

THE LINK

Meredith Altrusa Spring Newsletter A Year in Review 2021

Dear Altrusa Friends:

March 2022

Spring is in the air...but then again it is only March so there is quite possibly more snow in the offing as well. That's OK... We are winding down another year of dealing with uncertainty, last-minute changes and how to go with the flow with friends, family, doctor appointments, empty shelves at the supermarket and not having ever seen the face of our veterinarian. Our 14 month old dog is the only one who has met her face to face! Such a problem you say? And you are right. Life is pretty darn wonderful.

Altrusa tasks throughout this past year and a half+ have added a new focus to our family life which I have learned much from and have enjoyed the opportunity to meet the challenges and learn from my mistakes. In fact I keep a sticky note on my computer that reads: "Never ruin an apology with an excuse." - Ben Franklin

This Club has fine-tuned their committees. They run like clock-work. At times it is hard to open the local daily paper without seeing a photo and article about another Meredith Altrusa service project. Years ago we always used to hear "Altrusa- what's that?" Now we hear, "Altrusa, oh yes, thank you for what you do."

In fact, we received a totally out of the blue email this month from our local bank saying:... "In honor of International Women's Day on March 8th, we're pleased to select the Meredith Altrusa Club to receive a \$1,000 donation. We've been proud to support the Altrusa programs in the past and we appreciate the support you provide to individuals, families and organizations within our community. We hope you'll use this contribution in the ways most needed to continue those efforts."

Our members are gearing up for an active spring/summer season with lots going on (free Community Dinners each month, excess vegetable deliveries to shelters and food pantries, homebound book deliveries each month, and participation in the annual Barbershop Jamboree in August, etc.). The leadership will change but the membership will help them stay on task! Quite the team!

In Altrusa Friendship,
Sylvia Detscher, President 2020 - 2022
Altrusa International Club of Meredith, N.H., Inc.

Our Sister Maureen Siegelman

February 22, 1945- January 10, 2021

During 2021, we lost our sister and friend Maureen Siegelman. She and her husband John cherished their retirement in the Lakes Region for over 20 years. Maureen loved being a member of the Altrusa organization and was especially proud of the outreach to the community by our club. Maureen served as a member of the Scholarship Committee for many years and was proud of her contributions toward awarding scholarships to deserving individuals. Her kindness, generosity and friendship is certainly missed.



Altrusa Club of Meredith Board 2021-2022



Our illustrious Board! Back row left to right; Cindy Day, Linda French, Lynne Cayer and Sylvia Detscher. Front row left to right; Paula Trombi, Kathy LaPoint, Marie Stephens, Connie Van Dam and MaryAnne Skawinski.

Installation of New Member



Our club was fortunate to welcome new member Doreen Carson (pictured 3rd from the left). To make it official, the Membership Committee conducted an installation ceremony for Doreen.

The Altrusa Club of Meredith

Valentine's Day

The Community Service Committee brought Valentine's Day joy to residents of Forestview Manor by dropping off candy goodies and Valentine's Day cards. Shown are members Vivien Mitchell and Nancy Law delivering over 75 goody bags.



National Muffin Day

The Community Service Committee repeated a “National Muffin Day” project on March 1, 2021. Over 25 dozen muffins were delivered to various locations to include Isaiah 61 Café, Riverbank House, Carey House, Stewart’s Ambulance Service, New Beginnings, Meredith Police and Fire Departments and the road crew at the Meredith Dept of Public Works.



Hannaford Reusable Bag Program

During the months of April and August 2021, Hannaford donated \$1.00 for every reusable bag sold for the length of those 2 months to our club. Thank you Hannaford!

The first photo pictured left to right, Altrusan Janine Schifino; Assistant Store Manager Pierre Doda; Store Manager Joe Gentile, and Altrusan Karol Keating. The second photo pictured left to right, Associate Relations Manager Marie Whitty; Altrusan Vickie Carty, Store Manager Joe Gentile and Altrusan Doreen Carson



Teacher Appreciation Week 2021

During the month of May, the Community Service Committee delivered muffin baskets to honor the Inter-Lakes Elementary teachers and show our gratitude. Pictured is Altrusan member Vivien Mitchell and ILES Principal as he accepted the baskets to be enjoyed by his staff.



2021 Scholarship Awards

Altrusa International Club of Meredith awarded scholarships to three outstanding adults who fit the bill of the non-traditional student.

The Dr. Jeanette Ritzenthaler Scholarship Award was established in memory of the founder of the Meredith Altrusa Club. The 2021 recipient of this award was Sara Hahn-Pinkham of New Hampton. Sara is pursuing a Masters of Education in School Counseling.

The Marian Touhey Scholarship was established in memory of Marian, a longtime member of Altrusa. The 2021 recipient was Megan Magrauth of New Hampton. Megan also received the LaPoint Scholarship in memory of Jackie LaPoint of Meredith. Megan is pursuing a graduate degree in Applied Behavior Analysis, Masters of Education.

Also honored with a Scholarship in 2021 was Dorothy Crowell of Meredith. Dorothy is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in psychology. Unfortunately due to Covid there was not a Scholarship dinner so no photos available.

