

District Three Foundation Awards
2011 District Three Conference

Recipients of the District Three Foundation Awards

Lucile Spillers Alexander ASTRA Service Award

3rd Place

University of Florida ASTRA Club sponsored by Altrusa International of Gainesville, FL
"Kid's Count"

2nd Place

West Caldwell County High School ASTRA Club sponsored by Altrusa International of
Caldwell County, NC
"Reach In and Reach Out"

1st Place with a check for \$50.72

Forest High School ASTRA Club sponsored by Altrusa International of Ocala, FL
"Salvation Army Teddy Bears"

Cassie D. Dollar Rehabilitative Service Award

3rd Place

Altrusa International of Gainesville, FL
"The Altrusa House Gazebo"

2nd Place

Altrusa International of Lake County, FL
"Moms & Kids Program"

1st Place with a check for \$374.11

Altrusa International of Starke, FL
"Take Stock in Children"

Literacy Service Award

3rd Place

Altrusa International of Starke, FL
"Scholastic Fairs for Bradford Elementary Schools"

2nd Place

Altrusa International of Gainesville, FL
"The Altrusa Middle School Literacy Project"

1st Place with a check for \$149.11

Altrusa International of Ocala, FL
"Trading Readers Literacy Service Project"

Richard Ward Ulrich Environmental Service Award

3rd Place

Altrusa International of Gainesville, FL
"Altrusa House Gazebo Landscaping"

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2nd Place

Altrusa International of Starke, FL
"It Can Be Done"

1st Place – TIE with a check for each Club for 64.86

Altrusa International of Orlando-Winter Park, FL

"Adopt A Spot"

Altrusa International of Statesboro, GA

"Composting, Recycling and Education"

Vocational Service Award

3rd Place

Altrusa International of Gainesville, FL

"Santa Fe College Scholarships"

2nd Place

Altrusa International of St. Augustine, FL

"Scholarship Program for a Woman in Transition"

1st Place with a check for \$93.48

Altrusa International of Spartanburg, SC

"A Hand UP"

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Lucile Spillers Alexander ASTRA Service Award

ASTRA of West Caldwell High School
Sponsor: Altrusa of Caldwell County, NC
"Reach In and Reach Out"

ASTRA of Forest High School
Sponsor: Altrusa of Ocala, FL
"Salvation Army Teddy Bears"

ASTRA of University of Florida
Sponsor: Altrusa of Gainesville, FL
"Kid's Count"

The Cassie S. Dollar Rehabilitative Service Award

Altrusa International of Gainesville, FL
"The Altrusa House Gazebo"

Altrusa International of Lake City, FL
"A Caregivers' Summit – Honoring Our Parents"

Altrusa International of Lake County, FL
"Moms & Kids Program"

Altrusa International of Starke, FL
"Take Stock in Children"

Altrusa International of Tampa, FL
"Bingo at Palm Terrace Assisted Living Facility"

The District Three Foundation Literacy Award

Altrusa International of Caldwell County, NC
"Operation READ: Really Exciting Adventure and Drama"

Altrusa International of Gainesville, FL
"The Altrusa Middle School Literacy Award"

Altrusa International of Lake City, FL
"Make A Difference Day: Book Donation"

Altrusa International of Lake County, FL
"Building Foundations Through Literacy"

Altrusa International of Ocala, FL
"Trading Readers Literacy Service Project"

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Altrusa International of Orlando-Winter Park, FL
"PencilPALS"

Altrusa International of Spartanburg, SC
"READ ON (Reading Empowers and Develops Opportunities Now)"

Altrusa International of Starke, FL
"Scholastic Fairs for Bradford Elementary Schools"

The Richard Ward Ulrich Environmental Service Award

Altrusa International of Gainesville, FL
"Altrusa House Gazebo Landscaping"

Altrusa International of Orlando-Winter Park, FL
"Adopt a Spot"

Altrusa International of Starke, FL
"It Can Be Done"

Altrusa International of Statesboro, GA
"Composting, Recycling and Education (Backyard Wildlife Habitat)"

The District Three Foundation Vocational Services Award

Altrusa International of Charlotte, NC
"Building for a Better Life"

Altrusa International of Gainesville, FL
"Santa Fe College Scholarships"

Altrusa International of Lake City, FL
"Girls Summit"

Altrusa International of Orlando-Winter Park, FL
"Educating for Success: Keeping BETA Open"

Altrusa International of Saint Augustine, FL
"Scholarship Program for Women in Transition"

Altrusa International of Spartanburg, SC
"A Hand UP to a better job and a brighter future through education"

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Lucile Spillers Alexander ASTRA Service Award was authorized by the District Board of Directors in June 1991 as a memorial to this former Altrusa International President (1965-1967), who organized ASTRA. She was a charter member of the Altrusa International Inc. of Jacksonville, FL.

