Annual Report to the Community 2017-2018
Mission Statement
Assistance League volunteers transforming the lives of children through community programs.

2017-2018 Board of Directors

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A Message From the President

Dear Friends and Supporters,

For our 225 members and 73 Assisteens®, our mission is truly a labor of love. As an all-volunteer organization, we have no paid staff. Our members have embraced all the responsibilities and challenges of managing our philanthropies, completing administrative duties, fundraising and operating the Thrift Shop. Last year, members, Assisteens and community volunteers dedicated 46,321 hours to accomplishing our mission. They embody our chapter’s motto: “Hearts that Care – Hands that Share.”

Support of the community also is crucial to enabling us to achieve or mission. Grants from charitable foundation, civic organizations and corporations, individual contributions and participation in our fundraising events provide essential funding for our philanthropies.

We appreciate all contributions - both large and small are appreciated. For example, we could not run our Thrift Shop which provides about 56 percent of our annual revenue, without the many individual donations of gently-used clothing and household items.

This year, 73 cents of every dollar we spent went to support our philanthropies.

We would like to put all of our revenue into our philanthropies. However, our programs and our Thrift Shop are based in our chapter house, which require daily upkeep, routine maintenance, and utilities. This year, we also had some unanticipated expenses, such as updating the video monitoring and an elevator inspection.

Despite these expenses, we succeeded in totally paying down the debt for our elevator and second floor renovation.

Overall, it was a very good year.

With the ongoing support of our members and community partners, we will continue to help meet the needs of our community’s children.

Judy Anderson
2017-2018 President
Operation School Bell®

Operation School Bell provides new school clothes to elementary, middle and high school students. They are referred by Alvord, Jurupa, Moreno Valley, Nuview, Perris, Riverside and Val Verde school districts. This service is also provided to students from California School for the Deaf, Sherman Indian High School and to foster youth who have “aged-out” of the state care system, now attending University of California at Riverside and Riverside City College.

Each elementary student is personally fitted by our volunteers with new jeans, shirts, jacket, sweatshirt, underwear and socks as well as a backpack, hygiene kit, books, school supplies and a voucher to buy new shoes. These young students are accompanied by parents or guardians to our new dressing facility.

Middle and high school students are given vouchers for $120.00 each to shop at JCPenny stores. These stores provide for student shopping on scheduled days. Staff and Assistance League® volunteers help guide the students in appropriate selection of school clothing. They are also given backpacks, dictionaries and hygiene kits.

Operation School Bell clothed 1700 children in the 2017-18 school year.
Snack Attack
Snack Attack is Assistance League’s program introduced to fight hunger. Bags of healthy snack foods are packed and delivered by volunteers to 11 elementary schools in Riverside and one Moreno Valley school, each Friday during the school year. This service is also provided for California School for the Deaf and Safehouse, a facility that assists youth in crisis. These bags provide food for the weekend to children who are homeless or from low income background. Three times a year a book was delivered with the food bag to foster reading skills.

Snack Attack delivered 29,000 Snack Bags and 2,573 books in the 2017-2018 school year serving 1,036 children.

College Bound
College Bound promotes secondary education among high school students. SAT study guides were provided to eleven comprehensive and five continuation/alternative high schools in Alvord, Jurupa, and Riverside school districts. Juniors participating in AVID, programs designed to help students develop skills for success in college, were invited to apply for a $100 scholarship to defray cost of college visitation trips sponsored by their high school.

College Bound distributed 1039 SAT guides, awarded 173 students $100 college visit scholarships, and 12 $1000 scholarships to graduating seniors.

Bear Pals
Bear Pals are small soft Teddy Bears wearing an Assistance League® logo t-shirt. Our volunteers package this comfort toy for distribution in local emergency rooms; and by fire departments, law enforcement and the juvenile court system to children in traumatic situations. The committee also packages Fun Kits, which includes activity materials for children waiting in emergency rooms. This year blankets were added to bears donated to Riverside Police and Jurupa Valley Sheriff Departments.

Bear Pals packaged and delivered 3499 Bears and 1140 Fun Kits in 2017-2018.

Teen Support
Teen Support is a program helping at-risk teens and “aged-out” foster care youth. Teens involved in programs at Safehouse, Inspire Life Skills, and UCR Guardian Scholars receive our support. These programs have proven results in helping youths overcome abandonment and trauma. Support in 2017-2018 included college tutoring, books, uniform clothing for jobs, driver education, incentive gift cards and recognition awards for their accomplishments.

Teen Support served 410 youth in these life altering programs.

Hearts and Hands
Hearts and Hands is a program which provides cultural and educational opportunities to underserved children and youth. This program provided support to the following nonprofit organizations: Boys and Girls Club of Riverside, Best Buddies North High School, Alpha Foster Youth Treatment Center, Riverside Arts Academy, The Learning Center, Riverside Youth Judo, Blindness Support Services, Greenhouse Family Foster Services, Equestrian Therapy TRAX and Riverside Commu-

Continued on next page
Heart and hands served 492 children and youth by supporting their participation in these enrichment programs.

Assistees is an auxiliary of Assistance League of Riverside focused on developing a sense of community engagement, self-reliance and leadership in 7th to 12th grade students. Members raise funds by clerking and merchandising in the Thrift Store and recycling aluminum and plastic. Their signature philanthropy is the Wylie Center which provides classes for children with learning, emotional and developmental disabilities. In addition to class supplies and time, they gave $4,000 in scholarships for this program. This auxiliary delivered food, gifts, toys, and holiday decorations to five families in need. They also donated $6,500 to Assistance League philanthropies, and $4,500 to support the chapter, and helped fund our new building mural depicting children in Assistance League programs.

These active young people donated volunteer time in working at the Color Run for the Wylie Center, Stuff the Bus for Safehouse, Bridal Blowout Sales for Assistance League, collecting 211 books for Legacy for Literacy, stamping books for delivery by Snack Attack, stamping 29,000 bags for Snack Attack, and helping with Assistance League’s Spring Fashion Show.

Assistees Auxiliary provided for 56 teens to participate in a philanthropic organization, learning about volunteering, self-reliance and leadership.
Thank You
We are extremely grateful to the following organizations for grants given to the Assistance League of Riverside during 2017-2018

Wells Fargo Community Connection Grant
Irene Rockwell Foundation
Stater Brothers Charitable Foundation
Edison
United Way Inland Valleys
Provident Bank Foundation
Wells Fargo
Smart and Final Foundation
City of Riverside
City of Moreno Valley

We wish to thank all who have contributed to Assistance League of Riverside. Your generosity in donations, both monetary and in-kind goods provides support needed for our philanthropies.

The remodeled entrance to Operation School Bell has a new mural painted by teens in the criminal justice system. They were mentored through the Riverside Art Museum’s Creative Horizons program. Funding came in part from a Riverside Police Foundation grant.
Thank you letters from children who benefitted from Operation Schoolbell.

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Thrift Shop Hours:
Tuesday 10AM-6PM
Wednesday through Saturday 10AM-2PM
Closed Sunday-Monday