



# Assistance League Santa Clarita

A Chapter of National Assistance League®

## 2016-2017 Annual Report

### Message from the President



Colleague, Teammate, Associate, Comrade. These are all words synonymous with Partner; our Community Partners are more than that. Those listed at the right are a small percentage of the names of those who

helped us give back to residents in need.

They provide resources so students do not get bullied for wearing the same clothes to school day after day. They put a teddy bear into the hands of a hurting child or a lonely senior citizen. They give eye exams and eyeglasses to students that struggle in school because they cannot see clearly. All in all, almost 200 businesses and individuals donate money or goods and services to us.

If you include the hundreds of people who donate their gently used items to

our resale store as well as the shoppers themselves, the result is truly a community coming together to help each other. Sometimes a Community Partner is one individual and sometimes businesses. At all times, our Community Partners are much needed friends. Thank you, Friends, for choosing Assistance League. We appreciate you!



### Transforming Lives

The philanthropic programs that our local Assistance League members have created and support are a great source of pride for us. We strive to ensure that the dollars we raise are given back to our Santa Clarita Valley community residents who are in need of a helping hand.

Our flagship program, Operation School Bell®, spent \$297,000 on new school clothes and shoes for 2,200 students in grades kindergarten through twelfth-from every school in our valley. The smiles and excitement students expressed over their new outfits made every penny spent well worth it!

In appreciation for the partnerships we have fostered with our schools, we began an Arts Grant program to support instruction in the Fine Arts.

Our UkeALadies play the ukulele and sing for audiences across Santa Clarita and bring joy to all those who attend.



Through our iCare for Kids program, we provided 105 students in need of eye exams and new eyeglasses.

To give comfort to children experiencing a traumatic event, our Teddy Bear Patrol provided 900 teddy bears to our local fire stations, hospital and urgent care facilities.

To brighten the lives of 200 residents at the Santa Clarita Convalescent Hospital, monthly home-cooked meals are served in a festive atmosphere. We also provide each resident with birthday and Holiday gifts. For our homebound seniors, members bake loaves of bread and have them delivered twice a year. The work we do is what makes us who we are: Assistance League Santa Clarita.

### Our Platinum Partners



### Gold Level Partners

John and Jackie Hamby

Phil and Cheryl Carlson

Chris and Jeannie Carpenter and Tim Carpenter



PRINCESS CRUISES  
come back new®



### Our Media Partners



Eve Boshman Consulting



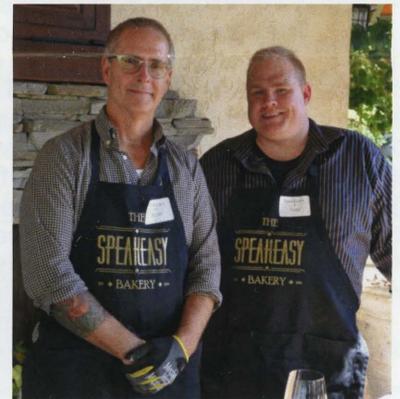
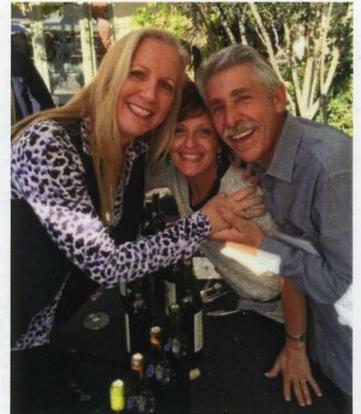
## Friends, Philanthropy and Wine

Our 9<sup>th</sup> annual Sunset in the Vineyard, which occurs each November, raised over \$34,000 to support our philanthropic programs. This sold-out event is held at Compa Vineyard; the lovely backyards of Chris and Jeannie Carpenter and Tim Carpenter's homes. It is a celebration of local winemakers and includes hors d'oeuvres, music and silent and live auctions.

Our guests were able to sample wines and beers as well as handmade cheeses and breads from local artisans. In addition, students from the Culinary Arts Program at College of the Canyons were on hand

servicing up wood-fired pizzas, grilled sausages, grilled vegetables, and beautifully-arranged cheese platters.

This event always sells out. Our supporters know that Assistance League equals local giving. More Santa Clarita students are prepared for school, more teddy bears reach the arms of those experiencing trauma, more homemade treats reach homebound seniors. It is a win-win for attendees and our local community.



## Assisteens — Youth in Action

Assisteens, our dynamic auxiliary of 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students, volunteer over 1,000 hours a year undertaking a different project at each of their monthly meetings. Their community outreach includes preparing sack lunches for the Bridge to Home Emergency Winter Shelter and conducting a canned food drive to benefit the SCV Food Pantry. They have volunteered during the City-sponsored River Rally, brought holiday joy to the SCV Senior Center and the Santa Clarita Convalescent Hospital. Every year the residents of LARC (Los Angeles Residential Community) Ranch look



forward to March knowing that Assisteens will be treating them to a party complete with delicious food and entertainment.

