

Community Link

Assistance League® Triangle Area ~ Contributing to the Needs of the Community



Spring 2010 ~ Volume 4, Issue 1

Annual League Scholarships

The Chapter awarded \$13,500 in scholarships to the following recipients at the Annual Meeting on May 21, 2009:

HIGH SCHOOL CATEGORY

Jaquel Brothers
Hillside High School

Vivian Doan
Southern High School

Biance Harvey
Jordan Matthews High School

Carson Koenig
Fuquay-Varina High School

Jessica Rudolph
Fuquay-Varina High School

Josette Styles
Southern High School

HEALTHCARE CATEGORY

Regina Brown
Wake Technical Community College

RETURNING SCHOLARS CATEGORY

Kathleen Boodee
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Rebecca Thompson
University of North Carolina at Wilmington

OPEN YOUR HEART Fundraiser

By Ann Eberhardt

OPEN YOUR HEART is a direct mail campaign to raise funds for Assistance League® Triangle Area programs: KID'S PLACE at WakeMed, Women In Need (WIN), Scholarships and Operation School Bell®. OPEN YOUR HEART was first created in February 2001 in connection with Valentine's Day.

Over the years this fundraiser has evolved into one of the most important methods of requesting community support for Assistance League® Triangle Area. In order to recognize the popularity of year-end tax deductible giving, the direct mail campaign has been moved to the fall season. For the 2009 campaign, a Donor Card has been added which allows contributions to be made in honor of or in memory of special persons. For example: In lieu of Christmas or birthday gifts, the donor can now make a donation to OPEN YOUR HEART in another person's name. A response letter is sent to that person informing them of the donation.

With generous contributions from

the community, the League has been able to continue and expand the 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 with games, books, toys and furniture. To date over 335,100 children have enjoyed reading and playing at the facility.

For several years, the Women In Need (WIN) program has partnered with the Women's Center of Wake County. The Center is a day shelter for women and children who are homeless. League members prepare and serve hot lunches monthly. The League also provides laundry vouchers, bus tickets, emergency lodging and other supplies to needy women. To date, 10,015 women have been assisted by this program.

The Scholarships program reviews requests submitted by Triangle area

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Mission Statement: Assistance League® Triangle Area is a volunteer organization dedicated to meeting the needs of our community through service, resources and financial support.

Assistance League®
Triangle Area 2009-10

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The President's Message

Our chapter continues to provide much needed support to our community each year. We began our service in 1995 and were officially chartered as a chapter of National Assistance League® in 1997.

This year I was honored to represent the chapter in receiving a certificate of recognition of our ten years of formal service to our local community at the National Education Conference in Dallas. The certificate represents an astounding amount of dedication and hard work from our members.

I was asked to provide our national organization with a summary of what we have accomplished for our community. It is amazing!

Our members work hard to make those contributions. We are very proud of the fact that we are an all volunteer group with no paid staff. Last year our members donated approximately 15,000 hours of their time valued at over \$300,000 and we are on track to do the same this year.

We are also very proud of the fact that only 3% of our expenses went to administrative support, our thrift shop "makes a profit" for our programs, and all cash contributions received are used directly for our philanthropic programs.

We are continuing to meet the growing needs of families in the Triangle Area with our traditional programs: Operation School Bell, Scholarships, Women in Need, and KID'S PLACE at WakeMed. We have also expanded our efforts this year through our new Community Sharing program, partnering with other nonprofit organizations.

Our dedicated volunteers and generous financial supporters are what makes these programs work. Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Townson
President



Barbara Townson (right) receives a certificate of recognition at the National Education Conference.



Established in 1997, **Assistance League® Triangle Area** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit volunteer organization serving the triangle area of North Carolina (Raleigh, Durham and Orange Counties) and is also a chapter of National Assistance League®.

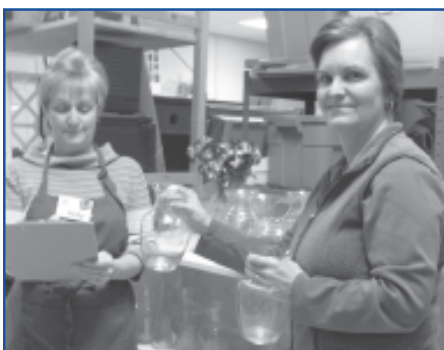
With nearly 80 members volunteering over 15,000 hours and no paid staff, the Chapter is dedicated to meeting the needs of the triangle community through service, resources and financial support. Visit us online at www.altriangle.org

Community Sharing Expands Programs

By Janice Carlton

In December, Assistance League Triangle Area submitted a proposal to National Assistance League® for a new philanthropic program called Community Sharing. This marks the Chapter's fifth program.

