



Happy Talk

ALTM
assistance league®
Long Beach

a publication of Assistance League® of Long Beach
a chapter of National Assistance League®

September 2008

Volume 27 Issue 1

Celebrating 60 Years of the Howard Collection

By Gail Morrison

“Ocean Morning Sunrise,” a rare tea bowl, and more than two dozen distinctive and beautiful objects were showcased at special celebratory events that marked the 60th anniversary of the Howard Collection's adoption as a philanthropic program of Assistance League of Long Beach. During the past sixty years, tens of thousands of elementary and middle school students and countless adults have joined the chapter's docent-led tours to learn about Asian art and history. Tours began in the 1940's with fourth grade students with the program later modified to support 7th graders and their social studies curriculum. A recent addition to the presentations is a manga-style booklet that chronicles the journeys of Mrs. Howard for whom the collection is named.

A Wine and Cheese reception opened the celebration featuring the first guest collection, “Tea Art,” and honored past Howard Collection chairmen. Howard Collection Chairman Carolyn Bixby introduced guest exhibitors Steve Baba and J. Cummins Keck whose extensive collection of fine Japanese tea ceremony implements



Howard Collection Chairman Carolyn Bixby, center, welcomes guest exhibitors J. Cummins Keck and Steve Baba.

are in display. Mr. Keck gave a brief talk about the items on display, praised the beauty of the Philanthropic Center, and said that he hopes someday a young visitor may be inspired to create art as beautiful as that on display.

Past Howard Collection Chairmen in attendance were recognized and included Kathy DeSilva, Helen Downing, Ann Exley, Jean Friedrichs, Shirley Lamm, Carolyn Lockhart, Cathy McHugh, Mary

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Kimonos were modeled by Kimono Club members.

Update on the Corporate Partnership Program

By Pat Reep

An exciting new fundraising program is soon to be unveiled: a partnership between Assistance League of Long Beach and the business community dedicated to expanding support for Operation School Bell®. The new **Corporate Partnership Program** will enlist businesses to provide sponsorship support for the purchase of school uniforms. Funding from Operation School Bell Corporate Partners will be exclusively dedicated to buying uniforms: Senior Partners (\$10,000) will provide school uniforms for 182 students each year, Partners (\$5,000) will clothe 91 students per year, and Associates (\$2,500) will provide uniforms for 45 students annually.

Currently, Assistance League of Long Beach funds its philanthropic programs through Thrift Shop income, grants, and special events. In recent months, the Board of Directors has developed a Strategic Financial Plan to identify our five-year financial needs and – more importantly – how to meet those funding needs. One of the results of this process is the new Operation School Bell Corporate Partnership Program. We have spent the summer in the planning phase to determine if a Corporate Partnership Program is feasible and if it has appeal to local businesses. We have met with many business

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Mission Statement:

Assistance League of Long Beach is a nonprofit corporation whose purpose is to create a community of volunteers to identify and deliver philanthropic services.

We invite you to participate once again -

Destination...

Hong Kong

Where East Meets West

Enjoy an exotic vacation
at the **JW Marriott Hotel Hong Kong**

A \$4,000 value plus \$4,000 cash
(Hotel voucher may be used at any JW Marriott worldwide)

\$100 per opportunity ticket

Drawing: Sunday, November 16, 2008

Cocktail party and opportunity drawing 5 - 7 pm
Boutique shopping 9 am - 4 pm (open to public)

Purchase tickets from any Assistance League member

Proceeds benefit the Philanthropic Programs of
Assistance League of Long Beach

Glitz 2008 Promises Excitement

By Melanie Werts



GLITZ 2008 at the Assistance League Thrift and Vintage Shop promises to be an exciting event coordinated by committee chairmen Kerri Birnie and Dottie Stinnett.

This year's annual GLITZ will be a four-day affair running from Thursday - Sunday, December 4 - 7.

Only on opening day will you have an opportunity to bid on silent auction items. Beautiful gift baskets will be available until they are gone, so come early!

