



Assistance League Santa Clarita

A Chapter of National Assistance League®

2017-2018 Annual Report



Message from the President

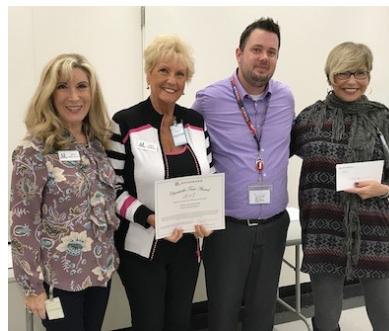
It is a pleasure to share with you the accomplishments of Assistance League for this past year. We are so fortunate to be in a community that is generous with their time and gift giving. 2019 will mark 30 years that Assistance League of Santa Clarita has been active.

Our signature program is Operation School Bell, where we provide new clothes and eyeglasses for children in need. We also support programs for seniors residing in nursing homes or are homebound. Our community outreach programs support emergency needs as well as ongoing needs of individuals that have been identified by our membership or community.

You will see in the right-hand column a list of generous donors who have helped us give back to our community. To them, we are enormously grateful. We are also grateful to

the many others that have made donations to our thrift store and have generously assisted with other donations. I want to commend our capable members who allow us to operate our thrift store as well as all our programs without having to hire staff. We are a 100% volunteer organization.

I hope you enjoy the story we have to tell and will see fit to help us with your donation.



Answering the Calls

It started with one boy. A new outfit to wear for his sixth grade promotion ceremony was only a dream. He asked his teacher if he could wear jeans and a t-shirt, which was all he had. Assistance League answered the call and soon we had the names of 171 sixth graders who needed a new outfit for promotion. Over the course of the year, we provided new school clothing, shoes, eye exams and eyeglasses for 2,590 students through our flagship program, Operation School Bell®.

Shayna has aged out of the foster care system and is working hard to continue her education at College of the Canyons. We answered her call also, along with 43 other former foster cares students, and expanded Operation School Bell to provide them with some basic needs. Here is what she had to say. *"Please continue to help other kids like me. You make a difference. From the bottom of my heart, Thank you."*



Oakmont of Santa Clarita called and asked our UkeALadies to come and

perform for their senior and memory care residents with ukulele playing and singing. We entertained a full house of residents and the smiles we saw were priceless!

We have hundreds of these types of stories to tell every year. Eight hundred teddy bears reached the arms of children who were experiencing trauma. The 100 residents of LARC Ranch spent an afternoon of social interaction, dancing, photographs and great food with our Assisteens®. Santa Clarita Post-Acute Care Center residents received a home-cooked meal prepared and served by our members.

These are the calls we enthusiastically answer each year. The smiles are worth everything!



Our Platinum Partners



Gold Level Partners

John and Jackie Hamby

Phil and Cheryl Carlson

Chris and Jeannie Carpenter and Tim Carpenter

DeWitt Stern, A Risk Strategies Company

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Our Media Partners



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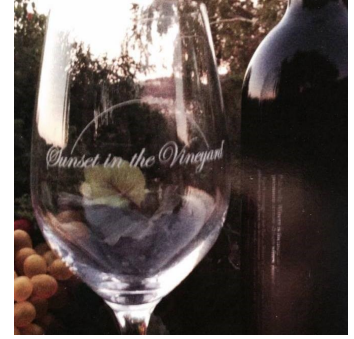
Sunset in the Vineyard

Our 10th annual Sunset in the Vineyard, which occurs each November, raised over \$35,000 to support our philanthropic programs. This sold-out event is held at Compa Vineyard; the lovely backyards of Chris and Jeannie Carpenter and Tim Carpenter's homes. It is a celebration of local winemakers and includes hors d'oeuvres, music and silent and live auctions.

Our guests were able to sample wines and beers as well as handmade cheeses and breads from local artisans. In addition, students from the Culinary Arts Program at College of the Canyons were on

hand serving up wood-fired pizzas, meat-loaf sliders, grilled vegetables, and beautifully-arranged cheese platters.

This event always sells out. Our supporters know that Assistance League equals local giving. More Santa Clarita students are prepared for school, more teddy bears reach the arms of those experiencing trauma, more homemade treats reach homebound seniors. It is a win-win for attendees and our local community.