Assisteens also lovingly fill backpacks with a homemade blanket, clothing, toiletries and a book and donate them to the Department of Children and Family Services to give to a scared child being removed from their home because of an abusive situation.

Assisteens and Assistance League members volunteer

together to clothe students during Operation School Bell shopping events. Assisteens also enthusiastically volunteer at Assistance League Resale. Assistance League Santa Clarita is appreciative and proud of this dedicated group of teens.



## Volunteering to Make a Hands-On Difference

When we say that we are a hands-on group of volunteers, we mean it quite literally! For Operation School Bell, our members visit the school sites and make contact with the principal and office staff to get referrals for children who are in need of appropriate clothing for school. On the shopping night, our volunteers welcome the families and assist with "personal shopping," finding just the right combination of clothes for school.

We serve home-cooked meals to convalescent home residents, we accompany students to receive eye exams and new eyeglasses, we bake bread for homebound seniors and we deliver teddy bears to be distributed to people in traumatic situations. We also operate Assistance League Resale and two successful fundraisers each year.

Our 206 adult volunteers along with our 60 Assisteens, spent 28,481 hours last year helping families in need.

Volunteer members of Assistance League get a large dose of satisfaction by helping the community. Current members will confirm that the benefits of volunteering outweigh the time and energy involved.

Membership is open to anyone interested in giving back to the community. The entire



Santa Clarita Valley benefits tremendously from the generous hearts of Assistance League volunteers.



## Reuse, Recycle and RESALE!

Assistance League Resale saw another record year in donations and almost \$400,000 in gross sales!

With the generous and constant support of retailers such as Cobblestone Cottage, Brighton, and Ma Maison, Assistance League Resale kept up our reputation of having first-rate merchandise available at extremely attractive prices. With the continued support of Billy Kornfeld of Camelot Movers, several pieces of nice furniture

made it to the resale store and went out the door as quickly as they came in.

Our friend Jim Uhl of SOS Repair and Construction generously donated his time and talent to repair and upgrade our bathroom. We could not be more appreciative!

Contributions to the store are tax-deductible and a receipt is provided upon request. Our donors and customers know that Assistance League philanthropic dollars stay local and that the 100% member volunteer staff is friendly, helpful



and dedicated to the programs of Assistance League.



Assistance League,® Assisteens® and Operation School Bell® are registered names of the organization.



## Fiscally Responsible

During our last fiscal year (June 1, 2016 to May 31, 2017), our total expenses were \$443,813. Of that amount, \$330,857 was spent on our philanthropic programs. That is 75% of total expenses returned to the community.

Our volunteers helped accomplish this by donating 28,481 hours during the last fiscal year. That's 548 hours every week spent raising money through our resale store and working on our philanthropic programs.

Our other expenses for the year included \$89,365 for fundraising (most of which are the occupancy costs for our resale store), \$20,636 for management and general expenditures, and \$3,955 for membership development. Our members' dues cover all membership development costs.

Assistance League Santa Clarita is committed to using our donated funds for the benefit of our programs, and we are proud to accomplish this year after year.

Follow us on social media to keep up with our current happenings.

### Facebook

[www.facebook.com/assistanceleaguesantaclarita](http://www.facebook.com/assistanceleaguesantaclarita)



Twitter  
@ALSantaClarita

Instagram  
ALSantaClarita



### 2016-2017 Assistance League Board

- President: Jackie Hamby
- 1<sup>st</sup> VP Membership: Cheryl Dellepiane
- 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Resource Development: Judy Penman
- 3<sup>rd</sup> VP Philanthropic Programs: Gayle Abril-Nolet
- Secretary: Penny Horne
- Treasurer: Nancy Reichenbach
- Strategic Planning Chairman: Dee Pekrul
- Education Chairman: Jan Ladd
- Public Relations Chairman: Tracy Klehn
- Finance Chairman: Elaine Kelly
- Resale Chairman: Connie Troesch
- Assisteens Coordinator: Anne Ritchie

### Assistance League Santa Clarita

P. O. Box 220145, Santa Clarita, CA 91322  
661.255.1991  
[www.assistanceleaguesantaclarita.org](http://www.assistanceleaguesantaclarita.org)  
[info@assistanceleaguesantaclarita.org](mailto:info@assistanceleaguesantaclarita.org)

### Mission Statement

Assistance League Santa Clarita is a volunteer organization that develops and implements programs to make a difference in the lives of families in our community.

