Transforming lives,

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Strengthening community, since 1962.
FROM THE PRESIDENT

In order to grow, we must make changes. The 2018-2019 fiscal year marked a year of important change for Assistance League of Seattle and our Operation School Bell program. After 30 years of having students transported during the school day to our property in Wallingford to receive new clothing, we transitioned to a new model of evening and weekend in-store shopping events at JCPenney and Target. Following months of research and consideration, it became clear that this change was necessary in order to better serve the growing number of homeless and underserved students in our community. We could not have anticipated the wonderful success of this new model and its unlimited potential for growth. Our deepest gratitude to Seattle Public Schools, JCPenney, and Target for their loyal partnerships, and our sister chapter, Assistance League of the Eastside, for their guidance through this major transition. The future of Operation School Bell is looking very bright!

We could not have made this change, among others, without the determination and commitment of our tireless volunteers, several of whom received special recognition this past year for their extraordinary dedication to our organization and to those that we serve. The Ada Edwards Laughlin Award was given to Cindy Flannigan for singlehandedly taking on the task of revamping our AL Seattle website to better represent the vision and mission of our chapter and for her excellent work in marketing to ensure that we are no longer the “best kept secret in Seattle.” Kim Kommers, Thrift Shop Manager, was presented with the Susan J. Suhadolnik Award for her incredible dedication to improving the function, appearance, and safety of our wonderful store. Julie Bouffleur, the board treasurer, received the President’s All-Star Award for keeping our finances perfectly in order and for her wholehearted commitment to our chapter, thrift shop, and our programs.

Our fabulous Wallingford neighborhood Assistance League Thrift Shop is looking better than ever and continues to be a vital source of income to support our three philanthropic programs. We encourage you to donate your high-quality clothing, housewares, books and unique items to the shop. There are so many treasures to be found! Be on the lookout for pop-up sales throughout the coming year on china, crystal, and silver, holiday decor, and designer clothing, shoes, and handbags, to name a few.

A heartfelt thank you to all of our members, donors, and supporters for helping us remove barriers to education and making a meaningful difference in our Seattle community. Together we can continue to change lives for the better, one student at a time.

Sincerely,

Carrie Slavin
Board President
2017-2019

FINANCIAL REPORT
for Fiscal Year 2019: June 1, 2018 – May 31, 2019
No one wants to wear their poverty. Unfortunately, it's a painful reality for many students in Seattle. It is hard to fit in with your peers when your family cannot afford even the most basic items of clothing. With our Operation School Bell program, elementary students in need can shop for new school clothes to boost their self-confidence and attendance at school.

We served 2,076 students through clothing events in October 2018, and reached an additional 1,003 students by donating OSB inventory to Seattle Public Schools' McKinney-Vento program.

The 2018-2019 school year marked a major transition in our Operation School Bell program, by shifting to in-store shopping events with JCPenney and Target locations in Seattle instead of purchasing and managing our own clothing inventory. Each student is allocated $100 (students in grades 6-8 have $130) to spend on items on an approved list. Assistance League of Seattle volunteers help families navigate check-in, shopping, and checkout. We also had donated books available so each student could choose books to take home. To show their support, JCPenney and Target gave an additional discount to each OSB participant.

At each clothing event, we had a two-question parent survey and supplies available for students to draw or write thank-you notes. In November, Operation School Bell leadership team sent an online survey to every community contact who referred students to Operation School Bell: Counselors, school nurses, principals, Family Support Workers, Homeless Student Advocates, social workers, shelter staffs. We received helpful feedback from the survey:

- 50% of respondents said that the number of OSB spots allocated to their school or shelter was below the level of need, and asked for a higher quota for next year.
- 97% of respondents agreed that assistance provided by OSB had a positive impact on students.
- Higher spending amount was suggested, since it can be a challenge to cover clothing basics with $100 per student.
- Translation help beyond Spanish was requested.
- Several respondents suggested clothing events in the spring or emergency clothing events for students who are new to the district or in acute need.

Thank you to our amazing volunteers, community partners, and generous donors for making Operation School Bell a success!
ENRICHMENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

With support from the Enrichment Scholarship Program, qualified teens in grades 6-11 can attend the summer camp of their choice, exploring new interests and gaining new life skills. We believe positive experiences during these critical years can change the trajectory of a young person’s life.

