



Altrusa Service Newsletter

Summer 2026

Summer greetings from your Service Committee!

Summer is a wonderful time to relax, enjoy time with family and friends, and get started on 2026-27 service projects!

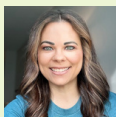
Service Committee Members



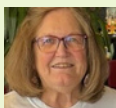
Scott Tice, Chair
Districts One, Eleven,
and Fourteen



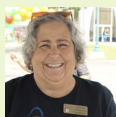
Lorraine Brewer,
Vice Chair
Districts Three, Twelve,
and Fifteen



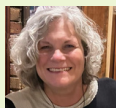
Samantha Berven,
Member
Districts Two and Eight



Vickie Kilgore,
Member
Days for Girls



Ann McDaniel,
Member
Districts Four, Five,
Seven and Ten

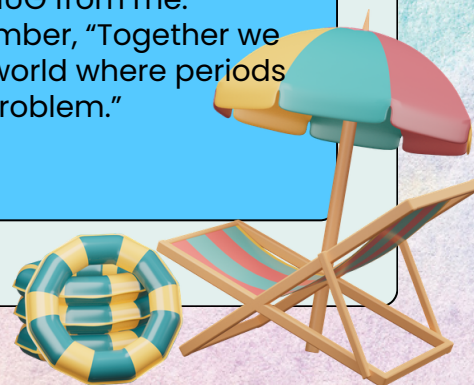


Jody Walencewicz,
Member
Districts Six and Nine

DAYS FOR GIRLS

I hope you had the opportunity to read my article, "Tracking Donations to Days for Girls" in Volume 8 Issue 5 of The Altrusa Compass. If not, please take the time to review or send me an email at vickiekilgore@hughes.net and I'll send my article directly to you. I am delighted to share that Altrusans donated \$2,605.20 during the month of July 2026, bringing our year-to-date total to \$11,241.04. Brittany Gratiyas, Senior Development Manager at Days for Girls International stated, "Altrusa continues to impress and we (DfG) are so very grateful. Wish I could hug each individual." Thank you for continuing to support DfG through monetary donations. Here's a big HUG from me. Always remember, "Together we can live in a world where periods are never a problem."

Hugs, Vickie





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Teaming with ASTRA

As you start to organize community projects for the coming months, consider involving your ASTRA club in the activities. Teaming with ASTRA creates a multi-generational impact and provides leadership and service experience for young leaders. You might pair a club member with an ASTRA student to work on project execution (assembling care packages, handing out books to local children, etc).

ASTRA members can design flyers and posters for your event and assist with social media promotion.

Apply for a project grant in coordination with your ASTRA Club to fund your venture to get started!

Building the relationship with your ASTRA members promotes leadership, community service, and personal connections.

Building Membership Through Service

Community service events are a great place to share the work of Altrusa and recruit new members. When hosting an event, have membership applications available, and take the opportunity to tell guests and visitors about the work your club is doing. Invite friends or family members to the event, particularly those you feel may be interested in joining Altrusa. If your event includes speaking to a group of individuals, be sure to encourage those in attendance to ask questions and consider joining!

Starting an

International Service Project

Is your club interested in starting an International project but doesn't know where to start? Here are a few suggestions to get you started:

- Identify a need.
- Align with an Altrusa area of focus, such as literacy, healthcare, or education, or reference the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- Establish a reliable point of contact (POC) or trusted non-profit in your target country who can handle logistics and verify specific needs. Reaching out to local churches is another way to find international project options.
- Apply for project grant funding from Altrusa International (fall deadline is September 15).
- Verify 501 (3)(c) status of the non-profit.
- Request wish lists from the partner organization and match your donations with their needs (sanitary health kits, specific literacy materials in the local language, neonatal care kits, school supplies, etc.).
- Evaluate the shipping costs for your project or partner with the local branch of an organization that supports physical item drives in other countries such as Direct Relief).
- Submit your project for the Nina Fay Calhoun International Service Award.
- Check out the workshop ideas from Convention '25:
<https://login.altrusa.org/files/2025/08/One-World-Collaborating-In-International-Service.pdf>

The deadline to apply for an Altrusa International Service Grant is coming up on September 15. Submit your grant proposal soon! Please reach out to your local Service Committee rep (see page 1) with any questions!





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International Fall

Book Challenge

Keep your eyes out for information on our upcoming International Fall Books Challenge!

This exciting event will take place from September 1 through November 30, challenging Altrusa clubs to donate books in their community to support literacy around the world.

Data on donations will be collected for each participating club; those who meet the challenge criteria will receive a special patch for their club banner.

President Chris DeVlieger is currently working on a logo and patch, and will roll out the challenge in phases.

During the challenge, be sure to designate someone from your club to upload the number of books donated onto the website. Awards will be presented once the challenge window has closed.

Start thinking now of where your club can have the biggest impact in getting books into the hands of people in your community!

Bits and Bobs

Facebook: Have you joined the Service Committee's Facebook page yet? Search for "Altrusa Service" to find us, enter your club affiliation, and enjoy seeing what our districts and clubs are up to. It's a great way to get new service project ideas as well.

Convention: July 21-24, 2027 in Columbus, Ohio

Service website: Our Service page is up and running on the Altrusa International website. Login to login.altrusa.org and click on the SERVICE tab at the top of the page. You can search our database to read all about service projects happening around the world.

Upcoming UN International Days

- International Literacy Day (September 8)
- International Day of Peace (September 21)
- International Day of Older Persons (October 1)
- World Teachers' Day (October 5)
- International Day of the Girl Child (October 11)
- International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (October 17)
- International Volunteer Day (December 5)





Back to School Projects

Here are just a few examples of outstanding Altrusan projects supporting students headed back to school!



Altrusa International of Albany, Oregon Kidzshop



Altrusa International of Yaquina Bay, Inc. with Arcoiris Cultural



Altrusa International of Iowa City packing backpacks



Altrusa International of the Central Coast at Santa Maria's Annual Kids Day at the Park



Altrusa International of Martinsville/Henry County, VA



Altrusa DFW with Birdville ISD at Richland Middle School



Altrusa International of Council Bluffs, Iowa at the Charles E. Lakin Human Service Campus



Altrusa of Door County, WI Back to School Fair



Altrusa International of Nashville, TN with the Legacy Mission Village Preschool



Altrusa International of Lawrence, KS at the Lawrence Schools Foundation Kids Expo