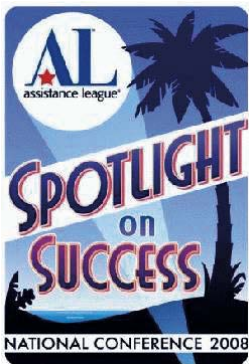
This year, for the first time, the Thrift Shop will be open on three Sunday afternoons December 7th, 14th and 21st from 12 - 5 p.m.

The Thrift Shop produces the largest amount of revenue for chapter's philanthropic programs, so your donations and patronage are appreciated.

GLITZ shopping hours are: Thursday, 10-8; Friday, 10-7; Saturday, 10-6 and Sundays, 12-5. For more information about GLITZ, call Melanie Werts at the Thrift Shop, (562) 434-7121.

Conference Shines Spotlight on Success

By Linda McCarley



At the Assistance League's 2008 National Conference to be held in Los Angeles, everyone is a star, including our own delegates who are heading out to the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza Hotel for the October 20-24th bash. Joining the other 1,200 Assistance League members from across the country, our delegates, made up of chapter and auxiliary members, will participate in this comprehensive educational and networking experience.

On the first evening, chapter President Nanci Gee will host a "come as you are" evening to welcome Long Beach delegates before they embark on absorbing valuable information from the wide ranging topics at the daily seminars. Evenings will see our members dine out in small groups to

become better acquainted with each other, and culminating the conference will be the final semi-formal evening where the chapter presidents are introduced. The conference seminars, dining out, and shopping are activities that are eagerly anticipated, but one of the most important aspects of attending the conference is the bonding among our Long Beach sisters that always occurs. Look out L.A.—here we come!

Members Only Party Revs Up

By Pauline Stenberg



Car buffs, get your motors running! The Members Only Party is taking us to tour two private warehouses full of EXOTIC cars, some from the early 1900's and many pristine beauties that will have you drooling. You won't have to drive too far as the exclusive location is right here in our own backyard in Long Beach.

Sunday, February 22nd is the date, so mark your calendars for an afternoon of delicious food and drink and an exclusive tour of two highly prized collections.

Operation School Bell-Middle School Delivers!

By Stephanie Eiler



Chapter member Julie Wilson and husband, Randy, transported more than 950 sets of uniforms to five middle schools in support of Operation School Bell/Middle School.

Measure all 6th graders at five different middle schools? Purchase, inventory and organize over 5,700 pieces of clothing? Assemble 950 packages of clothes in three days and then deliver all the packages to the school sites in a single morning? Some might say, "Too daunting a project for any committee," but our Operation School Bell-Middle School Committee said, "Bring it on!"

Always up for a challenge, the committee led the efforts with help from more than sixty of our Assistance League of Long Beach family, including members from chapter, Life, Las Hermanas, and CAMEO. Together they logged almost 600 hours to ensure the success of this multi-day event.

The Long Beach Unified School District middle schools in greatest need were invited to participate, and Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, Washington and Perry Lindsey Academy responded positively to our invitation. Each middle school had a mandatory 6th grade orientation that took place during the last two weeks of August that proved to be an opportune time for our members to measure students individually.

As our measuring dates neared, the Operation School Bell Committee kicked their actions into high gear. Inventory was received, shelves were organized and stocked, and volunteers were trained. The training and organization paid off as the three days of assembling the packages consisting of three polo shirts, two pants and a sweatshirt went very smoothly.

The finale of this event was the delivery, and "thankful" cannot begin to express how we feel about having Randy Wilson as the last piece of the puzzle. Our very own member Julie Wilson and her husband Randy offered the use of their large trailer to not only house the 950-plus packages of clothing during the three days of packing, but also to deliver the uniforms to each of the five schools in just two hours.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this event. There was never any doubt that we could pull this off, but sharing the experience with so many members made the success all the sweeter. Thank you again, everyone, for your help and support!