Kindergarten Welcome Bags



In 2021, the Literacy Committee delivered a total of 110 Welcome Bags in time for kindergarten registration. The project included students enrolled at Interlakes Elementary, Sandwich Central, Moultonborough Central and New Hampton Community School. Back row L to R; Co-chairs Marie Stephens and Pat McFarlin with Katie Earl (ILES Kindergarten teacher). Front row L to R; Alesia Parks, Reading Specialist and Title 1 Project Manager with Erin Geib (ILES Kindergarten teacher).

Annual Hot Dog Sale May 2021



The Altrusa Club of Meredith and the Interlakes PTO joined forces to sell hot dogs and chili at the annual Memorial Day Weekend Meredith Arts and Crafts Fair. It was the perfect partnership with many happy customers enjoying the Altrusa "Famous Chili" and hot dogs on a very chilly weekend.

L to R; Cindy Day, Altrusa Treasurer; Steph Howard, ILES Vice Principal; Bella Bryant, ILES student volunteer; Sara Champagne, ILES PTO volunteer and Michael Bryant ILES Principal working the grill.

File Of Life Packets



In 2021 The Altrusa Club of Meredith started offering free File of Life Medical Packets. These are magnetized small plastic like envelopes containing up to date personal medical needs and directives, drug contradictions and emergency contacts. These are put in a prominent place such as a refrigerator so First Responders can treat individuals appropriately and transport a patient to a medical facility quickly. Packets were made available at locations such as Police and Fire Departments, Libraries, Town Offices, Churches, Doctors Offices, Visiting Nurse Association, Community Caregivers and the Meredith Community Center. Pictured above is Officer Will Goulet; Altrusan Judy Hodges; Detective Corporal John Eichorn and Lieutenant Mike Harper.

Farm To Table



The Altrusa Club of Meredith participated in the Farm to Table program from July through September 2021. The club paired with Moulton Farm who donated surplus fruit and vegetables to be delivered by Altrusa members to food pantries and homeless shelters in Meredith, Laconia and Moultonborough. This worthwhile program would not be possible without the generosity of Moulton Farm's owner John Moulton.

Altrusa Assists Humble Grunt Group



In 2021, Meredith Altrusa Members assisted the local “Humble Grunt” group and other volunteers place 2,977 small American flags representing lives lost on 9/11/2001 in preparation for a commemorative ceremony that was conducted on 9/11/2021 (the 20th anniversary of this tragic event) at Hesky Park. Left to right are Altrusa members Sylvia Detscher, MaryAnne Skawinski, Nancy Law and Karen Truberg.

Got Lunch



The Literacy committee joined forces during the summer of 2021 with Got Lunch! Interlakes who provided 79 families (153 children weekly) with a total of 10,710 lunches to nourish their bodies. Altrusa joined in twice during the summer adding age appropriate magazines to the lunch deliveries for nourishment of young minds. L to R; Danielle Gintof, Got Lunch!; Sylvia Detscher and Carol Gerken, Altrusa members and Tom Witham, Got Lunch!

Sleeping Bags To Isaiah 61 Café



In 2021, Altrusa's Community Service Committee donated over 15 sleeping bags to Isaiah 61 Café in Laconia. Isaiah 61 provides meals and services to the area homeless. Pictured above are Greg from Isaiah 61 Café and Altrusa members Nancy Law and Paula Trombi.

Red Cross Blood Drive



In the Summer of 2021, the Community Service Committee spearheaded another successful Red Cross Blood Drive. Approximately 43 units of blood were collected. Club members assisted with registration, snack distribution and also by donating blood. Pictured above is Nancy Law.

Community Dinners



The club is grateful that in 2021, the Community Dinner Committee was able to resume the schedule of preparing and serving free delicious meals to the community on a monthly basis at the Meredith Community Center. One of the highlights was when members of Girl Scout Troop 58666 (pictured above) made a surprise visit to the December dinner. The Girl Scouts delighted guests by distributing personalized Christmas cards to each one.

Altrusa Club of Meredith Dinner Meetings

October- The Bistro at Meredith Bay Colony Club



We were delighted to have as our guest speaker, former Treasurer and President to our club and current District Director, Hilda Schmidt. The dinner was a celebratory one honoring our club's 41 years of service to our community.

November- Hart's Turkey Farm



Members enjoyed delicious turkey but also bringing with them donations for our local food pantry and Toys for Tots. Our guest speaker (pictured on the right) was Shauna Foster from New Beginnings who provided an overview of Sadie's Place , Meredith's new transitional housing shelter for victims of domestic violence and their children.

Dinner Meetings Continued:

December- The Bistro at Meredith Bay Colony Club

A Merry Christmas was had by all!



Greater Meredith Program Gingerbread House Decorating Contest

On December 4, 2021 The GMP had its first annual Gingerbread House decorating contest and Altrusa was involved! Connie Van Dam and her committee created a wonderful gingerbread house, Linda French dressed up as our gingerbread person, there was a literacy tree and members were available to provide information about our club.



Gingerbread Pictures Continued



Altrusa Club of Meredith on the Move in 2022

This newsletter just serves as a glimpse of the types of activities our club is involved with to serve our community. We have hit the ground running during these first three months of 2022 with several different projects and will continue to do so throughout the year because the name of the game for our members is to help and serve. Now for a laugh, and perhaps something to which we all can relate, particularly in the last two years.



