ASSISTANCE LEAGUE is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that puts caring and commitment into action through community-based philanthropic programs. Founded in 1935 in Southern California, Assistance League empowers volunteers through a strong network of 120 local chapters across the United States, each meeting changing needs in their communities. In 2018-2019, the charitable work of over 22,000 Assistance League members touched the lives of 1.5 million people. Assistance League volunteers contributed 3 million hours of service and returned $43.7 million to local programs.

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF CHARLOTTE is the 93rd chapter of Assistance League and was founded in 1992 as a nonprofit corporation. Its member volunteers are dedicated to improving the lives of children and families through community-based philanthropic programs. In fiscal year 2019–2020, 178 member volunteers generated 59,979 hours of community service on behalf of local children and 361 nonmember volunteers contributed 10,645 hours. Funds raised are returned to the community through five philanthropic programs.

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF CHARLOTTE OPERATION CHECK HUNGER was established in 1992 as the first philanthropic program. It is designed to alleviate hunger by distributing food through five components of the program. In 2019-2020, Operation Check Hunger provided 450 elementary school children with weekend backpacks containing enough food for a family of four. ALC also funded summer backpacks. Total backpacks for the summer and school year = 17,460 backpacks. Additionally, OCH funded approximately 2,200 additional backpacks as part of the COVID-19 response. OCH supplied food for medication administration and field trips to 250 Metro School special needs students and supported two in-school pantries. Eleven mobile pantries at five schools served 6,944 individuals. A protein donation to Second Harvest Food Bank and Loaves and Fishes through outside sources provided more than 63,000 individual servings that included ground turkey and canned chicken.

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF CHARLOTTE OPERATION SCHOOL BELL® provides new clothing for children in need in Charlotte Mecklenburg elementary schools. CMS personnel refer and accompany students to the Operation School Bell Store where, with the help of an Assistance League member, each child selects a new jacket, two uniforms (white polo shirts and navy pants), multi-packs of socks and underwear, a pair of shoes, a book, and a hygiene kit. During the 2019-2020 school year, OSB served 2,000 elementary children in CMS schools at the Assistance League Center, 33 Middle School students at Target and an additional 7,212 children in K-12 schools through outreach initiatives. Schools/organizations: 46. Children served: 9,245. Operation School Bell is the signature philanthropic program for Assistance League nationwide.

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG COUNTY TEEN COURT provides an alternative justice system for youthful offenders aged 12 through 17 years old. It is designed to provide juveniles a second chance when they admit their guilt, agree to be tried by a jury of their peers, and take responsibility for their actions. Teen Court also trains teen volunteers in the legal process as jurors, clerks of court, bailiffs, and attorneys, emphasizing communication, leadership, and diversity skills. Mecklenburg County Teen Court assisted 293 youth offenders and volunteer teens to provide 4,203 hours of community service in fiscal year 2019-2020. A total of 78 defendants successfully completed their cases with 61 cases currently active. Mecklenburg County Teen Court was operated with the assistance of 1,930 service hours from adult volunteers. Scholarships with a total value of $14,000 were awarded to seven outstanding MCTC volunteers.

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF CHARLOTTE SCHOLARSHIP FUND awards college monies to Charlotte-Mecklenburg high school seniors and previous Assistance League of Charlotte Scholarship recipients for their continuing education. The scholarships are based on community service, academic performance and financial need. The Assistance League of Charlotte Scholarship Fund awarded 16 college scholarships in fiscal year 2019-2020 in the total amount of $47,000. More than $516,000 in scholarship monies has been awarded since the program’s inception in 2002. An additional 449 children received scholarships valued at $21,500 to attend Arts+ and Stratford Richardson YMCA Day Camp, and two adults received scholarships totaling $13,544 to attend Community Culinary School of Charlotte.

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF CHARLOTTE OUTREACH is designed to provide goods for short-term needs to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community.

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF CHARLOTTE THRIFT SHOP is the primary source of funding for Assistance League’s philanthropic programs. Located at 3405 South Tryon Street, the shop features quality used clothing, shoes, accessories, furniture, toys, books and household items. The shop is open to the public Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Donations are always gratefully accepted.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING that supports Assistance League philanthropic programs is made possible through private and corporate donations and grants.