In April 2019, the Enrichment Scholarship Program committee awarded scholarships to 55 students in grades 6-11 from 17 schools in Seattle to attend summer camp! Our 2019 scholarship recipients attended 26 camps around Washington this summer, ranging from Camp Orkila on Orcas Island, to Rain City Rock Camp and Wilderness Awareness School, Cascade Youth Symphony, and Whale Camp at the Seattle Aquarium.

Nayvia Hunter, who attended YMCA’s Camp Colman wrote: “Camp was so much fun, we got to have new relationships and work together. It helped to overcome fears and encouraged us to be better. I really, really want to go next year. Thank you for the BEST summer. Camp was basically the best week.”

Thank you for helping us turn summer camp dreams into reality for these students!

FINANCIAL AID FOR EDUCATION

The American dream, while alive and well for some, can be just as elusive for others. The road to a college education can be a hard, up-hill climb, especially for those who don’t qualify for traditional financial aid.

Since 1967, our longest-running philanthropic program Financial Aid for Education (FAFE) supports students who face economic difficulties to attend King County colleges or technical/vocational schools.

In the 2018-2019 year, 29 students worked towards achieving their dream of higher education with full scholarships to cover tuition and books, and received one-on-one mentoring from FAFE committee members.

Partnerships with TRiO at Seattle Public Colleges and Seattle Education Access provided a stream of eligible, motivated students in need of support, with a focus on students with one or two quarters left to

“I’ve always had a dream of becoming a software engineer and using my skills to create affordable on-line education for people from all backgrounds. After moving to the U.S. from Ethiopia, I received a scholarship from Assistance League of Seattle to attend North Seattle College. It hasn’t been an easy road, but now I’m well on my way to receiving my degree. Thank you!”

– Natnael Bekele, FAFE scholarship recipient
ASSISTEENS OF SEATTLE

Founded in 2017, Assistees of Seattle volunteer auxiliary provides hands-on volunteer and leadership opportunities for teens in grades 7-12 to develop a sense of community responsibility, self-reliance, volunteering, and leadership. Assistees are governed by their own board, manages their own budget and fundraising, and coordinates their own programs, and are advised by Assistance League of Seattle volunteers. We had 96 members this year, coming from 21 schools around the city.

Assistees of Seattle hosted several fundraisers: Garage sale, shopping day at Evereve, Jamba Juice gift cards, gift wrapping at Barnes and Noble, and selling raffle tickets at the annual Assistance League of Seattle luncheon. In total they raised $7,674 to support their work.

Assistees of Seattle focus their philanthropic efforts to meet the needs of low-income teens in Seattle, as advised by Seattle Public Schools’ McKinney-Vento Homeless Program and Solid Ground. This includes monthly drives for specific items, such as duff bags for unaccompanied youth in shelters, supplies for homeless students, toiletries for women and children in shelters, books for Operation School Bell. 100 teens and families were served by Assistees in 2018-2019.

Assistees are required to volunteer 30+ hours per year, plus four shifts at the AL Seattle Thrift Shop. All together, Assistees volunteered 1,861 hours in the 2018-2019 year. Thank you, Assistees!

OFFICERS
President: Carrie Slavin
Vice President: Theresa Roberts
Treasurer: Julie Bouffleur
OBS Treasurer: Jill Green
Corresponding Secretary: Susan Tento
Recording Secretary: Connie Hodgson
Membership: Katherine Faubion, Connie Hodgson, Ev Hays

COMMITEE CHAIRS
OSB Co-Chairs: Teri LeClair, Nancy McManamin
Enrichment Scholarship Program: Mardi Cleverner
Financial Aid For Education: Lynne Kalina

Marketing Team:
Cindy Flannigan, Ann O’Neil
Standing Rules & Bylaws: Laura Leland

THRIFT STORE
Manager: Kim Kommers
Merchandise Intake: Julia Marconi
Display and Merchandising: Sandra O’Donnell
Online Team: Deborah Spensler, Cathy Stanford
Scheduling: Shirley Muller, Nancy Hanson
IT Support: Steve Poser
Special Projects Coordinator: JoAnn Cooperud
Assistees Co-Chairs: Heather Baker, Katelin Ankrom, Tammy Trost
Circle Fund: Sara Lewis

APPOTNEES
OBS Shelter Liaison: Elizabeth Kain
2018 Auction Chairs: Theresa Roberts, Megan Johnson, Lisa Lydon
Property Manager:
Supplies: Karen Capretto
Maintenance: Charlie Lewis
Fund Development: Kristen Klein
Database - Salesforce: Bachman
Database - Auction: Eva Dougherty
Hospitality: Wendy Bambrick
Weekly Wednesday Publisher: Carol Vydo
Webmaster: Susan Tento

Thank you so much!