Tomorrow's Leaders

Assisteens, our dynamic auxiliary of 7th through 12th grade students, volunteer over one thousand hours every year. They undertake a different project at each of their self-governed monthly meetings. Their community outreach includes preparing sack lunches for the Bridge to Home Emergency Winter Shelter and conducting a canned food drive to benefit the SCV Food Pantry. Every year the residents of LARC (Los Angeles Residential Community) Ranch look forward to March knowing that Assisteens will be treating them to a party complete with entertainment and delicious food.

Assisteens also lovingly fill backpacks with a homemade blanket, clothing, toiletries and a book, then donate them to the Department of Children and Family Services to give to scared children who are being removed from their home.

Assisteens and Assistance League members volunteer together to clothe students during Operation School Bell shopping events. Assisteens also enthusiastically volunteer at Assistance League Resale.



Assisteens: Shaping tomorrow's leaders today.



Assistance League®, Assisteens® and Operation School Bell® are registered names of the organization.

Volunteering to Make a Hands-On Difference

When we say that we are a hands-on group of volunteers, we mean it quite literally! For Operation School Bell, our members visit the school sites and talk with the principal and office staff to get referrals for children who need appropriate clothing for school. On the shopping night, our volunteers welcome the families and assist with "personal shopping," finding just the

right combination of clothes for school.

Our hands prepare home-cooked meals and treats for convalescent home residents and homebound seniors. We accompany students to receive eye exams and new eyeglasses, and we deliver teddy bears to help calm people in traumatic situations. We facilitate bringing arts to the schools and watch the smiles on the faces of the 5,000 children who learn about dance and music. We also operate Assistance League Resale and two successful fundraisers each year.

Our 225 adult volunteers along with our 60 Assisteens, spent 33,376 hours last year helping families in need. Volunteer

members of Assistance League get a large dose of satisfaction by helping the community. Current members will confirm that the benefits of volunteering more than outweigh the time and energy involved.

Membership is open to anyone interested in giving back to the community. The entire Santa Clarita Valley benefits tremendously from the generous hearts of Assistance League volunteers.



Join Us

Reuse, Recycle and RESALE!

Assistance League Resale saw another record year in donations and over \$420,000 in gross sales!

With the generous and constant support of retailers such as Cobblestone Cottage and Brighton, Assistance League Resale kept up our reputation of having first-rate merchandise available at extremely attractive prices. With the continued support of Billy Kornfeld of Camelot Movers, several pieces of nice furniture made it to the resale store and



went out the door as quickly as they came in.

The time and energy our volunteers put into our store is evident. Ask our customers and donors. They know that our store benefits the community in lots of ways. We offer a way to recycle, a way to shop frugally and provide a friendly environment in which to shop.

Contributions to the store are tax-deductible and a receipt is provided upon request. Our donors and customers know that Assistance League philanthropic dollars stay local and that the 100 percent member volunteer staff is friendly, helpful and dedicated to the programs of Assistance League.





Fiscally Responsible

During our last fiscal year (June 1, 2017 to May 31, 2018), our total expenses were \$507,603. Of that amount, \$387,671 was spent on our philanthropic programs. That is 76% of total expenses returned to the community. Over 3,900 individuals in need were served with these philanthropic dollars!

Our volunteers helped accomplish this by donating 33,457 hours during the last fiscal year. That's 643 hours every week spent raising money through our resale store and

working on our philanthropic programs.

Other expenses for the year included \$91,866 for fundraising (most of which represent the occupancy costs for our resale store), \$16,936 for management and general expenditures, and \$11,130 for membership development. Our members' dues cover all membership development costs.

Assistance League Santa Clarita is committed to using donated funds for the benefit of our programs, and we are proud to accomplish this year after year.

Follow us on social media to keep up with our current happenings.

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2017-2018 Assistance League Board

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Resale Chairman: Mary Ree

Assisteens Coordinator: Melanie Cotterell

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Mission Statement

Assistance League Santa Clarita is a volunteer organization that develops and implements programs to make a difference in the lives of families in our community.

