

Your Foundation - Helping Altrusans Serve

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For forty-six years the Altrusa International Foundation, Inc. has been dedicated to improving the economic well-being and the quality of life through our commitment to service and literacy.

In that vain, during the February 2008 meeting in Chicago the Foundation Board of Trustees discussed a variety of things that the Foundation could do to make that vision a reality. One objective that was central to our discussion was the question, how best can we as a Foundation utilize our resources to impact larger segments of the world's population?

We then set out to review the current Foundation Disaster Relief Program. At the present time, per Foundation policy the Chairman may initiate a contribution of up to \$1,000 to an appropriate relief agency for disaster relief in consultation with the staff. Additional contributions for the same disaster need the Board's approval.

The changes to the program that were discussed at that February 2008 meeting included the transfer of \$10,000 from the General Fund to the Disaster Relief Support Fund along with plans for a Disaster Relief Grant Program. In essence there will now be an additional way for the Foundation to respond to worldwide disasters.

- **Governor's Disaster Relief Fund** will respond to disasters within their Districts. These funds support the first/immediate response programs of the Altrusa International Foundation and other relief programs. Monies from this fund may go to another relief agency to enhance overall first responder efforts. Requests for disbursements from this fund will be initiated by a District Governor's letter to the International Foundation.
- **Altrusa Club Disaster Recovery Service Grants** will provide an opportunity for Altrusa clubs world wide to address the unmet or otherwise unfunded needs of a community or area following a disaster. This will take place after immediate relief efforts have been initiated. Any disaster adversely affecting 100 or more individuals qualifies for programs to fill the gaps that may be left by other relief providers. Applications for these grants will be initiated by a Club President, submitted to the District Governor for approval and then forwarded to the International Foundation office.

This new program along with brochures, grant application and guidelines will be unveiled at the 2009 Altrusa International Convention in Indianapolis.

In conclusion, I believe that these new initiatives will enhance the mission and vision of the Altrusa International Foundation even further. Your donation to the Foundation Disaster Relief Support Programs or any of the other Foundation programs can truly be a reflection of our collective hopes and dreams for everyone in the world no matter in what set of circumstances they may find themselves.