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What an exciting time to be an Altrusan! As you read this article, the District Conference season is rapidly drawing to a close with only three May conferences still happening. I know you all had wonderful Conferences and that our Altrusa International Board members enjoyed their time with you. I look forward to reading all of the highlights and photos in your District Service Bulletins.

Membership continues to look positive. At the end of February, we were NINE members ahead of where we ended the previous biennium. Let's continue to grow our membership. We are excited with all the new clubs chartered so far and look forward to chartering more clubs. We have clubs in formation in District Five, Six, Eight, Nine, and Ten. There is one in the exploratory stage in District Twelve, two additional in District Nine in the organizing stage and another possible one in District Eight.

I look forward to seeing the results of the April Add An Altrusan Month challenge and which clubs receive one of the five \$100 incentive awards.

When you are recruiting new members, please remember that Young Professionals (those 30 and under) qualify for half-priced International dues. Be sure to include their birthdate when adding to Group Tally as that will alert the system that they are a Young Professional. Check with your District Treasurer to see if your District also offers half-priced District dues.

Do not forget to report your Acts of Kindness as well as your book donations/ service hours on the Service page of the Altrusa International website. In March, over 50,000 Acts of Kindness had been reported and over 46,000 books. Remember, we do not need to know what your Acts of Kindness were, just how many your club did.

A "What's New" section has been added to the Service page with a tab to report your Days for Girls donations. In the past we have only been able to track monetary donations and this will allow us to track the kits, etc.

I am so proud of the amazing things all of our clubs are doing, some simple, some elaborate, but all making a difference in your communities. I am proud to represent all of you as your President!

Let's R.O.C.K.!



Linda K. Smith, President  
Altrusa International, Inc.

## **Financial Update from Altrusa International President and Treasurer**

Our Altrusa International Board wanted to share with you all an update of what has been happening since Convention regarding financial reports. There was much concern at the Convention about our financial position.

At the Convention a motion was made requesting that the Board have a special purpose audit conducted of the Association's financial statements and records for the financial year ending May 31, 2023.

As Immediate Past President Kathy shared at Convention, a forensic audit (often referred to as a special purpose audit) was conducted with our insurance company and the Chicago Police Department prior to us receiving reimbursement for the misappropriated funds. We were happy to receive reimbursement from the insurance company for all of the misappropriated funds except for a \$1,000 deductible. Kathy also monitored our accounts daily once the misappropriation was discovered to ensure that no further misappropriation occurred.

At my request, our Executive Director, David Mena has spoken with our auditor Davida Finkle at Mann, Weitz and Associates and she has indicated the following:

She explained first that they are booked solid and currently do not have time to take on this proposal at the moment. She went on to explain that this one-year audit would be costly. In 2019 we paid \$17,500, and our last biennial audit we paid \$23,000, and she said this one-year audit would not be cheaper than our biennial audit. Her ballpark figure was \$26,000. She also said we could find another auditor who could also charge us a premium. {FYI – most auditors are scheduled a year in advance.]

Her recommendation was to save our money... and to show the membership our internal controls to provide reassurance. She also said the following biennium audit will cover May 2023 since they will have to set up a beginning balance. She also said that as a 501c4 we are not required to do regulatory audits, and we are already going above and beyond to make sure our books are in order. She added that there was still a possibility that the audit could have missed the fraud and that those internal controls are more important than an audit when it comes to fraud.

David indicated to the Finance Committee that he truly believes Davida has our best interest in mind.

In the meantime, our new International Treasurer, Bettina Schempf, has been hard at work going through all of our financial records from the previous biennium. She is working closely with our outside accounting firm to be sure all income and expenses are properly credited to the correct categories.

Included with this article you will find the Financial Statements for the 2021-2023 Biennium. The Statement of Financial Activities compares the actual income and expenses to the budget that was approved at the 2021 Convention. The Statement of Financial Position shows our assets and liabilities as of May 31, 2023 with a comparison to the end of

the last Biennium. These reports were prepared by Altrusa International Treasurer Bettina Schempf and were final as of January 2024. An explanation of the reports from Bettina is also included.

Our financial activities are processed by an external accounting firm and reviewed by the Executive Director and International Treasurer monthly. The Board reviews them at the quarterly Finance Committee and Board meetings. Daily processing follows the Financial Procedures Manual which was last updated in December 2022.

Due to the cost and availability of an external auditor, the Board of Directors has not yet arranged for an audit. This would be a major cost to the Association for this unbudgeted item. To date, we have relied on a review of processes and balances with the accounting firm. We are confident that internal controls are now in place and operating well to safeguard funds.

