



ALTM
assistance league®
Riverside
50 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

2015-2016
ANNUAL REPORT

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“HEARTS THAT CARE HANDS THAT SHARE”

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MISSION STATEMENT

Assistance League of Riverside is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to clothing, comforting and educating the children of our community.

WHO WE ARE

This past year, Assistance League of Riverside, a 501(c)(3) corporation, celebrated its 50th anniversary. We were chartered in 1966 as the 37th chapter of Assistance League. At the time, we were just a handful of women. Today, we have 200 members - men as well as women - and the national organization has 120 chapters.

We also had fifty-nine 7th through 12th graders who participated in Assis-teens®, an auxiliary focused on developing a sense of community engagement, self-reliance, personal responsibility, public speaking and leadership skills among its teenaged members.

While much has changed in the world and our community in the past 50 years, we remain an all-volunteer organization dedicated to helping the children in our local communities.

“2015-2016 was truly an inspirational year both for the members of our chapter and for myself. We are so proud and fortunate to have the continued support of our members and our community partners, which allows us to serve more children each year in so many vital areas. We truly have ‘Hearts that Care and Hands that Share’ as our motto states. We couldn’t do it without each of you.”

*Nancy Franks, President
2015-2016 Assistance League of Riverside*



OUR PHILANTHROPIES

Our philanthropies vary and have evolved over our 50-year history, but they share a single purpose: to provide needed assistance to the children and youth of our community. During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, our different programs, described below, touched 8,000 children and teens.

OPERATION SCHOOL BELL®

Teachers and school administrators tell us that they see children coming to school wearing the same clothes over and over again. When they feel that others notice their worn clothes, they are unable to focus on their studies. The goal of Operation School Bell is to eliminate this problem.

The schools schedule appointments for elementary school students to come to our Chapter House to shop for new jeans, t-shirts, underwear, socks, a jacket, a sweat-shirt and a backpack. They are given a hygiene kit and a voucher for shoes. Also, they can select a school supply item and reading books.

High school students are invited to shop on a specified Sunday morning at one of two area JCPenney stores. Assistance League provides \$100 gift cards and partner JCPenney offers significant discounts for blouses, dresses, jackets, jeans, leggings, skirts, pants, shirts, shorts, shoes, socks, sweaters, ties, belts, t-shirts, panties, bras, boxers and underwear. They also are given a shoe voucher.

1,972

Students dressed from the Alvord, Riverside, Jurupa, Moreno Valley, Nuvview, Perris and Val Verde school districts



SNACK ATTACK

Because of our Snack Attack program, 1,082 homeless and low-income children had some food on the weekend.

Every Friday during the school year, Assistance League members and community volunteers packed and delivered 750 bags of healthy snacks for homeless and low income children through its Snack Attack program.

Administrators and teachers in the lower socio-economic areas tell us that many of their students come to school not just to learn but to get breakfast and lunch. Our Snack Attack bags are intended to provide them sustenance over the weekend, when the schools' meals are not available.



26,687

Snack bags delivered to elementary schools in the Riverside Unified School District, Safehouse, Riverside School for the Deaf, and Edgemont School in Moreno Valley

ADDITIONAL PHILANTHROPIES

BEAR PALS

While food and clothing are important, sometimes a kid just needs a teddy bear to cuddle. Bear Pals provides these and My Fun Kits activity bags to area hospitals, as well as the Jurupa Valley Sheriff's Station and the juvenile court.

COLLEGE BOUND

Through our College Bound program, over 1,000 students in 11 high schools, three continuation schools, and three magnet schools from Alvord, Jurupa, and Riverside unified school districts received some form of financial help to enable them to attend college.

TEEN SUPPORT

Through our Teen Support program, we helped three established local organizations change the lives and futures of at-risk teens and aged out foster youth.

We provided SafeHouse Riverside, which helps teens in crisis by providing classroom materials used to teach the effects of alcohol and drug abuse and additional materials for their parents. College books, tutoring, and incentive gift cards were provided to Inspire Life Skills Training, which helps aged out foster youth make positive life choices. Birthday gift cards, incentive gift cards, and graduation mementos were given to UCR Guardian Scholars, which helps students transitioning out of foster care.

3,321
Teddy Bears
1,080
Fun Kits
given to children

1,150
ACT or SAT Study Guides
delivered to local schools

152
\$100 Grants
to AVID students
4
\$1,000 Scholarships
to graduating seniors

HEARTS AND HANDS

Assistance League and its members recognize that others in our community are doing good work but sometimes need some one-time assistance to accomplish their goals or to help children participate in their programs. Through our Hearts and Hands program, members identify these needs and investigate the organization to make sure their needs meet our criteria.