Objectives of the award

- To stimulate interest in developing action programs in the community that fall within the scope of ASTRA's program of service
- To encourage members of local clubs to participate actively in service projects designed to meet specific local needs
- To recognize outstanding club achievement in service to the community

Submissions for 2011 Conference

ASTRA of West Caldwell High School
Sponsor: Altrusa of Caldwell County, NC
"Reach In and Reach Out"

ASTRA members realized that there are many agency and community groups who help those in need over the holidays but there was no specific focus on teenagers during that time. ASTRA see their community and its needs through the eyes of their high school.

They held a bake sale with everything supplied by their sponsor club, Altrusa of Caldwell County, sold balloons and chances for a prize. The event was held during a football game and brings an awareness of cancer with its title of Think Pink with pink balloons for sale.

ASTRA of Forest High School
Sponsor: Altrusa of Ocala, FL
"Salvation Army Teddy Bears"

ASTRA members clothed 150 teddy bears they picked up from the Salvation Army which they also delivered back to the Salvation Army. Parents were present at that time and they were thrilled to see a gift they could give to their children.

At the same time ASTRA members were working on the bears, they were also collecting books for the Salvation Army. Every ASTRA member participated by dressing a bear or decorating boxes for the book collection sites. They were especially proud to combine a literacy project with their community service.

ASTRA of University of Florida
Sponsor: Altrusa of Gainesville
"Kid's Count"

ASTRA members planned and led three activities for underprivileged elementary school students at an afterschool program. With a 2 to 1 student to mentor relationship, the ASTRA members helped the students create Van Gough masterpieces with cookies and frosting, learned about the moon using arts and crafts and created an exploding volcano using playdough.

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Following the activities, the ASTRA members provided snacks and socialized with the students showing the students that older kids care about them and want them to succeed and support them in their school work

The Cassie S. Dollar Rehabilitative Service Award was established by Altrusa International, Inc. of Atlanta, GA in 1999 to honor and celebrate member Cassie S. Dollar on the occasion of her 90th birthday and her 40 years as an Altrusan.

Objectives of the award

- To encourage clubs in their service goals to assist individuals or a group of people who are in need of rehabilitative services to improve their quality of life in a variety of ways
- To encourage clubs to actively seek out needs in their community for this assistance
- To encourage clubs to develop innovative approaches to meeting needs in their community in the true spirit of altruism

Submissions for 2011 Conference

Altrusa International of Gainesville, FL
"The Altrusa House Gazebo"

Through a collaborative effort with Gainesville Altrusans, a District Three Altrusan, a local contractor, a garden club and master gardeners, a 12 by 12-foot wooden gazebo with handicap access was purchased and installed on the grounds of Altrusa House. The gazebo serves the clients of Altrusa House, a day care center for adults with special needs and was done in honor of Gainesville member, Donna Johnson, Altrusa International President.

The dedication of the gazebo was held June 2010 and future plans call for underground electricity and additional landscaping and plantings

Altrusa International of Lake City, FL
"A Caregivers' Summit – Honoring Our Parents"

Recognizing an unmet need in their community, Lake City Altrusans developed a 6-week educational program addressing the most important issues facing adult children who found themselves responsible for the care of their aging parents. A facility was located, speakers who were experts in the various fields of aging care giving were identified and asked to share their knowledge and extensive marketing was done to promote the programs.

Attendance at each weekly program averaged 30 to 35 with 270 estimated for the entire 6 programs, which were at no cost to the participants. Each program was professionally videotaped for future community use.

Altrusa International of Lake County, FL
"Moms & Kids Program"

Through the Moms & Kids Program, Lake County Altrusans provide hope to moms and kids by providing a chance to further their education, a safe place to live and personal comforts. Scholarships were given to women re-entering the workforce. The

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Club produced and distributed Domestic Violence Awareness Handbooks to hospitals, women's shelters, police stations, libraries and doctors' offices in English, Spanish and a teen version appropriate for middle and high school students. Toys were collected for distribution at Christmas; in addition, crayons, greeting cards, stickers were distributed to special needs students. Toiletries were purchased and bagged and distributed to local police departments for women escaping domestic violence.

