

C MPASS



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Greetings and welcome to the new year! I hope 2026 is off to a good start for you. This time of year offers the chance to think a little differently. Winter invites thoughtful reflection, intentional resets, and of course, dreaming and casting a vision for what lies ahead before spring weather and District Conferences arrive. Your District Boards are busy planning outstanding workshops, keynote speakers, service projects, and meaningful opportunities to network and exchange ideas. Please make sure to mark your calendar to attend your District Conference to reconnect with fellow Altrusans and make new friends.

Just in time for Valentine's Day, we are launching our first membership challenge entitled "Be a Friend - Bring a Friend." It's the perfect time to put two words of my biennium theme to life...LOVE and LEGACY. I invite you to ask someone to attend a meeting with you, participate in a service project, or - best of all - become an Altrusan. Show them the love that comes from part of our organization and dream with me about the legacy we can build by expanding the service we provide in our communities.

What do you need to do for the "Be a Friend - Bring a Friend" challenge?

- Recruit at least one new active (not dual) member between February 14th - March 14th.
- Ensure the new member is entered in Group Tally during this period, and that their dues are paid.
- Before April 1st, Altrusa International will draw five winning clubs, each receiving \$100 to use for a membership event, a service project or where it is needed most.

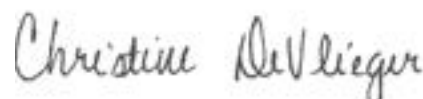
Along with the "Bring a Friend - Build a Future" membership challenge, I am delighted to announce an update to our sponsor program - an easier way to recognize and appreciate Altrusans who recruit new members. Be sure to check out page 3 to see the new sponsor pins and learn more about this revised program.

Many of you are doing amazing service projects - especially distributing books - that will enrich the lives of others for generations to come this biennium. Make sure to enter all books distributed and service hours completed so far and going forward. This will allow us to report progress by District in next edition of The Compass. The reporting link can be found on the Membership page of altrusa.org.

Speaking of our website, I encourage you to visit it regularly. Our International Committees are hard at work, and it shows. We are initiating new programs, updating forms, pictures, and information as much as possible - including the newly revised International Service Award entry forms. So many of you and your clubs are providing wonderful service, and I hope you submit at least one application this year and even more next year.

As we look to spring, I hope this time of year inspires you to dream about growth. I love watching trees and flowers bloom in the early spring, and the same is true for Altrusa. I look forward to seeing our membership flourish and witnessing the growth that follows. What seeds will you plant and grow on your Altrusa journey this spring? Together, let's grow the LOVE, LITERACY & LEGACY of Altrusa.

With Altrusa Love,



Christine "Chris" DeVlieger
International President

Reminders

- Since our old Facebook page was unfortunately deleted, follow Altrusa International’s new Facebook page [here](#). Also, don’t forget to follow us on [Instagram](#) so you can stay up to date with our organization’s happenings.
- President Chris is continuing previous bienniums’ service project - the Literacy Challenge. Remember to keep track of books and service hours donated [here](#).
- Dues open April 1st, 2026. Please pay online or by check promptly to avoid late fees.

Navigating the Web...

- Important websites to know!
 - www.altrusa.org (click Member Login in the upper right)
 - login.altrusa.org (go directly to the members area)
 - www.altrusastore.com (purchase Altrusa branded items including pins and banners)
 - www.altrusaservice.org (browse and share your club’s service projects) **(Not currently active.)**
- Give us some feedback and share your thoughts on improving Altrusa with the [Suggestion Box](#).
- If you have forgotten your password to the site please send an e-mail to Altrusa@altrusa.org or call the International Office for assistance.

Important Dates

- February 4 World Cancer Day
- February 20 World Day of Social Justice
- March 1 Zero Discrimination Day
- March 22 World Water Day
- April 7 World Health Day



Growing Altrusa...New Sponsor Pins

Altrusa is introducing new sponsor pins to recognize members who recruit new members. The silver pin will be awarded for sponsoring the first new member during the biennium, while the gold pin will be presented upon sponsoring five new members. Members who sponsor ten new members will receive the Growing Altrusa pin, with a colored gemstone added for every subsequent ten members sponsored.

