

Payless fits shoes for Operation School Bell

By Adriane Thomasian

Operation School Bell® is very popular in the nine elementary schools served in Raleigh, Durham, Cary, and Wendell. Several of the contacts within the schools said the children ask in August if they will receive new shoes and clothing this year. Shoe coordinators and other League members joined *Payless Shoe Source* at each school the week of September 17th to measure the children's feet for new shoes.

When the children see the choices of new shoes, their faces light up with bright eyes and big smiles. Each year, they especially want to know when they will receive their shoes. In November, League members visit the schools to personally deliver bags to the children, just before the Thanksgiving holiday; this timing seems to be most appropriate.

It is a reward for members to have the privilege of bringing happiness and joy to the children impacted through this program.

Open Your Heart funds programs

By Cindy McCarty

A direct mailing campaign to help raise funds for Assistance League® Triangle Area programs was first created in 2001 when members learned similar fundraisers were successful. The first mailing, sent in connection with Valentine's Day in February, was named "Open Your Heart;" the name is still used today.

Over the years the fundraiser has evolved into one of the most important methods of requesting community support for programs. In order to recognize the importance of year end tax deductible giving, the direct mailing campaign was moved to the fall season. It is the hope of the organization that a fall campaign will encourage more donors to contribute to "Open Your Heart."

With generous contributions from the community, the chapter will be able to continue funding for KID'S PLACE at WakeMed, Women In Need (WIN), Scholarships, and Operation School Bell.

KID'S PLACE is a reading and

playroom in the Children's Emergency Department at WakeMed. It was created and is maintained by the chapter. The league supplies games, books, toys and furnishings for the room. Over 242,100 children have enjoyed reading and playing at the facility.

For several years, the Women In Need program has partnered with the Women's Center of Wake County. This Center is a day shelter for women and children who are homeless. League members have prepared and served lunch monthly and also provided laundry vouchers, bus tickets, personal care kits and other supplies to 8,537 women.

The Scholarship program reviews requests submitted by Triangle area students in need of assistance and awards \$1,000-\$2,500 scholarships to students who will attend North Carolina colleges and universities. To date, 53 students have received this assistance.

Each year the League participates in Operation School Bell, a program

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The President's Message



I am so pleased to introduce you to our newly designed newsletter. As you can see, it is an outstanding publication thanks to the hard work of members Krista Park-Berry and Gail Park. We welcome any comments you may wish to share with us as we look forward to this new year.

Our chapter goals are really two-fold: first of all, we plan to see that our new Resale Shop continues to be a resounding success. We are confident that our shop will not only provide the lion's share of our funds raised but will also drive membership recruiting and anchor our efforts with marketing and public relations.

Secondly, we intend to educate and develop new leadership, the lifeblood of our organization. We will accomplish this through our member mentoring program, regular nurturing presentations and a booklet of job descriptions. Our goal is to see that each member finds her niche within our chapter. Our education and membership chairmen as well as each member are invaluable in reaching these goals.

I invite all our supporters to visit the new Resale Shop on Market Street in North Raleigh. We welcome all donations of gently used furniture and household items.

I look forward to this year with great enthusiasm and am thankful for the honor of representing such a remarkable group of women.

Sincerely,

Shelley Stirling

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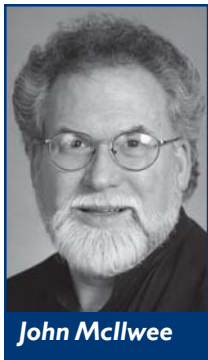
which provides new clothing, new shoes and school supplies to children in Wake and Durham counties. This program has served 5,936 children.

Over the past nine years, 256,626 individuals have benefited from these programs. "Open Your Heart" is again under way. If you are interested in contributing to this campaign, please visit the League's website at www.altriangle.org.



During Operation School Bell 2006, 736 students received bags of clothing and other supplies at eight elementary schools in the Triangle area.

Meet the Advisory Council



John McIlwee

John McIlwee is the art community representative on the advisory council. He is currently the Director of University Theatre at North Carolina State University. When he's not acting, singing, directing, or being involved with costume and set design he finds time to attend advisory council meetings and contributes with exciting and

creative ideas for fundraising.

In addition to providing the opportunity to view performances at Thompson Theatre as member guest events, John and his wife Nancy presented "A Musical Preview of Vintage Couture ... The Last Century" at a league luncheon fundraiser at North Ridge Country Club. More recently, following a dinner and silent auction event, John entertained us with "Songs for a Starry Night".

Both John and Susan have been advisory council members since it was established in 1999. Their guidance and direction contributes to the continued success of our chapter.



