, and reminding our children that they are seen, valued, and loved.











Club Service Projects & News

By Christy Milligan
Altrusa Intl of Lake City, Florida

Every Child Deserves to Be Celebrated!

Birthdays are about more than cake and candles. They're about feeling remembered, valued, loved, and celebrated.

Altrusa Lake City is helping make birthdays a little brighter for children in foster care by coming together at their last meeting to create birthday cake kits that will be delivered to our local Guardian ad Litem program.

For a child who may be experiencing uncertainty or difficult circumstances, a simple birthday celebration can mean so much. A cake, some candles, and a few special touches can send a powerful message:

"You matter. You are loved. And today, we celebrate YOU."

We are so grateful for the opportunity to create moments of joy and making sure these children know their birthdays are worth celebrating.









Club Service Projects & News

By Karen Green

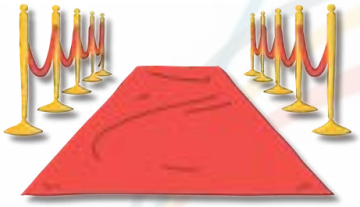
Altrusa Intl of Lake City, Florida













Approximately 140 sixth grade students attended who will be new to Lake City Middle School as they add the sixth-grade class to the school this year.

The students that attended a fun filled morning, culminating in lunch. Students began arriving at 8:15am for registration. Upon arrival the school was decorated with red and white, and car doors were opened by Altrusa sisters welcoming the students onto the campus.

Up the Red Carpet Walkway Cheerleaders were holding welcome signs leading the students to the school.

We had a photobooth where they had their commemorative photo made holding the class sign of 2031! Hosted by eleven sisters and five volunteers, this event is held yearly as we feel the importance of bringing all our rising sixth graders together for the first time to kick off the new school year in a fun, friendly atmosphere. The students were divided into four groups and all transitioned to the gymnasium along with the Altrusan's.

In the gym, students played a lively game of Hungry Hungry Hippos while other students cheered them on. Then the four groups moved through different activities, including a Spirit Contest, a campus tour to help them learn their way around the school, slime making, and a STEM cup-stacking activity. After the activities, all groups returned to the gym, where Altrusa members served lunch to the students and teachers.

Lunch was hotdogs and a big table of assorted chip and sweets served with bottled water. One Altrusan sister donated four $25 gift certificates to Walmart for which we held a drawing. The four winners were excited to be able to go on a school supply shopping trip to Walmart.

The children left smiling and confident for their new school year. Altrusian's left feeling accomplished and proud that today was a good day and that our goal of introducing ourselves to the community and the students of the class of 2031 of Lake City Middle School was successful!







Club Service Projects & News

By Sandy Thompson
Altrusa Intl of Lake City, Florida

Altrusa Club of Lake City Enjoys Creative Social at Muse Candle Workshop

Members of the Altrusa Club of Lake City recently gathered for a fun and relaxing social at Muse Candle Workshop.

The evening offered a wonderful opportunity to step away from the usual routine, get creative, and enjoy time together.

Members participated in the candle-making experience while sharing plenty of laughs, snacks, and conversation. The casual atmosphere made it a perfect setting for connecting with one another and strengthening friendships within the club.

With creativity, good food, and great company, the evening was a memorable celebration of fellowship and the strong bonds that make Altrusa special.

















Club Service Projects & News

By Mimi Cooper
Altrusa Intl of St Augustine, Florida

Pure bliss - lost in a book on a Purple Bench inside a peaceful Community Garden! On July 7th, members of the community gathered at the Community Garden in West Augustine for the ribbon cutting for the Garden.

The Community Garden at the Homeless Coalition of St. Johns County is a collaborative green space providing families serviced by the Coalition and local neighbors a therapeutic, sustainable area to grow fresh produce, connect with neighbors, and build brighter future. The Coalition is a nonprofit organization that provides safe transitional housing, food assistance, and support services to help homeless families with minor children achieve long-term independence. Altrusa St Augustine has been working with the Coalition for over nineteen years with our Sebastian Segui Books and Backpack Project where we provide birthday backpacks for the children serviced by the Coalition.

The Purple Bench, an initiative by Compassionate St. Augustine, invites neighbors from all backgrounds to sit down, talk, and practice everyday kindness. When we learned that the Coalition was going to be establishing the Community Garden, we thought it would be the perfect place for a Purple Bench. We obtained permission from the Coalition to place the Bench in the Garden and worked with Compassionate's artist to design the Bench so it reflected Compassionate's initiative and as well as our sharing literacy with the Coalition families. We were able to obtain private donations for the bench.

