



The Ambassador

The Newsletter of Altrusa International Muncie, IN, Inc.
Leading to a Better Community®

2023-24 Issue 7

December 2023

Well, here we are, December and half way through our Centennial year already. Congratulations Ladies - we have a lot to be happy about and more to come. Since we're at the 6 month mark, I'd like to update everyone on how much progress we've made toward my, rather aggressive, 2024 goals. I still think we can get there!

Membership Goal: 24 new and/or returning members during 2023-24 club year.

I'm very excited to announce that we are at 11 so far. I'm including Ashley Surpas because she'll be initiated on December 7th = YAY!!! It's so fun to welcome new friends and see returning faces. The energy and ideas that come from new Altrusa sisters is what helps to keep our club so vibrant. Remember, December is the start of ½ price International and District dues. It's a great time to follow-up with the ladies that have been your guests this year.

Service Hours: Each member report a total of 100 service hours during the 2023 -24 club year.

We're closing in on this but we still need people to report their hours. The numbers get better every month - thank you! As of this writing, we've had 41 members report a total of 5008 hours serving our community. THAT IS AMAZING and I know there are still names that work hard but aren't on the reported list. *14 members are already over the 100 hour mark WOO-HOO!!!!!!!*

Even more than these numbers, I'm so proud to see how members support each other. I love seeing all of us showing up for each other at events, on Facebook, or at meetings when someone has news. We're there for the laughs, the hurrays, the hugs, and the tears and those moments are what make us strong. These are the blessings that we can count beyond any report as we reflect on 2023.

Dr. Beena Joseph shared this poem at the Athena Awards luncheon. Many of you were there and I think every Altrusan in the room sighed at how perfectly this portrays how we feel about service. Remember its simplicity and have a JOYFUL December.

I slept and dreamt that life
was joy. I awoke and saw
that life was service. I acted
and behold, service was
joy.

Rabindranath Tagore

Molly



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DECEMBER MEETING:

Thurs. Dec 7th:
Business Meeting
Hygiene Kit pack
Minnetrista

Thurs. Dec. 14th:
Committee Meetings

Thurs. Dec. 21st:
Holiday Party



December

Birthdays

3rd- Ajanta Goswami 6th – Barbara Baker

24th – Karen Dall 31st – Cathy Dowd

Anniversaries

1981- Catharine Stewart

2001- Cynthia Sollars 2014- Erika Hayes



REMARKABLE ALTRUSANS-100 Years



1920's – Erma Brown Christy

The Roaring 20s brought about flappers, jazz, and prohibition. It was a tumultuous time with political unrest worldwide and the market crash of 1929, yet a decade rich with new inventions and an era of social, artistic, and cultural innovation. Feminism was evolving. Silent movies gave way to movies with sound. On the Muncie home front, a newly formed group of Altrusans were sponsoring a TB Shack, purchasing baby scales for the hospital, helping needy families, donating to a community fund, contributing to Camp Sing-Along for the beautification of the community, and exploring the possibility of forming and chartering an Anderson, IN Altrusa Club.

Erma Brown Christy was a charter member helping launch Altrusa in 1923, and later, in 1927, she was the club president. In 1953, Erma was elected to the International Altrusa Board of Directors and served as its president in 1955-57. There is a popular wooded preserve on the Ball State campus named after her husband.



1930s – Nellie Gates Brown

The crash of the stock market led to a rise in poverty and famine worldwide. Epidemics ravaged many communities. However, on the sweet side of life, the chocolate chip cookie was developed in 1938 by Ruth Graves Wakefield. Muncie Altrusans were providing newspapers for hospitalized patients, memberships for campers to enjoy Camp Sing-along, as well as providing their first scholarship award. More projects included a continued financial donation to the Tuberculosis Association, items for needy in the community and more scholarships. Altrusa Clubs changed from being just a national organization to one with international status.

