

community newslink

ANNUAL REPORT
2018



OPERATION SCHOOL BELL
- Smiles all around!

mission

Volunteers working in the Tucson community to help those in need.

vision

Recognized as a leading force for hope and positive change.

- All-volunteer organization
- All donations stay local

10,000 people in the Tucson community were helped this year by our programs.



A book plus a heart equaled "kind" for Christen on a recent visit to Operation School Bell. Christen's note also included a big "Thank You."

Thanks for your help!

YOUR DONATIONS MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO CONTINUE:

- Operation School Bell® - Provide school children with brand new clothes and shoes to improve the quality of their lives.
- Hooked on Books - Supply school libraries and classrooms with books so students can do their homework.
- Starting Over Supplies - Give a fresh start with new basic household supplies to adults and families in difficult situations.
- Teddy Bear Program - Provide child-safe bears to comfort children in crises like abuse, neglect, hospitalization and bereavement.
- Assault Survivor Kits® - Offer dignity to assault victims with fresh clothes and toiletries when their personal items are kept for forensic evidence.
- Assisteens® - Help high school students learn leadership skills while giving back to the Tucson community.
- Assistance League Thrift Shop - Sell gently-used, donated goods to support our programs.

Arizona Charitable Tax Credit

PLEASE USE YOUR DONATION TO SUPPORT US!

You may claim a tax credit for voluntary cash contributions you make to a Qualifying Charitable Organization. Assistance League of Tucson is a 501(c)(3) Qualifying Charitable Organization (QCO Code is 20040).

The Arizona State Tax Credit program allows you to make a donation to an eligible organization and receive a dollar-for-dollar credit against Arizona state taxes owed. These donations count as charitable contributions and may be deducted on your federal return if you itemize your deductions. The charitable tax credit donation limits have doubled to \$400 for individuals and \$800 for couples filing jointly. Donation due dates for the tax credits are April 15th of the following year.

Please consult your tax advisor for more information.

Transforming Lives • Strengthening Community

A Message from Our President



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At this time of year, we look back and give thanks to our community for making Tucson a great place to live and such a rewarding place to volunteer. Thank you Assistance League volunteers who give in so many ways; thank you donors who make sure our programs are well-funded and our Thrift Shop is well-stocked; and thank you shoppers who have created a happy community in our Thrift Shop. We give thanks too to those in town whom we have not yet met; you will help us grow so we can serve more of our community.

Through our Operation School Bell program, we partner with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) in Pima County to provide new clothing for children in their care. Assistance League gives the CASA program JCPenney gift cards so they can take the children shopping for what they need. A note received from one CASA volunteer said,

My CASA child was moved to a residential treatment center in the mountains and needed winter clothing. Your gift card was a godsend. We used the entire card for a coat, hat, gloves, scarf, sweater, and socks.

Currently, we partner with 40 schools and 35 social service agencies and organizations to reach more than 12,000 people in Tucson who can benefit from our programs. I especially want to thank all our partners in the community that help us serve those in need. How lucky we are to have a community that has supported our efforts since 1959. We look forward to the coming year when we will celebrate our 60th anniversary of inspiring hope and restoring dignity to those in need in Tucson.

The Financials

Reviewed Financial Statement for May 1, 2017 to April 30, 2018

Consolidated Revenue & Expenses

	Revenue
Public Support & Grants	205,961
Thrift Shop	570,529
Fundraising Events	18,336
Membership Dues	34,676
Other Revenue	6,552
Total Revenue	\$836,054

	Expenses
Philanthropic Programs	585,403
Thrift Shop Operations	89,361
Fundraising Events	5,085*
Administrative	102,019
Membership	19,703
Total Expense	\$801,571

*Special Event Totals do not include direct benefits to attendees or cost of merchandise sold.

We are a volunteer driven organization. This year our volunteers donated 51,519 hours which, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's value of \$24.90 per volunteer hour, is a donation of \$1,282,823.

Liabilities & Assets

Assets	
Cash & cash equivalents	716,495
Investments	400,000
Accounts receivable	0
Prepaid expenses	548
Inventories	172,784
Property & equipment	1,307,484
Total Assets**	\$2,597,311

Liabilities	
Accounts payable	56,563
Deferred dues revenue	11,005
Other deferred revenue	1,050
Total Liabilities	\$68,618

Net Assets	
Unrestricted	2,504,887
Temporarily restricted	23,806
Permanently restricted	0
Total Net Assets	\$2,528,693

Total Liabilities & Net Assets
\$2,597,311

**National Assistance League® requires all chapters to have one year's operating expenses in reserve.

Happy 25th Birthday to Tucson Operation School Bell®

In 1994, Assistance League of Tucson began helping students in need in the Tucson community through Assistance League's signature Philanthropic Program, Operation School Bell. Operation School Bell provided new clothing to 335 children that year. In 24 years, Operation School Bell helped over 67,000 Tucson children and is slated to help 4,932 children in 2018-19.