**Altrusa International, Inc.**  
**Statement of Activity June 2021 - May 2023**

	Actual		Budget		Variance	
	in \$		in \$		in \$	in %
<b>Income</b>						
Membership Dues	646,104		832,206		(186,102)	-22.4%
Membership Fees	17,077		19,500		(2,423)	-12.4%
Royalties	8,618		11,400		(2,782)	-24.4%
Foundation Contract	113,632		118,214		(4,582)	-3.9%
Other Income	88,288		36,200		52,088	143.9%
Subtotal	873,719		1,017,520		(143,801)	-14.1%
Convention Income	119,022		109,980		9,042	
Convention Expenses	185,100		131,796		53,304	
Subtotal Convention	(66,078)		(21,816)		(44,262)	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>807,641</b>		<b>995,704</b>		<b>(188,063)</b>	<b>-18.9%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
Member Services	69,193		70,890		(1,697)	-2.4%
Personnel Expenses	361,385		531,075		(169,690)	-32.0%
Association Governance	119,093		110,735		8,358	7.5%
Office Expenses	289,950		300,659		(10,709)	-3.6%

Other Expenses	10,643	-	10,643	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>850,264</b>	<b>1,013,359</b>	<b>(163,095)</b>	<b>-16.1%</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(42,623)</b>	<b>(17,655)</b>	<b>(24,968)</b>	<b>141.4%</b>

Altrusa International, Inc.  
Statement of Financial Position  
As of May 31, 2023

	As of May 31, 2023	As of May 31, 2021	Change
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Current Assets Bank			
Accounts	796,137	631,525	164,612
Accounts Receivable	-	60,403	(60,403)
Other Current Assets	-	41	(41)
Prepaid Expenses Misc	25,016	72,613	(47,597)
Receivable	-	61,000	(61,000)
Total Current Assets Fixed	<b>821,153</b>	<b>825,583</b>	<b>(4,430)</b>
Assets	496	7,131	(6,635)
Other Assets	19,946	13,660	6,286
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>841,595</b>	<b>846,373</b>	<b>(4,778)</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	27,029	1,243	25,786
Credit Cards Accrued	-	7,744	(7,744)
Expenditure Deferred	-	21,245	(21,245)
Income	147,878	103,742	44,135
Direct Deposit Liabilities Payroll	-	612	(612)
Liabilities	(680)	1,795	(2,475)
Total Current Liabilities	<b>174,227</b>	<b>136,382</b>	<b>37,845</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>174,227</b>	<b>136,382</b>	<b>37,845</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	614,769	681,679	(66,910)
Board Designated Net Assets	50,638	50,638	-
Net Revenue	1,961	(22,326)	24,287
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>667,368</b>	<b>709,992</b>	<b>(42,623)</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>841,595</b>	<b>846,373</b>	<b>(4,778)</b>

## **Financial Summary Report for 2021-2023 Biennium by Altrusa International Treasurer Bettina Schempf:**

The Statement of Activity for the 2021-2023 shows a deficit of \$43k compared to a budgeted deficit of \$18k.

Membership dues were 22.4% below the budgeted level as membership bounced back but grew slower than expected. Additional 'Other Income' includes a one-time Employee Retention Credit of \$40k and \$14k in one time income from the Foundation and relating to the previous Biennium.

The 2021 Convention ended with a deficit of \$66k, mainly through the impact of capped attendance numbers from the hotel, no availability of online participation and increases in costs.

Member Services, which include Awards, Group Tally, the liability insurance and other club supports came in 2.4% lower than budget.

Personnel expenses were 32.0% lower than budget through several vacancies in positions while we rehired into the open positions.

Association Governance came in 7.5% higher than budget. Those expenses include the cost of board meetings, accounting, audit, legal and trademark fees, costs for the Governors' Council,

Governor Elect Training and related expenses. Higher costs for the Governor Elect Training and trademark management contributed to the overspending.

Office expenses came in 3.6% below budget. Most expenses are for rent, insurance, technology, and communications.

Other expenses relate to one-time prior year adjustments related to former staff.

The Statement of Financial Position shows changes in Assets, Liabilities and Equity over the Biennium.

Bank Balances include Operating, Savings, and Investment Accounts. The increase reflects collection of outstanding Receivables, the deferred income held as of 5/31/2023 and other cashflow changes. The Accounts Receivable and Misc. Receivable balances in 2021 related to the fraudulent expenses and have since been collected.

Prepaid expenses are mainly for the Convention and for insurance. Other assets represent the security deposit for the office.

Deferred income as of May 31, 2023 includes \$65k for dues and convention fees for 2023- 2024 and \$82k for Convention registrations.

Board Designated Reserves relate to a one-time windfall from an estate prior to 2018 that the board put into a reserve to be used for extraordinary or one-time expenses. It has been used to support District Fourteen dues in 2018 when a hurricane severely impacted Puerto Rico.