**Rick Rackers Auxiliary
Elected Officers 2008-2009**

Chairman.....Karen Sprague
 Vice Chairman.....Cindy Gillis
 Recording SecretaryKelly Wigod
 TreasurerCindy Bambam
 Philanthropic Programs
Melissa Murchison
 Press and Public Relations
Jessica Zifer
 Resource DevelopmentNancy Smith
 Membership ChairmanMichele Ward
 ParliamentarianShelly Barbre
 LiaisonKathy Wade

Rick Rackers Give Preschoolers a "Head Start"

By Jessica Zifer

As most schools, students, and parents were winding down the school year and easing into summer, those Rick Rackers were at it again. This time, Rick Rackers' Operation School Bell had a special mission – Operation Head Start. Rick Rackers members were determined to provide all 1,545 Head Start preschoolers who were moving on to kindergarten with backpacks, school uniforms, and toothbrushes in order to prepare them for their first day of school.

Head Start preschools are family-focused, comprehensive child development programs that provide support to at-risk preschool children and their families. Long Beach's Head Start education program is a perfect fit with Rick Rackers' goal of improving the lives of children in our community. By providing students with "learning suits," Rick Rackers encourages self-esteem and creates an open environment for learning, allowing Long Beach's youth to become both educated and empowered to succeed during the course of their education.

With help from chapter members of Assistance League and the other auxiliaries, Rick Rackers filled the backpacks at the Philanthropic Center during the first weekend in June. Under the direction of Rick Rackers' outgoing Philanthropic Programs Chairman Kelly Wigod and incoming Philanthropic Programs Chairman Melissa Murchison, the uniforms were delivered to the twenty-one Head Start preschool sites in June, just in time before the students' summer break.

Head Start students and their families were grateful for all that Rick Rackers have been able to provide. One family wrote to Rick Rackers, "Thank you. You have an angel on your shoulders. You've done so much for our family."

eScrip: Making Money with Little Effort

By Barbara Zunich

Assistance League of Long Beach has some of the hardest working women in the world doing all kinds of things to serve the people in our community. In fact, they are so accustomed to working hard and long, they sometimes don't remember that eScrip earns money with little effort.

Here's how to make money for Assistance League with very little effort...

- ◆ Go to **escrip.com** and sign up
- ◆ Sign up with **Ralphs.com** or **Albertsons.com**
- ◆ Shop on-line at the **escrip** mall, which features over 1,000 stores
- ◆ Eat at the restaurants that support eScrip
- ◆ **Register your credit cards at eScrip.com**
- ◆ Update your information at **myscrip.com**
- ◆ Share your eScrip \$ that you've designated for your church or schools.

For further directions to any of these easy ways to make money for YOUR favorite Assistance League philanthropy, follow the directions to any or all of the above sites as shown on the Assistance League website: **www.allb.org**.

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Corporate, continued from page 1

executives and leaders to get their thoughts on this potential new program.

As many as 50% of the 90,000 students in the Long Beach Unified School District live in households with incomes at or below the poverty level. Nearly 70% of the district's students qualify for subsidized school lunches. Operation School Bell exists to serve these students. As the number of students in need increases, the services must expand to keep pace. In partnership with the Long Beach Unified School District, Operation School Bell is making plans to nearly triple the number of children clothed each school year, to provide complete uniforms to 10,000 students annually by the year 2010. For nearly 35 years, Assistance League of Long Beach has supported Operation School Bell through the volunteer action and fundraising of its members. The Corporate Partnership Program along with other new fundraising efforts will help us reach our financial goals. This will allow Assistance League of Long Beach and the Long Beach Unified School District to fulfill the vision that no child should fail to attend or perform in school for lack of adequate clothing. Operation School Bell exists to ensure that each child arrives at the classroom door ready to learn.

Las Hermanas Summer Fiesta Sizzles

By Georgia Klinkers



A Mexican-themed summer social for the Las Hermanas auxiliary was held in Chairman Florence Dodge's beautiful backyard that was transformed into a colorful South of the Border location. Saucy Latin background music and delicious food catered by Super Mex made for a very fun-filled evening. The early part of the evening was enlivened by "Los Dos Amigos," otherwise known as Roger Klinkers and Jim Martin who served as bartenders. Tasty empanadas were prepared and provided by Bette Brightman that were enjoyed by all.