Isn't it amazing what can be accomplished when three organizations collaborate with each other.
Pictured with the Purple Bench are Altrusans Marci Segui, Vicki Sellner, and Chris Plant.









Club Service Projects & News

By Delores Hall
Altrusa Intl of Raleigh, North Carolina

Strength and Determination in Service

Members of Altrusa International have proven many times that they are very strong and determined in order to carry forward their founder's missions of literacy and community service. This is evident in the projects adopted and accomplished all over the world. Every district and every club produce extraordinary results that affect the lives of thousands of people. Altrusans make a huge difference in their communities.

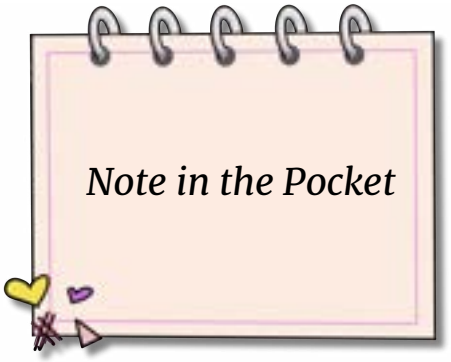
At a recent meeting, a member of Altrusa International, Inc. of Raleigh remarked that our speaker, Tillie Campbell—volunteer coordinator for Safe Haven for Cats—was a very strong woman who was completely committed to her organization. On further reflection, it became apparent that many of our speakers, role models, and service project partners are similarly strong and determined. For instance, the founder of Safe Haven for Cats, Pam Miller, established the cat shelter in her two-car heated and air-conditioned garage in 1994. The organization, under her leadership, has grown to over 17,000 cats adopted, over 60,000 surgeries performed at the Spay/Neuter Clinic, and over 15,500 pounds of pet food and supplies donated to local families. For more information visit www.safehavenforcats.org.



Tillie Campbell spoke at one of our meetings about Safe Haven for Cats



Likewise, one woman's vision helped establish Note in the Pocket. Dallas Bonavita, the teacher who founded the organization, started by providing winter coats to her students. Through her determination, and that of her mother, what started as a one-family ministry expanded into a non-profit organization in 2011. Today it provides properly fitted, seasonally appropriate, and gently used or new clothing to schoolchildren and their families. In 2025, a total of 9,775 volunteers participated in preparing and distributing 212,000 clothing items, as well as hosting 279 clothing drives and seven pop-up events. Altrusa of Raleigh contributed 155 hours of service that year. What began as one teacher's concern for her students has had a tremendous impact upon the students of Wake County, North Carolina. To learn more about this organization, go to www.noteinthepocket.org.





Donna Kelly, Phyllis Thomas, and Dolores Hall sort clothing at Note in the Pocket

Club Service Projects & News

By Delores Hall
Altrusa Intl of Raleigh, North Carolina

Strength and Determination in Service

Another organization our club collaborates with includes The Green Chair Project. Jackie Craig and Beth Smoot, a realtor and a stager, realized that many of their clients had many household items and furniture they no longer wanted or needed, but the items were too good to discard. In 2010, The Green Chair Project was established by these women, to collect and reuse essential furnishings to benefit their neighbors in need. In Wake County, 95,200 residents live below the poverty line and cannot afford basic household items. The Sweeter Dreams program at Green Chair provides an opportunity for our Raleigh club to partner with them to support literacy at a young age. We provide tote bags containing a burp cloth, a flannel blanket, a teether, two board books, and a card emphasizing the importance of reading to babies. These bags are given to families who receive cribs as part of Green Chair's mission to "provide essential home furnishings and household goods to individuals and families transitioning out of homelessness, crisis, or disaster, helping them create stable homes." The determination and strength of purpose demonstrated by these two women and their volunteers provided 1,142 households with furnishings and essential needs in 2025. Visit www.thegreenchair.org for additional information.





Community service and literacy continue to be at the heart of Altrusa International. The commitment of its members and their willingness to give their time and money to better their respective communities are extraordinary. It is no surprise, then, that when choosing community service projects, Altrusans tend to gravitate toward organizations founded by strong and determined individuals. As Mamie L. Bass proclaimed in the Principles of Altrusa, "Altrusa believes it is not enough to be good; Altrusans must be good for something." Strength and determination are hallmark characteristics of Altrusans who aspire to do good in their communities.



DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

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Director	Randi Kahl	Orlando, FL	Live Oak, Marianna, District Three Virtual
Director	Rosemary Leake	Spartanburg, SC	Charlotte, Raleigh, Waynesville

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