Credits for members sponsored prior to June 1, 2025, will be retained. The new Growing Altrusa heart pins will replace the previously distributed even-numbered pins (2, 4, 6, or 8) at District Conferences, though members may continue to wear their existing pins if they wish. Distribution of the new pins is retroactive to June 1, 2025, and will continue through May 31, 2029.

We encourage all Altrusans to participate and support President Chris’ goal of every member sponsoring at least one new member this biennium.



Silver Heart Pin Awarded for 1st Member Sponsored



Gold Heart Pin Awarded for 5th Member Sponsored



Growing Altrusa Pin Awarded for 10th Member Sponsored



Mabel Acevedo
Vice-Chair
ASTRA International Committee

ASTRA AT A GLANCE: WHAT'S COMING UP

As part of our ongoing efforts to strengthen ASTRA Clubs worldwide, the Altrusa International ASTRA Committee recently conducted a survey among Altrusa Club Presidents to gather feedback on the status and needs of their ASTRA Clubs. We sincerely thank all who took the time to respond. Your input is essential in helping us support and grow a strong International ASTRA network.

We are pleased to share the following upcoming opportunities for ASTRA members as we continue to promote leadership, service, and global engagement.

ASTRA COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP

Applications Open: January
Deadline: March 15
Winners Announced: April 15

ASTRA members who are currently enrolled in a college, university, or other institution of higher learning are encouraged to apply for the ASTRA College/University Scholarship, offered through the Altrusa International Foundation. This annual scholarship honors ASTRA students who exemplify leadership, service, and a strong commitment to their communities and sponsoring Altrusa Clubs. Scholarship funds are awarded directly to the recipient's educational institution.

In support of students continuing their academic journey, graduating ASTRA seniors who plan to attend a college, university, or technical school are eligible for scholarship consideration, including two awards of \$2,000 and two awards of \$1,000. In addition, ASTRA members who are already enrolled and continuing their education may apply for the ASTRA College/University Scholarship, which includes four awards of \$1,000.

APPLY TODAY: Apply online or through your ASTRA Advisor at www.altrusa.org

ASTRA GLOBAL SERVICE PROJECT

Kindness Postcards Day – April 7, 2026
Registration Deadline: March 15th, 2026

ASTRA Clubs worldwide are invited to participate in **Kindness Postcards Day**, a global ASTRA service project focused on creativity, compassion, and connection. Students will create postcards with messages of kindness to share with hospitals, senior centers, schools, and community service workers. Clubs may also exchange digital postcards internationally. Participants are encouraged to share their impact using [#ASTRAKindnessDay](https://twitter.com/ASTRAKindnessDay).

GET INVOLVED

These initiatives reflect the heart of ASTRA—developing young leaders through meaningful service while making a positive impact locally and globally. We encourage all advisors and members to take note of these deadlines and participate.

Together, we continue to lead with service, creativity, and kindness.

2027 International Convention
Columbus, OH
Wednesday, July 21 - Saturday, July 24

ASTRA – KINDNESS POSTCARDS DAY

April 7, 2026

A global day of creativity, compassion, and connection



Join ASTRA clubs around the world in a kindness movement!

Students everywhere will come together to design postcards of encouragement and share them with people who could use a little extra light in their day. Clubs will also exchange digital postcards internationally, building bridges of empathy and youth leadership across borders.

Who will receive the kindness?

- Hospitals
- Elderly homes
- Schools
- Community service workers
- Others



Use our official hashtag: #ASTRAKindnessDay



Why participate?

- Spread kindness in your local community
- Build global friendships
- Celebrate creativity and youth leadership
- Make a positive impact-one postcard at a time

Altrusa Clubs—join ASTRA in spreading kindness! Support this global project by sharing postcards of encouragement and helping make a positive impact, one message at a time.

Open to all ALTRUSA & ASTRA clubs worldwide

Register by March 15, 2026

Information: altrusa.org

ASTRA - Kindness Postcard Day Registration Form link: <https://forms.gle/hQnMyttA4QhE7Jqv5>

Let's fill the world with color, encouragement, and connection.

ASTRA – KINDNESS POSTCARDS DAY

April 7, 2026

A global day of creativity, compassion, and connection



Kindness Postcard Guidelines

As ASTRA members, and as part of the Altrusa family, your words are an act of service. This Kindness Postcard is a simple yet meaningful way to uplift others, lead with compassion, and reflect our mission of service—one heartfelt message at a time.

