

Altrusa International Inc., of Pendleton
Happy Birthday
A Club History 10/20/38 - 10/20/08

Happy 70th Birthday to us! The history compiled in 2001 by Andrea Timmermann recalled how we have grown – from 12 members in 1938 to 77 today; from a \$250 annual budget to this year's \$42,000. The one thing unchanged is our commitment to service – to women, children, families, and to our community.

For women: Our help to Domestic Violence Services has included payment of electric bills, provision of personal hygiene kits, painting of the offices, collection of supplies and the furnishing of a room in their safe house. The Altrusa Clothesline has provided good used clothing to women returning to school or the work place for about ten years. We grant as much as \$5,000 a year in scholarships and assist BMCC students with emergency gas/grocery cards. Our HOPE (Help One Person Excel) project has supported a number of non-traditional students at BMCC with payment of insurance premiums and utility bills, delivery of firewood, school clothing for their children, eyeglasses, dental work and tires for their cars. For a number of years we sponsored a Women's Fair.

For children: The very first project for children was the infamous cod liver oil crusade; later we provided toothbrushes to grade-schoolers. We furnished and maintained rooms at the Services to Children and Families building which were used for family visitations. Most of our scholarship winners are graduating high school seniors. We provide an emergency fund at PHS which has paid SAT fees and graduation expenses. We support the Pendleton-Minamisoma City cultural exchange each year. We have given to the McCune Youth Center and to the Community Skate Park project and have funded exhibits at the Childrens' Museum of Eastern Oregon.

For the Community: Contributions have been made to the River Parkway, Heritage Station's expansion, and to the Salvation Army. We participated in bond drives and Red Cross blood drives during World War II, and assisted the USO. We contributed to new bleachers at the Round-Up grounds after the 1941 fire; we helped with office equipment for the Convention Center and contributed to the Community Ice Rink. We sponsor an annual One City One Book event and a school supply drive. We give \$6000 or more to individual classroom projects each year.

In recent years we have financed our projects with our annual Holiday Bazaar, our Round-UP RV parking partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, a Valentine's Day Bake Sale and a yard sale each spring. In the past, we sold pecans, participated at the Sumpter Valley Flea Market, sold beer at the Round-Up, sold yogurt bars, cookbooks and afghans. And many other fund raising projects have been tried and perfected, or simply tried and forgotten!

We have hosted the District Twelve Altrusa Conference three times, in 1968, 1994 and in 2007. We organized a new club in Hermiston and have won a number of District awards. Two of our members, Edna Gorger and Karla Lewis have served as District Twelve Governor; several members have presented conference workshops and held other District offices.

To quote Andrea, in our 70 years we have had a wonderful time earning hundreds of thousands of dollars. We could say that we've given it all away, but we prefer to say that we have invested those dollars along with countless hours of caring and sharing into the future of our community. We Make a Difference every day.

**Happy 70th Birthday
Altrusa of Pendleton!**