

community newslink

ANNUAL REPORT
2020



mission

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

vision

Recognized as a leading force for hope and positive change.

100% of donations stay in the greater Tucson area to benefit our community



Giving the gift of reading is priceless. Barnes and Noble held an Action Week book drive to collect books for children who may never have owned a book.



HOLIDAYS IN THE SHOP LIFT OUR SPIRITS

2020: Surviving COVID & Emerging Stronger

COVID-19 produced a paradigm shift in the operations of both for profit and nonprofit businesses and organizations. Assistance League of Tucson suffered a quarter million-dollar loss during the closure of our Thrift Shop, and grants and donations decreased as emphasis in charitable giving shifted toward food and shelter.

Until our Thrift Shop reopened on August 18, income was augmented by parking lot sales and the creation of an Online Store, which will provide a separate income stream during and after COVID.

Diminished income and health-safety mandates forced changes in our programs. Operation School Bell® filled backpacks with new clothing for delivery to students through school representatives and social workers. Starting Over Supplies and Assault Survivor Kits® experienced increased demand as COVID produced a rise in homelessness and domestic violence. Hospitals and children's services sought our Teddy Bears.

The pandemic produced dislocations in our operations that caused us to re-evaluate our organization and the way in which we serve our community. We may never return to our old ways of doing business, but we are confident that we will survive today's challenges and will emerge from this crisis stronger and more resilient.

Arizona Charitable Tax Credit

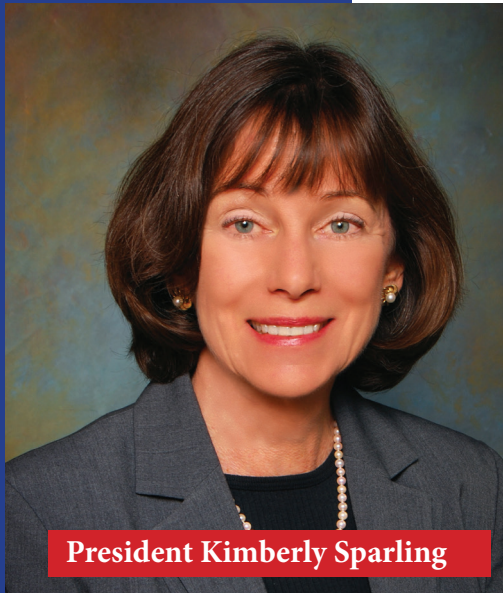
PLEASE USE YOUR DONATION TO SUPPORT US!

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.

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. Donations count as charitable contributions and may be deducted on your federal return if you itemize. Charitable tax credit donation limits have doubled to \$400 for individuals and \$800 for couples filing jointly. Donation due dates 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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Challenge and change are the watchwords of 2020. Our members, our donors, and our clients have risen to the challenge of serving our community in the midst of a pandemic by changing how we volunteer, how we raise funds, and how we reach those in need.

We went virtual. Our Thrift Shop is now online; our meetings are via Zoom; and we held a fundraiser on Facebook. While we cleaned and sanitized the campus so we could reopen safely, we held Thrift Shop sales in the parking lot, limited the number of people in our buildings, and found ways for our volunteers to work from home.

With schools closed and agencies operating at minimal capacity, we had to find new ways to deliver our programs. We forged new partnerships and reached out to our existing partners to find out what they needed and asked our donors and grantors to continue their support. By focusing on our mission we have been able to continue serving those most in need in Tucson.

Chris Gutierrez, Principal of Holloway Elementary, wrote about Operation School Bell: "In very difficult times, it is the most courageous and most honorable of those that come to the aid of others. Your organization clearly meets this honorable charge. I am not sure you realize the benefits a gift such as this can provide for a school and its students. Your professionalism, dedication, and desire to serve the community, and in particular children, is truly admirable."

We hope you will support us as we continue to find new ways to deliver our programs, create new revenue streams, and engage our volunteers. All thanks to your dedication to our mission and to our community.

The Financials

Reviewed Financial Statement for May 1, 2019 to April 30, 2020

Consolidated Revenue & Expenses

	Revenue
Public Support & Grants	303,614
Thrift Shop	491,863
Fundraising Events	38
Membership Dues	21,730
Other Revenue	24,826
Total Revenue	\$842,071

	Expenses
Philanthropic Programs	615,470
Thrift Shop Operations	65,863
Fundraising Events	223*
Administrative	188,403
Membership	12,196
Total Expense	\$882,155

*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 40,364 hours which, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's value of \$26.71 per volunteer hour, is a donation of \$1,078,122.