Why another program? The chapter wanted to be able to meet short-term community needs in a flexible manner and redistribute surplus items. Antiques to Zippers Resale Shop does not considerable saleable.



Judy Thompson (left) and Joyce Poole collect vases for the Flower Shuttle at the Shop.

We have partnered with three nonprofit organizations as part of the program. **The Flower Shuttle**, gathers flowers from funerals, weddings and community events and rearranges them in smaller vases. These vases are distributed to nursing homes, Hospice, crisis centers and Meals on Wheels. Small vases are donated to this organization.

Computers, laptops, printers, speakers, monitors less than 19", keyboards, cables and other related items are donated to **The Purple Elephant**. This organization refurbishes the computers by installing a new Windows XP

image, making them available to individuals in need.



Ellen Czinge (left) and Dee Walker count clothing items for donation..

The **Clothing Ministry** at First Baptist Church in Raleigh on Salisbury Street accepts any gently used clothing and shoes. Our organization does not solicit clothing or computers, yet at times they do arrive at the Shop. We are interested in getting them into the Triangle Area community to help those in need or in a crisis and this program enables us to accomplish this goal.



Ellen Czinge (left) and Janice Carlton record computer inventory.

Dee Walker, Chair, and Ellen Czinge, Co-chair, Joyce Poole, Judy Spears, Ann Cole, Judy Thompson, Martha Funsten, and Janice Carlton are serving on the committee. Several deliveries have already been made to each partner.

2009 Business and Foundation Donors

Due to the generosity and assistance from the following businesses and foundations, the goals of Assistance League® will continue to be met. Thank you for your continued support.

Gipson Family Foundation

BJ's Wholesale Club

Anonymous Foundation

NVIDIA Corporation

Kids 'N Community Foundation

Wake County Friends of the Guardian ad Litem

Wake Electric

Cardinal Club-Arts Committee

Mortex Apparel

Talecris

Top Producers Council

Progress Energy

Southern Community Bank & Trust

Syngenta

Heart of Carolina Tolers

Crescent State Bank

If you, your organization or your business would like to support the efforts of the Assistance League®, visit www.altriangle.org for more informaton.

11th year serving the Triangle Area for Operation School Bell®

By Shelley Stirling

For eleven years, Operation School Bell® has been a major philanthropic program of the Assistance League® Triangle Area. In 2009 members and volunteers distributed new shoes, jeans, shirts and underwear to 852 children in 10 schools located in Orange, Durham and Wake counties. Kindergarten through 2nd grade received warm-ups, 3rd graders received hoodies and students in 4th and 5th grades received jackets. In addition, three pilot schools waiting to join the program were given school supplies and extra underwear to keep on hand in the nurses' offices for students in need.

Our conservative estimates show that the program impacted more than 1,000 Triangle children this year alone. The Chapter hopes to continue and improve this program to include a year-round "clothes closet" and optical vouchers for new eye glasses. This, of course, is dependent on successful fundraising.

Notes of gratitude have been pouring in from teachers, counselors, principals and parents. They are heartfelt and sincere. However, it is the children's notes that are the most endearing – they are simple and direct, such as "I love my clothes, they are new," "My shoes are great and fit too," and "You are angels and make me special." All but a couple of the letters were signed "Love." Thank you everyone who supported this effort. Job well done!

Let's Get Socializing Fall 2009 Highlights

By Gail Park

Assistance League® Triangle Area members and guests celebrated the new year with a "Preview Fall Party" at Poppyseed Market at 8801 Leadmine Road in North Raleigh on Saturday, September 26th, 2009 from 6 to 8 p.m.

This was a relaxing, enjoyable evening before members became very busy with the sorting, bagging and delivery of Operation School Bell®.

In November, John McIlwee once again provided members and their guests with the opportunity to attend a preview performance of "It's A Wonderful Life – A Radio Show" at North Carolina State University. It was held on campus at the newly renovated Titmus Theatre at Thompson Hall.

McIlwee is the director of NCSU Theatre and a member of our advisory board. A donation of \$300 was made to the NCSU Art Center following the event.

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students in need of financial assistance and awards scholarships of \$1,000-\$2,500 to students who will attend North Carolina colleges and universities. To date, 70 students have received this assistance.

Each year the League participates in Operation School Bell®, a program which provides new clothing, shoes and school supplies to needy children in Wake and

Durham counties. This program has served 7,434 children.