## Reaching Membership

*Nanci Schwartz, International Communications Committee Member*

In an organization as diverse as Altrusa, capturing the attention and engagement of members is challenging. People consume information differently which means we must be creative and comprehensive in our outreach. Whether you are communicating from an International, District or Club level, it's critical to understand the diversity and communication needs of members. For purposes of this writing assignment, I sought input from other Altrusa communicators who generously shared best practices:



Awilda Oliveras, Communication Committee President, Altrusa International of Yauco, Puerto Rico (District 14) said their club applies a multimedia approach. They activate their telephone network every time they have meetings and special events. The Yauco club's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/AltrusaInternacionalIncDeYauco>) is updated regularly and they use Instagram, Tik-Tok and email to communicate with members and prospects. Awilda says phone calls resonate better with members of the older generation but texting is always better for their ASTRA members. The Yauco club's methods work! Awilda reported that they have 90% attendance at meetings and a balanced membership where all active members share their talents and skills in various ways to help the club.

In another hemisphere, Jenny Bevin, a member of Altrusa International of Timaru and the District 15 Communications Chair (<https://www.facebook.com/altrusainternationaldistrictfifteen>) echoed the need for Altrusa clubs to meet members where they are when it comes to outreach. Jenny shared insight from three District 15 clubs:

- “We communicate by email, text and Facebook, mostly,” reported one small but very active District 15 club. “Most members follow our Facebook page or the local community page and we post as much as we can so they see what’s going on. We also put all photos up so members can share them with their families.” This club pays close attention to email engagement to see who is participating in email threads. If a member has gone silent, club leadership will proactively seek their input to ensure they feel included. And at the end of their well-attended meetings, this club holds a quick roundtable so members can share an idea or express a concern thereby creating a safe space for member input.
- Meanwhile, an Altrusa club which launched in 2018 uses digital outreach only because the membership fully embraces the technology. They use Facebook and email to reach members and prospects, and Trello, a project management tool, for activities and events.
- One of the larger District 15 clubs told Jenny that they rely on group emails primarily but they have a buddy system “so individuals check up on their mate and give support where needed.” This club has successfully inducted younger members and encouraged them to take office by listening to their input and never saying, “that’s not the way we’ve done it!”

Unfortunately there is no tried and true method for ensuring successful outreach to Altrusa members. But there is a magic formula that every club should consider to increase engagement: Patience + Persistence + Willingness to Adapt to Members’ Preferences + Consistency = Success!



President Linda was able to visit with Past International President Zaida Perez during the District Fourteen Conference. Zaida says hello to our Altrusans and that she misses you.



*Altrusa International of Pueblo, CO celebrates 100 years of service in Altrusa this year! Thank you Pueblo members for your continued dedication to your community!*



## UN Grounds Passes Update

*Kathy Schrein, Altrusa Representative to the United Nation's Department of Global Communications, Civil Society Unit/NGO, Chair*

It is with great pleasure that your Altrusa International United Nations Committee has received permission to obtain UN Ground Passes. Why the expression of joy? Permission has been delayed many months-Covid, of course, closed UN 3/2020-3/2022, denial of Ground Pass via UN and then shortly admission of their error and immediate reinstatement, and finally new forms/security questions. And, viola, Megan Holleran (NYC), vice chair UN committee, has recently received her 2024 Grounds Pass. A special "thank you" to CEO David for all his assistance and perseverance in leading our committee through these issues.



So what is a UN Ground Pass and why do your Altrusa International committee members need one? A Grounds Pass provides access to the United Nations Headquarters and is a result of being registered as personnel of a mission or office. Principals must be properly registered before their Grounds Pass can be issued.

Having a valid United Nations Grounds Pass is important for both the staff of UN Headquarters in New York and for the personnel of the Permanent Missions and Observer Offices (Altrusa/NGO).

Please feel free to email [kathylou1107@yahoo.com](mailto:kathylou1107@yahoo.com) concerning any information related to your United Nations committee. Now with access to the UN, our committee can begin to once again-since 1945/46-inform members concerning current events and projects.

## Show Case Projects

*Karyn Evans, International Service Committee, Chair*

How many times have we heard that Altrusa is a best-kept secret? Over 100 years of community services, developing leaders, and focusing on literacy, yet we are still largely unknown. How well is your club known in your immediate community? Surrounding communities? What are you known for?

Typically, if we are recognized, it is for our service. It is critical for clubs to have "showcase projects" - those service projects that connect the club to the community. Our reputation often lies with our service, or perhaps, our fundraising projects that support our service. Does your club have at least one special project that people connect to you?

Our service projects meet needs in our communities, but they do so much more. Service is the reason most of us became Altrusans. That equals potential new members and retention of members. Being known in the community brings in support, both fiscal and project assistance. People support your fundraisers because they know who and what they are advocating.