The planning and decorating for the festive evening was executed under the able direction of Social Committee Chairman Fay Denny along with Jeanne Badgley, Debra Barrad, Pat Blaber, Bette Brightman, Jan Carlson, Jean Friedrichs, Marvell Gum, Georgia Klinkers, Melinda Martin, Linda Reabe, and Barbara Vaught.

Fifty members and guests enjoyed being serenaded by member Marilyn Fortier and eight other "Women of Note" led by Carla Strandberg following the dessert served by Jan and Ron Carlson. Also in attendance were Assistance League of Long Beach President Nanci Gee, Virginia Osmera, Gloria Sirotnak, Hashmat and Khalid Saeed, Mary Lou and Ben Millar, Evelyn and Art Meacham, Carolyn and Arthur Lockhart, John Fortier, Darwin Barrad, John Blaber, Bill Friedrichs, Alice Doherty, Miriam Garland, Le Siemons, Emily and LeRoy Goesel, Pam and LeRoy Kehret, Shirley Lamm, Diane and David Reed, Joyce Rothrock and John Taylor, Joan and Sal Sanders, Helen and Fred Sebring, Jan and Marv Stober, Maureen Stone and Nancy Tomis.

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Las Hermanas Auxiliary Elected Officers 2008-2009

Chairman	Florence Dodge
Chairman Elect	Melinda Martin
1st Vice Chairman Membership	Debra Barrad
2nd Vice Chairman Orientation.....	Cynthia Clark
3rd Vice Chairman Hours	Gloria Sirotnak
Recording Secretary	Beverly Quaife
Corresponding Secretary	Jean Tanaka
Assistant Treasurer	Harriet Miller
Program & Social Chairman	Fay Denny
Press & Public Relations	Georgia Klinkers
Thrift Shop Liaison	Elizabeth Thometz
Assault Survivor Kits	Pam Kehret
Chapter Liaison	Pat Reep

Scholarship Recipients Honored

By Susie Young



Deserving Assistance League of Long Beach Scholarship recipients attending California State University, Long Beach and Long Beach City College were honored at recognition ceremonies on both college campuses.

The Long Beach City College recognition ceremony was an inspiring morning for both Shirley Black, 2007-2008 Scholarship Chairman, and incoming chairman for 2008-2009, Susie Young. After interviewing dozens of candidates and hearing their stories of financial and family hardships, they were very aware of the hard work, sacrifices, and dedication it took for these students to maintain high grade point averages and proceed ahead in the quest of a higher education. It was a deeply gratifying experience to see student successes recognized by the Long Beach City College President, faculty, alumni, other college donors, friends and family members.

California State University, Long Beach held an elegant Scholarship recognition luncheon for the College of Education recipients at the Pyramid. Shirley Black, Susie Young, and past committee chairman Pat Montague attended and were pleased to represent our chapter at this affair. Education Department Dean Jean Houck recognized thirty-two General Education and fifteen Special Education recipients of Assistance League of Long Beach Scholarship awards. College Alumni, faculty, friends, family, and other college donors were also present to applaud and champion the achievements of 169 award recipients. Members of Assistance League of Long Beach applaud the achievements of these dedicated and deserving students.

Thank you for your generosity and support in my future pursuit of academic and professional goals and in my pursuit of happiness. With this scholarship I am now able to do my student teaching/internship in a special day class at an elementary school. I will be fully equipped and a more experienced Special Education teacher!

--Carrie Hu

Orthodontic Center Prepares for its 40th Year

By Barbara Zunich

The Earl B. and Loraine H. Miller Foundation Orthodontic Center, which opened its doors in 1969, with 42 girls as patients, will be celebrating its 40th year of successful service in 2009.

The first center, open two mornings a week, was the inspiration of Dr. Susan Harris and a group of Assistance League Life Members who felt the need to help young junior high girls improve their self-esteem.

During the next 30 years, the center moved several times and had three different orthodontists. By 1999, the center was seeing 375 clients, both boys and girls, and had many former patients in retainers.

Today, under the direction of Dr. Nelson Gatov and with the addition of Dr. Lee on Thursdays, the Ortho Center is open four days a week and has 526 patients in braces and 123 in retainers. This makes an average of 66 patients scheduled each day, which requires a dedicated staff and excellent scheduling practices as well as a committed group of Assistance League members who help conduct the screenings of new patients and their families.

Seventy percent of the cost of the Ortho Center is paid by patient fees, with each patient paying only an average of \$55 per month for exemplary services. Those patients in retainers are no longer charged any fees. The remainder of the operating costs are raised by Assistance League members through their volunteer efforts at their Thrift & Vintage Store, grants and special events.

A special anniversary event in early 2009 will celebrate the Orthodontic Center's 40th anniversary. All former patients and orthodontists, as well as current and former Assistance League members will be invited to visit the new facility that is now as modern as any orthodontist center in Long Beach.

Long Beach Open:

Assistance League of Long Beach President Nanci Gee, second from left, accepted the \$5,000 donation from the golf tournament, along with Joan Smock, Donna McGuire and Golf Chairman Melanie Dietz. The 20-member Golf Committee supported the tournament by walking the course as scorers, manning the registration tables and assisting with the Pro/Am luncheon.





Assisteens' Elected Officers 2008-2009

Life Members Go Red, White and Blue

By Peggy Reep



Under the delightful and witty charm of Chairman Phyllis Comiskey (left), the Life Members launched its 2008 year with a red, white, and blue themed installation of new officers and a most informative presentation on "Traveling with Ease" by Dr. Virginia Baxter, Executive Director of the Long Beach City College Foundation.

The fun and informal installation featured a script written by Phyllis, who was wearing a red headband of stars and new officers holding gigantic patriotic pin-

wheels. Knowing that Phyllis would provide great leadership and a fun-filled atmosphere, all of the officers of 2007 returned for a second year of leadership.

Phyllis' desire to combine practical and fun aspects is reflective of her M.A. in Early Childhood Education from CSULB and her twelve years of teaching Child Development at LBCC where she also served as the department chairperson. A chapter member since 1962, Phyllis has thoroughly enjoyed serving on the Board of Directors, working on many philanthropic committees, and now having a wonderful, relaxing and amusing time as Chairman of Life Members.

To top off a wonderful start to the new year, Phyllis welcomed fourteen new Life Members: Shirley Black, Diane Burton, Marcia Caltrider, Joen Coleman, Eileen Lafferty, Linda Landes, Sandi Lewis, Karen McBride, Erlene Minton, Susan Rose, Lorna Rowland, Winona Sherer, Candice Stacy, and Nancee Tinsley.

Life Members

Elected Officers 2008-2009

ChairmanPhyllis Comiskey
 Vice Chairman.....Meredith Medanich
 SecretaryMary Jo Kerr
 Treasurer.....Janet Gerhardt
 CourtesyKatie Campion
 DecorationsTally Mintie
 PublicityPeggy Reep
 ReservationsMary Lu Hauser

Assisteens® Auxiliary

Elected Officers 2008-2009

ChairmanLaina Crosby
 1st Vice ChairmanRobin Sweeney
 2nd Vice Chairman Philanthropic Programs.....Alex Hoyer
 3rd Vice Chairman Community Events.....Madison Beall
 Recording Secretary.....Nicole Stanton
 Corresponding Secretary.....Julia Hirt
 Auxiliary Assistant TreasurerTaylor Sullivan
 Fashion Show ChairmanShannon Hayes
 Resource DevelopmentLauren Tarnofsky
 Membership ChairmanLauren Deaderick
 New Member OrientationSamantha DeMeyer
 Press and Public RelationsGina Ficarra
 Self Improvement ChairmanEmily Parkin
 Social ChairmanBarbara Moore
 Thrift Shop ChairmanToni Marie Koulos
 Senior Class RepresentativeDana Roberson
 Junior Class RepresentativeAllison Gallagher
 Sophomore Class Representative.....Keri Forsberg
 Freshman Class Representative.....Taylor Cratty

Destination...
Holiday Boutique

Sunday

November 16, 2008

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

at

Assistance League® of Long Beach
 Philanthropic Center
 6220 East Spring Street
 Long Beach, CA 90815

A Unique Shopping
 Experience...
 exquisite home decor, fun
 children's gifts,
 fine jewelry, perfect gift items
 for the entire family,
 and much, much more...

