

ALTRUSA



International, Inc. of Orlando~Winter Park
Post Office Box 2972 ~ Winter Park, Florida 32790
www.altrusa-orlando.org www.districtthree.org www.altrusa.com

KEYNOTES

December 2007

"The Future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams" Eleanor Roosevelt"



President's Corner:

Hello Everyone,

I hope you are enjoying the holidays. I know you have certainly made mine special with your spirit of giving this year. Together we were able to serve five charitable agencies this holiday season.

On December 8th, we held our annual holiday party for the ladies in the Birth, Education, Training, and Acceptance (BETA) program and the ladies in the Specialized Treatment, Education and Preventative Services (STEPS) program. We



combined both groups and held a wonderful pot luck luncheon. We presented each lady with a gift bag of toiletries and a necklace. Special thanks go out to Sharon Blake for coordinating this very successful event. Thanks also go out to Pat Tobin for obtaining the necklaces, to Toni Dedik and Maryanne Kravitz for filling the gift bags, and to Candy Dawson for obtaining a very inspirational speaker to talk to the ladies. Thanks also go out to all our members who brought food and were on hand to socialize with

the ladies, rock babies, and help with set up and clean up.

In addition, we were able to present each agency with a large gift bag containing baby clothes, stuffed animals and other baby supplies. If that weren't enough, we presented each organization with a check for \$250!



Betty Lowery

We had so many toiletries donated to the BETA/STEPS party that we had enough left over to fill 49 gift bags and give a bag to each of the 49 residents at the Women's Residence and Counseling Center (WRCC). The WRCC is a



residence for homeless women and children. The women who live at the WRCC are working and trying to get housing for themselves and their children. I dropped off the gift bags on December 14th. I spoke with some of the residents who were surprised and delighted to get a gift for Christmas.

Also, during the months of November and December our club adopted a single mother and her ten children and donated new gifts to them (and yes, even some gifts for the family dog) to help their Christmas be merrier. We learned about this family through the PACE Center for

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Girls, a charitable organization which is a non-residential delinquency prevention program for girls. One of the girls in this family attends school at the center.

Thanks to Linda Wright and Toni Dedik for coordinating this effort and collecting all of the gifts we donated and for taking them to the center. Linda and Toni dropped off these donations at the PACE Center on December 17th.

And the fifth agency we helped out this season is the Heart of Frances charity. Dr. Frances Wigfall is running a day care facility for 22 children whose parents or relatives are receiving cancer treatments. On December 18th, Carol Thomas and Carol Halliburton dropped off gifts for all of the children attending day care at the center. Thanks to them for collecting toys, books and stuffed animals to take out to the center and thanks to all who made that extra effort to give just one more toy.

Believe me—all of this took a great deal of effort in obtaining the number of people and the names, genders and ages of people at the various organizations and then coordinating not just one, but five large donations.

Thanks to all members of Altrusa International of Orlando-Winter Park for what you have done this holiday season. You are the definition of Generosity!

Have a safe and happy Holiday Season and a very happy New Year!!

Your President,

Allie Myers

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS:

Did you know that we can have our service projects listed on the Altrusa International web site? We complete so many projects each year and yet if you search the Altrusa International web site for listings about our club, only one comes up, and that is the money and tote bags that we donated to the Children’s Advocacy Center. While this is a worthwhile project, we have completed so many other projects this year that are worth mentioning.

Project chairs can go to the International web site at www.altrusa.com and submit information about a completed project. Just click on the words “**Service Projects**” on the left-hand side of the page. Click on **Cynthia Schad**’s name and then send her an e-mail telling her what was accomplished. Examples of how to write the information can be found by reading information submitted by other clubs.

Don’t wait for someone else to send in the information. Let’s let other clubs around the world know that we are a viable and active club that accomplishes a lot!

District Three News:

As you are reading this article, several of our club members are working on submitting applications for the various awards that will be handed out at the next District Conference to be held in Charlotte, NC from April 3rd through 5th.



Last year, our club walked away with plenty of third place certificates for our efforts. For all of our newer members, and for all of our older members who need a refresher course, listed below are some of the awards given out at District Conference.