Do you need assistance with your service projects? The members of the International Service would be honored to work with you. Please see the many showcase projects that were submitted.



# SHOWCASE PROJECTS

Projects clubs are known for in the community  
Click the medal at the bottom to see more projects



## Back to School Fair

Door County, WI

For 25 years, Altrusans have hosted an annual fair for nearly 700 students, who receive backpacks, school supplies, shoes, clothes, and toiletries.

## Princess Night

Akron, OH

Starting with unclaimed dry-cleaning orders, Altrusans now collect donations of prom dresses, shoes, and accessories. For the past 23 years, they have served over 2,500 princesses from 11 counties.



# Reminders

- 2024-2025 dues are now open as of April 1, 2024.
- Please remember to complete the Club Annual Report by June 1st, 2024. You can complete the survey by following this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MB3GQNM>
- Don't forget to follow Altrusa International on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) where we are expanding our outreach through social media.

## Navigating the Web...

- Important websites to know!
  - [www.altrusa.org](http://www.altrusa.org) (click Member Login in the upper right)
  - [login.altrusa.org](http://login.altrusa.org) (go directly to the members area)
  - [www.altrusastore.com](http://www.altrusastore.com) (purchase Altrusa branded items including pins and banners)
  - [www.altrusaservice.org](http://www.altrusaservice.org) (browse and share your club's service projects)
- Give us some feedback and share your thoughts on improving Altrusa with the [Suggestion Box](#).
- If you have forgotten your password to the site please send an e-mail to [Altrusa@altrusa.org](mailto:Altrusa@altrusa.org) or call the International Office for assistance.

## Important Dates

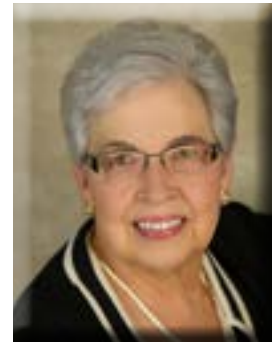
- May 15** International Day of Families
- June 6** World Environment Day
- June 23** UN Public Service Day
- July 30** International Day of Friendship
- August 12** International Youth Day

## Long Range Strategic Planning

*Sue Whitaker, International Leadership Committee Member*

You wouldn't set out on a long trip without reading a map or using the GPS on your car or phone. In a similar manner, we shouldn't try to lead our Altrusa organizations without a map or plan of where we are going, how we should get there, and what we want to accomplish along the way. International has a strategic plan in place and you check that out before you begin the process in your club and/or district.

Many, if not most organizations and businesses develop and use a strategic plan to achieve their purpose. Strategic planning can assist with goal setting and decision-making to help accomplish an organization's vision and mission for the next three to five years. Let's circle back to our map metaphor. If you think of Altrusa's trajectory as a line on a map, a strategic plan can help you better quantify how you'll get from point A (where you are now) to point B (where you want to be in a few years).



A strategic plan should include the following elements:

- Vision/Mission Statement (clearly identifies what you are all about).
- Goals (the big picture) and Objectives (specifics of what you want to do in measurable terms).
- Plan of action (what you will do to achieve your objectives).
- Approach (who will assume responsibility for the work that needs to be done to achieve objectives).
- Strategies (a timeline for the plan and measures that will determine the success of the plan).

Creating a strategic plan may seem to be a daunting task, but it doesn't have to be. Here are a few tips:

- What is your starting point? A SWOT analysis is one of the best tools to help identify the strengths and weaknesses of the organization. If you are not familiar with doing a SWOT analysis there are many Internet resources that can assist you.
- Identify your goals and objectives. Remember that goals are the major items that you want to accomplish, and objectives are the specific, measurable items that you use to achieve the goals.
- Implement the plan by identifying those items you will need to do to achieve your objectives. It may be necessary to have one or more activities to achieve each objective in your plan.
- Identify those who will be responsible for carrying out the various activities. It may be the board, one or more committees, or specific individuals. It is important for those involved to communicate regularly to determine if the plan is moving forward.
- It is important to have a timeline that has been communicated to all with check-in points and a final deadline. The stated objectives should have identified the measures needed to determine if the plan has been successful.
- A critical element in strategic planning is involving your stakeholders in the plan's initial development. This can start with the SWOT analysis. Afterward and once the plan is developed, it is also critical that the stakeholders be involved in the plan's implementation phases.

With the strategic plan in place, it is time to get to work. However, there are a few other things to remember:

- A strategic plan is usually developed for a three-to-five-year period. With annual reviews, plans may be adjusted, and additional years may need to be added to the plan.
- One challenge with strategic plans in an organization such as Altrusa is that with leadership changes every one or two years, members may feel the need to start over each time there is a change in leadership. This is not true! If all stakeholders have been part of developing the plan, then those individuals who are still in leadership roles need to bring the new leaders up to date on the plan. One good way to do this is to review each year's accomplishments during the orientation of the new leadership team.
- Once the review of the strategic plan is complete, then it is time to acknowledge and celebrate the accomplishments, assess the shortcomings, update, and revise the plan.

