

NEWS

Assistance League of St. Louis
30 Henry Avenue
Ellisville, MO 63011
Phone: 636-227-6200
info@alstl.org



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Media Contacts:

Assistance League of St. Louis, [636-227-6200](tel:636-227-6200)
Caroline Westphal, [314-495-7067](tel:314-495-7067) carolinewestphal60@gmail.com
Vicki Merz, [314-749-4499](tel:314-749-4499), vmerz@earthlink.net

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF ST. LOUIS RECIEVES COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD SPONSORED BY COMMERCE BANK

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The volunteers of Assistance League of St. Louis were awarded the 2018 Community Service Award sponsored by Commerce Bank at a reception held April 12 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Chesterfield. Assistance League of St. Louis received grants totaling \$10,000 funded by William T. Kemper and Commerce Bancshares foundation in honor of the organization's volunteers.

Suzanne Pratl, Assistance League of St. Louis' current president, accepted the award and grants which were presented by Bob Holmes, President and Chief Executive Officer of Commerce Bank.

Assistance League of St. Louis is run by an all-volunteer group of more than 500 volunteers who contribute more than 72,000 hours annually.

The organization's mission is to identify, develop, fund and implement ongoing philanthropic programs to serve specific needs of children and adults in the St. Louis community. Volunteers manage nine programs for the benefit of various underserved populations in the St. Louis metropolitan region. Designed to empower, not enable, programs include Operation School Bell[®], Operation HUG, Steps to Success, My Own Fun Stuff, Project ROSE, Assistance League Outreach, Assistance League Scholarship, Assistance League Waste Not and Assistance League Beyond the Bell. Each program has a special focus from school uniforms to shoes and socks and from personal care items for crisis shelter clients to teddy bears for comfort. Through their efforts, volunteers touched the lives of more than 46,000 people during 2017.

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All funds raised are returned to the St. Louis community. Assistance League of St. Louis is an accredited charity of the Better Business Bureau and *Platinum* GuideStar member.

The Commerce Bank Community Service Award is dedicated to recognizing individuals who make an exceptional contribution to their community and the people who live there. A special grant given in the name of the honoree is awarded to the nonprofit agency of the honoree's choice. The potential award recipients are identified through a thoughtful consultation process with groups that include community and civic leaders. Commerce Bank officers and advisory board members then select the Community Service Award recipient.

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