

# Assistance League helps students, encourages volunteerism

## WOMEN HELPING OTHERS

At their monthly meeting, the Women Helping Others enjoyed a wonderful Presentation about the Assistance League of Georgetown. The presentation was given to the ladies by Jane Sheperd, president of this very special organization.

Anne Marshall

The Assistance League is part of the first wave of nonprofit organizations in the United States that empowered ordinary citizens to improve communities and transform lives through long-term volunteerism.

Since 2014, the Assistance League of Georgetown has been granting scholarships to graduating high school students. At the group's annual meeting held in May, 10 students from East View, Jarrell and Georgetown high schools shared their plans for the future with chapter members and were presented with award certificates.

Since its inception, the scholarship program has awarded over \$450,000 to high school seniors in pursuing their education and achieving their goals without financial limitations.

From 2021 to 2022, Operation School Bell provided clothing for more than 1,500 students and provided emergency clothing to 15 area elementary schools. Children who go to school without adequate clothing often suffer low self-esteem. Students in

grades K are identified by Georgetown, Jarrell, Florence, Granger and Taylor elementary school counselors and are invited to shop on special shopping days at Walmart for brand new clothing. Positive student self-esteem is priceless.

The Assistance League of Georgetown Area received its guild status in 1998 and was chartered in July 2001, the 108th chapter of Assistance League. The 100 percent volunteer-based organization is dedicated to transforming the lives of children and adults through community programs.

Its philanthropic efforts are hands-on, designed for high engagement and local impact.

The New Friends program was initiated in 1998 when Assistance League volunteers began hosting monthly birthday and holiday parties for students of the Special Care Unit of Wesleyan at Sacred Heart, Georgetown.

Upon receiving chapter status in July 2001, the Operation School Bell program was initiated. Also since that time, the Reading and More program now provides reading mentors for second-grade students in the Jarrell, Igo and Florence elementary schools.

Beyond mentoring almost 200 students this year the program also provided approximately 1,800 books to add to the student library.



Women Helping Others Vice President Maria Tolleson, left, stands with Jane Sheperd, president of the Assistance League of Georgetown.

COURTESY WOMEN HELPING OTHERS

ies - helping almost 1,500 second graders advance their reading skills. In 2014, the local Chapter added the Scholarship Program to aid graduating seniors from Georgetown, East View, Jarrell, Florence and Richart elementary schools continue their education. Assistance League launched the Assist A Teacher program in August 2016. In Assist A Teacher, the group provides first-time, first-year elementary school teachers with supplies to enhance their

new classroom. This year they were able to support 38 new teachers.

Since 2002, the organization's nerve center and primary source of funds is the Thrift Shop in Georgetown where, each year, hundreds of loyal customers purchase almost \$300,000 worth of merchandise, all hand-processed by the bulk of the chapter's 150 volunteers.

In total, Assistance League volunteers donated almost 18,000

hours of time over the past 12 months. From humble beginnings back in 1998, Assistance League of Georgetown has grown to become one of the most consistent and highly respected all-volunteer philanthropic organizations in the community.

Much of the support consistently comes from many Sun City residents, who volunteer at the Thrift Shop. The group is proud to represent the best of Georgetown.