Over the past eleven years, 352,619 individuals have benefited from the Assistance League® Triangle Area programs.

If you are interested in contributing to the OPEN YOUR HEART campaign, please visit the website at www.altriangle.org.

**JOIN ASSISTANCE
LEAGUE® MEMBERS
at the 2010 National
Conference**

Renew & Revitalize

September 12 - 16, 2010

New Orleans, LA

www.assistanceleague.org

'Shop Talk' at the A to Z

Antiques to Zippers Resale Shop ~ 1689-A North Market Drive, Raleigh, NC ~ (919) 875-8901

By Judy Thompson

Successful October Sales

The Antiques to Zippers Resale Shop had two big events in October: a Baubles & Bag annual sale and a 50% Off Two-Day sale. Both were a huge success.

Along with a great month of daily sales, the shop surpassed it's monthly goal of \$10,000 in October 2009 by \$1,282.87.

Celebration Party!

The Celebration Party which kicked off the new year on January 12, 2010 was a hit. Many of the Chapter members attended. Guests included members of the Advisory Board, Senior Hunks, Remax One Linda Craft and Team, Remax Preferred Associates and Organizing Solutions.

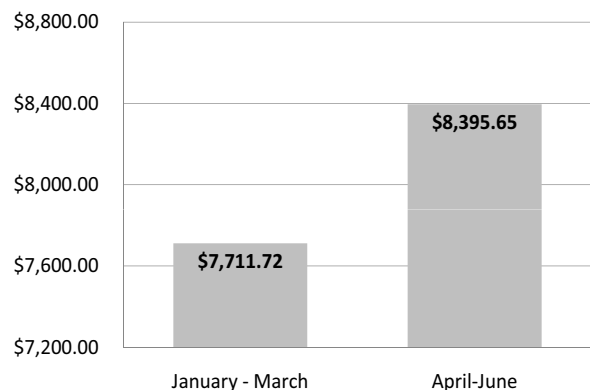
The food choices were many, thanks to our members and each one from breads, rolls, main courses, desserts was delicious. We had three door prize drawings which made our winners very happy. The shop was open to all who attended and sales were excellent. We look to the future for many months of reaching our goal and continuing to help our communities.

Thank You to our patrons.

Resale Shop Volunteers of the Month

September	Joyce Poole
October	Gail Vaughn
November	Callie Underwood
December	Karen Schindler
January	Martha Funsten
February	Connie Ludviksen

2009 Shop Profits



'Senior Hunks' (left to right) Alan Stirling, Jim Aldrich, Gary Carlton and Bill Hoke catch up at the party.



Molly Bailey (left to right), Margaret Pasquale and Shelley Stirling staff the register during the Celebration party.



Penne Sheppard (left to right), Lin Briggi and Dee Walker enjoying the shop's success.

WOW and Good Egg Awards

Presented quarterly, the Wonderful Outstanding Woman (WOW) awards were started very near the beginning of this chapter. They were created to recognize one woman who was doing outstanding work towards the Assistance League's



Grace Fox and Karen Perry.

programs for a period of time.

Karen Perry: For her Dedication, Patience and Calm. She comes early and stays late. She sees to it that everyone has the supplies they need to do their jobs. She offers

to help others with their tasks. She knows everything about how the shop works. She makes it easy and fun to volunteer. WOW from Grace Fox.

Judy Thompson: Stepping Up with Dedication. She is quiet and soft spoken ... kind and thoughtful. She took on a challenge that a lot of us would run from, but stepped up to the plate and said "I'll do it"! She is



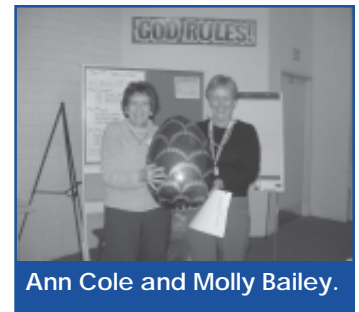
Connie Ludviksen and Judy Thompson.

considerate of others and strives to keep a balance. She even takes a vote when there are differences of opinion! She is without question dedicated to the cause. WOW from Connie Ludviksen.

The Good Egg award was also created at the beginning of the

chapter's formation- ha, which came first? It is a light-hearted award for outstanding service over a short period of time.

Ann Cole: For eggstraordinary donated clothing coordination, eggstreme and generous baking, willingness to work in the shop, website talent and unfailing good humor - no yoke. Good Egg Award from Molly Bailey.



Ann Cole and Molly Bailey.



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