

Continuing Community Service to the Saddleback Valley Community Program — Year in Review, 2015 - 2016

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF SADDLEBACK VALLEY
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
Year Ended May 31, 2016

OPERATION SCHOOL BELL® is the signature program of Assistance League® and our largest philanthropic program. We provide \$100 for new school clothes for at risk, children (K-12) who have been identified by teachers and principals as needing assistance. At Operation School Bell (OSB) events, parent and child shop together at a local Target store. Chapter members volunteer on-site to help the families with paperwork and shopping as needed. Feedback from the schools indicates improved attendance and academic performance for the children who participate. OSB Teen Spree events are held specifically for intermediate and high school students and are scheduled separately from the elementary school student's shopping nights. **Operation School Bell** is supported by all Assistance League chapters across the United States with combined annual budgets in excess of \$9.5 million. The program has come a long way from its humble beginning as a one-woman effort to provide appropriate school clothing for at-risk children from a makeshift classroom closet. Ruth Ann Montgomery opened her heart to children in need, proving that one person can make a difference.



LINKS TO LEARNING is a program which provides financial assistance to local intermediate and high school teachers who apply for help with specific educational needs. The funds enable teachers to supplement classroom curriculum with new and/or replacement equipment, computer software programs, reading materials, and specialized curriculum designed to support developmentally disabled students; items that are often beyond the scope of the annual school district budget. Multiple classrooms and hundreds of students benefit from this program.

SUPPORT LITERACY is a program where members volunteer to assist in K-2 classrooms at Santiago Elementary school in Lake Forest. They work with the teachers to provide additional hands-on help for students in small group sessions, with mathematics, reading, and writing exercises.

FIELD STUDY PROGRAM provides funds to Saddleback Valley Unified School District to assist with transportation costs enabling at-risk students to participate in the science programs held at Trabuco Elementary School.

The school, founded in 1879, is the oldest active school in Orange County. These programs provide exciting hands-on outdoor educational field trips, including interaction with farm animals, plus nature and local history projects at neighboring O'Neill Park. The activities correlate to classroom science units for grades K-6.

OPERATION CAMP PENDLETON Assistance League of Saddleback Valley partners with other Southern California Assistance League chapters to provide appropriate clothing and school supplies for children of military families who attend the San Onofre School on the Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Air Station Base. Our chapter provides jeans for at-risk girls, K-12.

SENIOR OUTREACH enables chapter members and Assisteens®, our teen Auxiliary, to provide compassion, friendship, and hot meals to seniors in our local community. Members deliver meals to home bound senior citizens in Laguna Woods, providing smiles and conversation to people who often have no other companionship. We maintain a budget to provide small gifts crafted by the Assisteens, as well as greeting cards which are distributed with our deliveries during holidays throughout the year.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY Our chapter partners with South County Outreach (SCO), a local food bank to provide food for needy families at Christmas. Families are selected for us by SCO. We contact the families, shop for food and gifts, and personally deliver the items to each family. Meeting and interacting with family members is a bonding experience for both giver and recipient. Knowing that we are able to provide disadvantaged families with a bountiful holiday meal and gifts is heartwarming.