Postcard Size:

- 4 x 6 inches (recommended)
- 5 x 7 inches

Front – Design Side

- Positive images or drawings, stickers
- Bright, readable colors
- A kindness theme (hearts, hands, globe, smiles, nature, stars)

Back – Message Side

- One short, positive message
- Optional: "From ASTRA Club of ____"
- No last names or contact info

Messages: Use these messages as inspiration. Be creative, speak from your heart, and share kindness in your own words.


- "You matter"
- "One World, One Heart"
- "Small Acts, big Change"
- "Eres especial"
- "Hoy alguien piensa en ti"

Handmade or Digital - All formats are welcome!



#ASTRAKindnessDay

Visual Example

FRONT (Design Side)	BACK (Message Side)
 <p>■ YOU MATTER ■ (Drawings / Art)</p> <p>• • • •</p>	<p>"Small acts of kindness can make a big impact."</p> <p>With care, ASTRA Club of ____</p>

Your postcard may be small, but your message can brighten someone's day.

YOU SERVE. YOU LEAD. YOU DESERVE THIS.

ASTRA SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES Altrusa International Foundation

Your service, leadership, and dedication through ASTRA matter. The Altrusa International Foundation is proud to support students who give back and lead with purpose.

ASTRA HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP

For graduating ASTRA seniors planning to attend college, university, or technical school.

- Two **\$2,000** scholarships
- Two **\$1,000** scholarships

ASTRA COLLEGE / UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP

For currently enrolled ASTRA members continuing their education.

- Four **\$1,000** scholarships

IMPORTANT DATES

Applications Open: January
Deadline: March 15
Winners Announced: April 15

APPLY TODAY

Apply online or through your ASTRA Advisor at www.altrusa.org

Scholarship funds are awarded based on application scoring and paid directly to the educational institution.

Why Do We Record and Submit Our Service Hours?

Scott Tice, International Service Program Development Committee Chair

Lorraine Brewer, International Service Program Development Committee Vice-Chair

Service is the foundation of Altrusa International's mission, and for over 100 years Altrusans from varying occupations and lifestyles have shared a desire to join together in community service. Submitting service hours is an essential responsibility that allows Altrusa International to accurately document our service, demonstrate our reach, measure our collective impact, and strengthen our ability to serve communities around the world.



Definition of Service Hours

The following Service Hours description has been approved by the Altrusa International Board of Directors:

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



This standardized definition ensures consistency and accuracy in reporting across all levels of the organization. We encourage you to develop within your Altrusa Club an efficient and accurate way for members to report and celebrate their service. As we do so, the following are enhanced:

Measuring Participation and Engagement

Service hour reporting provides meaningful metrics that reflect member participation throughout Altrusa International.

Supporting Grants, Partnerships, and Growth

Accurate service hour data is critical for grant applications, partnership development, and membership growth initiatives.

Evaluating Service Impact

Tracking service hours allows for thoughtful evaluation of service projects.

Supporting District and International Leadership

Service hour reports are used by Club, District, and International leadership.

It's easy to report those service hours and your book donations, too!

Service hours and book donations for President Chris's International Book Challenge may be submitted using the link or QR code below:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdc3CIZQCZbzzTO_RWKU_BZ2KgVI84VFazKxOGOLIRXZcsQQw/viewform

Scan the QR code to submit service hours or book donations:



Every hour reported and every donation recorded contributes to a clear, comprehensive picture of Altrusa International's service impact. Thank you for your service and for sharing this information.



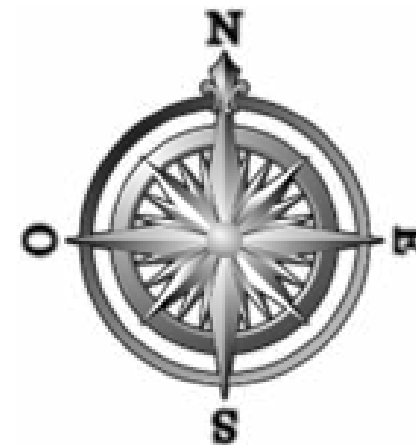
Onboarding: Giving New Members the Compass to Thrive

Melinda Aguirre, International Membership Development Committee Co-Chair



First impressions matter—and in Altrusa, they can shape a member's entire journey. Welcoming a first-time member is more than introductions and handshakes; it's about helping them feel seen, valued, and essential from day one. Effective onboarding starts by learning who our new members are and the connections they bring with them—within the community, their professions, and their passions. When we take the time to understand these links, we can connect new members to meaningful projects and roles that align with both their interests and Altrusa's mission. Feeling welcome and essential is key, and it sets the foundation for long-term engagement.

We can—and should—take onboarding a step further by getting new members solidly involved during their first year. This is a critical time when members acclimate to club activities, learn how we serve, and connect deeply to our nonprofit's "why." It's also when they forge personal connections across the club and begin to see Altrusa as their "forever" service home. Onboarding is not a one-time event; it is an ongoing process that can span several months to a full year, guiding members as they master their roles, grow in confidence, and find their place within the club.



The primary difference between orientation and onboarding is simple but powerful. Orientation is short-term—an introduction. Onboarding is a journey. As the saying goes, "Orientation gives you the map; onboarding hands you the compass." Orientation says, "Here's how things work." Onboarding says, "Here's how you fit, thrive, and evolve here." One is transactional; the other is transformational. A successful onboarding process empowers new members to succeed, builds a true sense of belonging, and strengthens Altrusa for years to come. When we invest in onboarding, we're not just welcoming new members—we're growing future leaders and sustaining the heart of our clubs.

Leadership Starts With Us

Linda Dorr, International Leadership Committee Vice Chair

Leadership is often associated with titles, positions, or formal roles—but in Altrusa, leadership begins long before a gavel is passed or a vote is taken. Leadership starts with us.

Every Altrusan is a leader. Whether we are organizing a service project, welcoming a new member, mentoring someone stepping into a new role, or quietly doing the behind-the-scenes work that makes service possible, leadership is present in our daily actions. It is found in showing up, following through, and caring deeply about the communities we serve.

Leadership is not defined by authority; it is defined by influence. We lead when we listen with intention, when we encourage others, and when we model the values we hope to see reflected in our clubs. A simple invitation to serve, a word of appreciation, or a willingness to step in when help is needed can inspire confidence and spark growth in others.

Altrusa's mission calls us to develop leadership skills, and that development does not happen only in formal training sessions. It happens during committee meetings, project planning, community partnerships, and moments of problem-solving. Leadership grows when members are given opportunities to try, learn, and sometimes stumble—knowing they are supported by a team that believes in them.

One of the most powerful aspects of leadership within Altrusa is its inclusiveness. Leadership is not reserved for a select few; it is cultivated across generations, experiences, and perspectives. When we intentionally make room for new voices and honor the contributions of every member, we strengthen our organization and ensure its future.

Flexibility is another essential leadership trait. Communities change. Needs evolve. Circumstances shift. Leaders who remain open to change and willing to adapt allow Altrusa to remain relevant, responsive, and resilient. Flexibility does not weaken leadership—it strengthens it by allowing creativity and collaboration to flourish.

Clarity also plays a vital role. Leaders who communicate clearly, share purpose, and connect individual efforts to a larger vision help members understand not only what we do, but why we do it. Clear leadership builds trust, reduces confusion, and creates unity around shared goals.

Perhaps most importantly, leadership in Altrusa is rooted in service. When we serve with integrity and compassion, we lead by example. Our actions demonstrate what leadership looks like in practice—humble, intentional, and focused on making a difference.

Leadership does not wait for the next election cycle or the next title. It begins in each of us, every day, through our choices and our commitment to Altrusa's ideals. When we embrace that truth, we discover that leadership is not something we step into later—it is something we are already living.

Leadership starts with us.



Exploring AI Together: Altrusa Embraces Innovation with Heart

Cassie Poole, International Communications Committee

This last quarter, our Altrusa International Communications Committee has been focused on one big topic that seems to be everywhere lately, Artificial Intelligence (AI). But instead of seeing it as something intimidating or impersonal, we wanted to explore how AI can actually help us do what Altrusans do best: connect, communicate, and serve.

During our most recent committee meeting, members tried out several AI tools firsthand and discussed practical ways clubs might use them to save time, strengthen communication, and tell their stories more effectively. The goal wasn't to turn anyone into a tech expert, it was to learn together and find tools that support the meaningful work our clubs already do.

We explored many options, but four stood out as especially useful for Altrusa:

ChatGPT – Ideal for brainstorming and writing. From drafting club updates and newsletter blurbs to creating press releases or project descriptions, it's like having a built-in writing partner.

Notebook LM – A new tool from Google that helps organize and summarize documents, notes, and even videos. Clubs can upload project reports, URLs, or training recordings and instantly get summaries, insights, podcast voiceovers, or even a video.

Otter.ai – Perfect for recording and transcribing meetings. It captures what's said in real time and produces searchable transcripts that make preparing minutes or reports much easier.

Canva – A longtime favorite among Altrusans! Canva's AI features like Magic Write and Magic Design help clubs create beautiful flyers, social media posts, and event programs quickly and confidently.

To make things even easier, our committee also created a shared resource folder ([located here](#)) filled with examples and guides. Inside, you'll find step-by-step "101" sheets on how to get started with ChatGPT, Otter.ai, Notebook LM, and Canva plus sample projects like a club yearbook and a District Service Bulletin (DSB) both designed entirely in Canva. These resources are meant to spark ideas and help clubs feel confident using these tools in real, practical ways.

We also compiled a longer list of additional tools for those who want to explore further. Whether you're creating a flyer, writing a grant, or summarizing a project, there's an AI tool that can make your work faster and lighter without losing your personal touch.

For Altrusa, AI isn't about replacing heart with technology. It's about giving us more time and energy to focus on what matters most: each other, our communities, and the good we do together.



WORLD WATER DAY - MARCH 22, 2026

Kathy Schrein, Altrusa Representative to the United Nation's Department of Global Communications, Civil Society Unit/NGO

March 22, 2026 celebrates the gift of water in our lives. It is so easy to take clean water for granted.

Every year, on the 22nd of March, World Water Day is observed internationally. It is a United Nations observance day, with the aim to highlight the importance of freshwater.

The idea for this international day goes back to 1992, the year in which the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro took place. That same year, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution by which the 22nd of March of each year was declared World Day for Water, to be observed starting in 1993.

World Water Day celebrates water and raises awareness of the 2.2 billion people living without access to safe water. It is all about taking action to tackle the global water crisis.

A core focus of World Water Day is to support the achievement of the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030. This is to ensure that all have access to safe water throughout the world by 2030!

In 2026, the World Water Day campaign is led by the UN-Water Expert group on climate and water. The theme of World Water Day 2026 is "Groundwater: Making the Invisible Visible." This theme aims to highlight the importance of groundwater to our environment.

Altrusan International members can help!

Actions/projects:

- Check out the UN website for more water details-un.org
- Have a speaker discuss the relationship between water and sanitation. Maybe a "Water Conservation" event.
- Check out the Gates Foundation and their water projects-share at your club's March meeting. Note: their work in water, sanitation, and hygiene remains a significant and active area, evolving to address global challenges through technology and systemic change. ("WASH" program)
- Watch a PBS water documentary
- Learn about ways to save water in your home, local water department speaker.
- Use your Altrusa club's social media platform, giving examples of "How to Save Water: Practical Tips"
- Partner with other local service organizations to discuss combined water projects. Perhaps collect funds to purchase water filters for certain African water projects.

Note: Altrusa clubs have been involved in many water projects. For example, a Haitian water project supporting building water stations. Or, in Nepal/Himalayan villages, sending funds for showers and bathrooms.

Altrusans, be part of the United Nations Global Goals. Look for a different celebration of Days of Observance article in each 2026-27 COMPASS!



Understanding the UN Sustainable Development Goals: A Pathway for Meaningful Service

Faye Snodress, United Nations Committee

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 shared global priorities designed to make the world more equitable, peaceful, and sustainable by 2030. They address challenges that affect every community—poverty, health, education, climate change, clean water, economic opportunity, and more. While the SDGs may seem broad or ambitious, their purpose is simple: to give the world a common roadmap toward improving people's lives and protecting our planet. As a UN-affiliated civil society organization, understanding these goals helps us see how our local actions contribute to global progress.



For service-minded organizations like ours, the SDGs offer a powerful framework. Many of our current activities already support these goals—whether mentoring young people (SDG 4: Quality Education), conducting health outreach (SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being), planting trees (SDG 13: Climate Action), or supporting women and girls (SDG 5: Gender Equality). By intentionally connecting our service projects to the SDGs, we strengthen their impact and communicate more clearly how our work aligns with international efforts to build a better world.

The SDGs also encourage us to think beyond individual projects and consider root causes. For example, providing clean water to a village contributes directly to SDG 6, but it also improves health, reduces the burden on women who often collect water (SDG 5), and increases time for education (SDG 4). Seeing these connections helps our members design more holistic and sustainable interventions—ones that not only address immediate needs but also support long-term community resilience.

As a global NGO, we have the opportunity—and responsibility—to help our communities understand and advance these goals. When we frame our service through the lens of the SDGs, we join millions of changemakers around the world working toward the same shared vision. Together, we can demonstrate that local action truly has global significance, and that every member has a role in building a future where all people can thrive.

Days for Girls

Vickie Kilgore, International Service Committee

I have noticed that Altrusa Clubs have partnered with local organizations that provide menstrual support to women and girls in the United States. This is wonderful!

Our International Service Project, Days for Girls (DfG) has vision statements of:

- Our vision is to create a world with dignity, health and opportunity for all.
- We believe in a world where periods are never a problem.
- We envision a world where menstruators have knowledge, products and supportive environments to manage their periods.



Even though DfG was originally established for countries outside the United States by Founder and CEO, Celeste Mergens, these vision statements include those within the United States. DfG began in 2008 and Altrusa International partnered with this international organization in 2017. Both organizations want to shatter stigma and limitations for women and girls that are associated with menstruation for their improved education and livelihood outcome.

I recommend that you log into daysforgirls.org and register to receive their newsletters via email. This will keep you informed about all the activities that DfG are currently doing, and you will receive stories of their successes. These successes can only be accomplished with the continued support of volunteers and donations. DFG Year End Campaign, Illuminate Her surpassed their goal of \$50k because of supporters like Altrusans. In 2025, Altrusans donated a total of \$11,964.89 and I know we can do even better in 2026.

At our International Convention I challenged each Altrusan to donate at least \$25 to DfG by the end of our biennium. You can donate online or mail a check to Days for Girls International, P.O. Box 2622, Mount Vernon, WA 98273. Remember to annotate “Altrusa International” in the comments or on the memo line of your check for assistance in tracking.

While checking out the DfG website you can find the locations of their teams/chapters in your area and volunteer to help create DfG kits. You’ll find information on Period Positive WorkPlace that was initiated in 2023 and in 2025, with their newly created Youth Leadership Committee. Check out and join the Altrusa International Service Facebook page. See what other Altrusans are doing with DfG and other service projects. When posting on social media about DfG please tag #AltrusaService and #DaysforGirls.

Thank you for your continued support of Days for Girls as your support helps provide sustainable menstrual kits and health education to women and girls, empowering them to stay in school, work confidently, and live with dignity.

Mamie Moment

Reaffirmation

The following was written by Mamie L. Bass in 1941, but these questions are still pertinent for us to consider in 2026. As we begin 2026 let’s ask ourselves what does Altrusa mean to me? What are our wishes for 2026?

“We want to be better Altrusans in 1941. We want 1941 to be the best year in Altrusa History—we want to grow in numbers—we want Altrusa to find greater opportunity for helping make our own home town a better place in which to live and work and play. As Altrusans, we want to grow in understating of international affairs; we want to share in an effort to bring about peace among nations. We want to be helpful to young women entering the business world, and to older women who are facing problems of adjustments. In 1941 may Altrusa be a source of strength and inspiration to women everywhere. May it serve in each community to unite the forces that are working for the common good.”

Editorial article by Mamie Luella Bass
International Altrusan January, 1941 page 5

Don't forget to follow our Altrusa International social media pages!



[@altrusa](https://www.tiktok.com/@altrusa)



[@altrusainternational](https://www.instagram.com/altrusainternational)



[@altrusaintl](https://www.facebook.com/altrusaintl)

We post club service projects, updates from the International Office, club updates, and more to help grow our membership.

District Nine... "The Mighty Ninth"

has truly been on a journey worth celebrating. Guided by the theme "Discover Your Altrusa Journey," District Nine celebrates reflection, growth, service, and connection - honoring where we have been, celebrating where we are, and boldly stepping into where we are going.

At its heart, this theme reminds every Altrusan that no two journeys are alike. Each member brings unique talents, passions, and life experiences to Altrusa, yet together we travel a shared path of service, leadership, and friendship. This biennium, District Nine focuses on helping members discover their individual purpose within Altrusa while advancing our collective mission to serve our communities through literacy and meaningful service. The **Altrusa Passport** was introduced as a personal guide to discovering where service, friendship, and leadership can take us. Each activity, meeting, project, and connection made is a signpost along one's Altrusa Journey, marking moments of growth, impact, and shared purpose. No two journeys are the same - but together, they create the powerful story of Altrusa District Nine and ultimately Altrusa International.



#DiscoverAltrusa
Kimberly D. Kierce
Governor, Altrusa District Nine
DistrictNineAltrusa@gmail.com



Congratulations to our Newest Chartered Clubs!

Congratulations to District Nine's 2 newest chartered clubs **Downtown Fort Worth** and **Waxahachie** and their Charter Board members for trailblazing a new journey of Altrusa in their community.

We have 2 more clubs-in-information, **Hutchinson County (Borger, TX)** and **Bryan/College Station**, and we are excited to launch the District Nine "Lone Star Texas" Virtual Club.



Downtown Fort Worth
Charter Banquet 6-14-2025



Charter Board Members



Anderson County



Lake Cities



DFW



Central Texas



Temple



Waco



Southeast Tarrant
County Early Risers



Abilene

SERVICE THAT FITS YOUR LIFE

DISTRICT NINE VIRTUAL CLUB

A "NEW" INNOVATIVE WAY TO SERVE

WHY JOIN A VIRTUAL CLUB?

- Participate from anywhere - no travel
- Engaging service you can do from home
- Perfect for engaging family in volunteer acts
- Benefit your local community and the greater Texas community at the same time
- Flexible meeting logistics
- Connect with service minded volunteers across Texas... and beyond
- Perfect for Altrusa dual members and NEW members!

GET INVOLVED!

The new District Nine Virtual Altrusa Club is finally here - and YOU are invited to be part of something innovative, accessible, and service-driven! Whether you're busy, travel often, prefer flexible involvement, or want a second "Altrusa home," this club is designed for YOU.

JOIN TODAY!

Interested in joining or learning more? Scan the QR code or Click the link below
AltrusaDistrictNine.org

QUESTIONS?
DistrictNineAltrusa@gmail.com

Ready to Join the Virtual Club? Click HERE

Come for Service. Stay for Friendship. Grow in Leadership.



Waxahachie
Charter Banquet 9-27-2025



Charter Board Members

Come for Service.
Stay for Friendship.
Grow in Leadership.

Discovering the Altrusa Journey!

Austin – “Supporting the Alzheimer’s Association”: volunteered, raised funds, and participated in the Alzheimer’s Walk, serving at the Kid Zone booth. As part of their literacy focus, members distributed free books to children participating in the event, supporting families while raising awareness for Alzheimer’s disease.

Greenville – “Raffa Clinic Diaper Drive”: supported the Raffa Clinic by collecting diapers, wipes, onesies, and books for mothers and babies. During a drive-by drop-off event, members assembled diaper bags, stocked shelves, and delivered education-focused resources, resulting in the collection of 1,000 diapers, 39 packages of wipes, 188 books, and 24 onesies.

Pampa Club members along with Altrousers and ASTRA members participated in Soup with Mrs. Claus. We had a great turn out for the event. We gave out 287 books, had 13 soups, chili, and stews and hot dogs, drinks and desserts. Children and families were given pictures with Mrs. Claus.



Houston Central annually supports military by installing flags at the military cemetery.

San Antonio - “Kinship Festival”: sponsored fun carnival games with book prizes - over 250 donated to local children to build their own library at home and encourage reading.



Austin “Supporting Alzheimer's Assoc.”



Greenville “Raffa Clinic Diaper Drive”



Pampa “Soup with Mrs. Claus”



San Antonio “Kinship Festival”



Southwest Dallas County “Caring for Caregivers”: Members prepared and delivered appreciation bags to 13 caregivers, each containing fruit, snacks, an inspirational book, and a yellow rose symbolizing friendship and care. This thoughtful project honored caregivers and acknowledged the compassion they provide every day.