Liabilities & Assets

Assets	
Cash & cash equivalents	649,268
Prepaid expenses	27,632
Inventories	217,758
Investments	466,685
Property & Equipment	1,245,231
Total Assets**	\$2,606,574

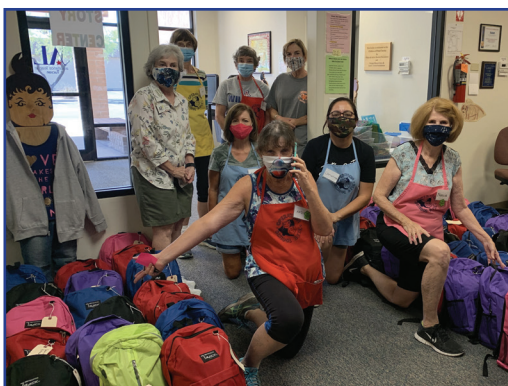
Liabilities	
Accounts payable	48,053
Deferred dues revenue	10,780
Other deferred revenue	-
Total Liabilities	\$58,833

Net Assets	
Unrestricted	2,528,909
Temporarily restricted	18,832
Permanently restricted	-
Total Net Assets	\$2,547,741

Total Liabilities & Net Assets
\$2,606,574

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

Operation School Bell® - helping Tucson children



Traditionally, Operation School Bell invites children from Title I schools to select new school clothing either on our campus, at our department store partners or by using our vouchers. Since 1994, this program has provided a week's worth of new clothes to more than 76,000 students.

Then COVID struck, and the Assistance League Thrift Shop, our primary source of revenue, closed its doors for five months.

The loss of revenue from the shop produced a 33% budget cut, causing Operation School Bell to be reimagined. Instead of having children select

their own clothes, our volunteers sent fitter forms to the school representatives who chose the children to participate in this program. Our volunteers filled backpacks with new clothing for every child. We delivered the backpacks to the schools and agencies with whom we partner so they could distribute them to their students. Even during the pandemic, we continue to aid families in need as they struggle to pay for food and shelter, leaving little for the purchase of new clothing.

- 4,385 children dressed for school
- 40 Tucson area schools served
- 3 agencies served
- \$90 gives one child new clothes
- \$3,600 dresses 40 children at one school

Hooked on Books - literacy leads to success

A discount at Mostly Books, the Barnes and Noble Book Drive, and the program budget supplied books to three schools: Laguna Elementary, Prince Elementary and Mary Meredith. Parents as Teachers also receive books to support their program. Most were safely in students' hands before the pandemic. Those that were not distributed prior to closures will be distributed as schools re-open.

- 4 Tucson school literacy programs
- 1,546 books collected
- \$8 provides a book for an elementary school student

Starting Over Supplies - strengthening Tucson families



Even as shortages appeared in the spring when COVID erupted, Starting Over Supplies was able to keep operating by quickly ordering enough products to last through the end of 2020. Employees of the 31 agencies we serve worked from home, and we stayed open to meet growing demand from clients who suddenly could not

afford to stay in their homes. Now, more than ever, providing basic household needs was essential to allow families to start over in new housing. With so many struggling, having brand new bedding as well as kitchen and bath necessities gives our clients the dignity they deserve and a sense of hope to move forward.

- 970 families start afresh
- 1,859 people served
- \$60 provides for a single person
- \$72 helps a family of two
- \$97 equips a family of three
- \$125 cares for a family of four

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



The main philanthropic program of these dynamic, caring high school students is providing in-kind mini grants to Title I art, music and PE middle school teachers. Their other program is volunteering with various Tucson philanthropic organizations such as Ben's Bells, Community Food Bank, Angel Heart Pajama Project, Fisher House, Casa Maria Soup Kitchen, Tucson Diaper Bank and more. In addition, Assisteens members volunteer in the Assistance League Thrift Shop and other Assistance League programs. Assisteens raise funds to support their programs through their annual Fashion Show and poinsettia sale.

- 107 Assisteens, grades 9-12 from 9 Tucson area high school volunteers
- 4,084 donated hours
- 13 mini-grants to Title I middle schools

Teddy Bears - treasured symbol of comfort



What could be more comforting than hugging a soft teddy bear from Assistance League of Tucson? Volunteers working in the Teddy Bear Program deliver bears to 12 local agencies (law enforcement, Banner Health Care, ERs, social services and grief counselors). These agencies report that our teddy bears bring comfort to children that are traumatized by neglect, abuse or sadness owing to a death in the family. The little girl pictured lost two family members in a single week. Our teddy bears also comfort children when they have to visit ERs or are being helped by law enforcement and social services. Your support contributes to the comfort of our children, who are the hearts of our lives, the hopes and dreams of the future.

- 1,840 children comforted
- 12 agencies served (ERs, law enforcement, social service)
- \$27 gives bears to three children
- \$108 provides a bag of 12 bears to one of our agencies

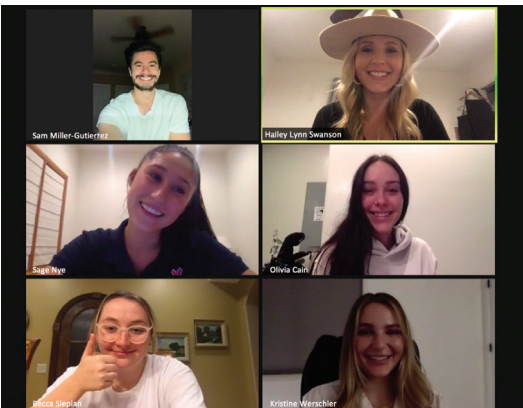
Assault Survivor Kits® - restoring dignity

Assault Survivor Kits volunteers work with Southern Arizona Center Against Sexual Assault and Emerge! to provide simple new clothing and toiletry items for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. After forensic exams are conducted at local hospitals, clothing may be kept for evidence, leaving victims with only a hospital gown. Our kits allow victims to maintain their dignity when departing the hospital.