During 2015-2016, we provided:

- A three-month equestrian therapy scholarship at TRAX.
- Supplies and games to Boys and Girls Club in Riverside.
- Journals and writing material to WomenWondersWriters, a special program for victimized children.
- One math and one reading scholarship for needy children at My Learning Center.
- Seven scholarships for summer classes at Hidden Valley Nature Center.
- Five guitars, 10 music stands, strings and one violin to the Harmony/Music Project.
- Soft blankets, stuffed animals and school supplies for children who accompany their mothers to Guardian Angels MFI Recovery Center for women with drug and alcohol abuse issues.
- Diapers for children sent to Green House Family Service by Child Protective Services of Riverside.



ASSISTEENS

Our Assisteens have established philanthropic efforts separate from the Assistance League's programs. Throughout the year, Assisteens made play dough for the special needs children at the Wylie Center. The group donated school supplies to the center and conducted Halloween, Valentine's Day and Easter projects for the center. Additionally, the Assisteens supported SafeHouse's annual "Stuff the Bus" fundraiser.

The Assisteens also helped two low-income families have a complete holiday celebration by giving them trees, decorations, toys, bikes, clothes, food for a week and a \$100 gift card for groceries.

SUPPORTING OUR MISSION

During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, members, including Assisteens, reported working 31,624 hours and nonmember community volunteers, reported 1,800 hours.

THRIFT SHOP - Our Thrift Shop generates about half of our annual revenue. Members manage and staff all aspects of the shop. They accept, inspect, clean and steam donated items before pricing them and putting them in the store for sale. Members and the Assisteens also work in the store helping customers and running the cash registers.

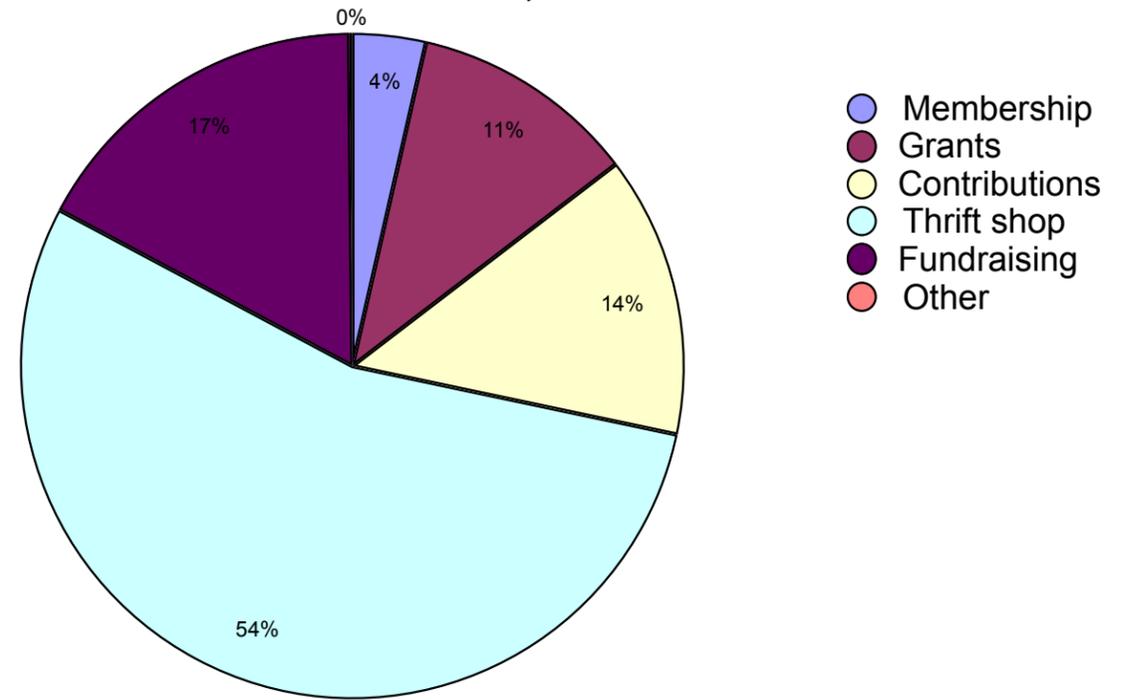
ANNUAL GIVING - Every fall the chapter conducts an annual giving campaign. This year members, friends, families, and community partners were sent a new brochure, with colorful graphics of school children, resulting in donations of \$32,956.

SPRING FUNDRAISER - Our "DRESS ME UP" fashion show, luncheon, and silent auction was held at the Riverside Convention Center. This event netted \$50,085 for our philanthropies.

