

Pomona Valley Assistance League raises a cup for children



Assistance League of the Pomona Valley members served a delicious fall tea during one of its larger fundraisers. (Photo by Suzanne Sproul)

By [Suzanne Sproul](#), Inland Valley Daily Bulletin



Nitzi Barker, left, Cathy Harden and Cathy Rockwell helped welcome 200 guests to the Assistance League of the Pomona Valley's fall tea fundraiser. (Photo by Suzanne Sproul)

Unusually hot weather didn't stop supporters of the Assistance League of Pomona Valley from enjoying a spot of tea for charity.

In fact, no one seemed to notice the triple-digit temperatures outside on a recent Sunday afternoon because inside the historic Ebell Club house in Pomona the atmosphere was cool and festive. The afternoon featured a bake sale of homemade goodies, a silent auction, raffles and a book exchange, along with a delightful tea with finger sandwiches and scones. The book donations were part of the longtime service organization's annual make-a-difference day in the lives of local students in grades kindergarten through eighth.

Helping children has been at the heart of this group since its inception. Its service area is large, extending from Pomona to Glendora, San Dimas, La Verne, Claremont, Chino Hills and Diamond Bar. Assistance League of Pomona Valley is the eighth oldest chapter of more than 120 national chapters. It began in 1932 and was chartered in 1946.

The Ebell Club was packed with tables and guests at the 16th annual event normally conducted in the spring but changed to the fall this year. "We thought moving the tea to the fall and then having the golf tournament in the spring was best for everyone. And we usually have the tea in our clubhouse but the event outgrew it. We are grateful to be able to have the tea here at this beautiful place and because it allowed us to double our capacity which means we can raise more money for our programs," said Nitzi Barker, Assistance League member.

Two hundred guests attended the fundraiser conducted by the League, which president Cathy Harden called a great group of 42 women and three guys. "We're three lifters and 42 chiefs," she said with a laugh.

Proceeds will benefit the all-volunteer nonprofit's Dental Center, which provide care to children in need; Operation School Bell, which gives children new clothes each fall; and Cubs for Kids, which raises money and distributes teddy bears to children experiencing trauma. In addition, the group supports Acts of Giving, making sure children identified by school nurses have Christmas presents; Assault Survivor Kit, supplying items through Project Sister to victims of abuse; and Community Closet, offering clothes to families in crisis. Members work throughout the year to raise money to support their programs. The tea and the annual spring golf tournament – scheduled for the second Monday in May at the Red Hill Country Club in Upland — are major sources of income along with donations from the community. For more information about the group and how to help, go to www.alpv.org

•Seen at the Scene – Cathy Rockwell; Betty Ward; Beverly Butler; Carina Spears; Liza Frazier; David Frazier; and Keith Barker.