Some parting thoughts: Remember that a strategic plan is not carved in stone! It is a working document that should undergo periodic reviews and be modified as necessary. Good luck as you create a strategic plan for your club or district.

## Is Social Media Useful for Membership Recruitment and Retention?

*Susie Quillen, International Membership Committee Member*

Social media has become an integral part of everyday activities. We feel its impact in nearly every aspect of our lives. Businesses, churches, schools, and volunteer organizations are utilizing these platforms because of the sophisticated options they offer.

Social media is a high-speed, low-cost tool to inform and recruit volunteers. It allows Altrusa to interact with our audience on a daily basis. Every person who likes, shares, or follows your Altrusa posts has the potential of becoming your next valuable member. With 4.8 billion users worldwide, there are obviously many opportunities to engage, inform, and recruit Altrusans in your local community.



Altrusa clubs can use these platforms to grow their membership by using the right content to engage your audience, inform them about community service, build relationships, and then recruit them.

- It's important to create compelling content which will include showcasing Altrusa's volunteer impact, incorporating video content, and using hashtags.
- Post regularly and be consistent. Share accomplishments, announcements, events, and volunteer opportunities often to keep followers informed and interested.
- Build excitement around Altrusa and our service to local communities. Welcome new followers and ask them to invite friends to like your page, engage daily with comments and posts, and invite followers to share your content.
- Invite followers to your events, but make sure to post photos and videos after the event, too. When followers interact with your post, their friends will see it, helping to spread your message even further.
- Share links to volunteer opportunities and fundraising events and use statistics to show the impact Altrusa has in the local community. Be sure to include member participation, contributions and the number of people who benefitted from a service project.

Can social media also play a role in retaining existing members? Yes! Social media enables Altrusa to create a sense of community among our members.

- We can create groups or pages where members can share photos, videos, and stories. It can be a useful tool to post updates, announcements, events, and other opportunities. Encouraging our members to interact with each other will help them feel motivated, connected, and appreciated.
- It provides the perfect vehicle for celebrating achievements within Altrusa. Members remain involved when we highlight their successes and allow them to give their testimonies. Members who are engaged become ambassadors for Altrusa. We can showcase the results of service projects and the impact in the community. Recognizing and thanking members for their dedication and commitment makes them feel valued and inspired.

Social media can be a powerful tool for Altrusa. When used correctly, it allows us to broadcast our mission, reach the masses, focus on retaining members, distribute information, and recruit like-minded volunteers. The effective use of social media can be instrumental in both recruitment and retention efforts.



Quebec - A corn roast is always a moment of fun and pleasure to share with the people of la Maison Zoie - Iltis.



Governor Rita Cote asks "How does YOUR Garden Grow?"



... ..



Bermuda - bake & craft sale



... ..



... ..





# DISTRICT TWELVE



OREGON - WASHINGTON - BRITISH COLUMBIA - IDAHO - MONTANA - ALASKA



## Albany, OR

Over 3,500 books given during eight literacy projects. Provided backpacks for needy children, OB/newborn kits for mothers, and funds for local schools.

## Campbell River, BC

Over 1,200 books given. Provided weekly muffins and snacks to schools and women's centers, baby bags for at-risk moms, and backpacks for homeless women.



## Central Grays Harbor, WA

Almost 3,000 books given to families. Provided boxes of food and supplies for Meals on Wheels, and shoes and supplies to children in the Philippines.

## Centralia-Chehalis, WA

Celebrating 75 years of service! 245 books given during the annual Drive-thru Holiday Lights display. Provided award scholarships for nursing students and EMTs.



## Corvallis, OR

Over 12,000 books given. Provided prom dresses for students with disabilities, clothes for working women, and supplies for refugees.

## Eugene, OR

More than 325 books given to the local YMCA. Provided hand sewn school kit bags for children in refugee camps.



## Gig Harbor, WA

Partner with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to fund 11,000 books. Raised \$30,000 to reduce family hunger, and are looking into making meals for the summer lunch program.

## Hermiston, OR

1,050 books given on their StoryWalk trail supporting English and Spanish literacy. Provided hats, gloves and socks for refugees, and baby supplies for refugee moms.





# DISTRICT TWELVE



OREGON - WASHINGTON - BRITISH COLUMBIA - IDAHO - MONTANA - ALASKA



### Longview-Kelso, WA

Over 4,300 books given. Provided \$5,000 to help fund the Longview Mobile Library. Provided craft kits for Head Start families, and an ambulance with medical supplies for a village in Belize.