Susan Boisseau

Susan Boisseau is the retail community representative on the advisory council. As owner of *Lydia's Gifts & Interiors*, Susan brings to the board her business expertise as she makes recommendations for advertising and marketing to our organization. At *Lydia's* she concentrates on the administrative and buying end of the business,

while daughter, Ashlynn, helps manage the store and the merchandising vignettes.

Additionally, Susan has decorated tables for "Tables Extraordinaire" and has contributed many items for our silent auctions. She has always been very willing to help in any way she can especially by making donations from *Lydia's* to our Antiques to Zippers Resale Shop. A percentage of the sales from *Lydia's* annual one-day "Holiday Open House" are also donated to our league.

Lydia's Gifts & Interiors is located at 8845 Six Forks Road in Six Forks Station Shopping Center, 919-846-0555.

We love a Parade....

By Barbara Townson

The sales management team at Fonville Morisey & Barefoot invited league members to act as greeters at the 2007 Parade of Homes in the Hasentree neighborhoods in northern Wake County. Three greeters were provided each day of the Parade during the last weekend of September and the first two weekends of October.

Our 24 greeters earned \$60-65 per shift. For eight years we have provided greeters for the Parade. Thanks to Fonville Morisey & Barefoot for giving us the opportunity to raise funds for our programs. This is certainly our easiest fundraiser ever!

We would like especially to recognize Beverly Buttaci for volunteering for all three Sundays. Other members who volunteered were: Jill Sherman, Judy Thompson, Linda Weiner, Sharron Grant, Margie Hoell, Karen Perry, Lin Braggi, Becky Aldrich, Maria Mantilla, Barbara Townson, Phyliss Sullivan, Bonnie Pearson, Janet Kennedy, Molly Bailey, Penne Sheppard, Shirley Garvey, Gail Park, Ellen Lehman, Jane Sullivan, Nancy Horncastle, Martha Funsten, and Eddie Stirling.

Strategic Planning Highlights

By Janice Carlton

Assistance League Triangle Area has just celebrated its tenth birthday. As we reflect on the past years and all that has been accomplished, we are proud of what we have contributed to the Triangle community. Our four philanthropic programs are growing and making a difference to many women, children and families.

However, it is necessary to think of the future to determine the direction the organization is going and what our volunteers want to accomplish during the next few years. Our 2006-2009 Long Range Plan focuses on our four main goals which are:

1. To develop as a leading philanthropic organization in the Triangle community through our dedicated volunteer services.
2. To recruit and maintain an informed and participative membership to fulfill our organization's goals.
3. To ensure fiscal accountability to support our philanthropic programs and related activities.
4. To maintain and further develop a strong administration of Assistance League Triangle Area.

Each goal has objectives, action steps, budget requirements, persons responsible, measures of success and a time to be completed. The Committee will annually review the plan to determine if we are

successfully meeting each of the goals.

This year the Strategic Planning Committee would like to explore evaluation. There are times when an organization must ask itself some serious questions, such as: "Are our four philanthropic programs making a difference in the community?", "Do our fundraising activities merit the time and effort involved?", "Do our members feel a sense of accomplishment and pride when volunteering with our organization?", and "What are the most effective ways to raise money to support the programs?"

This Committee is looking forward to a very exciting year as we continually strive to be an outstanding philanthropic nonprofit organization in the Triangle Area.

Congratulations!

Thanks and congratulations to Shelley Stirling, Board President, for her excellent presentation of the Women In Need program at the National Assistance League Convention in Washington, D.C. this October.

Chapter members from all over the country were impressed that league members prepare the homemade meals and serve these women ourselves. The idea of a birthday cake at the luncheons was also a big hit.

Thank you, Shelley for your leadership, representing Assistance League Triangle Area at this convention, and for a job well done.



Members of the League's *Sip 'n Knit* group gather throughout the year to knit scarves for the Operation School Bell. Each year the group hand knits 400 scarves which are included in the bags.

What's Up at the Shop

The Antiques to Zippers Resale Shop, which opened in February 2007, has enjoyed its third successful quarter. The staffing support of Assistance League members has made this new adventure a success for the community. Many have also contributed generous donations of furniture and general household items.

The shop is gearing up for the holiday seasons. Autumn and Thanksgiving displays are in the front windows, which will soon be filled with Christmas decor. Many Christmas items have already been received, priced and are on the floor for sales.

Additionally, a tree supporting the Operation School Bell program will be decorated in early November. Customers and members will be asked to make a \$1 donation and in return, an ornament with their name will be placed on the tree.

The Antiques to Zippers Resale Shop is located at 1689-A North Market Drive in Raleigh. Hours of operation are from 10:00am - 4:00pm, Wednesday through Saturday. (919) 875-8901



League members Ellen Czinege and Marianne Bogdon assisting a customer at the Resale Shop.