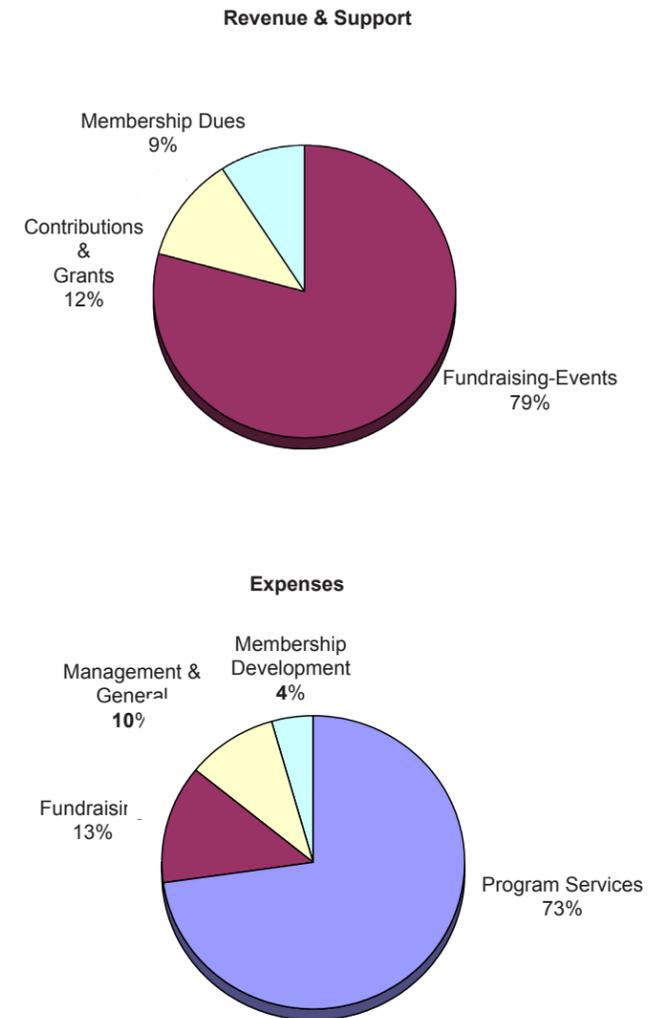


OPERATION BABY LOVE is a program which provides a gift bag filled with items for mothers with newborns in low-income families. We partner with a group of women, the Crafty Ladies, who meet regularly to work on knitting projects at the Norman P. Murray Senior Center in Mission Viejo. We purchase yarn and the women provide hand-knit baby blankets and layette items. Other items included in the gift bags are: diapers, wipes, receiving blankets, pacifiers, toys, baby clothing and miscellaneous items. The bags are distributed by liaisons at Saddleback Memorial and Mission Hospitals.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION is an umbrella philanthropic program which encompasses diverse local community service opportunities that have not been previously noted such as, Make A Difference Day, a one-day event scheduled in late October when we collect and deliver books for preschool and early learners at Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Air Station Base. **Community Connection** provides our members with the means to donate time and talent to short-term one-time, local events that benefit Saddleback Valley residents and communities.

ASSISTEENS® is an Auxiliary of Assistance League of Saddleback Valley. It is comprised of teens in grades 7-12 who attend our local intermediate and high schools. The Auxiliary was formed in 1993 and certified in 1995. Assisteens share some philanthropic programs with Assistance League of Saddleback Valley. During **Operation School Bell**, the teens help at-risk elementary-age school children and their parents shop for school clothes. During the Christmas holiday season, they request several needy families through the **Adopt-A-Family** program run by a local food bank, South County Outreach. They plan, purchase and deliver food and gifts to the families for Christmas. In addition, they assist chapter members with Senior Outreach by accompanying members delivering meals to home bound seniors. They make small craft items and prepare personalized greeting cards several times during the year for the seniors. The teens organize and provide games and other social interaction activities, and offer tech tutoring for iPads and Smartphones for seniors at a local senior center. They also work at a soup kitchen, and volunteer their time at a local animal shelter. Assisteens also have a **Community Connection** philanthropic program that enables them to participate in single-event volunteer opportunities.

During the past year, Assistance League of Saddleback Valley has continued to fulfill its mission of putting caring and commitment into action through community-based philanthropic programs intended to meet the needs of our community. Members provide mentoring for the Assisteens Auxiliary to enable the teens to become caring and involved adult citizens. We are pleased to report that, in accordance with our fiduciary responsibility for funds entrusted to our use, 73% of our budget went to Program Services while 10% of the total budget went to Management and General expenses.



