



6416 Penn Avenue South
Richfield, MN 55423-1141



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Transforming Lives · Strengthening Communities



Assistance League Thrift Shop

Our Thrift Shop in Richfield generates revenue to fund our philanthropic programs. It's a favorite destination for shoppers seeking quality merchandise at affordable prices. Our loyal shoppers are pleased to know that they are helping thousands of children and adults in our community.

We welcome clean, gently used donations during shop hours.

Visit Us

6416 Penn Avenue South 612-866-2135
Richfield, MN 55423-1141 ALthriftshop.org



As a registered 501(c)(3) organization, contributions are tax-deductible. Our Federal Tax ID number is: 41-1736323.

Board of Directors

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Our Mission

Assistance League® of Minneapolis/St. Paul is a nonprofit organization whose volunteers feed and clothe children, enhance and enrich education, and support and serve our community.

Photos by Debra Fisher Goldstein

Links to Learning Grants

Assistance League of Minneapolis/St. Paul offers grants to teachers in the Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Richfield School Districts. These grants, which range up to \$750, are awarded for projects that enhance the standard curriculum.

Assistance League members review grant applications and visit the classrooms of award recipients. During the 2016-2017 school year we awarded 48 grants totaling \$33,950 to teachers in the Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Richfield School Districts.

“Your grant program is great and gives support to innovative ideas that increase the engagement of both students and parents. It truly made an idea that I had for years come true.” St. Paul Teacher

Our Grants Support Innovative Teachers

Links to Learning grants enable creative and dedicated teachers to enhance the standard curriculum by providing innovative learning opportunities for their students.

Among other projects, we funded the purchase of tools to teach high school students how to safely cook nutritious meals on a budget, coding sets to teach computer programming to elementary students, and equipment to improve large motor skills.

Multiple educational and cultural field trips were funded along with music and dance lessons, art therapy, sensory rooms and science activities for students and their families to do together.

Links to Learning grants improved student engagement, creativity and achievement, increased self-esteem and emotional regulation, and promoted parental involvement in 31 partner schools, **benefitting over 10,000 students.**

We Expand into Richfield Public Schools

The expansion of Assistance League into the Richfield public schools was a highlight of the 2016-17 year. Through our **Community Outreach** program, we purchased and distributed over 250 pair of snow pants and more than 475 pair of waterproof gloves to children in the four Richfield elementary schools. In response to a request for essential school supplies such as paper, pencils, and tissues, 50 boxes were each packed with \$100 worth of supplies and given to the elementary schools for distribution.

At both the Middle School and High School we helped equip space to distribute clothing and toiletries. Hats, gloves, and backpacks were included for the high school students.

Our **Links to Learning** program was introduced in Richfield and teachers were invited to apply for potential grants. Assistance League awarded grants to five teachers and hopes to provide more grants as teachers become familiar with this special program.

The excitement level is high in the Richfield schools. Teachers and administrators are grateful for Assistance League's presence, and we will be expanding our programs within the next few years.



Our Programs

We help children achieve success by providing new school clothing, sending food home for the weekends, and by encouraging a love of reading.

Through **Operation School Bell® Clothes for Kids**, Assistance League donated uniforms to eight Minneapolis and St. Paul public schools, clothing over 3,700 students. Each Friday during the school year we provide packs of nourishing food to 175 students for the weekend. We read to 112 students each week through our early childhood literacy program to foster a life-long passion for reading. Student learning is enhanced through our tutoring program, which pairs Assistance League members with over 50 third graders as reading buddies.

In partnership with the Minnesota Hospital Association, we provide clothing and toiletries to more than 120 hospital emergency rooms each year. These are distributed to an average of 1,500 sexual assault survivors.

We have impacted countless lives over twenty-one years of community service.

6,590	36,215	45,770	134,090 lbs	33,725
through	through	through	through	through
Literacy Programs	Grant Program	Clothes for Kids	Food for Kids	Assault Survivor Kits

Become a Supporter of Assistance League

Since our chapter was founded in 1996, we have raised over \$3,100,000 through the generosity of members, friends, foundations, businesses, and loyal Thrift Shop customers.

We offer several ways to support our ongoing programs:

- Give to our **Endowment Fund** and generate investment income to support our work.
- Join our **Legacy Circle** and include Assistance League in your estate plan.
- Support our annual budget through the **Open Your Heart** direct mail campaign or click "Donate" at msp.AssistanceLeague.org.
- Donate through corporate grants and employee matching programs.

No matter how you choose to contribute, we are very grateful. For more information on donating to Assistance League through our Endowment Fund or Legacy Circle, contact us at resources@AssistanceLeaguemsp.org.

A Message from Our President



In 2016-17 our chapter experienced record-breaking success. Through the generosity of donors, Anniversary Gala proceeds and record Thrift Shop sales, program expenditures increased to \$327,045, **returning over 91% to our community.** Programs benefitting students and families have grown in Minneapolis and St. Paul and we expanded into Richfield, providing warm clothing, teacher grants, and school supplies. **Our chapter also achieved GuideStar Platinum status and a Meets Standards rating with the Charities Review Council.**

We are grateful to our partners and donors. I congratulate and thank our 190 members who fueled this success by volunteering 36,000 hours in service to our programs and operations.

Assistance League is poised for the future! With a new Strategic Plan, a new Thrift Shop Business Plan, and your generous support, we have set ambitious goals to extend our reach and serve our community.

Peggy M. Cotter, President 2016-17

Financial Update

Fiscal Year 2016-17 (ending 5/31/17)

Financial Statements are part of an independent accountant's review by Carpenter Evert & Associates and are available by request or on our website at msp.assistanceleague.org.

Total Assets: \$656,413

Total Liabilities: \$28,100

Unrestricted Net Assets: \$594,761

Temporarily Restricted Net Assets: \$20,000

Permanently Restricted Net Assets: \$13,552

Total Liabilities & Net Assets: \$656,413

