



OCTOBER 2025

The St. Augustine Altrusan

Newsletter for Altrusa International of St. Augustine, Inc.

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President's Message:

Hello Altrusans!

Our new year fundraising is looking good. Buy and sell those tickets for the Halloween lottery—there's lots of money in the basket.

We will be at the Hastings Festival on October 25th with cookbooks and Halloween basket tickets, November 15th at the AIA Yard Sale, and the Christmas sales on December 6th in St. Augustine South and Coconut Barrel.

Plans for the purple friendship bench need to go to HARB since the park is in the historic area, and plans for the 50th celebration in St. Francis Park need to go the the Historic Society.

It looks like we will present two Betty Johnstone scholarships—YAY!

We welcomed new Altrusan, Cheryl Jeffries, in August.

Keep collecting books for literacy as well as tracking your volunteer hours.

Funday Mondays have been moved to Wednesdays this year for giving books to the kids. The birthday book bags at the Homeless Coalition and the Friday Birthday cakes at Port in the Storm are very popular!

We are very busy for a little club. Our prospects for growing look good!

See you soon!

President Vicki



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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mimi Cooper Oct 1
 Louise Bowman Oct 13
 Virg White Oct 14
 Chris Plant Nov 25

2

NEXT MEETING

6:30pm
 November 20, 2025
 Applebee's SR312

3

NEWSLETTER

Please send all
 information, articles,
 & pictures to:
 linda2herrera@yahoo.com

Kindness Stars in St. Augustine

By: Mimi Cooper

During her biennium, International President Linda K. Smith (2023-2025) introduced a new initiative—Intentional Acts of Kindness. She asked each Altrusan to commit one intentional act of kindness each week throughout her biennium. This was motivated by a young man named Wyatt who had given Kindness Stars to all of those attending the Charolette Convention. Wyatt started folding paper stars, attaching messages of love and encouragement, and leaving them for strangers to find in 2019. He decided that he couldn't do anything big when he noticed people around him who were sad or upset (being only nine at the time), but maybe he could do lots of small things to help people know how loved they are “just in case no one has told them recently.” Wyatt's Kindness Stars have been found all over the world.

When we read about Wyatt making and giving these Kindness Stars, we thought it was a nice way to spread some kindness here in St Augustine and make them part of our intentional acts of kindness project.

From the Kindness Star's Facebook page, we learned, through Wyatt, how to make the Kindness Stars and where to get the materials to make them. We developed our own message to attach to the stars. We also wanted folks to know that the stars were coming from Altrusa St Augustine, so we incorporated that into the message.

We started our Kindness Star Project during the second year of Linda's biennium by just leaving the stars in public places such as grocery stores or libraries. Then we became a little more deliberate and brought the stars to all the events where our Altrusans were volunteering such as The Coconut Barrel Christmas Craft Show and the AIA Longest Yard Sale. We also brought them to all the Monday Funday programs throughout the school year with the Early Childhood Services Department. At these events we would give each person or family two stars, one to keep and one to give to someone else. The children especially loved the second star, often saying they wanted to give it to a teacher or grandparent. Last year we gave away over 250 Kindness Stars.

Because we saw so many happy faces in giving away our Kindness Stars last year, we have decided to continue the program this year – making and sharing kindness in St Augustine through our Kindness Stars.



2025 – 2027 BIENNIUM GOALS

by Mantha Young, District Three Governor

Leadership:

Post at least once per month to your club's social media platforms to showcase local leadership and raise awareness of Altrusa in your community.

Service:

Submit a minimum of two articles per year to the District Service Bulletin (DSB) - for a total of four during the biennium.

Membership:

Grow your club by a minimum of two new members each year over the previous



Read with Me Weekends for the Children of St. Johns County

During the summer, Altrusans brought books each Friday to the children participating in the school system's Summer Pre-K Program. The books were for the *Read with Me Weekend* program where families are encouraged to read books together. During the school year, Altrusans will bring books to each of the *We Connect Wednesday* programs. These are held twice a month at either First Coast Technical College, South Woods Elementary School, or a special location such as the Fountain of Youth. At most of the social events, the Altrusans bring a special activity for the children. These programs all enhance our club's work in improving literacy. Every child gets to select at least one book, and siblings are also encouraged to choose a book. Many of the books were donated to Altrusa from Lisa Libraries for which we are most appreciative.



Pictured:

Top right: Sheila Lawshe, ECS staff, with Altrusans Linda Herrera and Cheryl Jeffries.

Center right: Kathleen Allen, Parent Counselor, with Altrusans Mimi Cooper and Chris Plant.

Left: Mimi Cooper helps a girl choose the perfect book. It's hard to tell who's having the most fun.



