

Altrusa of Troy
Minutes of Lunch Meeting
November 21, 2011

This month's noon meeting was held at Riverside School.

Attendance: 9 members and 2 guests of Tami Baird Ganley

Members attending were Babs Wesbecher, Myrle Briggs, Bev Nally, Ellen Luken, Sondra Christian, Tami Baird Ganley, Ann Baird, Jan Hamman, Mary Davis

Guests: Sally Simonis and Lois Russell

The meeting opened shortly after 12:00 with members saying the Altrusa grace.

Program: Altrusa member Faye McNerney presented her experiences from a recent trip with her husband to Swaziland. They were part of a medical team known as the Luke Commission. The Luke Commission is a faith based non-profit medical team that delivers comprehensive health care to people in Swaziland. This commission tests people for HIV and treats the population for common diseases and also for diseases associated with HIV. They set up mobile clinics and often see 600-800 patients per day. Their days can be nearly 24 hours long since many people wait in line for long periods and many also come to the clinic when it is dark. In one year this medical team sees over 20,000 patients and delivers 180,000 medical packets. It is a ministry of compassionate medicine represented by international teams. Drs. Harry and Echo VanderWal who head up the team go to Swaziland from the end of January through the end of October every year. The Luke Commission has been operating since 2005. The intense need for this medical mission, the difficulties they encounter to carry out their work, and the needs of the patients were seen in the pictures that Faye showed. Swaziland has the highest rate of HIV in the world. There is a tremendous need for both education about HIV and medicine for this population of about one million people in a country about the size of New Jersey.

Roundtable and announcements: Altrusa members were clearly touched by the program today and thanked Faye for the presentation and her help with the Luke Commission.

Babs gave us information about an endeavor through Partners in Hope which is called Touch of Hope.

Touch of Hope takes gently used clothing for the people to wear for job interviews. Clothing can be dropped off at the Episcopal church Wednesdays 11-2:00.

Keep Mary Hobson and Barb Owen in your thoughts and prayers.

It is time to send your Altrusa and other volunteer hours to Ann Baird for months of June through November.

Happy Thanksgiving to all

Respectfully submitted (for Teresa) by Ellen Luken