Attend our Pre-Sale
 Friday, November 14
 4 pm to 6 pm



For more information please call: (562) 627-5650
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All proceeds benefit the
 philanthropic programs of
 Assistance League of Long Beach



CAMEO Mentees Experience Washington, DC

By Kathleen Hughes-Casanova



Summer was a very busy time for CAMEO's Polytechnic and Wilson High School graduating seniors and Long Beach City College graduates. On June 1, 2008, students, parents, and their CAMEO mentors enjoyed a graduation celebration at Virginia Country Club. In July, eligible graduates plus CAMEO chaperones went on a memorable educational experience in our nation's capitol.

CAMEO's mission is "to change the world one student at a time," and the graduating seniors can attest to the program's success. Individual mentoring continues to be one of the most significant and unique components of the CAMEO mentoring program. Many graduates expressed appreciation to their mentors and the CAMEO program for what they had learned and the support they received.

All sixteen graduating seniors received a CAMEO scholarship and individual students were selected to receive a scholarship from the Carlene Jacques/Ruby Kean Scholarship, Blanche Brewster Cannady Scholarship or Nancy Green Memorial Scholarship. It was also exciting to hear about other scholarships awarded to students who will be attending Cornell University, UC San Diego, Florida State University, CSULB, and LBCC. Eligible graduating seniors will be receiving laptop computers and \$500 per semester for two terms during their freshman year in college to assist with continued education.

Traveling to Washington, D.C. clearly made an impact on the students: "We saw pieces of history that we learned about in U.S. Government class." "Nothing else compares to this experience." "This experience will help me to be prepared for living away from home." These are but a few of the quotes from the ten graduating students who participated in the six-day tour. The students were chaperoned by CAMEO members Naomi Blackmore, Kathie Grubb, and Kathy Hughes-Casanova. CAMEO member Ginny Baxter was the expert tour guide that "made history come alive." The walking tour, on and off the Metro, included visits to museums, D. C. memorials, and Arlington National Cemetery. One of the participating students, Brittany Hart, said, "I will forever be grateful for the kindness, generosity, and sincerity that these mentors have bestowed upon me. Thank you." For CAMEO, this says it all!

CAMEO Professional Auxiliary

Elected Officers 2008-2009

Chairman	Kathie Grubb
Chairman Elect.....	Rosi Pedersen
Philanthropic Program Chairman	Kathleen Hughes-Casanova
Resource Development Chairman	Michelle Molina
Assistant Treasurer	Kathryn Meacham-Shirley
Membership Chairman	Naomi Blackmore
Secretary	Bobbi Villalobos
Education Chairman	Christine Jurenka

Dates to Remember

October

- 3 Rick Rackers' Woman of the Year Luncheon, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Long Beach
- 7 Rick Rackers Meeting
- 14 Las Hermanas Meeting
- 18 CAMEO Meeting
- 21-23 NAL Conference Hyatt Regency Century Plaza Hotel, Los Angeles
- 27 Chapter Meeting, Founder's Day Assisteens Meeting

November

- 4 Rick Rackers Meeting
- 11 Las Hermanas Meeting
- 14 Destinations Boutique Presale
- 16 Destinations Boutique & Reception
- 18 CAMEO Meeting
- 24 Chapter Meeting Assisteens Meeting
- 27 Thrift Shop and Office closed
- 28 Office closed

December

- 2 Rick Rackers Regular Meeting and Holiday Event, Shelly Barbre's home
- 4-7 GLITZ event at Thrift Shop
- 9 Las Hermanas Wassail
- 15 Life Members Meeting
- 22-31 Office closed
- 24-31 Thrift Shop closed

January

- 1 Thrift Shop closed
- 1-2 Office closed
- 13 Rick Rackers Meeting
Las Hermanas Meeting
Las Hermanas & Rick Rackers Luncheon
- 17 CAMEO Meeting
- 21 Game Day
- 26 Chapter Meeting Assisteens Meeting

Howard, continued from page 1

Lou Nicolai, and Martha Stegan.