The students attend one of 40 K-8 Title 1 schools in the Tucson Area. Some students receive Uniform vouchers and \$25 Payless Shoe Cards. Other students are bused to our facility where they select a week's worth of new clothing. It costs \$80 to provide each child with new shoes, clothing, backpack, a book, and bus transportation.

One school assistant remarked, "Riding on the bus with 36 kids to Operation School Bell, is like taking a bus trip to Disneyland. These children are THAT excited."

- 4,225 children dressed for school
- 41 Tucson area schools and
- 3 agencies served
- \$80 dresses one child
- \$800 dresses ten children
- \$3,200 dresses a busload of children
- \$110 dresses a hard-to-fit child at JCPenney
- \$150 funds the school bus trip to Assistance League

Hooked on Books – Supporting Education

Hooked on Books supports literacy development and love of reading for children by contributing to book collections in three Tucson schools.

Hooked on Books also partners with Sunnyside School District's award winning Parents as Teacher's program. This program's focus is on engaging families in their child's education and promoting language and literacy skills to ensure school success and readiness. The families served are low income with children up to age 5. Hooked on Books supports this valuable program by providing much needed books and literacy development materials.

- 750 children can use library books
- 4 Tucson school literacy programs
- \$1750 funds educational books for one school library

Starting Over Supplies – Strengthening Tucson

We have expanded our partners from twelve to over twenty-two social service agencies and organizations to reach those clients who need help starting over. Growing this unique program has been a challenge due to the reduction in budgets for many agencies.

This year, we received a letter from a client who was overjoyed at receiving a laundry basket of new household supplies including blankets, linens, dishes, cookware and eating utensils. She told the story of how she had survived one Florida hurricane, rebuilt, and then along came Hurricane Irma. She had nothing left. Fortunately, she was able to move to Tucson to be close to her daughter, but her daughter was unable to support her. Since she was disabled and in a wheelchair, she had many challenges. When she was moved into an apartment of her own, she received a Starting Over Supplies kit. Her words to us were, "God bless you for your help. You have given me hope."

- 1,895 families start afresh
- 21 agencies supported
- \$67 gives a kit to a single person
- \$85 helps a family of two
- \$111 equips for a family of three
- \$137 cares for a family of four

Assisteens® Helping Tucson Teens - mini-grants to benefit teens

Assisteens spread philanthropic good will throughout Tucson as volunteers in programs such as the Community Food Bank, Ben's Bells, Casa Maria Soup Kitchen, Angel Heart Pajama Project, Fisher House, Brookdale Senior Living and many more. They also support Assistance League's Thrift Shop, Operation School Bell and Starting Over Supplies. Assisteens will be inviting the public to their annual fashion show fundraiser this year on April 7, 2019 at Leo Rich Theater. It will fund Assisteens Helping Tucson Teens art, music and physical education in-kind mini grants to Title I middle schools. One of the grant recipients wrote: "Thank you so much on behalf of all the incredible student-athletes at C. E. Rose!!! Your generous funding of the badminton sports equipment will be a great addition to our middle school athletic program."

- 120 Assisteens grades 9-12
- 10 Tucson high schools represented
- \$20,000 mini in-kind grants given to 29 Title I middle schools

Teddy Bears - treasured symbol of comfort

New child-safe teddy bears are distributed to Assistance League partners including, emergency rooms, first responders, and social service agencies. One of our new partners is El Rio Health who receives bags of bears to use



at their clinics to comfort children who come in for treatment.

Officer Allen Guest of the Sahuarita Police Department is another partner. He uses the bears for Operation Comfort, a law-related education class he teaches to high school freshmen.

In October, which is Domestic Violence awareness month, he is diving into a block of instruction about healthy relationships versus threatening and intimidating ones, the definition of assault vs aggravated assault, and how to stay safe. He said, "I thought the teddy bears would be an excellent addition to my course. The bears bring comfort to the classroom as we discuss difficult topics that often hit very close to home. I also like to give them to my special-needs students so they have something soothing to hold."

- 2,235 children comforted by a bear
- 9 agencies served (ERs, law enforcement, social service)
- \$25 gives bears to three children
- \$100 provides a bag of 12 bears to one of our agencies

Assault Survivor Kits® - restoring dignity

Assistance League partners with three organizations to help survivors of assault begin the healing process. Often clothing is taken for forensic examination and the survivor is left with nothing but a hospital gown in which to leave the hospital.



