



AT YOUR SERVICE
INTERNATIONAL SERVICE DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER
WINTER, 2008



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

EDITORS, CINDY SCHAD & MARY HANZEL, SERVICE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
2007-2009

AT YOUR SERVICE!

Happy New Year Altrusa!! January brings in a sense of excitement as it ushers in a new year.

Many of us resolve to make new commitments and certain changes in our lives declared as resolutions.

A client of Cindy's shared the following "Lamps to Light the Path in 2008" written by Ben Holden that we would like to share with you. These are wise words well written that can apply to us all in our daily living:

1. Approach your calling in life with diligence and patience. In every way, prepare to be productive for yourself and worthy of the esteem from others.
2. Learn to laugh when confusion enters your mind and setbacks press upon you. Gloom is nothing more than an added burden.
3. Respect your body. Care for it as the temple of your soul.
4. Be natural. Don't seek to be someone you're not. Emulate the great, but be great within yourself.
5. Be frugal in money matters. Keep your desires circumspect. Only spend your own money. Contain your expenses within your daily income.
6. Don't fret about tomorrow. Worry will cause chaos in your life.

7. Enjoy life every day in the people you meet, the birds you hear in the morning and the stars you observe in the evening.
8. Seek to serve others and not happiness. Happiness will be your reward only if you walk the path of fruitful endeavor and sacrificial living.
9. Show courage in the face of temptation and guile.
10. Be faithful to your family, your friends and your boss.

As Altrusans we have all learned the value of lamp #8 through the various act of service we provide in our communities. We experience the happiness that comes only from giving of ourselves to others.

In a few short months, your club and district will elect new officers, review and update your strategic plans for upcoming year and biennium and plan projects for the new fiscal year. We encourage you to incorporate new ideas and project ideas as you *EMBRACE THE WORLD AS LEADERS IN SERVICE!*

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MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY 2007 SUMMARY REPORT

[The Inspiration...](#)

For the eighth year in a row, Altrusa International, Inc. Participated in Make A Difference Day (MADD). Due to our past success, Altrusa again set up a special web site for MADD. We asked our Altrusa clubs to come up with a literacy project to be performed on October 27, 2007. Literacy is a special focus of our Foundation. Then Altrusa clubs submitted their plans and the final results of their projects to us via our web site. All final reports were then compiled into a group entry for 2007.

[The Project...](#)

First, we upgraded the MADD section on our site. The first page gave general background information and the rules for MADD. On the second page, we asked Altrusa clubs to tell us their plans. When we received their plans, we added them to the list of participating clubs on a special page of our web site entitled "Volunteer Opportunities" so people outside of Altrusa could also become involved. The third page provided ideas for literacy projects, while the fourth page answered some FAQ's (frequently asked questions.) Finally, on the fifth page was a form to submit the results of the completed project.

As literacy is a special focus of Altrusa International, Inc. and the Altrusa Foundation, we asked that all clubs do a literacy project. Although an international volunteer organization comprised of 382 clubs in 13 countries, these local Altrusa clubs focus on serving their own communities. Literacy and access to education is a problem in every community. By choosing a single theme, Altrusans felt they could make a real difference in the fight against illiteracy all around the world.

[The Participation...](#)

To encourage participation, the International Office publicized the project in our publications. We also sent reminders to all clubs with preliminary plans for MADD.

This year **2,443** people volunteered from **103** different clubs putting in **7,487** total volunteered hours and impacting approximately **41,865** people.

[The Impact](#)

Due to the number and variety of projects, it is difficult to estimate the impact Altrusans had. Where actual figures were given for the number of people who attended an event or are involved in a program, we used those numbers. Otherwise, we figured at least one person would read each book or magazine donated, so we counted each book or magazine as "a person." Beyond that, we did not try to guess the impact of some projects because it was too hard to make a fair and accurate estimate, but between those two figures of people who are enrolled in programs or attended events and number of books and magazines donated, you get **41,865**.

The above report was submitted to Make A Difference Day by Tanika Wilson, Altrusa International Inc.

ADD AN ALTRUSAN DAY JANUARY 2008

Plan an event for "Add An Altrusan Day" during the month of **January**. Each Club can select any **day** in January as its "Add An Altrusan Day". Set aside one day in January for a membership drive. This is an opportunity to "Embrace the World" through this membership drive. We are excited about our services and leadership! Now is the time





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to teach people in your community how they can participate in making a positive change in the community and impact hundreds of lives.

Altrusans we need your help to increase membership and to keep Altrusa growing. This is your chance to make a difference in the future and success of Altrusa.

