

# Community Newslink

Fall 2011



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## We volunteer for Tucson.

Our Resource Development volunteers raise needed funding for our philanthropic programs through grants, donations to our Thrift Shop, and fundraisers. They make sure the community of Tucson knows we're here for good.

## Mission Statement

Assistance League of Tucson is a volunteer philanthropic organization that provides essential goods and services to improve the lives of men, women, and children in the greater Tucson area.

Which Tucson organization uses 100% of your donations to support programs that help the Tucson community?

Which Tucson organization is staffed entirely by volunteers?

Assistance League of Tucson does all of these things.

## Walmart Helps Tucson Students Stay in School

Assistance League of Tucson is delighted by the support of our local Walmart and The Walmart Foundation, headquartered in Bentonville, Arkansas. Operation School Bell received a \$25,000 grant from the international retailer during the summer of 2011 and \$1,000 from the local Walmart on Wetmore. The local grant was from the company's community giving grant program.

Assistance League of Tucson President, Debbie Budd, said, "We are grateful to the Walmart Foundation and local store for their generosity. These gifts provide more than 370 Tucson children with new school clothing. We have learned from our school partners that this type of support keeps kids in school learning and helps build the children's self esteem."

Operation School Bell chairman Janine Schulte said, "The Walmart associates in our local stores are always interested in our work for the children and help by extending special prices for many items we purchase. We salute district manager, Rick Velasco, and store manager John Grothe, who have gone out of their way to assist us in clothing Tucson's children."

Operation School Bell provides disadvantaged children in the Tucson area with a week's wardrobe of new clothing. Each child receives two pairs of jeans or shorts, three shirts or tops, a jacket, shoes, and six pairs of socks and underwear. Every child also receives a backpack filled with new school supplies, a book of his or her own choosing, and grooming supplies. Operation School Bell has dressed more than 40,000 students since its 1994 inception.

## Eliminating Inventory and Doing Good?

Several times over the last year, Copenhagen Inc., a premier Tucson contemporary furniture store, has provided excess inventory to our Thrift Shop for sale. This permits Copenhagen to remove the unwanted inventory from their books and do a good deed for Tucson men, women

and children at the same time. All of us at Assistance League of Tucson applaud their generosity and ingenuity. Could your business do likewise? Please contact [shopchair@assistanceleagueticucson.org](mailto:shopchair@assistanceleagueticucson.org) if you would like to discuss the possibilities.



Another Hole in One for Assistance League of Tucson. Thank you to Raytheon Missile Systems, Air Warfare Systems and all the hole sponsors for your enthusiastic support.

Shown here - teeing off next to the Sidewinder AIM 9X team hole. Put us on your calendar for next year.

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As you read the articles and view the pictures it is apparent Assistance League of Tucson has many donors supporting our philanthropic programs. In these difficult economic times I wish to acknowledge the importance of all of our donors for giving in many different forms:

- grants, individual donations and Raytheon employees producing and participating in a golf tournament;
- new and used items given to the Thrift Shop by local businesses and individuals;
- customers purchasing from the Thrift Shop;
- time and skills shared by member and community volunteers.

Thanks to all of you who are part of the Assistance League of Tucson team making a difference in our community.

The tale of the Little Drummer Boy is always inspiring to me because it recognizes that all gifts given, no matter how big or small, represent caring and sharing to make a difference. Assistance League of Tucson is a team of community people and members caring and sharing however and whenever they are able.

Assistance League of Tucson's challenge is how to meet the growing need for services offered by our philanthropic programs. The solution has two parts: increased funding to purchase the supplies; and increased number of member volunteers to work the programs and staff the Thrift Shop. Can and will you help us meet the challenge?

Currently, the Thrift Shop provides about half the money needed to fund Operation School Bell®, Starting Over Supplies and Assault Survivor Kits®. In these difficult economic times everyone is looking for a way to stretch the dollar. Shopping at our Thrift Shop allows customers to purchase high quality, gently used items-clothing, furniture, household goods, decorative items, holiday decor, etc. at very low prices. *You* become part of the team when you shop and/or donate gently used merchandise.

The second part of the solution requires an increase in the number of member volunteers and community volunteers. *You* become a team member by donating your time, skills and knowledge to our programs and Thrift Shop.

"Pa rum pum, pum, pum on my drum"... A salute to the current members of our team and a call for others to join us in making a difference in our community.

*Debbie Budd*

Visit our website to learn more about our philanthropic programs.

Make a donation online at [www.assistanceleagueticson.org](http://www.assistanceleagueticson.org)

Graphic design courtesy of Emily Maseeh.