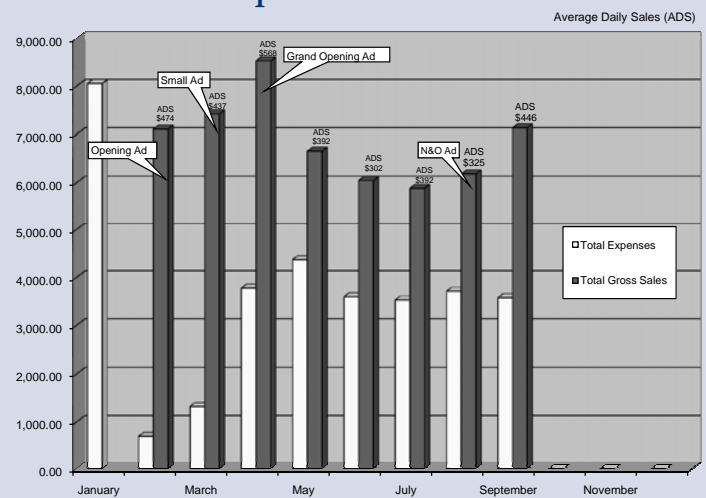
Thank you... Donation Pick Up Committee

Many thanks to each person on the Pick Up Committee who is always ready and willing to take furniture, rugs, etc. to the Resale Shop. A special "Thanks" to the following members who made several pick ups during the past few months:

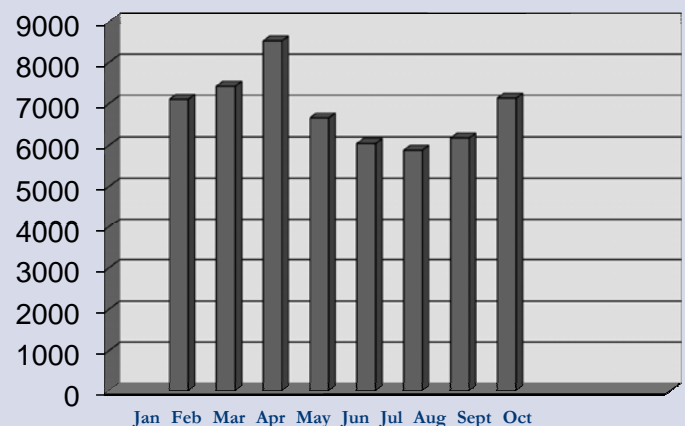
Molly Bailey, Shelley and David Stirling, Chris and Andrew Stirling, Johann and Bill Hoke, Barb and Charles Watts, Sharron and David Grant, Janice and Gary Carlton, Nona and Jim Wright, Pat Gipson, Merrill Smith, Jim Townson, Margaret and Frederick Pasquale.

Thank you again to a very dedicated, wonderful committee. If you are interested in joining this committee, please leave a message for Adriane at the Resale Shop at (919) 875-8901.

Expenses vs. Sales



Gross Sales





**Shirley Garvey (on left)
receiving the WOW award
from Gail Vaughn.**

WOW! Look what she did...

Gail Vaughn to Shirley Garvey

It began one starry, starry night in February 2006 when she donated some items to the silent auction at Assistance League's winter gala. She joined the organization one month later in March 2006 and has been a shining member ever since.

Have you ever noticed how some people have a grace and calm about them and complete tasks with such ease? Then you've probably noticed this **Wonderful Outstanding Woman** with her soft spoken wit who in a little over one year has knitted scarves for Operation School Bell, served as Historian, and volunteered many hours at the Resale Shop. If you look closely around the shop, you'll see some treasures made by this member, especially small gift bags and tags. She has beautifully restored many of our donated scratched and dented items so skillfully that after searching really hard you might find the old scar.

The WOW Award is presented on a quarterly basis to an Assistance League member who goes above and beyond the normal volunteer call of duty. The woman who WOWs me is Shirley Garvey. She has received much recognition for her artwork and also enjoys gardening. Shirley and her husband have three grown children.

I am very happy to pass the WOW award on to Shirley Garvey for her shining example of dedication and hours of service to the organization.

Assistance League Triangle Area is a nonprofit, nonpolitical and nonsectarian organization serving the Triangle Area. Established in 1997, Assistance League is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit volunteer organization and also a chapter of National Assistance League. With nearly 90 members volunteering over 15,000 hours and no paid staff, Assistance League is dedicated to meeting the needs of the Triangle community through service, resources and financial support. For more information about Assistance League, contact (919) 235-4554 or visit www.altriangle.org



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