A Full Accountants Review Report prepared by Dave R. Howe, C.P.A., is available upon request.
Tax ID 33-0322264

Major Donors & Sponsors

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**Assistance League of Saddleback Valley
2015 - 2016 Grants**

City of Mission Viejo
Southern California Edison
The Omega Foundation

**Assistance League of Saddleback Valley
2015 - 2016 Donations-In-Kind**

Mary Reed—Bella Carta Invitation & Design
Kelly & Lane Keran
Leslie Bird—Bird Studios Photography

**Assistance League of Saddleback Valley
2015 - 2016 Community Partners**

Santa Margarita Water District
MossWarner
Norman P. Murray Senior Center
Orange County Community Foundation—iHeartOC
South County Outreach
Target

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Your donation will be appreciated!**

*Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____

*I would like to make an in-kind donation of _____ . Please contact me for pickup.

*I would like membership information. Please have your Membership Vice President contact me.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

E-MAIL OR TELEPHONE _____

*Please make your tax deductible check payable to:
Assistance League of Saddleback Valley
26111 Antonio Parkway, Suite 500
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688

The chapter may publish names of donors in publications viewed by the community.

*Please check one of the following boxes:

You may include only my name

You may include my name and donation

Do not include any information regarding my donation

Assistance League of Saddleback Valley is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) volunteer service organization



**ANNUAL REPORT
2016**
“Caring and Commitment in Action”

Mission Statement

“Assistance League of Saddleback Valley is a nonprofit volunteer organization that puts caring and commitment into action by providing services to children, families and the elderly in the Saddleback Valley Communities”

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A chapter of National Assistance League®

**PRESIDENT’S LETTER
Darelene Carpenter
2015 - 2016 Annual Report**

I have been privileged to serve as Chapter President for Assistance League® of Saddleback Valley in 2015-2016. Our group, including our Assisteens® Auxiliary, numbers 179 volunteer members who donated over 19,000 service hours. We have no paid employees. Our enduring mission is to put caring and commitment into action by providing services to children, families and the elderly in our Saddleback Valley communities. We work closely with the Saddleback Valley Unified School District.

For 28 years, we’ve hosted an annual fundraiser, the Christmas Tree Luncheon, which is the primary support for our philanthropic programs. The majority of people we serve are children from at-risk families in our Saddleback Valley communities. Under *Operation School Bell®*, we clothed over 900 children and provided clothing for 338 children in military families at Camp Pendleton. According to Saddleback Valley Unified School District, there are at least 4,000 students who could qualify for our *Operation School Bell* clothing program. We were able to assist 30% of those students. We help all the children that we can; each year our goal is to help more children than we did the previous year.

Links to Learning enabled us to assist 25 local teachers who were able to purchase tools and materials to enhance their class curriculums, providing a more robust classroom experience for over nine-thousand (9,000) students. Students in follow-on years also benefit. We worked with K-1 teachers providing hands-on classroom assistance to over 1,600 students at a local elementary school. Transportation for over 2,400 at-risk school students was provided, enabling them to participate in a *Field Study* science program at Trabuco Canyon Elementary. Children learned about growing food crops, nutrition, and animal care; they interacted with on-site farm animals, and visited neighboring O’Neill Park for hands-on lessons in nature and local history.

Our Assisteens Auxiliary(grades 7-12) works to support their own philanthropies which include: *Operation School Bell*, *Senior Outreach*, and the *Adopt-A-Family* program, worked in conjunction with South County Outreach. We worked together with the Assisteens to collect over 700 books for the annual Make A Difference Day in October. All books were donated to, *Armed Services YMCA Aboard Camp Pendleton*, which supported 275 preschool children plus 80 school-age children. A Teacher Reference Library was created with the remaining books. Under, *Operation Baby Love*, we worked together providing local hospitals with gift bags filled with newborn baby items, including hand-knit layette pieces, for new mothers who needed help. The Assisteens also spent time at a local senior center conducting game nights and providing tech lessons for senior Smartphone and iPad users. The teens worked at a soup kitchen, made fleece blankets for Camp Pendleton, and volunteered at a local animal rescue shelter.

We are committed to making a difference in the neighborhoods where we live, assisting as many people as we can. Each year, we dedicate a substantial amount of our time to fundraising in order to support our philanthropic programs. Our volunteers donate their time and talent to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors. That is our mission and our passion.