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ALTRUSA CLUBS INCREASE LOCAL SERVICE IN RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT OBAMA'S CALL

LEWISVILLE, Texas—Rallying around their motto of “Patriotism, Efficiency, Service,” the members of [Altrusa Club of Lewisville](#) are responding to President Barack Obama’s inaugural call for increased service in America with [a renewed focus on their projects benefiting the student incentive program at Hedrick Middle School and volunteer efforts with LISD’s School-Age Parent Program.](#)

Shortly after taking the oath of office as the 44th President of the United States, Mr. Obama delivered a stirring call to action for Americans:

For as much as government can do and must do, it is ultimately the faith and determination of the American people upon which this nation relies. It is the kindness to take in a stranger when the levees break, the selflessness of workers who would rather cut their hours than see a friend lose their job which sees us through our darkest hours. It is the firefighter’s courage to storm a stairway filled with smoke, but also a parent’s willingness to nurture a child, that finally decides our fate.

Our challenges may be new. The instruments with which we meet them may be new. But those values upon which our success depends—hard work and honesty, courage and fair play, tolerance and curiosity, loyalty and patriotism—these things are old. These things are true. They have been the quiet force of progress throughout our history. What is demanded then is a return to these truths. What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility—a recognition, on the part of every American, that we have duties to ourselves, our nation, and the world, duties that we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that there is nothing so satisfying to the spirit, so defining of our character, than giving our all to a difficult task.

This is the price and the promise of citizenship.

Lewisville Altrusans are responding, and are inviting more Americans to join them. The [Altrusa Club](#), which is still in the organizational phase to join the [Altrusa International organization](#), has launched an [extensive membership drive to welcome interested Americans to join us in our campaign for change](#). Our members are drawn from all cultures, from all age groups, and from all economic standings, with a common thread of wanting to give back. As a member of an Altrusa Club, a member doesn’t need to worry about finding extra money in her own pocket—in most cases, the Club’s fund-raising efforts provide all the funding that will be necessary. The Altrusans are simply charged with being good stewards.

Visit us at our next meeting, February 5 at Lewisville Estates, when we will welcome Dr. David May of Cardiovascular Specialists to discuss women's heart health in time to send a lifelong Valentine back to our families. Dinner is \$6, and guests are welcome and encouraged. Contact Beth McPherson at bethelene@tx.rr.com or 214-535-7104 to RSVP.

Since their inception in 1917, Altrusa Clubs and members like Eleanor Roosevelt and Dr. Lillian Gilbreth, have been providing hands on community service. In 2007-08, Altrusans provided an estimated 720,000+ volunteer hours in their communities. With Clubs scattered throughout the United States (and indeed, the world), Altrusa International is determined to be a visible, dedicated force for change in our nation, starting in our own neighborhoods. Altrusa is, first and foremost, a community-based, grassroots organization that seeks to solve the problems in our back yards. Busy Altrusans raise money for local charities, encourage reading and literacy, volunteer at battered women's shelters, help runaway teens, build houses for Habitat for Humanity, and so much more. Inspired by Thoreau, Altrusan Mamie L. Bass put it best: "It is not enough to be good; Altrusans must be good for something."

Altrusa International (www.altrusa.com) is an international association of professional women and men who volunteer their energies and expertise in projects dedicated to community betterment. Altrusa is a community service organization that espouses volunteerism, service and fights for literacy and against AIDS. Assistance is given to projects emphasizing literacy through its nonprofit Foundation.