Letha H. Brown Literacy Award--Literacy projects nominated for the Letha H. Brown Literacy Award are judged each year at the District Conference. First-Place winners from each District are entered into the competition at the International level. Established judging criteria are used by Districts and by International.

Outstanding Community Service Award--The purpose of this award is to stimulate each club to make community service a priority focus of their club by demonstrating at least a minimum percentage of membership participation, finances and volunteer time in their community service activities.

Vocational Services Award--The purpose of this award is to encourage clubs in their goals of assisting deserving persons who are struggling to break the cycle of poverty through education and training, and to promote their advancement into top management, and basically improve their quality of life in a variety of ways.

Ernestine Milner Program Excellence Award--Each club must describe how their programs dealt with issues that were interesting to local members and relevant to their community.

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Richard Ward Ulrich Environmental Services Award--This award was established to promote the preservation and restoration of the physical environment throughout the world.

Newsletter Award--Club newsletters are judged on a point system based on readability, the types of news covered, appearance and distribution.

Todd Jordan Yearbook Award--Club yearbooks are judged on format and usability, club information, District information, Altrusa information, and distribution.

Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award-- The purpose of this award is to encourage and stimulate international relations, to create an awareness of other cultures and people of the world, and to recognize outstanding club achievement in international relations.

These are just a few of the awards that are presented at District Conference each year. If you want to learn more about them, contact your club president, or better yet, attend the 2008 District Three Conference!

Altrusa Orlando Winter Park News

December -

This past month, Carol Halliburton provided everyone with a list that was given to her by Frances Wigfall of the Heart of Frances charity. Frances runs a daycare center for children whose parents or relatives are recovering from cancer. In addition to donations for the BETA / STEPS party and our adopted Pace family, our members were asked to give to these children who are in great need. A new or gently used toy, book or clothing item was requested. The names and ages of these needy children are listed below.

Dejon-age 3
Tavion-age 1

Shanteria-11
Antwaine-12

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Kemani-3	Matthew-9
King-2	Thadd-12
Jasmyn-2	Treynt-3
Jamiya-7	Ahmed-1
Jakeia-3	Vincent-8
Funtain-1	Alex-6
Marquis-2	Alex-6
Faith-7	Jacarri-6
Heaven-11	Jordan-2
Joy-3	Jeremiah-3
Destiny-3	Courtney-11

Carol together with Carol Thomas made a trip to Heart of Frances before Christmas to deliver the donations that were received. Although our club could not help out all of these children, Frances appreciated all that was received.

Note from Frances: "Thank you, Ms. Carol. We all really appreciate everything. God bless you!!! 🌹"

Special Thanks

Thanks to **AuraStella**, a company that is only a few months old, the residents of BETA and STEPS each were treated to this beautiful Necklace/Journey Pendant.



The Journey Pendant is one of the most popular items out there for the holidays. This pendant was chosen for its appeal to women of all ages!

Trimming the Train Station

by Betsy Sushinsky

The historic Orlando Train Station was bustling with activity the pre-Thanksgiving morning. Jody Goostree, Director of Keep Orlando Beautiful, her assistant James, and I met to decorate it for Christmas. One of the northbound trains

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was delayed so there were lots of folks milling about.

Keeping with tradition, Station Manager Marsha Kostival and her staff had taken the decorations out of storage and everything was ready for us. We trimmed the tree and hung festive wreaths in all the windows. New decorated pine garlands purchased by K.O.B were hung above the doors and several large silk poinsettia bushes were placed on top of the vintage phone booth along with three big boxes wrapped like Christmas presents.



All the while, the waiting passengers watched with interest and expressed their approval as we worked. We enjoyed chatting with many of them and took advantage of the opportunity to talk about Altrusa, Keep Orlando Beautiful, and our Adopt-A-Spot project, as well as Orlando's beautiful restored art deco train station. One nice lady from North Carolina even offered to clean the windows if we would give her some cleaning materials. We didn't take her up on the offer, but we did ask her to take some photos of us. Marsha and the Amtrak personnel gave us a big thumbs up when the project was completed. The station was spruced up and ready to provide Christmas cheer to Amtrak travelers and employees throughout the holidays.

