

Neighbors **IN THE COMMUNITY**

# Altrusa Dallas making school a slam dunk for kids

## STAFF REPORT

Altrusa International of Dallas kicked off its back-to-school drive called D.U.N.K. — Dallas Uniforms for Needy Kids — with a party held at Crest Cadillac in Plano. Altrusa Dallas seeks new and gently-used clothing, coats, shoes and other necessities, to help needy school children in Dallas ISD meet the uniform policy.

In 2005, DISD 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 in khaki, blue or black and one or two white, collared shirts.

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 with-

out the required uniform, the child is either put on suspension or sent home.

"The needs of these school children are overwhelming," said Sandy May, chair of the DUNK project and a 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. "Our goal is to provide an additional uniform voucher to at least 1,800 needy school children in DISD, which 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," said May. "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 DJ Cat Daddy of KKDA K104 FM and Clout Records. It is 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 on July 6, and continues through Sept. 5, 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](http://www.altrusadallas.org). Used clothing may be dropped off at Crest Cadillac, 2701 North Central Expressway, Plano 75075 or con-

tact the club for additional drop-off arrangements.

*Information for this story submitted by Altrusa International of Dallas.*



**BENEFIT EVENT:** Club President Michelle May with K104 DJ Cat Daddy at Hood Hoops charity basketball event benefiting Altrusa's DUNK project.



**DON'T YOU WANNA:** Altrusa DUNK project chairwoman Sandy May of Wylie and club member Jan Hemphill solicit donations at Hood Hoops charity basketball event.



**HOOPING IT UP:** Altrusa club president Michelle May with K104 DJ Cat Daddy at Crest Cadillac kick-off party for Altrusa's DUNK Uniform Project.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS