



# Altrusa International District Four Service Bulletin

As we welcome June, we also welcome the warmth, energy, and possibilities that summer brings. This season reminds us that growth often begins with seeds planted long before we see the results. Through our service, leadership, and fellowship, we continue sowing seeds of kindness that will flourish in our clubs, our communities, and throughout District Four.

"May the sunshine of summer brighten your days, may kindness guide your path, and may the friendships we share through Altrusa continue to inspire and strengthen us."

As we look toward the coming year, I encourage each of you to consider how you might continue to serve our District. In the months ahead, opportunities will arise for leadership positions and committee service. If you are asked to serve, I hope you will thoughtfully consider saying yes. Leadership is not about having all the answers—it is about having a willing heart, a spirit of service, and a desire to help Altrusa grow and thrive.

Our District's success depends on members who are willing to share their talents, ideas, and experience. Every leader, committee member, mentor, and volunteer help cultivate the future of District Four. Whether your contribution is large or small, your involvement matters.

On the horizon, the District Four Board will meet at the end of August for our Mid-Year Board Meeting in Thibodaux LA. I am excited to begin planning for our next District conference and the opportunities ahead. Together, we will continue building strong clubs, developing new leaders, and expanding the impact of our service throughout the District.

Thank you for the kindness, dedication, and enthusiasm you bring to Altrusa each day. As summer unfolds, may you find time to rest, recharge, and celebrate the friendships and accomplishments that make our organization so special.

Together, we will continue Sowing the Seeds of Kindness and cultivating a bright future for District Four.

With gratitude,

*Malia E. Wyatt*

*District Four Governor 2025–2027*



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## **District Four**

### **Officers and Board**

#### **2025-27 Biennium**

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*"Communication works for those who work at it." — John Powell*

Communication is the foundation of every successful Altrusa project and activity. Whether through meetings, emails, newsletters, social media, or personal conversations, clear communication keeps members informed, engaged, and working toward common goals. Just as important as sharing information is listening to one another. When members feel heard and valued, stronger relationships are built, ideas are shared, and service efforts become more effective. By communicating clearly, listening thoughtfully, and staying connected, we strengthen not only our individual clubs but the entire District Four family.

*Laura Tolbert – District Four Communications Chair*



### **District Four Preserves a Piece of Altrusa History**

Prior to 1954, District Four included Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Ohio, and Michigan. In 1954 Ohio and Michigan were separated to form the newly created District Five, allowing both districts to more effectively serve their clubs and members.

At the International Convention in Toronto in 1966, the districts were enlarged and Windsor and London, Ontario, Canada were added to District Five.

The year of redistricting was 1955, changing the number of districts from 10 to 12 and the geographic boundaries for the districts were revised. Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee transferred from the Third District to District Four, and Louisiana transferred from the Seventh District to District Four. This redistricting established the District Four we know today, consisting of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

In October 1955 in Biloxi, Mississippi, the new District Four officially came into being and held its first conference with Lola Culver presiding.

At the Altrusa International Convention held in Quebec, Canada in July 2025, Past Governor Tammy Bader from the current District Five, gifted Jennifer Gatlin, Past Governor of District Four, with a ceremonial gavel used in meetings previous to the 1954 redistricting. The gifted gavel is a treasured reminder of the shared history between Districts Four and Five.

At the April 2026 Conference in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Past District Four Governor, Jennifer Gatlin, presented the gavel to the District Four Archives Liaison of Nashville, Tennessee to be placed in the Tennessee State Library and Archives in Nashville. There it will be preserved as an important piece of Altrusa history and a lasting tribute to its growth, the leadership of those who came before us, and the enduring bonds of service and fellowship that unite our members. The importance of this historic gavel is enhanced by its existence more than 70 years following the redistricting, as it continues to connect and inspire current and future generations of Altrusans.

*Teresa Travis*

*District Four Archives Liaison*



**Sowing the Seeds of Kindness**  
***Altrusa International of***  
***Anniston, AL***



During its April 2026 club meeting, the Altrusa Club of Anniston collected cases of bottled water and toiletries for Interfaith Ministries of Calhoun County's Open Door program. The Open Door program provides snacks, coffee, and water to those who are either displaced or homeless. Beyond daily refreshments, the program offers showers, fresh towels, and a change of clothing twice weekly, recording around 6,100 visits per year.

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**Sowing the Seeds of Kindness  
*Altrusa International of*  
*Baton Rouge, LA***



The Baton Rouge Altrusans are committed to serving our community. We have close relationships with several non-profits and work with them on a regular basis. Our literacy efforts have grown! We started filling the bookshelves for the children at the family shelter at St Vincent de Paul - then added books for the parents. Soon after, we added the men's shelter - then the emergency shelter. We continue to bring them books every month. We help at the Iris Center for survivors of domestic abuse, and we realized they needed books as well - and added them. We regularly support Carpenter House, a hospice facility, and now fill their bookshelves as well.

Our strengths are in our partnerships with other agencies, our outreach and the hands-on involvement of our members. We have several different on-going service projects, that suit different members' interests - and the times they're available. We have projects on weekends for those who work during the week, and others during the weekdays. We read to classes at The Dufrocq School for those available in the morning. We have regular service projects at the animal shelter for the dog and cat lovers. We decorate the bandanas and make tutus for "Girls on the Run", for the artistic members. We believe it's important to keep members engaged with hands-on activities and we are blessed to have members who are committed to serving our community.



*Supporting Service to our Communities*

Hello, everyone, As your new chairperson, I want to welcome each of you and say how truly excited I am to serve alongside you. District Four Foundation has always stood for something special: showing up for our community with open hearts and willing hands. We're a team of difference-makers who believe that service isn't just something we do—it's who we are. Every project we take on, every hand we extend, every life we touch is a reflection of the compassion and commitment that defines Altrusa. This year let's dream bigger. Let's serve bolder. Let's reach people who need us most and show them that they're not alone. Our community is counting on us, and I know we're up to the challenge. I'm deeply honored to lead this remarkable group. Together, I believe we can make this our most impactful year yet. Thank you for your willingness to serve, and let's get to work!

Rhoda A. Scherer

*District Four Foundation Chair*

Rhoda A. Scherer

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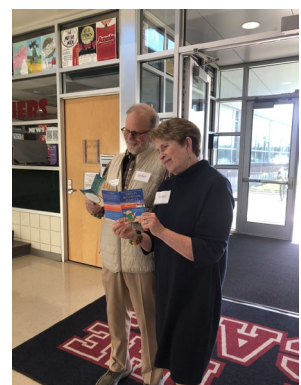
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**Sowing the Seeds of Kindness  
*Altrusa International of  
Oak Ridge, TN***

Altrusans in Oak Ridge, TN, partner with the Breakfast Rotary Club to host Lunch for Literacy in March each year. This event hosts an author with a local/regional connection, is attended by 300+ guests, and raises \$30,000 - \$40,000 for local literacy grants every year. This year's guest author was New York Times bestselling author Kristy Woodson Harvey.





**Sowing the Seeds of Kindness**  
***Altrusa International of***  
***Baton Rouge, LA***



Altrusans in Baton Rouge, LA,  
are keeping the family library  
stocked at  
Carpenter House, a local  
hospice facility

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**Sowing the Seeds of Kindness**  
***Altrusa International of***  
***Nashville, TN***



# Meet our District Four Altrusans



## Altrusa International of Greater Gadsden, AL

Jean Hall (pictured second from the left) was inducted as a member into the Altrusa of Greater Gadsden Chapter on May 28, 2026. Jean is a retired business professional who managed Observer Office Supply in Gadsden for many years. She also has experience in property renovation. Jean is known as a "go getter." Before Jean was officially inducted, she has attended meetings and worked alongside members at the Spring Plant sale, one of the biggest fundraisers of the year. She says she joined Altrusa because she supports our worthy cause.

Pictured - from the left are Sponsor Deborah Hawkins, Jean Hall, Sponsor Lisa Thacker and President Belinda Hiti.



## Altrusa International of Etowah County, AL

Harold spent thirty-three years building tires at Goodyear. Somewhere along the way his coworkers started calling him "Sweet Harold." It wasn't a nickname that came from charm or jokes — it came from the way he showed up, did right by people, and never made a fuss about it. He's steady, kind, unassuming, and quietly generous in a way that doesn't ask for attention. The name stuck because it fit him.

In 2024, Harold became an Altrusan. We didn't know we needed him.

He's always willing to load the books, unload the books, carry the heavy boxes, carry the boxes of snacks for Highland Elementary, and ANY other job that he's asked to do. Of course, he does those things without being asked.

Harold is famously known for and takes great pride in providing delicious hot sandwiches for our monthly meeting when his turn comes around. Those sandwiches have become legend in our club!

Not only is Harold a great cook, he is also our official club photographer. He makes everything we do—including our monthly group pictures—look better than it should!

Harold would say that he has been honored to be asked to take pictures of everyone at our District Workshops and Conferences. You may have seen him quietly walking through a room looking for some candid shot, or answering a call to document a special moment.

Being a photographer, though, Harold rarely gets in a photograph himself, but he would never complain about that. He's the type of person who puts everyone else first.

So, if you find yourself scanning through and admiring the many perfectly-focused, beautiful photographs documenting our Altrusa gatherings; or if you drop in for dinner and there are killer sandwiches on the table, just thank Sweet Harold!