The decorations will be taken down on January 2nd prior to the club meeting. If you are available that day, please come by the station at 3:00 pm to help.

ACCENT ON A NEW ALTRUSAN

Mildred born in San Juan, P.R. She received a B.A. in Business from the University of Puerto Rico and went on to serve as Employment Coordinator for IBM in Puerto Rico. Mildred moved to Orange County in 1993.



Fernandez was a B.A. in Education from the University of Puerto Rico and went on to work for IBM in Puerto Rico. Mildred moved to Orange County in 1993.

Mildred has a long history of involvement in community relations in the Orlando area. She has been liaison between the Orange County Board of Education and the community for the hiring of minority teachers in public schools. In 1997 she co-founded and served as President of the Hispanic-American Professional Business Women Association in Orlando. The following year, she planned and organized Naval Training Center Multi-Cultural Heritage Festivities to foster a better understanding and relationship among people of different cultures in the US Navy and in Central Florida. In 2000 she established a Hispanic Scholarship Fund for Women. She was appointed in 2002 to the Nuisance and Abatement Board by Mayor Richard Crotty and was also elected the same year as a Commissioner to the Soil and Water Conservation Board. She served as Campaign Treasurer for both John Quinones running for the Florida House of Representatives and Anthony Suarez running for the Florida Senate, both in 2002.

In 2004 Mildred successfully ran for the Board of County Commissioners and presently serves as Commissioner for District 3. She completed the Executive Education Program at the JFK School of Government, Harvard University in 2006. Mildred is a member of numerous organizations including the Orlando Business and Professional Women Association, the Citizen's Commission for Children, the Commission on Aging, the National Association for Female Executives, the Advisory Board of the American Cancer Society in Orlando, the Hispanic Development Center for Cancer in Orlando, the Orange County Value Adjustment Board, and the Downtown Development Board CRA. Mildred has

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been a member of the Lynx Governing Board since October 2006 and is Vice-Chair of Metropolitan Orlando's Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board.

In addition to all her other interests, Mildred finds time to volunteer for Harbor House for battered women and for BETA. While leading this extremely busy life, she has also managed to raise five children, all of whom have a professional education.

Needless to say, we are delighted to welcome Mildred as our sister Altrusan.

Calendar of Upcoming Events



January 2, 2008-


Altrusa General Meeting - Gentry's Restaurant, 4120 S. Orange Ave, just south of Michigan – 6:00 pm.

Accessible by taking the Michigan exit off of I-4, go east to Orange Ave. and turn right. For more specific directions, please call the restaurant at (407) 856-5188.

January 28, 2008-

Altrusa Board Meeting – Law Offices of Dean, Ringers, Morgan & Lawton, 201 E. Pine St., Suite 1200 – 6:00 pm.

January Birthdays:



Tammy Douglass	3
Martha Kirby	8
Peggy Wolford	10
Linda Bond	18
Nancy Rapport	20
Carol Halliburton	24

Committee Reports:



LITERACY COMMITTEE
Chair: Martha Kirby

After an incredibly busy fall, the Literacy Committee has no report this month.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Chair: Tammy Douglass



The Stein Mart event was a huge success. The Community Services Committee is busy working on other ways that our club can help in the community.



VOCATIONAL SERVICES

Co-Chairs: Ann Price & Helen Mize

Reminder!

The location for the February **Tea for Twenty** is at the **Fairwinds Credit Union** (not the Oviedo Women’s Club), on **February 23rd at 2:00 PM**. Carol Thomas has completed the invitation and receipts which will be shared at the meeting on January 2nd. A sign up sheet was emailed to all members looking for volunteers to sponsor tables and provide food items. The list will be passed around at the January meeting. Members of the Vocational Services Committee should plan to meet right after the January meeting at Gentry's to finalize details for the Tea.

Minutes for December General Meeting:

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF ORLANDO-WINTER PARK GENERAL MEETING

Because of the BETA / STEPS Holiday Party, there was no General Meeting this month.

KEYNOTES is a monthly publication of Altrusa International of Orlando-Winter Park. Please send information for upcoming editions by the 15th of the month to: Maryanne Kravitz, Editor, mkravitz42@hotmail.com or call at 407-852-7727.

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