KAREN KARPE SHEPPARD
GAYLE KAPLAN
MARCILYN KENNEDY
SHANNON KNOX
JANET KOREN
KIM & ERIK KOMMERS
NICOLE KORMAN
MARY LACHAPELLE
ALAN LAWSON
LINDA LEGG
LAURE LEBLANC
BRYAN LEYBAHN
& DIANA E. KROAF
SARA & CHARLIE LEWIS
BART LIEBE
HELENE LINTON
LOCAL CITIES
MARGARET LORMENTZEN
KAREN LORMENTZEN
LUCY PET
STACEY LUTDEND
JENNA MACPHERSON
MELISSA & THOMAS MAIDER
JULIA MARONB
MARK RYAN WINNEY
DREW MONTASIE
MARIE A. HARRIS FLOURS & GIFTS
KELLEY MARTIN
ROBERT MARTIN
JANE & TATE MASON
LAURA & DAVID HAYES
SUE MCKINNON
TERESA MCCARTY
LYNNE MCCUSID
MEGAN MCCUSS
RIBET MCLAU
BARBARA MEYER
KRISTIN MOLK
LIZ MULLIN
BET MULLEN
MUSEUM OF ART
MICHAEL HAYES & MOGGIN MAEJ
TARA NELSON
ANN & JIM NOBLE
CHRISTY OAKEN FIELD
OREGON SHAKESPEARE THEATER
JENNIE OSWALD
BEACO OWENS
KAT & DARRYL POPEL
LINDA & RUS PANGBOM
TOLLE PAS
AMY & RICHARD PFLUG
M. KATHERINE PIEPER
LYNN POGER
DEB PRESTON
KAREN PROCHASKA
CAROL RAWSON
LAURA RICCO
MARY RICHARDS
HOLLY RING
REBECCA RINGHORSE
DANA ROELK
MERE & BILL RUDIGER
LESLIE SALSBURY
JENNIFER SAVITR
ELANE & DAN SAY
SHANA SLOCZK
STACEY SYMPHONY
MARC SAVITZ
SARA SHELTON
KAREN SHEPPARD
SIGNWORKS PLUS
JULIE SMITH
TAMKO SOMERS
MENI STERNBERG
SEATTLE THEATRE GROUP
SHELM STACK
STRIDELINE SOCKS
SUPE MOUNTAIN
KATHY SULivan
Michele Summers
SUPT LIPER
TANGENTINE RICKERSON LLC
SUSAN TENTO
HEATHER THORSEN
THI Restaurant
KIM TOOLIS
TAMO SOUZOS
ERIK TOHT
TAMMY TRUST
MIKE TROYER
TERRI FRANT
NIK & CHILL WAGNER
JAN WAGNER
LUZIL WILD
CURT VINTON
KAREN WILN
BRYAN WIGAL
VERONICA WANG
YOUR TRAVEL DESIGNER, LLC

Clockwise from top: Group meeting at the Cascade Bicycle Club, which donated its space to Assistees for their monthly meetings last fiscal year. Assistees Michael and Nikita volunteering in the Thrift Shop. Assistees Willy and Drew in the Thrift Shop.
2018-2019: 
BY THE NUMBERS

3,079
students clothed through Operation School Bell
* 2,076 students served at clothing events at JCPenney and Target in October 2018
* 1,003 students served by donating our remaining OSB inventory to Seattle Public Schools McKinney-Vento program

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June 1, 2018 – May 31, 2019

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$454,239
in contributions from individual donors, corporate/foundation grants, and fundraising events.
THANK YOU!

29
students supported through Financial Aid for Education with full tuition scholarships, books, and one-to-one mentorship

$174,891
in Thrift Shop gross revenue

1,860
volunteer hours contributed by Assisteens

55
students sent to summer camp with Enrichment Scholarship Program funding

126
member volunteers contributed 25,467 volunteer hours valued at $807,813 based on Washington’s volunteer hour value of $31.72 in 2018, as determined by IndependentSector.org