New clothing and toiletries are provided to our partners who distribute them to survivors so they can leave the hospital with dignity.

Our Assisteens Auxiliary packages the toiletries into decorated bags so they look like gifts. The social workers of the organizations give the fresh, new clothing and the gift bags of toiletries to survivors so they can brush their teeth, comb their hair, put on clean clothes, and regain control of their lives with dignity. Our partnership with SACAC also includes providing them with snacks and books so that the children have something warm to eat and a book in which to escape while they wait to be interviewed.

- 1,600 children from So. Arizona Children's Advocacy Center
- 450 individuals from So. Arizona Center Against Sexual Assault
- EMERGE! Center Against Domestic Abuse (new)

Assistance League Thrift Shop - making your shopping count

Assistance League Thrift Shop celebrated winning the 2018 Arizona Daily Star's Reader's Choice award this year thanks to all those votes from our valued customers. Our loyal customers are the reason the shop has experienced double digit growth over the past few years.



From unique furniture, to recycled couture, to the latest mystery novels, our customers share their great finds on Facebook. They also celebrate our programs, knowing that their shopping dollars are going to benefit our community: \$80 buys a Tucson child new school clothing; \$140 gives a basket of essential household goods to a family in need; and \$50 comforts six children with a child-safe, cuddly teddy bear.

- 68% of funding for our programs comes from the Thrift Shop
- Your donations of gently-used items bring in the customers
- Our volunteers welcome you!

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Assault Survivor Kits®

Emerge! Center Against
Domestic Abuse

Southern Arizona Center
Against Sexual Assault

Southern Arizona Children's
Advocacy Center

Operation School Bell®

Amity Circle Tree Ranch
Bonillas E.S.

Cavett E.S.

Davidson E.S.

Dragonfly Village

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Emerge!

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DeLeon Painting	Ody Sea Aquarium	Vantage Bowling Centers
		Westin La Paloma

Community Fundraisers - V.I.P. Mortgage's Cause for the Quarter

Buzz Dempsey, of V.I.P. Mortgage, started a fundraiser called V.I.P.'s Cause for the Quarter to benefit Assistance League of Tucson programs. Each quarter, he chooses one of our programs to feature in emails to his clients. A link takes them to our Donation page where they learn more about us and have the opportunity to support the featured program. Thank you Buzz and V.I.P.!

Community Volunteers – team building strengthens communities



Do you have a business or a social group that would like to volunteer for a few hours? It is a great way to build a team and give back to Tucson. Pictured here are Community Volunteers from Guild Mortgage who helped our volunteers unpack five pallets of supplies for the Starting Over Supplies and Teddy Bears programs.

They moved boxes, stacked boxes, and unpacked boxes in a very warm warehouse in August. They

lifted the boxes off the pallets and carried them to the sorting area. They also helped unpack and stock the warehouse shelves with brightly-colored hoodies for Operation School Bell. Other organizations who have helped out are Tucson Marriott Business Council, Michigan State University Alumni Club of Tucson – Tucson Spartans, and Americops. We have many projects that will support your team building and community outreach efforts.

We have endeavored to list donors correctly for the period of May 1, 2017 to April 30, 2018. If your listing is incorrect or you would like to be listed differently, please accept our apology and contact us at info@ALTucson.org or 326-8452 x6. Thank you for your continued support.

Community Recipients

Starting Over Supplies

Amphi Public Schools McKinney-Vento Program
Casa de los Ninos
CODAC Behavioral Health
Community Partners Integrated Healthcare
Compass Affordable Housing
Department of Child Safety
El Rio Health
Easterseals Blake Foundation
Nurse Family Partnership
EMERGE!
International Rescue Cmt
La Frontera Center
Flowing Wells United School District Family Resource Ctr
M.A.P.S.
Old Pueblo Community Services
Our Family Services
PPEP Integrated Care
Primavera Foundation
The Salvation Army
STAR United School District
TIHAN
Women's Network Outreach
Youth On Their Own

Teddy Bears

Banner Multispecialty Clinic
EMERGE!
Pima County Sheriff's Dpt
Sahaurita Police Dpt
St. Joseph's Hospital
St. Mary's Hospital
Southern AZ Ctr Against Sexual Assault
Southern AZ Children's Advocacy Ctr
Steele Children's Research Ctr
Tucson Jewish Family Services
Tu Nidito Children and Family Services

Assisteens®

Helping Tucson Teens

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Valencia M.S.	
Rose M.S.	





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info@altucson.org
ALTucson.org

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Thanks

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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 43-1088.