



# ALTRUSA

## milestones

- 1917** | Altrusa Institute founded as a chain of national clubs where business and professional women can meet and exchange ideas. Coined name is a combination of "altruism" and "USA"
- 1918** | First convention, led by Mamie L. Bass. Organization shifts focus to community service
- 1922** | Altrusa grows to 20 clubs of working professional women, attracting notable members such as Eleanor Roosevelt and Dr. Lillian Gilbreth, pioneer of industrial engineering
- 1935** | Altrusa organizes its first club in Mexico and begins to establish international presence
- 1946** | Altrusa sends first representative to the United Nations
- 1962** | Altrusa Foundation was established
- 1977** | Altrusa becomes the first volunteer service group to adopt literacy as a focus
- 1989** | Altrusa expands beyond literacy and education to adopt environmental concerns
- 1997** | Altrusa Foundation adopts Camp Safe Haven for children with HIV/AIDS
- Last Year** | Altrusans provide over one million volunteer hours in their communities world-wide

## local club contact

**Altrusa International, Inc.**  
 332 South Michigan Avenue\*Suite 1123 Chicago, IL 60604  
 Voice\*312.427.4410 Fax\*312.427.8521 E-mail\*altrusa@altrusa.com  
[www.altrusa.com](http://www.altrusa.com)



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## at a glance

- \* Altrusa International is a not-for-profit international association of professional women and men who volunteer their energies and expertise in projects dedicated to community betterment.
- \* Altrusa currently counts nearly 10,000 members organized in community-based clubs located within districts in nearly every state and many countries around the globe. Proudly, Altrusans gave over one million volunteer hours to their communities last year.
- \* Ongoing special focus: Literacy, the environment, HIV/AIDS.



## our mission

Altrusa International provides community service, develops leadership, fosters international understanding and encourages

fellowship by an international network of executives and professionals in diversified career classifications.

## our vision

**Altrusa International Leading in Service** – Giving the gifts of leadership and service to communities worldwide.

## did you know

- \* That in 1977 Altrusa became the first volunteer service group to adopt literacy as the focus of its ongoing community activities?
- \* That ASTRA, a volunteer organization for young people ages 12 to 25, is sponsored by local Altrusa clubs?
- \* That Altrusa International has held observer status at the United Nations since 1946 and regularly participates in UN briefings and conferences related to global economic and social concerns?
- \* That when Franklin Roosevelt was elected governor of New York, Eleanor Roosevelt helped form a club in Albany, inviting prospective members to meetings at the governor's mansion?



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