# Sowing the Seeds of Kindness

## *Altrusa International of Etowah County, AL*



### **Peanut Butter Drive:**

Our Club worked diligently to assist Gadsden Regional Medical Center in their project to collect jars of peanut butter to be donated to the Etowah Community Food Bank. With the help of donations made with Club funds, Club members, and generous donations by friends and family, we were able to donate 300 jars to their project.

### **Cancer Center Bags:**

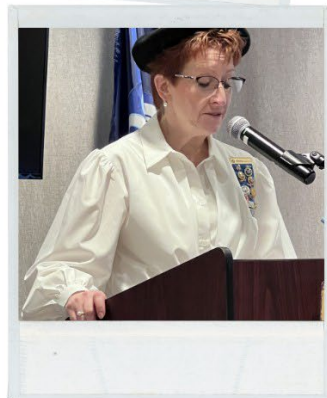
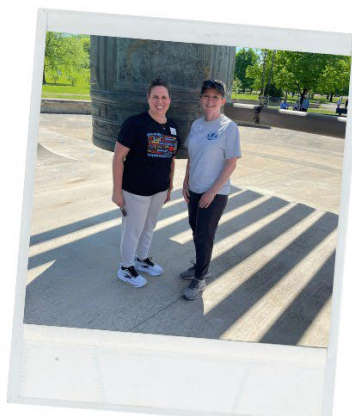
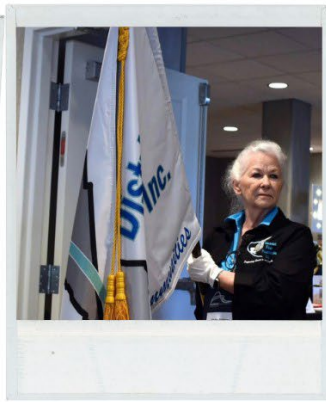
With the funds we were awarded via a \$1,000 grant from the Altrusa International District Four Foundation, we were able to donate 100 new patient bags for the two cancer treatment centers in Gadsden.

Each heavy duty cloth bag contained a 40 x 60 inch warm blanket, a pair of socks with slip resistant soles, a bottle of water, a New Testament, a word puzzle book, a mechanical pencil, hard candies, a lip balm, hand sanitizer along with a card acknowledging the funding and our Club information.

We pray that these bags will comfort the patients and remind them that there are people who will be praying for them during their journey and their renewed health. Our Club is so grateful for the District Four Foundation's grant funds that allowed us to reach 100 people in our community with Altrusa love and kindness.

**Altrusa International District Four  
72nd Annual District Conference  
April 16 - 19, 2026  
Hosted by  
Altrusa International of Oak Ridge, TN  
*Echoes of Kindness  
The Friendship Bell Tolls***





# It's a Roper Romp

## Altrusa District Four Foundation Dinner

District Four Altrusans brought out their best Mrs. and Mr. Roper 70s vibes to celebrate 15 years of

our District Four Foundation.

In honor of this special anniversary, the Foundation chose to award \$1500 grants to the Altrusa Clubs of Jack, AL, Enterprise, AL, and Nashville, TN.

We are excited to see what special work these clubs bring to life with these funds!





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# 2026 Recipients - Individual Awards



If you would like to see more details on all of our award winners, please visit the link below, presented by Governor-Elect Pam Grantham!

**2026 Altrusa District Four Award Winners**

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## **2026 Recipients - Club Awards**

### **Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award**

Thibodaux, Louisiana

*Honorable Mention:*

*Anniston, Alabama*

### **Letha H Brown Literacy Award**

Thibodaux, Louisiana

*Honorable Mention:*

*Nashville, Tennessee*

### **Mamie L Bass Service Award:**

Thibodaux, Louisiana

*Honorable Mention:*

*Etowah County, Alabama*

### **Best Brag Board Award**

Thibodaux, Louisiana

*Honorable Mention:*

*Jack, Alabama*

*Oak Ridge, Tennessee*

### **Lola Culver Fundraising Award**

Oak Ridge, Tennessee

*Honorable Mention:*

*Clarksville, Tennessee*

### **ASTRA Service Award**

Jack, Alabama

### **Best Club Newsletter**

Thibodaux, Louisiana

### **Best Club Yearbook**

Thibodaux, Louisiana

### **Social Media Award**

Thibodaux, Louisiana

### **Greatest Club Achievement**

Nashville, Tennessee

*Honorable Mention:*

*Thibodaux, Louisiana*

*Etowah County, Alabama*

### **Greatest Net Membership Gain**

Nashville, Tennessee

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**The fellowship and fun continue!  
73<sup>rd</sup> Annual District Four Conference  
hosted by  
Altrusa International of Thibodaux, LA  
April 22 - 24, 2027**