An inaugural Open House brought in many new visitors who have an interest in Asian art and in viewing our collection. Chapter docent members dressed in beautiful, embroidered silk robes of emerald, red and white strolled among attendees and were on hand to provide information. The open house also welcomed the Los Angeles Kimono Club, headed by famed Mrs. Akutagawa who was a consultant and dresser for several films including "Memoirs of a Geisha." A highlight of the afternoon was kimono modeling by Kimono Club members and their five adorable children.



Assistance League of Long Beach

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Assistance League of Long Beach 2008-2009 Board of Directors

President Nanci Gee; President-Elect Pat Reep; 1st Vice President Philanthropic Programs Roberta Keester; 2nd Vice President Resource Development Joan Smock; 3rd Vice President Finance Arline Walter; 4th Vice President Membership Sharon Denham; Recording Secretary Shirley Johnson; Corresponding Secretary JoAnn McDonald; Treasurer Cindy Summers; Education Chairman Linda McCarley; Thrift Shop Chairman Melanie Werts; Philanthropic Center Chairman Linda Drummond; Press and Public Relations Gail Morrison, Strategic Planning Nanette Dahlen-Wan; Rick Rackers Chairman Karen Sprague; Las Hermanas Chairman Florence Dodge; CAMEO Chairman Kathie Grubb; Assisteens Coordinator Jodi Simmons; Parliamentarian Bev Cook

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Happy Talk Production: Carolyn Yamaoka
Webmaster: Marty Isozaki



President's Message

To many of us, this motto might seem to be a simple statement; however, it is a complex phrase about how best to achieve goals. In the case of Assistance League of Long Beach, it is a statement about how we got to where we are, how we set our goals for the present, and how we will address the future.

We are starting our **third year** in the building on Spring Street. Can you believe it? This past spring we celebrated 60 years of having the Howard Collection in our midst; we stretched our Operation School Bell philanthropic program to serving 5,700 students with our goal set on clothing 7,500 students between our chapter members and our Rick Rackers auxiliary efforts. Our Orthodontic Center is open four full days now with over 500 patients. All of our philanthropic programs are running smoothly and effectively. Yes, you can believe it.

It seems like we have been here longer than two years, yet we are still getting used to the building and its potential. We meet new members in the atrium, the walkways, and the office and learn new names. Faces become more familiar as we share time together and work on the same projects. How wonderful it is to be in the same home! We are family; we are friends; we are volunteers working together to achieve our mission and vision. French author and lecturer, Andre Malraux, has said, "One person may supply the idea for a company, community or a nation, but what gives the idea its force is a **community of dreams**" and that's what WE are!

Dreams brought us into being chartered as a chapter of

National Assistance League in 1940; dreams took us to Roswell and Fourth Street and the four buildings there; dreams spawned our programs, our auxiliaries and finally our new building. We are over 900 members strong and our vision of "Enriching the lives we touch" is more of a reality each and every day.

The goals for this upcoming year are:

- * Nurture a cohesive team of dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers within our chapter and auxiliaries as we serve our community,
- * Continue to deliver our philanthropic programs efficiently and effectively,
- * Build on our corporate image in the public's view,
- * Create new fundraising capabilities including corporate partnerships and endowments,
- * Enjoy our family of members, community volunteers, clients and business partners!

Writer Dan Zadra has stated, "Teamwork has its own arithmetic. Combine two or more people with a common goal and suddenly one-plus-one is more than two!"

**Teamwork Makes Dreams Work and
Team Assistance League is ready!**

Nanci R. Gee President

