



## ALTRUSA SERVICE PROJECTS COMMITTEE

### PLANS for 2023-2024

#### SHEPHERD'S TABLE

We welcome a new addition to our service projects for 2023-2024. *Shepherd's Table* serves individuals from all walks of life – addressing homelessness through an array of programs designed to both meet immediate needs and provide sustained social support. Shepherd's Table services 3 meals a day 5 days a week; 2 meals a day Saturday/Sunday & Holidays; and provides living quarters for about 20 families.

#### DAYS FOR GIRLS

We're excited about a new project year with our partnership with *Days for Girls*, working with the *Rockville, MD chapter*.

The focus this year will be on helping DFG with their goal of distributing menstrual kits to women and girls in CUBA. This year-round effort will include the purchase and donations of underwear, soaps, washcloths; and volunteering throughout the year to assemble and prepare kits for distribution. We will support volunteer days for sewers and non-sewers when opportunities exist. Members who sew can volunteer to sew at home. Rhona Arbit will bring instructions and materials to your home.

#### GAPBUSTER GHANA

This past project year's school supply donations (2022-2023) were awarded to more than 400 students as part of their after-school program....in Korforidua, Ghana. A *Children's Center* was built within the main library. The 60 books our club donated are housed in the Children's Center.

**The Children's Center section of the library will be named for the Altrusa Montgomery Club** – details forthcoming. Gapbuster Ghana is also starting an adopt-a-library program – details to come. The main need for Project Year 2023-2024:

**The focus will be on high schoolers (10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> grades).**

- **School supplies:** pens, pre-sharpened pencils, pencil sharpeners, erasers, 5-ring paper (large line/spaces) composition books, book tote-bags,
- **Toiletries:** washcloths (disposables), soaps, toothbrushes, toothpaste
- These students also need **used smart phones**, in addition to the school supplies, toiletries, listed above.

**In addition, more books for *the Children's Center* are also needed:**



- **Targeting ages pre-k to 5<sup>th</sup> grade.** The preferred book themes: afro-centric fiction and non-fiction: African American themes, historical and non-historical.
- Patalia will retrieve the titles of the books donated for last project year – as to not duplicate.

### **LITTLE GREEN FINGERS**

This is our environmental project for this service project year. It focuses on educating and coordinating participation of pre-K students planting seeds, flowers, and vegetables – getting kids interested and excited about gardening and caring for the environment. This occurs at the Silver Spring Presbyterian School. The parents are very excited about their kids being interested in this fun and educational project.

### **ADOPT-A-FAMILY**

The plan is to find a family in need, in time for the holiday season. We will reach out to County Human Resources office for assistance.

### **A SOLDIERS HAND (ASH)**

Our club members in the past wrote cards and letters to military service men and women serving overseas. This year we hope to help ASH put together care packages to be sent to the USS Nimitz.

### **NIH – NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH CHILDREN’S INN**

NIH Children’s Inn (like Ronald McDonald House) is a place where families can stay free while their child is being treated. In this new project year, we will continue our support by creating greeting cards and other fun items for the children. We also plan to include a speaker from NIH at our 2024 Conference.

### **BOOK DISTRIBUTION**

After a very successful 2022-2023 project year, we’re gearing up for another successful project year in 2023-2024, with the awarding of a \$1100 grant from RIF and a \$1200 matching grant from Altrusa International Foundation.

### **STEPPING STONES SHELTER**

Stepping Stones Shelter provides emergency food and shelter to Montgomery County families experiencing homelessness. Families can also pick up school supplies at the shelter and gifts during the winter holiday season. Our new project year will continue to focus on donating various items for the families, including school supplies and gifts for a holiday boutique. We are also looking into other ways our members can participate.

### **MEDSTAR THRIFT STORE**

The Women's Board Thrift Shop supports MedStar Montgomery Medical Center, items may include clothing for men, women, and children; shoes and accessories; children's



toys; books; vintage and collectibles; office supplies and more. Proceeds from Thrift Shop sales support the MedStar Montgomery Medical Center and the Women's Board Scholarship Program. Our members volunteer eight times a year at the store. Here are dates to volunteer for this project year: 7/29; 8/29; 9/30; 10/31; 12/30; 1/30/24; 3/30/24; 4/30/24

### **VILLAGE CONNECTOR**

This will begin our 4<sup>th</sup> year with this project – contacting senior citizens who need companionship – calling to communicate and assist with their needs.

### **WIDER CIRCLE**

Ongoing project to donate professional clothing for people to wear to job interviews or on the job, including suits, dresses, blazers, dress shirts and blouses, ties, purses, jewelry, and shoes.

**ALTRUSA CLUB 21** – The Club 21 program supports international healthcare and education efforts. Our club contribute to this arm of Altrusa International. We will raise funds for our club's \$210 donation.