

Altrusa Dallas makes school a slam-dunk for kids

STAFF REPORT

Altrusa International of Dallas kicked off its back-to-school drive called DUNK — Dallas Uniforms for Needy Kids — with a party hosted at Crest Cadillac in Plano July 6.

Altrusa Dallas seeks new and gently used clothing, coats, shoes and other necessities to help needy school children in Dallas ISD meet the new uniform policy.

In 2005, Dallas ISD began requiring all elementary and middle-school students to wear uniforms. The district provides one voucher worth \$25 to each qualifying low-income child for one pair of pants (khaki, blue or black pants) and one or two white, collared shirts (depending on the vendor). The district provides no other assistance to low-income families for the entire school year to help meet the new requirements.

The uniform policy has become a hardship on many families who cannot afford to purchase additional sets of clothing for their children during the course of the year. If a child comes to school without the required uniform, the child is either put in suspension or sent home.

"The needs of these school children are overwhelming," said

Sandy May, chairwoman of the DUNK project and Wylie resident. "One child wanted to stay in school so badly that he stapled a piece of paper to a T-shirt to make a collar."

Altrusa Dallas is collecting monetary donations to help provide new uniforms for as many children as possible.

"We are fortunate that Crest Cadillac has partnered with us to raise money for these children, but we need more help," said Michelle May, president of Altrusa Dallas and North Dallas family law attorney. "Our goal is to provide an additional uniform voucher to at least 1,800 needy school children in DISD — that means we need to raise at least \$45,000."

The club seeks corporate and individual sponsors for the uniform project. In addition, the club seeks donations of gently used clothing items to meet the district's policy.

"We hope to collect enough gently used clothes to start a clothes closet at each school that we are able to help," Michelle May said. "That will enable the schools to help the needy children after the new uniforms wear out."

The DUNK project has also been named a beneficiary of the Hood Hoops for Charity basketball event, sponsored by hip-hop



RAISING FUNDS AND AWARENESS: Club president and North Dallas family law attorney Michelle May with K104 D.J. Cat Daddy at Crest Cadillac kickoff party for Altrusa's DUNK Uniform Project.

D.J. Cat Daddy of KKDA K104 FM and Clout Records, to be held each Thursday for 10 weeks at various Dallas area recreation centers. The recreation centers have also agreed to be drop-off points for donations of gently used clothing for DUNK.

The project kicked off July 6 and will continue through Sept. 15, when the club plans delivery of the uniform vouchers and clothing to the schools.

Donations may be made

through the club's Web site at www.altrusadallas.org. Used clothing may be dropped off at any of the following drop-off locations or contact the club for additional drop-off arrangements:

The May Firm, 14850 Montfort Road, Suite 185

Tommie Allen Rec Center, 7071 Bonnie View Road

Juanita Craft Rec Center, 4500 Spring

West Dallas Boys Club, 3004 Westmoreland

Arlington Park Rec Center, 1505 Record Crossing

Thurgood Marshall Rec Center, 5150 Mark Trail Way
Samuel Grand Rec Center, 6200 E. Grand Ave.

Cummings Rec Center, 2900 Cummings

Larry Johnson Rec Center, 3700 Dixon

Information submitted by Michelle May, president of Altrusa Dallas and North Dallas resident.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

WORKING HARD: Altrusa DUNK project chairwoman Sandy May, Crest Cadillac employee of Wylie, and club member Jan Hemphill, a North Dallas attorney, solicit donations at Hood Hoops charity basketball event.



GETTING THE CROWS GOING: Club president Michelle May with K104 DJ Cat Daddy at Hood Hoops charity basketball event benefiting Altrusa's DUNK project.