COVID-induced stress produced a rise in assault and abuse in our community and created a greater demand for our kits. Assistance League of Tucson has stepped up to answer the call for help. The agencies we serve say the kits of clothing, toiletries, and snacks we provide give the individuals hope as they are starting a new chapter in their lives.

- 1,150 children from So. Arizona Children's Advocacy Center
- 490 individuals from So. Arizona Center Against Sexual Assault
- Emerge! Center Against Domestic Abuse

New Generation - our future leaders



New Generation looks forward to another year to support the mission of Assistance League of Tucson as we seek to accomplish our own goals. Our program proposal for Toiletries for Tucson Teens, which provides hygiene products for in-need TUSD students, has been approved by the members of Assistance League. Kits containing items collected in donation drives and through the purchase of some "stock" items were packaged, and 175 hygiene kits supplied to TUSD pantries were distributed to schools according to need. Future expansion of our program will help to ease the challenges students face owing to economic pressure caused by the COVID pandemic.

- 175 kits delivered to TUSD pantries
- 88 young adult kits (grades 6-12)
- 87 youth kits (grades K-5)

Assistance League Online Shop – enabling at-home shopping

To create another source of revenue to support our philanthropic programs, the Thrift Shop developed an online shop that allows customers to shop all day, every day. The online shop gives customers the opportunity to find the same great deals online when they cannot make it into the shop.

When customers are in the brick and mortar shop, they can use a computer kiosk to search for and to buy online items. Items purchased online can be picked up on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the blue double doors at the back of the shop. The online shop has created many new volunteer opportunities and is reaching a new demographic of shoppers. Our online presence also promotes our organization in the Tucson community by reaching new customers with 24/7 thrift shopping. Check our online offerings at ALTucson.org.



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Teddy Bears

Banner Multispecialty Clinic
 El Rio Health
 Emerge! Center Against
 Domestic Abuse
 So AZ Children's Advocacy Ctr
 So AZ Ctr Against Sexual
 Assault
 St. Joseph's Hospital ER
 St. Mary's Hospital ER
 Pima County Sheriff's Dpt
 Sahaurita Police Dpt
 Steele Children's Research
 Center
 Tucson Jewish Family Svcs
 Tu Nidito Children and
 Family Services

Assistees® Helping Tucson Teens

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 Flowing Wells M.S.
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Community Recipients

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Southern Arizona Center Against Sexual Assault
Southern Arizona Children's Advocacy Center

Operation School Bell®

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Starting Over Supplies

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- McKinney Vento
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Caring Connections
for Special Needs
Casa de los Ninos
Catholic Partners Integrated
Healthcare
CODAC Behavioral Health
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PPEP Integrated Care
Primavera Fndn
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Society
The Salvation Army
Teen Outreach
Star United School District
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Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators
Southwest Gas

Assistance League Thrift Shop - making your shopping count

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the shop was closed in mid-March to protect our valued customers and dedicated shop volunteers. Operations did not resume until mid-August. During this time, safety measures required by CDC, state, and local guidelines were implemented in anticipation of reopening.

This year the Thrift Shop generated 58% of the funds that support our philanthropic efforts. Usually, about 65% of our funding comes from the Thrift Shop. The impact of the pandemic on our revenues forced temporary cuts in our programs. Our challenge has been to find



- 58% of funding for our programs comes from the Thrift Shop
- Shop was closed for 5 months - no revenue
- Online store developed
- Parking lot sales initiated

new sources of income to sustain our programs during the COVID crisis. To fill the gap, we held parking lot sales and developed an online store.

The Thrift Shop has reopened with limited hours; it is thriving, thanks to the support of our loyal customers. Watch our Facebook page and our valued customer emails to learn when shopping hours may be extended.





Assistance League® of Tucson
1307 North Alvernon Way
Tucson, AZ 85712

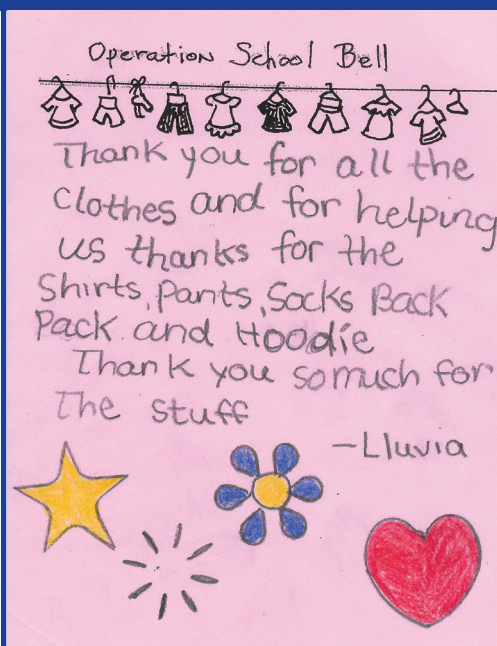
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