Altrusa International of Starke, FL
"Take Stock in Children"

The Take Stock in Children is a non-profit program supported the Starke Altrusans as well as other civic groups and businesses in the community. The program provides mentoring and scholarships for college or vocational schools for low-income children.

Starting with a student in the 7th grade, an Altrusan is assigned to be a mentor to a student and with the successful completion of the program; the student is awarded a scholarship for further education. Mentors spend at least one hour a week for six years working with their mentees. The benefit is an education, self-confident young adult.

Altrusa International of Tampa, FL
"Bingo at Palm Terrace Assisted Living Facility"

Palm Terrace is an assisted living facility for low-income seniors who have few recreational and socialization activities provided by the facility. Bingo events provide an opportunity for the residents to attend to their own personal grooming and to participate by showing up. An opportunity to socialize and to interact with their fellow residents is encouraged during the event and at the break and birthdays are noted.

Attendees alert the Altrusans to ill residents and to needs that may not be included in the current list of prizes; prizes are needed personal hygiene items and everyone wins. The regular Bingo caller dresses according to the season or holiday.

The District Three Foundation Literacy Award is given to create an awareness of Altrusa's commitment to literacy in District Three.

Objectives of the award

- To stimulate an interest in developing active literacy programs in the community
- To encourage members of local clubs to participate in literacy projects designed to meet specific needs in the community
- To recognize outstanding club achievement in literacy service projects to the community

Altrusa International of Caldwell County, NC
"Operation READ: Really Exciting Adventure and Drama"

Believing that reading is a life-long activity that needs to be established at an early age, Altrusans wanted to encourage young readers to get the reading habit early.

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The third grade was chosen because this is the grade at which NC students first have to take the NC End of Grade reading test.

Gently used books were collected by their ASTRA Club which were given to the students one book per month for the school year. The ASTRA members also read to the students and dramatized book excerpts. Altrusans went to the schools to distribute the books and some worked one-on-one tutoring the students. A end-of-school-year reception was held for parents and educators; this presented an opportunity to raise awareness of Altrusa and the commitment to literacy.

Altrusa International of Gainesville, FL
"The Altrusa Middle School Literacy Award"

Gainesville Altrusans recognized their literacy efforts at the preschool and elementary school level and adults was missing a crucial age group ... middle school students. They developed an award to be given to a middle school student challenged in the language arts but who made a significant progress during the school year. Starting in three (3) middle schools and working with each school staff, the award value and criteria were established.

Each school had their own unique language arts program but each school used measurable progress on a basic reading program, acceptable behavior and good attendance. Teachers selected the recipient at each school and a \$100 check and certificate were presented at the year-end graduation program.

Altrusa International of Lake City, FL
"Make A Difference Day: Book Donation"

Altrusans gave books to children who came with their parents to a "Just for Kids" yard sale sponsored by the Happy House Day Care & Preschool, a non-profit daycare that provides child care in the community. While the parents shopped, each child choose a book to take home. During the course of the sale, 62 books were given. Remaining books were given to the day care so that each child could receive a book on their birthday.

Altrusa International of Lake County, FL
"Building Foundations Through Literacy"

Lake County Altrusans partnered with five (5) local organizations and one (1) International organization by donating money to support existing literacy and ancillary projects.

The International project was a donation to the Rafiki Foundation to purchase books for their schools in Liberia. The local projects included

- assisting five (5) mothers with books and fees to obtain their GED
- providing books for students in an after school program
- supporting middle-performing students at a high school who want to learn strategies of successful people
- supporting the Outreach Program at a college specializing in students with learning disabilities
- providing activity bags for children whose parents were taking night classes

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Altrusa International of Ocala, FL
"Trading Readers Literacy Service Project"

The Trading Readers Literacy Program was developed by the Library Media Services to help motivate low performing students in grades K-5 to read by using local high school athletes as role models. Funding was available for the first year but not for the second year. Altrusa was asked to help with the funding for the third year. The Club decided to fund the program 100%. They also donated 230 books to the students participating in the program and to host a year-end appreciation party for the high school athletes.

More than 200 high school students participated in the Trading Readers Literacy Program. They become more than just readers as they develop relationships with the younger students and encourage them to do well in school and in life.

Altrusa International of Orlando-Winter Park, FL
"PencilPALS"

PencilPALS is a program designed to make reading and writing a first person experience of children in elementary school; the program is coordinated by the Screen Actors Guild.