Possibilities Scholarships

The Possibilities Scholarship was established to provide financial assistance to St. Johns County residents who are in the process of furthering their education, have a child in the school system's Head Start or PreK program, and are experiencing financial difficulties. Adults can utilize the scholarship funds to assist with tuition, uniforms, books, supplies, tools, test/license fees, or transportation. The scholarship is available in amounts up to \$250.00 annually. Awards are for one year only, but recipients may re-apply for a second year. The distribution of the award is monitored by the Early Childhood Services Staff and the Altrusa Scholarship Committee.

This year the scholarship was awarded to a single mom who is in the nursing program at Jacksonville State College. She will be using the funds for transportation. She has a son in the preK Intensive Support Class at First Coast Technical College.

Since its inception, Altrusa has awarded over \$1,000.00 to St Johns County Residents.

Welcome Cheryl Jeffries,
New Altrusa Member



Cheryl Jeffries was inducted into the Altrusa Club of St. Augustine at the August planning meeting and lunch. Cheryl grew up in rural Ohio and went to Defiance College where she majored in elementary education. She taught in Richmond, Indiana, for 33 years. Her daughter came to Flagler College and has lived here since. Cheryl moved to St. Augustine permanently when she retired and loves being close to her daughter, son-in-law, and two granddaughters.

Cheryl is an active member of the Shores United Methodist Church where she serves as Outreach Chair and runs an after school program for 21 students from Hartley Elementary School. She has worked in the food bank, made meals regularly for Port in the Storm, a backpack ministry that feeds local children, and Bible school. She has recently joined Bible Study Fellowship.

Cheryl loves family time, watching ice skating, crafting, playing cards, and quilting. She has traveled all over the world watching ice skating events (although she never became a skater herself).

She said the focus on literacy, the members, and the scholarships that help people continue their education and training are

I called her to join Altrusa, and we are

Over the Top!

Altrusans! You are unbelievably generous with your support for our projects. The numbers are in for June 1, 2024–May 31, 2025:

Volunteer Hours	2,272.
Books donated	2587.
Random Acts of kindness	1389.
Literacy hours	1295

All I can say WOW!! ❤️❤️

Make A Difference Day –
October 26

Mark your calendars! Make A Difference Day is coming soon! This national day of service is the perfect opportunity for Altrusans to roll up their sleeves and show the power of teamwork. Big or small, every project makes an impact. Whatever it is, take photos, share your stories, and let's inspire each other with many ways Altrusa makes a difference! If you or someone you know is interested in finding out more about Altrusa International of St. Augustine, visit www.altrusastaugustine.org or call Chris – 904-217-2128.

As Mamie L. Bass once said,
"It is not enough to just live life—
it is essential to live it with
purpose."

New Officers Installed

Congratulations to Vicki Sellner, President; Brian Bowman, Vice President; Marci Segui, Treasurer; Mimi Cooper, Secretary; and Louise Bowman, Immediate Past President. They were installed into office at the May, 2025, meeting.

We look forward to continued service to our community through our many projects focused on literacy, service, and patriotism.



Brian Bowman, Vicki Sellner, Marci Segui, & Louise Borman

Distinguished Club Award

We are thrilled to celebrate being named one of Altrusa District Three clubs that have been recognized by Altrusa International International, Inc. as Distinguished Clubs for their outstanding service, leadership, and dedication to making a difference in their communities.

Your hard work, innovation, and commitment to Altrusa's mission truly set the standard. You inspire us all!

Thank you for representing District Three with excellence and heart. Here's to continued impact and service!

The pin to the right will be proudly added to our banner.



Cake Friday at Port in the Storm

On the last Friday of the month, St Augustine Altrusans deliver birthday backpacks to all the guests at Port in the Storm who have had a birthday that month. The backpacks contain toiletries, a blanket and gift cards. Altrusa members also deliver a birthday cake for all the guests and staff to share. The guests have labeled the Friday celebrations as *Cake Friday*.

Pictured left is Sarah Del Cid, Development/Volunteer Coordinator for [St. Francis House & Port in the Storm](#). Pictured right are Sarah Del Cid, Development/Volunteer Coordinator and Jennifer Carson, Office Manager



Summer Raffle Success

The 4th of July raffle brought in funds for scholarships and a special gathering to draw the winning ticket.



Pictured left: Lottery ticket basket styled by Marci Segui and Chris Plant.

Pictured right: Holding the winning ticket is Ben Bowman, with his wife Jessica and their two children, Camden and Olivia. The whole family entertained us scratching off several winning tickets for some big money!



A Big Summer for the Sebastian Segui Backpack Project

Altrusa member Marci Segui and her nephew Zach Segui continue to bring birthday backpacks for children at the Homeless Coalition each month. Continued thanks to our partners who help with donations including Nancy and Dan Sansoucy for stuffed animals, Chris Plant and Patti High for blankets, Marshall's for backpacks, and Hindi's Libraries for books.

Pictured: Zach Segui and Marion Bloom, Resident Case Manager, Homeless Coalition of St. Johns County