Nellie G Brown joined Altrusa in 1930 and was elected club president in 1934. She served as a hospital nursing administrator who led the charge for many health-related ventures through my partnership with Altrusa. In 1964, Nellie was honored by Indiana University and hailed the Florence Nightingale of Muncie. A \$10,000 scholarship fund was started in her honor to stimulate nursing. Fellow Altrusan Ruth Chin was commissioned to paint a portrait of Nellie. Today, it is part of the nursing showcase at IU Health Ball Hospital.

Committee Updates

“Teamwork divides the task and multiplies the success.” -Anonymous

Communications

We are looking at new ways to highlight members and make an impact on the committees future. Please continue to share your committee information to [Muncie Altrusa email!](#) Remember, the communications committee can only pass on information that we have.

Fundraising

A date for the Spring Tea & Auction has been set! The event will be Sunday, April 7th, 2024 1pm at the Delaware Country Club. A more formal save-the-date will come out soon!

Reservations

Please join us December 21st for our Holiday Party! Keep your fingers crossed for special mystery visits. We will accept \$10 gift cards for our local veterans for members who wish to participate. The cards should come from Payless, Meijers, Target or Walmart so those using them have local transportation access. Your Reservations committee members will decorate for the season so come enjoy a respite from the hustle and bustle.

**Please remember to bring your \$10 gift cards to the
December 21st Holiday Party!**

Muncie Altrusa Foundation



**The Foundation accepts charitable gifts to
further our mission!**

Gifts are typically exempt from income, estate and gift taxes. Gifts can be sent to Muncie Altrusa Foundation, P. O. Box 923, Muncie, Indiana 47308.



The one-time impact grant of \$10,000 has four applicants. Please continue to spread the word!

For more information on The Impact Grant: <https://munciealtrusa.org/scholarships-and-grants/>

We are looking forward to the joint fundraiser auction in April!

Board News

The Board is currently working on updating the Strategic Plan to include committee action items.

We're also creating a Liaison job description to be included in the leadership binders.

We are planning a Hygiene Kit pack for the December 7th business meeting. Ashley Surpas has been approved for membership. The final Centennial Celebration net income is **\$8,276.50**.

The board meets the fourth Thursday of the month, noon at Minnetrista. This meeting is open for any Altrusan to attend. Lunch is not provided and a reservation is not necessary.

Volunteer Opportunities

Muncie Mission Muncie Community Schools Second Harvest Food Bank
...and many more!

Reach out to the Service Committee for more information!

To cancel a meeting reservation, email
Linda Barb by noon the Tuesday prior to meeting.
LSB21820@GMAIL.COM

The January Ambassador deadline is December 20th.
Please send information & pictures to MuncieAltrusa@gmail.com

Altrusa International of Muncie, IN, Inc

President: Molly Harty
Vice President: Megan 'Mo' Orbin
Secretary: Michelle Badders
Treasurer: Sherrell Bryant
Director (2023-25): WaTasha
Barnes Griffin
Director (2022-24): Brenda Williamson
Past President: Kathy Benz

Contact Information

Altrusa International of Muncie, IN
PO Box 656
Muncie, IN 47308-0656

Website: <http://munciealtrusa.org>
Email: munciealtrusa@gmail.com

Committee Chairs for 2022-23

ASTRA:	Chair - Lorraine Tomlin Co-Chair - Jennifer Johnson
BRRR:	Chair - Angie Rogers-Howell Co-Chair - Sandra Hoover
Literacy :	Chair - Susan Polcz-Volbrecht Co-Chair - Katherine Mitchell
Communications:	Chair - Colleen Cooper Co-Chair - Amber Burress
Membership:	Chair - Della Gregory Co-Chair - Nancy Norris
Reservations:	Chair - Linda Barb Co-Chair - Mary Louise Buck
Service:	Chair - Barb Baker Co-Chair - Stacy Wheeler
Fundraising:	Chair - Ashlee Anderson Co-Chair - Cathy Dowd