Orlando-Winter Park Altrusans volunteered to be PencilPALS to 4th graders. Teachers designate a period of time for students to read or write their PencilPALS. Students can share their thoughts or school events. PencilPALS respond with letters or maybe books. PencilPALS pay for their own materials, books, postage, and writing paper. The program asks for at least one letter each month.

Teachers have seen improvements in required state tests along with better reading skills as students read and share their letters from their PencilPALS.

Altrusa International of Spartanburg, SC
"READ ON (Reading Empowers and Develops Opportunities Now)"

READ ON provides parents with information about the importance of reading, talking and playing with their babies by supporting expectant mothers and/or mothers of newborns. Information about local opportunities for raising the parents' education level is also shared. The goal is to help the children become literate adults by improving the education level of the parents.

Spartanburg Altrusans stuff bags with materials from service and educational organizations and with books for the children. The bags are given to the county Health Department who then distribute the bags during personal visits to the parents' home. The materials are available in both English and Spanish. Each bag contains a response card and the Spartanburg Altrusans have helped clients who wanted to obtain their GED or continue their education at a local community college.

Altrusa International of Starke, FL
"Scholastic Fairs for Bradford Elementary Schools"

Through a partnership with the Bradford County Education Foundation, Scholastic, Rotary and Kiwanis and local businesses, Altrusans, books fairs were held in the five (5) elementary schools which served 1600 students. Each student received a book and families became more equipped with the skills for making reading fun. Parent's

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Night was held at each school and included pizza and drinks.

Starke Altrusans say this project has made the greatest impact of any literacy project the club has done.

The Richard Ward Ulrich Environmental Service Award was established by Mrs. Eva Ulrich, District Three Governor 1988-1990. At the International Convention in Dublin, Ireland in 1989, an environmental resolution was adopted which encourages Altrusans to promote the preservation and restoration of the physical environment throughout the world.

Eva's husband, Dick, was an active environmentalist throughout his lifetime, as well as a strong supporter of Altrusa International and all the fine work done by our organization.

Objectives of the award:

- To stimulate interest in the developing action programs in the community to combat environmental issues of concern.
- To encourage members of local clubs to become personally involved with environmental service projects.
- To recognize outstanding club achievements in the area of environmental service projects.

Altrusa International of Gainesville, FL
"Altrusa House Gazebo Landscaping"

Once the Dot Brock Gazebo dedicated in honor of Donna Johnson, [International] President 2009 – 2011 was in place, Gainesville Altrusans realized the need for landscaping around the gazebo. Two master gardeners provided recommendations. Plants were purchased to be used in the dedication ceremony although long-term plans have been developed that will involve re-locating plants and providing recreational opportunities for the clients of the Altrusa House and the community.

Altrusa International of Orlando-Winter Park, FL
"Adopt a Spot"

For 60 years, Altrusans in Orlando-Winter Park have been active in providing benches for riders of public transportation. To engage more fully in the Adopt a Spot program, sponsored by the Keep Orlando Beautiful and Lynx, the public transportation authority, the Club adopted 2 stops. These stops received the highest complaints about litter. Once a week, Altrusans visit the 2 transit stops and clear the area of litter. To date, more than 50 bags of litter have been picked up by Altrusans, friends and family.

Riders seem more inclined to keep the stops free of litter; some have contacted Altrusa to say thanks. A sign designating This Spot Adopted by Altrusa will soon be installed.

Altrusa International of Starke, FL
"It Can Be Done"

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Starke Altrusans strike twice by recycling magazines and gently used books to keep them out landfills and to fulfill an unmet need by delivery the magazines and books to local nursing homes and hospital waiting rooms.

They also collect and recycle by selling aluminum cans. Monies raised purchase green bags which are distributed to the community to replace the use of plastic and paper bags.

Altrusa International of Statesboro, GA

“Composting, Recycling and Education (Backyard Wildlife Habitat)”

Continuing their commitment to the environment, Statesboro Altrusans focused their efforts this past year on raising awareness of the benefits of composting and recycling, especially to children. Through a partnership with a local florist, information about composting is provided to the community some of which is provided though an actual compost plot at the florist. Flowers grown in the compost area are much larger than flowers grown in non-compost areas.

The green activities provided at the florist work as a model for the entire community. There is less waste in landfills and less dependence on expensive and dangerous fertilizers.