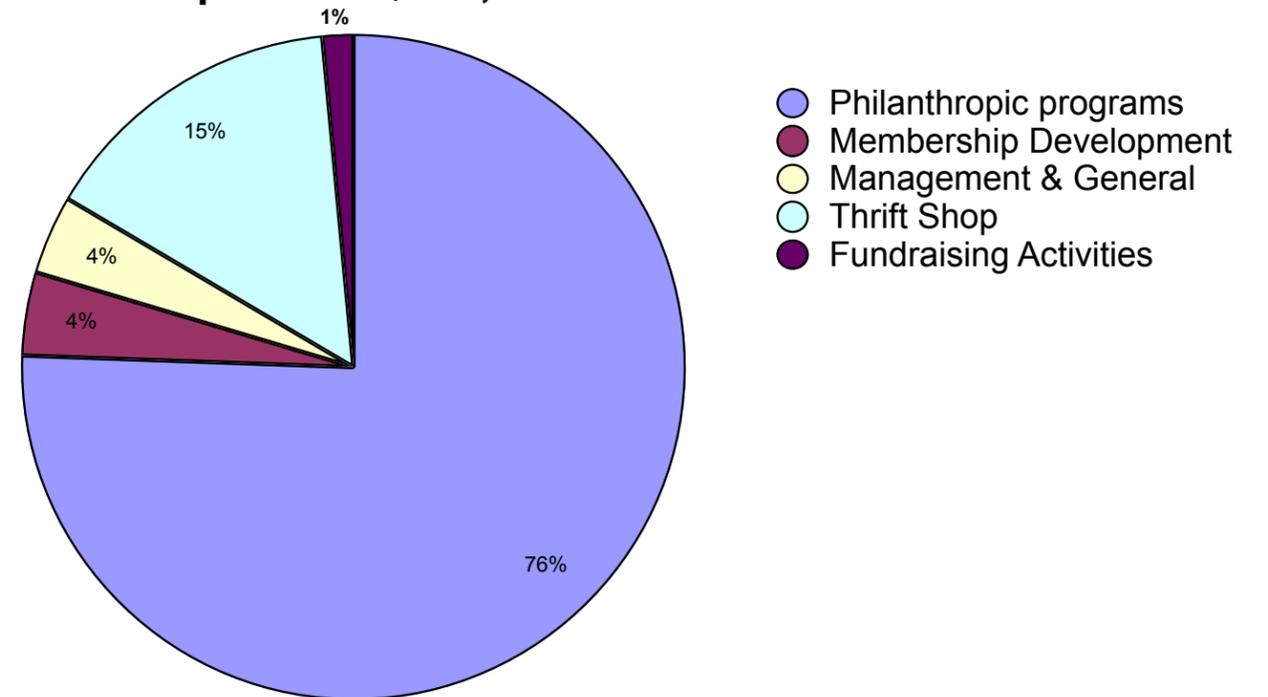
GRANTS - We are extremely grateful to the following organizations for their support of Assistance League's efforts in securing over \$55,000 in grants:

- Dart Foundation
- dd's Discounts
- Edison International Community Grant
- Fred & Eva Stebler Foundation
- Riverside Community Development Block Grant
- Riverside East Rotary Foundation
- Stater Bros Harvesting Hope
- Target Community Grant
- United Way of the Inland Valleys
- Wells Fargo Community Connection Grant 2015
- Wells Fargo Community Connection Grant 2016

Total Revenue - \$505,885



Expenses - \$460,284



AS WE GROW

Over the years we have moved walls, added storage, finished floors and made other changes in our facility so that we could continue to meet the needs of our community's children. We have invested close to \$1.6 million in this facility and were debt free.

Recognizing that the needs of our community's children continue to grow, during 2015-2016 we added an elevator and completed the renovation of the second floor of our building. This has enabled Operation School Bell to move into the new larger space and some of the back room operations of our Thrift Shop to expand into the space previously occupied by Operation School Bell. The changes allow for greater opportunities as well as increased flexibility and productivity in our programs.

The cost of the elevator and renovation was \$784,000. Over one-half of that amount has been funded through expansion fund donations raised over the past 10 years, and the balance was financed with loans.

Our members have supported the renovations with their own contributions. In 2015-2016, 100 percent of our board members and 84 percent of our voting membership contributed to the capital campaign.



WHAT'S NEXT

Assistance League of Riverside looks forward to continuing our mission of clothing, comforting and educating the children of our community not just during this new fiscal year but the next 50. We will also continue to raise funds to pay off the loans from our building renovation. A key goal for our chapter is to be debt-free so that we can focus our resources on the needs of our community's children.