Garland showcases their service with an Impact Statement - visually demonstrating how they are “Leading to a Better Community®”

Altrusa District Nine: Service and Fun in action

1. **North Dallas'** signature project “Spice it up” - simple seasonings make a big difference at local food bank.
2. **Montgomery County** collect purses, fill them with personal care items and jewelry to women in need.
3. **Dallas** makes every meeting a celebration - no matter the time of year!
4. **Copperas Cove** annual golf tournament fundraiser is a community favorite.
5. **Collin County** filled and decorated Harvest boxes for Meal on Wheels for the holiday - a special treat!
6. **Downtown Dallas** created hygiene kits for Community Partners and made special cards for Meals on Wheels.
7. **Texarkana** meeting guest speaker from Harvest Regional Food Bank educates about food insecurities.
8. **North San Antonio** collected/labeled over 1,200 free books reinforcing Altrusa’s literacy mission.
9. **Richardson** hosts community wide ‘Kindness Action Network’ weekend filled with many hands-on projects
10. **Lubbock** hosts District Governor for a Club Visit
11. **The Chisholm Trail** benefits families in need with much needed donations.
12. **The Brazos** 20th Annual Turkey Trot fundraiser rocks!
13. **Arlington** brings tradition and joy to all projects



The Lamplighter Program: A Tradition of Leadership Giving

The Altrusa International Foundation is deeply grateful for the generosity of Altrusans who make the Lamplighter Program possible. Established in 1987, the Lamplighter Program honors Altrusans who demonstrate exceptional commitment by contributing, personally or on their behalf, \$500 (US) or more annually to the International Foundation.

Lamplighter members receive a Lamplighter pin upon their first qualifying gift. For each subsequent \$500 (US) annual donation, a diamond is added to the pin, which can hold up to 24 diamonds, symbolizing sustained dedication and impact.

Altrusa Clubs and Districts may also participate with a \$500 contribution. Upon their initial gift, Clubs or Districts receive a Lamplighter banner patch, along with a special pin for each additional year of giving, recognizing their ongoing leadership support.

The Lamplighter Program includes five giving categories that recognize individual contributions within the program: Lamplighter, Lucente Lamplighter, Hofmeister Lamplighter, Albin Lamplighter, and Diamond Lamplighter. Each category reflects a meaningful level of commitment to advancing the work of the International Foundation.

Altrusans are encouraged to make Lamplighter giving part of their annual tradition by donating during the Foundation's fiscal year, June 1 through May 31. Annual participation not only strengthens the Foundation's ability to fund vital grants, awards and scholarships, but it also continues a proud legacy of service, leadership, and generosity.

Your annual gift as a Lamplighter helps light the way for Altrusa's mission today and for years to come.

Celebrating Our Lamplighter Donors at the 2027 VIP Donor Recognition Reception

Join us at the 2027 VIP Donor Recognition Reception during the International Convention in Columbus, Ohio, as we honor the incredible generosity of our Lamplighters. This special reception is dedicated to celebrating those who make a lasting impact through their commitment to annual giving during the biennium.

Eligibility is simple: Altrusans who make a Lamplighter-level donation of \$500 (US) each fiscal year of the biennium (June 1–May 31) are invited to attend. The Lamplighter Program was created to recognize annual generosity, and this reception is our way of showing our appreciation.

Lamplighters are acknowledged in each quarterly Impact newsletter, where we proudly publish the names of those who give during the current biennium. Your generosity fuels our mission, and we are honored to celebrate it together.

Questions about your Lamplighter status? Please contact foundation@altrusa.org. We look forward to recognizing you in Columbus!

Click [HERE](#) to Make a Lamplighter Donation!

Club 52 Charter Membership

All Altrusans who contribute from July 2025 through May 31, 2026 will be recognized as Charter Members of Club 52. Donations can be made online, at Spring 2026 District Conferences, or by mail, making participation easy and accessible for all.

Clubs and Districts are also encouraged to take part. Those contributing \$252 or more will receive a Club 52 patch for their banner, symbolizing their dedication and leadership.

Club 52, an annual membership program, represents both continuity and momentum, building on our proud history while setting the stage for continued growth and service. Your gift today helps ensure that this legacy continues for generations to come.



Click [HERE](#) to Become a Charter Member Today!

