

BARTA 2007 GROUP PROJECTS

GROUP PROJECT NOMINATED--Columbus Architectural Tours (begun in 2004) In collaboration with the Columbus Visitors' Center and the Columbus Park Department, BARTA provided over 50 volunteers to help plan and staff programs for visitors to our community.

Over 20 retired teachers have trained extensively in history and architecture to guide the daily Columbus Architectural Bus Tours. Working with other volunteers we greeted over 5000 tourists who came to see Columbus' famous modern architecture. We have become one of the natural sources from which new guides are recruited. Likewise, tour guide trainers came from the BARTA pool.

Pennies from Heaven (begun in 1999) This year we donated \$400 to Family School Partners and \$100 to the Hope Community Center to be earmarked for children's programs. The "pennies" are collected at our meetings. To date we have donated \$2375.

Magazines (begun in 1999) Brought in by our membership and distributed to retirement homes, East Columbus Community Center, Senior Citizens Center, and Doctors' Offices. Some magazines come to us from a Senior Citizens Center in Indy and some go back to that center.

Dictionaries (begun in 2003) Approximately 3500 dictionaries are distributed to all 3rd graders in the county and adults in Adult Education Courses working for their GED.

Book Buddies (begun in 2004) Approximately 75 retired teachers give 2-4 hours each week of the school year in a school, reading with an assigned student.

Love Chapel Christmas Basket (begun in 2002) During December approximately 15 retired teachers help those in need to fill their Christmas Basket with supplies from the Love Chapel "Store".

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Amateur Sporting Events (begun in 2005) This year approximately 35 retired teachers worked with the park department to facilitate national amateur athletic events such as the World Series of Girls' Fast Pitch Softball. Recognition by national sports organizations has led to other national and regional amateur events in softball, baseball, swimming, and soccer being held throughout 2007. BARTA members work to help make teams and individuals welcome by working in hospitality programs, help staff the opening ceremonies, take tickets, chase balls, and sometimes even serve as field officials. In 2007 these amateur events brought in over \$12 million to our community and provided meaningful activity for several thousand young people.

Reality Store (begun in 2002) Members help a local company by working in "stores" at the Middle Schools for the Reality Store. It is a vision of each students' life at the age of 28 showing them what expenses they will have, how much money they will probably earn and how life's unexpected expenses cause difficulties.