The District Three Foundation Vocational Services Award was established during the 1991 – 1992 biennium and promotes the first tenet of the Principles of Altrusa written by Mamie L. Bass, our first National President ... Altrusa is a Builder of Women.

Objectives of the award

- To encourage clubs in their goals of assisting deserving persons who are struggling to break the cycle of poverty through education and training
- To promote their advancement into top management and to improve their quality of life in a variety of ways
- To encourage clubs to actively seek candidates for this assistance
- To encourage clubs to develop innovative approaches to helping candidates in the true spirit of altruism

Altrusa International of Charlotte, NC

“Building for a Better Life”

Charlotte Altrusans have had a long history in giving scholarships through the University of North Carolina Charlotte. They have established four (4) scholarships at the school. For the last decade and-a-half, their scholarship focus has been on older students entering or returning to school to make a better life for themselves.

Since 2004, they have sponsored a Instructional Assistant at a pre-K program who is the sole wage earner of her family of two (2) children. She has a second job and her goal is to become a principal. She graduated from UNCC a year ago with educational support from the Charlotte scholarships. She is now enrolled in a Masters Executive Leadership Studies program.

Altrusa International of Gainesville, FL

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“Santa Fe College Scholarships”

For nearly half a century, Gainesville Altrusans have given scholarships to women over the age of 25 who want to improve the quality of life by entering or re-entering the work force. The scholarship recipients must be enrolled full-time, demonstrate financial need, be degree-seeking and have at least a 2.5 GPA.

Scholarship packets are distributed to the campus, to Altrusans and information is provided to the media to publicize the scholarships including the school's daily campus newsletter. Members of the Altrusa scholarship committee reviews and scores each applications. The committee meets to select the highest ranked recipients for the scholarship.

Altrusa International of Lake City, FL
“Girls Summit”

Continuing a long commitment to provide resources and support to young women, Girls Summit 2010 was offered to all 6th, 7th and 8th graders in the county. The local public school district got the information out to the students and provided the facility for the event, an opportunity to bring girls of all types together for empowerment and learning. The girls are given the opportunity to impact their own future choices.

Speakers included members from Altrusa (a judge, an Olympic Gold Medalist and community service volunteers) and a University of Florida cheerleaders. As part of the day, the students participated in their own service project by making bags and caps to donate to a local children's camp for children with cancer.

Altrusa International of Orlando-Winter Park, FL
“Educating for Success: Keeping BETA Open”

BETA, a private non-profit service organization with a focus on parenting, teen moms and at-risk kids, was in danger of closing resulting from a severe shortage of donation. Orando-Winter Park Altrusans have supported BETA for more than 10 years through financial and in-kind contributions.

Upon hearing the dire news, the Altrusans set to work. The Club organized a yard sale, a shopping night at Ten Thousand Villages and a holiday party. Members solicited supplies and donations for the yard sale, the party and shoppers. Through an aggressive advertizing campaign, the shopping night was one of the most successful at Ten Thousand Villages.

The BETA center is open today thanks to the quick response and support from the Altrusans and the community.

Altrusa International of Saint Augustine, FL
“Scholarship Program for Women in Transition”

Wanting to assist women who provide the sole support for their families and who live near or at the poverty level, the Club voted to provide a scholarship to a student who attended a local technical college which provides certificates in many fields. An application form was developed and working through the financial aid office, information about the scholarship was distributed. Among the specific criteria, the applicant had to

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- Complete at least one successful year at the college
- Demonstrate a need for financial assistance not otherwise met
- Have a specific career goal and demonstrate how her life and the life of her family would be improved
- Submit a personal essay explaining why the scholarship was applicable to her

The scholarship recipient used the money for a certification test in her chosen field of health care. Her prospects are brighter as she works toward her final degree and a better employment opportunity.

Altrusa International of Spartanburg, SC

“A Hand UP to a better job and a brighter future through education”

A Hand Up project provides scholarships to non-traditional students who is currently a college student who has been out of high school for at least six (6) years and wants to upgrade his or her work skills, is a local resident, demonstrates a financial need and displays the desire and potential for completing a degree. Financial aid is limited for the non-traditional student.

Scholarship information is displayed to local college and the local media. Applicants submit an application and two (2) letters of recommendation. The applications are read and rated by the Altrusa Vocational Service Committee and selected students based on the greatest need.

College financial officers report the scholarship money makes the difference between staying in school or dropping out, limit the amount needed in loans and enable a student to complete their education earlier as they can take more classes and not have to work as many hours.