



Assisteens® an Auxiliary of
Assistance League® of Irvine
New Member Fact Sheet

History and Background

The Assisteens Auxiliary of Assistance League of Irvine (ALI) was formed in 1993. Assisteens seeks to promote volunteerism, community service and self-improvement. Our membership is comprised of teens who are in grades 7 through 12.

ALI is a chapter of National Assistance League® (NAL) which was founded in 1935 and incorporated in 1949. NAL is the first nonprofit, nonpolitical, nonsectarian organization founded in the West that recognizes the potential of volunteers helping those less fortunate to a better, more meaningful life. The first Assisteens Auxiliary was founded in 1944 as NAL founder Mrs. Hancock Banning felt "it was fine to serve youth, but better to let youth serve." There are now more than 40 Assisteens auxiliaries with nearly 2500 members throughout the United States.

Community Service

The members of Assisteens Auxiliary of ALI currently serve the following philanthropic programs developed by the Auxiliary or the Chapter.

- **Baby Layettes** - Assisteens began this program in 2003 to help lift the spirits of the parents of premature babies at Kaiser Permanente Hospital in Irvine who will likely be hospitalized for quite some time. The Assisteens sew small blankets of colorful flannel and put each one in its own little bag with a card telling the parents that this was made especially for them by Assisteens of Irvine.
- **Beach Cleanup** - Waste continually pollutes our streets, waterways, and beaches. OC Coastkeepers provides opportunities for Assisteens' volunteers to do monthly beach cleanups on the first Saturday (Huntington Beach) and second Saturday (San Clemente) of the month. Assisteens also sponsor our own beach cleanup events throughout the year and participate in National Beach Cleanup Day in September.
- **Food for Families** - Supporting Families Forward in Irvine, Assisteens hold food drives at Regular Meetings and perform food-sorting activities as requested. The teens also make Thanksgiving meal baskets and participate in the Adopt-A-Family program during the holidays.
- **Help the Homeless** - Help the Homeless is a philanthropy serving HomeAid Orange County, a nonprofit organization that builds and renovates shelters for those in Orange County who find themselves homeless due to sudden job loss, catastrophic illness, spousal desertion or domestic violence. Assisteens volunteer to help assemble care kits for the homeless during the year, but primarily during HomeAid's major event at Angel Stadium in June.

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- **Human Options** – Assisteens has several philanthropic programs benefitting the Human Options shelter for abused women and their children: **Warm Hugs** – Assisteens assemble kits that include a bath towel, a hand towel and a washcloth that are part of the trauma kits the women and children receive when they first arrive at the shelter. Assisteens also assemble holiday goodie bags for the families and special personal care kits for the women and older teens. **Krafts 4 Kids** – Assisteens' newest program providing crafting kits for the children.
- **IVC Food Pantry** – Assisteens played an integral role in establishing the IVC Food Resource Center, purchasing food, stocking shelves and providing funding to obtain critically needed computer and office equipment. We continue to support the Center, which serves students struggling with food insecurities.
- **Library Craft Days** – Initiated in 1997, the Assisteens Library Craft Days at University Park Library has become a huge success. The teens hold monthly craft days, where neighborhood children come and create crafts at different art stations.
- **OC Parks** – Assisteens' volunteers support habitat restoration by planting native plants and removing invasive weeds to benefit wildlife in local regional parks.
- **Operation School Bell®** – Operation School Bell is a philanthropic program of National Assistance League and was established by Assistance League of Irvine in 1990 to clothe children in need attending Irvine Unified School District campuses. Assisteens assemble hygiene kits, school supply kits and sew masks.
- **RMH Breakfast Café** – This philanthropy supports Ronald McDonald House charities by providing a home-cooked breakfast for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House in Orange while their children are receive lifesaving care at CHOC (Children's Hospital of Orange County).
- **Senior Services** – Assisteens are involved in a variety of programs at Irvine senior residential facilities. Our teens provide decorations for the facilities, assemble seasonal goodie bags and serve as helpers for game days, arts and crafts, and other activities.
- **Young Masters™ Art Show** – Sponsored by ALI in conjunction with the Irvine Unified School District and Orange County Imagination Celebration, the ALI Young Masters Art Show is an exhibit of exceptional works of art by the District's elementary school students. The two-week show begins with Festivities Day held at Irvine City Hall, where honored artists, their families and the community partake in an afternoon of entertainment, hands-on art activities and refreshments, all free of charge! Assisteens play an integral role in assisting the young guests at many of the art stations at the event.

Fundraising

- **See's Candy** – Each teen is asked to sell See's Candies in support of the organization once a year.
- **Dining Out for Charity** – Assisteens organize dinners at local restaurants that give Assisteens back a percentage of sales brought in by Assisteens on a designated evening. Assisteens invite family and friends to attend the Dining out for Charity events.
- **Recycling** – Assisteens collect recyclable items, turn them in at a local recycling center and bring the money earned from their recycling efforts to an Assisteens meeting.