

History of Assisteens[®] of Assistance League[®] of Long Beach

Assistance League founder, Anne Banning, always felt that it was *fine to serve youth, but better to let youth serve*. In the 1930's, she called on the daughters and granddaughters of Assistance League members to assist in various philanthropic projects. Knowing that the art of giving could never be learned at too young of an age, Assisteens was created to instill the value of community responsibility, self-reliance, volunteerism and leadership in young adults.

Historically, Assisteens has provided programs of support in Long Beach to New Life Beginnings, a long-term homeless shelter for young pregnant mothers and their children, and Bethune Transitional Center for Homeless Students. Assisteens have also helped in supporting outside community events such as: the Steel Magnolias Gala, Grape Expectations, the Team Spirit Walk, the Long Beach Marathon, and the Belmont Shore Christmas Parade.

Starting in 2009-2010, Assisteens will direct their energies towards Assistance League by working with chapter and auxiliary members and supporting existing programs and special events. This will bring Assisteens into closer alignment with our chapter's mission statement.

Another facet of the Assisteens program is leadership development. Each philanthropic program and social activity is developed, coordinated and chaired by Assisteens members. With the help of Assistance League mentors, they elect a chairman and a governing body, learn to plan a project, develop a budget, organize a fundraiser and take their projects to completion.

The dedication of Assisteens helps build a better future for our community. Their experiences as members of this organization help shape their self-confidence and ability to achieve goals. Hopefully by mastering these skills, Assisteens not only shape their futures but the world's as well.