### Mid-Columbia, WA

250 books given. Provided backpacks and school supplies to local children, duffel bags for foster children, hosted events to bring foster siblings together, and welcomed refugee families.



### Nanaimo, BC

Celebrating 70 years of service! 850 books given to families during StoryWalk. Provided family game night bags, and baby bags with supplies and books for newborns.

### Olympia, WA

Over 2,300 books given. Provided monthly meals for the homeless at Quixote Village, built a puzzle table and chairs for the MADD Sunshine House Project, and packed food backpacks for students.



### Pendleton, OR

Celebrating 85 years of service! Almost 3,000 books given. Provided food bags and school supplies for students, hygiene supplies for homeless students, meals for the homeless, Days for Girls kits, and mentoring for ASTRA members

### Roseburg, OR

Over 18,000 books given during the annual month-long Celebration of Literacy community event. Provide mentorship for ASTRA members.



### Spokane, WA

Celebrating 90 years of service! Over 2,500 books given. More than \$80,000 raised in 15 years to fund 62 different literacy projects in schools, libraries, museums and community centers.

### Yaquina Bay, OR

Over 1,500 books given. Provided clothing and backpacks for students, hygiene supplies for immigrants, furniture for needy families, and books and supplies for moms.



# WHY IS AN ASTRA SCHOLARSHIP IMPORTANT?



**MABEL ACEVEDO**  
**DISTRICT FOURTEEN - INTERNATIONAL ASTRA COMMITTEE**

Pursuing a college degree can be an expensive investment. But the good news is that while university fees can be expensive, there are scholarships every student can apply for, particularly ASTRA Members.

ASTRA International Scholarship, which is funded by the Altrusa International Foundation, intends to recognize an ASTRA member who has exemplified a genuine sense of unselfish concern for the welfare of others: sincere altruism. Scholarships are awarded to ASTRA members whose service to the community through their ASTRA and sponsoring Altrusa Clubs has helped them grow in Ability, Service, Training, Responsibility, and Achievement to be a Future Community Leader.

Following are some reasons why you should apply for an ASTRA International Scholarship to fund your studies:

## **1. It makes education easier to access**

Securing financial aid through ASTRA scholarship can give you opportunities you wouldn't access otherwise. Having this scholarship allows you to consider a more selective program, and often offers opportunities to expand your academic experience through internships or study abroad programs.

## **2. Scholarship can help you expand your network**

You start networking long before you even know the meaning of the concept when you joined ASTRA. Your Club members, the teachers you connected with, your online friends who were also ASTRA members...they are all part of your network. Being awarded a scholarship gives you access to a unique network that can bring you great benefits in your future.

### **3. Scholarship allows you to focus on your studies**

For many students, getting a part-time job is the best, if not the only way, to pay for their degree. However, if you have an ASTRA scholarship, you will be able to dedicate yourself fully to your studies. Having time to focus on schoolwork can lead to better grades and allow you to earn your college degree on time.

### **4. Scholarship helps you boost your resumé and provides additional experience**

Having an impressive resumé (CV) is key to getting started on the job market once you graduate. Scholarships are an outstanding and prestigious award, which means that you were a student with a highly satisfactory academic history. However, having an ASTRA Scholarship on your resume will undoubtedly impress recruiters, because it will mean you are a leader in community volunteering. The leadership skills acquired through ASTRA can surely make you more successful. Volunteering is one of the best ways to develop and showcase new career skills.

### **5. Scholarship can support social issues and encourages philanthropy**

While many scholarships select winners based on academic achievement, ASTRA Scholarship prioritizes community service. We want to hear about your public service, the work you've done for your community, or the social issues you care about solving. Providing ASTRA Members with a scholarship is an investment that the Altrusa Foundation is making to help you positively impact the world. Receiving this scholarship is also a great opportunity to become more philanthropic and become an agent of change in your community.

So, if you're in the process of looking for the perfect university program for you, don't leave ASTRA Scholarship out of your research. Mark your calendar for the 2025 ASTRA Scholarship Applications deadline. Applications are available on the ASTRA website: [astra.altrusa.org](https://astra.altrusa.org)

Applying for this scholarship takes you on a journey where you will discover how important was community service and it will also make you realize that you can make a difference in the world through your studies.

## Scholarship Issue

We are excited and honored to announce the 2024 ASTRA INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP recipients. These deserving students all have a bright future and have accomplished extraordinary academic records in their school years in addition to their willingness to serve. We are grateful that we could reward them for their hard work, leadership, and community involvement.

The scholarship funds are provided by the Altrusa International Foundation to recognize high school senior ASTRA members who have grown through service in ASTRA. Winners have demonstrated exemplary Altruism within his or her community and must have applied to an institution of higher learning (college, university, tech school, etc.). We thank you for providing these scholarships to such incredible student leaders.

