Greetings Altrusans! On behalf of the International Foundation, I would like to welcome you and to thank you for your generosity in supporting the Foundation. District Conference is an exciting time where we reconnect with friends, learn about best practices and service projects, and it is also an opportunity to learn more about the Foundation.

For over 60 years, the Altrusa International Foundation, Inc. has supported our Clubs throughout the world. Through the grants process, which happens twice a year, Clubs are provided with the financial resources to support their service projects, as well as funding provided to multiple children's camps through Club 21 donations. The Foundation also has a special Disaster Relief fund. These funds are used to support local communities after a disaster. A recent example of Disaster Relief support was assistance to individuals displaced by the fires in Maui.

During the District Conference, please consider donating to the International Foundation. Your District Liaison is a resource for you and will be conducting fundraising activities during the conference. I also encourage you to become a member of Club 21, become a Lamplighter or add another diamond to your Lamplighter pin or to your Hofmeister pendant

The Foundation provides another valuable resource to the Altrusa community. The Foundation shares its IRS tax-exempt charity designation with more than 130 local foundations via a group tax-exemption and is a resource to its affiliated local foundations. The Foundation provides Bylaw templates and guidance to local club foundations thereby facilitating compliance with IRS requirements. This allows these local foundations to fundraise as tax-exempt charities. Altrusa provides the resources that further the work of local clubs, *Leading to a Better Community*.

As the philanthropic partner to the Association, the Foundation provides the funding for each of the international awards including the Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Awards, the Letha H. Brown Literacy Awards, Mamie L. Bass Service Awards, and the ASTRA Service Awards. The Foundation also provides the funding for the ASTRA Scholarships.

For more information on specific projects, grant deadlines, and local foundations, please go to the Altrusa International website @ www.altrusa.org.

Wishing you a successful and enjoyable conference!

Yours in service,

Karen Robinson, Chair
Altrusa International Foundation, Inc.