

THE LINK

Meredith Altrusa Newsletter A Year in Review 2022

Dear Altrusa Friends:

March 2023

In 2023, the Altrusa International of Meredith celebrates forty-three years.. In those forty-three years there has been an enormous growth in the Lakes Region not just commercial growth but in services needed in our communities. Altrusa has been a very big part of that growth. There were no daycare readings, no kindergarten bags, no WIC book program, and there was no disaster fund. All these programs were the ideas of women like yourself, women who saw a need and filled it.

We are an international organization and we have supported the international community with our donations to the Poe River Project, and to the Child-Parent project in Zimbabwe,

As we continue on into 2023, let's look forward to what service we can provide to the Lakes Region Community. Because I know that whenever we find a need, we also find a way to fill that need. That is why we are Altrusans!! We know how to get the job done.

In Altrusa Friendship and Service
MaryAnne

Altrusa Club of Meredith Board



Our illustrious Board! Left to Right:: Connie Van Dam, Kathy LaPoint, MaryAnne Skawinski, Marie Stephens, Sylvia Detscher and Nancy Law. Board members not featured in this picture: Cindy Day, Linda French and Lynne Cayer.

Installation of New Members



Over the past few months, the Membership Committee was thrilled to install seven new members and one returning member to our club, **Welcome Ladies!** Pictured in the bottom photos from left to right are: Karol Keating (returning), Judi LeCount, Patty Sumner, Alyssa Yolda, Lindsay Weiner, Linda Morad, Carol Bard and Christine McMillian.

Altrusa Hosts COVID Mobile Vaccine Clinic



On January 15th, the Altrusa Club of Meredith hosted a mobile vaccine clinic at the Meredith Community Center. Despite poor weather conditions, many of all ages came out to be vaccinated. Pictured left to right: Altrusans Nancy Law and Carol Gerken, State Vaccine Administrator Alissa and Altrusan Kathy LaPoint.

Valentine's Day Cheer



In honor of Valentine's Day, the Altrusa Community Service Committee delivered over 100 cards to Goldenvue Healthcare Center on February 14th. Boxes of candy were also gifted to the hardworking staff. Pictured left to right: Goldenvue Concierge Maureen and Altrusan Karen Truberg.

National Muffin Day



On February 20, 2022, our club donated approximately 15 dozen muffins to five different housing/homeless facilities in Laconia and Meredith in honor of National Muffin Day. Pictured left to right: Altrusan Kathy LaPoint, Isaiah 61 Founder Dawn and Isaiah 61 Staff Member Roy.

Teacher Appreciation Week 2022



In celebration of Teacher Appreciation week, our Community Service Committee provided healthy snacks, fruit and granola bars to the Interlakes Elementary School for teachers and staff to enjoy. Pictured above is Community Service Committee member Vivien Mitchell.

Kindergarten Bags



Our Literacy Committee assembled and distributed over 100 “Welcome To Kindergarten “ bags to Interlakes Elementary School, Moultonborough Central School and New Hampton Community School in May. Pictured left to right: Marie Stephens, Pat McFarlin, Lynne Cayer, Vivien Mitchell and Doreen Carson.

Letha H. Brown Literacy Award



Accepting the Letha H, Brown Literacy award, Literacy co-chairs Pat McFarlin and Marie Stephens. This award is given out annually at the District and International level. We received this award for an ongoing project at the Interlakes Elementary School related to providing supplemental reading support and facilitating small group activities in kindergarten and first grade classrooms to strengthen reading skills. Congratulations!

2022 Scholarship Awards



Altrusa International Club of Meredith awarded scholarships to outstanding adults who fit the bill of the non-traditional student in May of 2022

The Dr. Jeanette Ritzenthaler Scholarship Award was established in memory of the founder of the Meredith Altrusa Club.

The Marian Touhey Scholarship was established in memory of Marian, a longtime member of Altrusa.

The LaPoint Scholarship in memory of Jackie LaPoint , daughter of our cherished member, Kathy Lapoint.

Congratulations to the 2022 recipients!

Altrusa's Food Projects



Our club is so impressed by the way food insecurity is addressed through our wonderful projects. Monthly Community dinners at the Meredith Community Center where homemade meals are made and provided by our members are well attended and appreciated, Our partnership with Moulton Farm each Summer provides fresh produce to the local food pantries and our annual food drives also provide non-perishable food items, paper goods and toiletries to the local food pantries. All of these projects are most successful and rewarding.

Altrusa Supports The Community



Our club proudly hosts, sponsors or participates in local events or projects. Pictured above are just some of those from the last year. Left to right: The Barbershop Jamboree; The Grange dictionary donations to the Elementary School 3rd and 4th grade classes; Rotary Interact Club Socktober; Ocean State Job Lot coats for vets; ReMax/Bayside Toys for Tots and Holiday goody bags (prepared and delivered by our members) for residents of New Beginnings in Laconia and Sadie's Place in Meredith.

The Community Supports Altrusa

Meredith Village Savings Bank



The bank honored The Altrusa Club of Meredith with a \$1000 donation for International Women's Day with the distinction of "Empowered Women". Pictured left to right: Altrusans MaryAnne Skawinski and Sylvia Detscher, Amy Harpwell-LeMein, Business Development Manager and Cindy Hemeon-Plessner, Senior VP and Chief Marketing and Experience Officer for MVSB.

Ocean State Job Lot



The Manager of Ocean State Job Lot graciously presented our club with a donation of \$200 in recognition of the wonderful projects the club works on. Pictured left to right: Altrusan Vivien Mitchell; Ocean State Store Manager Doreen Piper and Altrusans MaryAnne Skawinski, Linda French and Marie Stephens.

Hannaford Supermarket



Our club was chosen to be the March and April 2022 beneficiary of the Meredith-Hannaford Reusable Bag Program.. A donation of \$ 1.00 for each bag purchased was earmarked for the Altrusa Club of Meredith.



For the month of July 2022, our club received a \$1.00 donation for every specially marked Bloomin4Good bouquet purchased. Pictured left to right: Altrusa President MaryAnne Skawinski and Assistant Store Manager Patricia Marcella.

Introduction The Chicago Experience



The partnership between Temple B’Nai Israel of Laconia as part of their We Care concert series and the Altrusa Club of Meredith proved to be the perfect match. On October 29, 2022, concertgoers thoroughly enjoyed the unique sounds of Introduction: The Chicago Experience. All expectations were exceeded thanks to the many generous sponsorships and ticket sales. All proceeds went to the Altrusa Club of Meredith. Pictured top right, Left to right: Marie Stephens, MaryAnne Skawinski and Nancy Law. Pictured bottom left, left to right: Carol Gerken and Barbara Goren. Pictured bottom right, left to right: Marie Stephens, Barbara Katz, MaryAnne Skawinski and Stu Needleman

The Altrusa Club of Meredith Dinner Meetings



Not only does our club enjoy the friendship and camaraderie, but we also get the opportunity to listen to wonderful speakers and we get to meet the Governor of Altrusa District 1.

Christmas 2022



Altrusa sisters enjoyed some Christmas cheer at Guiseppe's The Grotto on December 6, 2022.. A good time was had by all.

Altrusa Club of Meredith on the Move in 2023

This newsletter just serves as a glimpse of the types of activities our club is involved with to serve our community. We have hit the ground running during these first three months of 2023 with several different projects and will continue to do so throughout the year because the name of the game for our members is to help and serve.