PAWS partnered with Waypoint Theater Company, a local nonprofit, organization, to collect new bears for Tu Nidito to give to children in crisis. Proceeds from Waypoint's production of *September Bears*, which was inspired by bears given out in Manhattan on 9/11, helped to fund this donation.

Artistic Director, Melanie David & Friends.



*"When I was first approached about a grant for Operation School Bell, I thought of my mother who would have been appalled at the thought of little children going to school without underpants. That thought has inspired me to continue my grant all these years."*

- Rosemary Nieman  
The Rose Fund



**Operation School Bell®.** On Wednesday, September 7, 2011, Operation School Bell began a new season providing children between kindergarten and fifth grade the opportunity to "shop" for new school clothes and supplies in our "child-sized" department store. On opening day, our dressing team personally assisted each of the 34 children from Davidson Elementary School while four television stations filmed the process. Courtney Carlmark from KOLD 13 interviewed volunteer Janine Schulte who explained that proceeds



Courtney Carlmark from KOLD and her cameraman film at Operation School Bell.

Thank you to all our local stations who support us!

from our thrift shop and fundraising finance the new clothes and supplies. One cameraman was visibly moved after observing one child's delight and expression of gratitude. We are thrilled to be able to aid children in building their self-esteem and improving the likelihood of academic success.

**Starting Over Supplies.** Over the last couple of years our Starting Over Supplies personnel contacted most of the agencies we serve to canvass their clients' needs. Through a dialogue process, Starting Over Supplies was able to learn which of its supplies were most crucial to disadvantaged families and what might be done to improve the program. As a result the overall quality of household items would be increased to the extent possible to provide sustainable use for more than 6 months. Also, it was decided that a few items could be eliminated. Today, Starting Over Supplies is providing even better support to clients of those 9 agencies with whom Assistance League of Tucson is affiliated. The program expects to provide sustainable supplies for starting over to more than nearly 1,000 people in Tucson during this fiscal year.

Coralie Nicol of Assistance League of Tucson accepts a grant from the Phoenix Suns Charities for Operation School Bell. Grants and donations make up half the funding we need to continue our programs.

We thank all of our donors for making sure our programs are a success.



**Home Owners Association or Neighborhood Yard Sale Leftovers.** If your organization is hosting a yard sale, Assistance League of Tucson would like to talk with you. To arrange for a pick-up of items at the conclusion of a community-wide sale, please call our Thrift Shop at 520-326-1585 or email [shopchair@assistanceleagueticucson.org](mailto:shopchair@assistanceleagueticucson.org).

### Save the Date

#### Tux 'n Boots®

Skyline Country Club  
January 21, 2012



#### WHATZ IT WORTH?®

Doubletree Inn  
February 12, 2012

#### Assisteens Fashion Show

Loew's Ventana Canyon Resort  
March 4, 2012

#### Tucson Festival of Books

March 10-11, 2012  
*Visit our booth.*

#### Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure

March 25, 2012  
*Stop by our table!*

#### Raytheon Air Warfare Systems Golf Tournament

September 2012  
Arizona National Golf Club

You are invited! Please contact us at 326-8452 or [info@assistanceleagueticucson.org](mailto:info@assistanceleagueticucson.org) to join us.

### AT A GLANCE...

May 2010 - April 2011

Operation School Bell®  
dressed 3,674 children



Starting Over Supplies  
served 1,028 people



Assault Survivor Kits®  
supported 168 people



100% of funding stays  
in Tucson to benefit our  
community.



Assistance League® of Tucson  
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 Tucson, AZ 85712

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**Assistance League® of Tucson**  
 ★ PRESENTS A FUNDRAISER ★

**ANTIQUES APPRAISAL FUNDRAISER**

**Sunday, February 12, 2012**  
 DoubleTree Hotel on Alvernon

**Bring your family heirlooms, thrift shop treasures and yard sale bargains to find out WHATZ IT WORTH?**

**Assistance League® of Tucson**  
 thanks our WHATZ IT WORTH?® sponsors:

*S. Silverberg & Sons*

O'CONNELL & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Tickets available at [www.whatzitworth.org](http://www.whatzitworth.org)  
 or 520-443-0675.

\$60 ticket.

Each ticket admits two people  
 and two items for verbal appraisals.

*Features nationally known and locally recognized appraisers*



Assistance League® of Tucson, a chapter of Assistance League®, is a nonprofit, nonpolitical, nonsectarian volunteer organization and is qualified under IRS code 501(c)(3) and Arizona Tax Credit Law ARS-1088.