We also take this opportunity to thank the Award Committee who had the difficult job of selecting recipients among so many worthy applicants. We greatly appreciate your time and dedication.

To all the ASTRA International Scholarship Winners (featured in this newsletter), we are very proud of you. Congratulations on your achievements! You have demonstrated extraordinary leadership skills and have made a positive impact on the community.

Best wishes as you move forward to the next exciting chapter of your life. You've accomplished so much already, and we do not doubt that you'll achieve even greater things in the future. We wish you the very best for all your future endeavors.

It is our pleasure to present ASTRA International Scholarship Winners 2024.

### **High School**

\$2,000 – Malia Reichel M. Narciso

ASTRA Club of Roseburg High School/ Altrusa International of Roseburg, OR/ District Twelve

\$2,000 – Madison Thompson

Randolph County ASTRA/ Altrusa International of Moberly, MO/ District Eight

\$1,000 – Aubrey Harrison

ASTRA Club of Pendleton/ Altrusa International of Pendleton, OR/ District Twelve

\$1,000 – Olivia Jackson

ASTRA Club of Charlotte, NC/ Altrusa International of Charlotte, NC/ District Three

### **University/College**

\$1,000 – Mikayla Bragg

ASTRA Club of University of Mary Hardin-Baylor/ Altrusa International of Temple, TX/ District Nine

\$1,000 – Sarah Flores-Garza

ASTRA Club of San Antonio/ Altrusa International of San Antonio, TX/ District Nine

Altrusa International ASTRA Committee

## Are you the next Mamie L. Bass?

*Chris DeVlieger, President-Elect*

Are you looking to learn something new and develop as a leader, increase your Altrusa knowledge, help our Association grow, and be a changemaker? Great...because we have the opportunity for you!

We are looking for Altrusans who want to enhance their Altrusa leadership journey and experience the Principles of Altrusa that Mamie L. Bass published in 1921 at a different level for the 2025 – 2027 biennium.

International Committee Chairs, Vice Chairs and Committee members play a pivotal role on our team, contributing to strategic initiatives and organizational effectiveness of Altrusa International. These roles serve as key partners by identifying, creating and executing long-range initiatives and best practices while collaborating with the Association Board and others to achieve the biennium's goals.

We are searching for individuals who are interested to serve on the following International Standing Committees for the 2025-2027 biennium:

- ASTRA Clubs
- Bylaws, Resolutions & Recommendations
- Communications
- Leadership Development & Training
- Membership Development
- Service Program Development
- United Nations



### Knowledge, Skills & Abilities of Successful Candidates

- Strong interpersonal skills with the ability to build very good working relationships with others, including guiding fellow committee members toward cohesive and effective resolution of biennium goals.
- A diligent and unwavering commitment to Altrusa International's vision, mission and values.
- Outstanding communication and interpersonal prowess, including the enjoyment of presenting to groups and cascading communication throughout all levels of the association.
- Ability to improve processes and increase efficiency.
- Willingness to learn, coach others and be a builder of future leaders.
- Enjoy working with a team, but also confident to work autonomously as needed to meet the team's goals.
- Ability to acquire and share information about Altrusa's bylaws, policies, processes, and procedures in order to respond to member questions.
- Able to attend and participate in Zoom meetings occasionally.
- A hands-on and can-do approach.

The benefits of serving on an International Standing Committee are enhanced leadership skills, an increased knowledge of Altrusa International, and my favorite...fellowship and friendship for a lifetime.

To find out more about serving on an International Standing committee, you can...

- Visit the Altrusa International Encyclopedia at [www.altrusa.org](http://www.altrusa.org) (under Membership).
- Visit the Altrusa International Official Policies at [www.altrusa.org](http://www.altrusa.org) (under Governance).
- Speak with the International Visitor at your District Conference this year.
- Contact Chris DeVlieger at [cmdevlieger27@gmail.com](mailto:cmdevlieger27@gmail.com)





## THE INTENTIONAL ACTS OF GIVING FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

In support of International President Linda Smith's challenge to all Altrusans to commit one Intentional Act of Kindness each week of the biennium, the Altrusa International Foundation also challenges all Altrusans to commit to **Intentional Acts of Giving**.

The monetary support that you provide to the Foundation supports service projects in your local communities, funding for Association and Foundation award winners, Disaster Relief in response to hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, fires and other disasters, and Club 21 projects supporting organizations that aim to meet the 21st century health concerns of children through domestic camps and international projects.