Important things to remember:

- Be creative with your membership drive.
- Invite, invite, and invite prospective members.
- Have membership applications easily available.
- Follow up with prospective member(s).
- Partner with an under-Charter Strength Club to help that Club become Charter Strength.
- Classifications are only applicable on the Club level to encourage diversity among members. Do **NOT** lose a potential member over classification.

AWARDS

In the International Altrusan, December 2007- January 2008, Mary Hanzel, Co-chair wrote a detailed article regarding international awards. She explained the history of each award and the criteria for each along with deadlines for submission. Please review it as your club completes award applications. The



process of submitting awards has a tri purpose: your club benefits by recognition of all the service work you accomplish ,your district benefits by the sharing of your projects at conference and in DSB's and all of Altrusa benefits along with the thousands of people served each year.

If you have any questions about any award, please contact you district awards coordinator or our committee. We will be glad to assist you in any way we can.

ASTRA

Altrusa International Inc. of Ocala, FL has three active ASTRA Clubs. This year a new school-wide award has been created by the club to be awarded to one of the ASTRA Clubs on March 25, 2008 when a joint ASTRA Clubs and Altrusa Cub dinner will be held. The award is based on number of service hours per club membership, participation in a year-long food drive for a local charity's Backpack for Kids Program, service projects completed and participation with the Altrusa club's projects. The award will be an an annual traveling award.



Why not let us know how your ASTRA Club (s) are doing?

A WORLD OF INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGER

TIPS!

I am amazed every time I search the internet for data. We live in an age where never before have we had so much information available to us just at the click of a mouse. Whether you are searching



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for fundraising ideas or service project ideas, so many ideas can be found within a few minutes of surfing.

Have you visited Altrusa.com lately and clicked on the following link on the home page about service?

Please visit our [Altrusa Service Projects](#) page for more information and a complete list.

Your club will not lack for any project ideas if you spend some time researching projects reported by other clubs. You will be directed to the contact name of the person and the club for more information. Also, Altrusans are all about sharing, so why don't you add a project your club has competed to the data base?

PROJECTS REPORTED TO US SINCE SEPTEMBER
2007

Altrusa Int'l. Inc. of Boaz, AL sponsored "Reading in Costume with Altrusa Day" at the local public library as their "Make a Difference Day" project. Altrusans dressed in character throughout the library and read to children. Two craft areas were set up for the children to help decorate book bags for needy children in Belize. Each child placed their handprint and signature on a bag that read "From My Hands to Yours". Thank you, Boaz, for sharing.

Altrusa Int'l. Inc. of Grand Junction, CO hosted the "Family Health Fiesta" project on October 13, 2007. The event was a health fair for non-insured and underinsured individuals. Screenings included dental, vision, cardiac, diabetes, respiratory, bone and mental health. Ten previously undiagnosed

cases of diabetes were diagnosed as well as four cases of skin cancer. During the fair, the club distributed healthy snacks and books to children in attendance. 500 people attended the event. Thank you, Grand Junction for sharing.

Altrusa Int'l. Inc. of Dayton, OH organized the library at their local nursing home. The home had received many books over the years but did not have the staff to organize and shelf the books. Thank you Dayton for sharing.

Altrusa Int'l. Inc. of Portland, Maine participated in the Empty Bowl Service Project in their community. Volunteers made clay bowls which were used during the food service event. Thank you, Portland, for sharing.

Altrusa Int'l. Inc. of Mansfield, OH supplied 34 classrooms with over 1,000 school supplies on Oct. 9, 2007 for their "Tools for Schools" Project. Thank you, Mansfield, for sharing.

Altrusa Int'l. Inc. of Lima, OH collected gently used hardback books and current magazines and delivered them to residents at a local nursing home along with sweet treats of chocolate cookies! Thank you Lima, for sharing.

Altrusa Int'l. Inc. of Ocala, FL donated 100 books and landscaped the entrance to the new Therapeutic Riding Association facility with 25 native Florida plants. Thank you, Ocala, for sharing.

Altrusa Int'l. Inc. of Orlando-Winter Park, FL sponsored several holiday service projects in December. They hosted a party at the BETA



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Center, a residential program for women recovering from chemical dependency. Each lady received a bag of toiletries and a journey pendent. The club also sponsored the family of a student at PACE School for girls and delivered a truck load of gifts for the family. Additionally gift cards for food and essentials were presented to the family. Toys, books and stuffed animals were donated to the Heart of Frances Daycare Facility. Lastly, videos and candy were delivered to the Children's Advocacy Center. Thank you, Orlando-Winter Park, for sharing!