<b>Five Giving Levels:</b>	Level 1: <b>ALLY</b>	Gift Amount: <b>\$104</b>	represents about \$1/week
	Level 2: <b>BUILDER</b>	Gift Amount: <b>\$520</b>	represents about \$5/week
	Level 3: <b>SUSTAINER</b>	Gift Amount: <b>\$1,040</b>	represents about \$10/week
	Level 4: <b>CHAMPION</b>	Gift Amount: <b>\$2,080</b>	represents about \$20/week
	Level 5: <b>HERO</b>	Gift Amount: <b>\$2,600</b>	represents about \$25/week

### Frequently Asked Questions:

#### 1. What is the timeframe for the Intentional Acts of Giving (IAG) Campaign?

The IAG Campaign **runs through May 31, 2025**. Donations made between *January 1, 2024 and May 31, 2025* will count towards this campaign.

#### 2. Do donations made through the IAG Campaign count towards my Lamplighter status?

Yes, all donations through the IAG Campaign count towards Lamplighter status.

#### 3. Do donations made through the IAG Campaign count towards the Debby Weber Fundraising Awards?

Yes, all donations made through the IAG count towards the Debby Weber Fundraising Awards to be awarded at the 2025 International Convention.

#### 4. Do donations need to be made at one time or can I divide my donation over two years?

Donations can be made over any period (as long as before May 31, 2025) to get to your desired level. For example, if your goal is to give at Level 5 (\$2,600 total), you can give \$1,300 this year, perhaps at your 2024 District Conference and the remaining \$1,300 next year, perhaps at your 2025 District Conference. Or, you can set up a monthly donation of \$186 (April 2024 – May 2025). You would then be recognized as a Level 5 Giving Hero at the 2025 International Convention and in the Impact, the Foundation publication.

#### 5. Can I give to the IAG Campaign in honor or memory of someone else?

Yes, you may use your IAG donation as a way to honor or in memory of someone else.

#### 6. Can I designate how my IAG donation is used?

Yes, you may choose to direct your donation to Disaster Relief, Endowment Fund, Grants Program or Where Needed Most.

#### 7. Can my IAG donation cover my annual Club 21 membership?

No, Club 21 donations need to be designated separately. **Club 21 donations do not count toward Lamplighter status.**

## Sample Impact of Your IAG Donations (Taken from Actual Altrusa Club Service Projects)

### FOR \$104

- Purchase 15 literacy journals for middle school students
- Provide two books for 7 elementary students
- Provide 1 magazine cart for disabled veterans

### FOR \$520

- Provide 2 drop-out prevention and life-skills workshops for 130 at-risk, low-income high school students
- Provide food, clothing and household items for 26 low-income seniors
- Provides 34 backpacks pre-filled with school supplies and snacks for homeless children

### FOR \$1,040

- Provide apartment furniture and furnishings (kitchen and bedroom) for 1 homeless abused woman and her children residing in transitional housing
- Provide 104 grab-and-go snack bags for residents at Ronald McDonald House Charities
- Provide 6 book carts for low-income and disabled veterans and seniors

### FOR \$2,080

- Provide literacy program incentive prize gift cards for 114 foster children
- Provide therapeutic art supplies for 114 foster children
- Purchase prom dresses and accessories for 45 low-income high school students
- Purchase scholastic books for 70 children in grades K-6

### FOR \$2,600

- Provide books for 173 head start elementary students
- Purchase blankets, laundry and personal hygiene items for 130 low-income seniors and adults facing eviction
- Provide 5 drop-out prevention and life-skills workshops for 130 at-risk, low-income 9th-12th grade students
- Provide apartment furniture and furnishings (kitchen and bedroom) for 2 homeless survivors of domestic violence women and her children residing in transitional housing

## Corporate Sponsorships and Matching Gift Programs

- Sponsorship opportunities are available to support the Foundation's events (i.e., 2025 International Convention events) and grant-making efforts
- Sponsorships provide tangible marketing value to businesses through awareness and exposure to more than 6,000 members
  - Seeking Altrusan and Friends of Altrusa business owners, as well as external companies well-aligned with Altrusa's literacy and service mission for sponsorships
- Most companies will match employees' charitable gifts to nonprofit organizations (see list of companies on the Foundation's website)
  - A great way to double the impact of your donation to the Foundation!
  - Inquire with Human Resources or Corporate/Community Affairs regarding the availability of a Matching Gifts Program

Please contact the Foundation at [foundation@altrusa.org](mailto:foundation@altrusa.org) for more information

Other ways to support the Foundation include Planned Estate (Legacy) Giving, Stocks, and IRA Required Minimum Distributions/Qualified Charitable Distributions.

Please visit the website, [foundation.altrusa.org](http://foundation.altrusa.org), to make a credit card donation, text **Altrusa Fdn** to **41-444**, or mail a check or money order to the Foundation: **1400 E. Touhy Ave, Suite 410, Des Plaines, IL 60018**.

**Your gift is tax-deductible!**