



ALIVE! Wire

Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically

Spring 2012

President's Message

Building on Strengths

During ALIVE!'s intensive strategic planning process, the Board has studied the many strengths and certain weaknesses that people inside and outside of ALIVE! have identified. Two key strengths stand out: 1) the strong and diverse congregational base that provides support in terms of both volunteers and donations of money, food, furniture and housewares, and 2) the size, range and quality of programs ALIVE! operates.

While these strengths are key to ALIVE!'s success, it has been interesting for the Board to discover that many people in the community, and indeed in our affiliated congregations, know only of ALIVE!'s programs that provide emergency assistance. They are largely unaware of ALIVE!'s efforts to help families become self-reliant: the nationally accredited ALIVE! Child Development Center (CDC) and ALIVE! House that provides emergency shelter and services to women and their families.

Both the CDC and ALIVE! House help families in very different ways to help themselves dramatically improve their lives. At the CDC, ALIVE! provides an all-day, year-round program so that parents can work while their children are being taught the many skills needed to start kindergarten on the same level as other children. And at ALIVE! House we are helping mothers and their children pull their lives back together, find work and learn how to be self-sufficient, self-reliant families.

A major focus of the Board over the next year will be to grow awareness of the full range of programs provided by ALIVE! and to strengthen the relationships with affiliated congregations. We want to ensure that members of our congregations understand how their donations are making a difference in the lives of families throughout Alexandria and how they can become involved in all of ALIVE!'s programs.

Thousands of individuals are helped by ALIVE! each month, and the Board is committed to continuing and expanding that support as long as we have neighbors in Alexandria who are in need. We hope you will help us build on our strengths.

Cheryl Malloy, ALIVE! President



Cheryl Malloy

ALIVE!'s Own Living Legends!

On March 22nd, the Board of Directors of the Living Legends of Alexandria will honor Harry "Bud" Hart and Mike Oliver for the contributions they have made to the City of Alexandria. Both have been heroes at ALIVE! for many years!



"Mr. Bud" reading to students at ALIVE!'s Child Development Center

In addition to his successful Alexandria law practice, Bud Hart has been involved in some of this City's most humanistic endeavors. "Mr. Bud" has been a reader for nearly three decades to the children at ALIVE!'s Child Development Center—Alexandria's only nationally accredited preschool that offers tuition fees based on family income. But, Hart doesn't just read to the children, he is also one of the Center's

best fundraisers by his participation in the center's annual walk-a-thon. As a past president of the Alexandria Kiwanis Club, he gets his club members to pledge for him when he "walks the walk." As noted by a colleague, "Bud Hart doesn't walk cheap."

Mike Oliver thoroughly enjoys living and volunteering in Alexandria and is active in many organizations and special events in the City. He is a past president of ALIVE! and continues to serve with his wife Linda as Representatives from the Church of St. Clement on ALIVE!'s Board. Among many projects, Mike and Linda made home food deliveries for the



Mike Oliver as ALIVE!'s very own Santa

Family Emergency Program, coordinated ALIVE!'s part in the Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot, and personified the spirit of all those who make ALIVE! such a critical part of Alexandria's safety net for the needy. Between Thanksgiving and Christmas morning, Mike continues to enjoy performing as Santa throughout the area. He accepts no fees for this, but steers those who wish to make a donation to the ALIVE! Child Development Center.

Notes from the Executive Director



Ken Naser,
ALIVE!'s Executive Director

Every once in a while we see something or become aware of a situation and think, “There, but for the grace of God, go I.” Especially since the beginning of the recession, we’ve had many new clients, folks who had never needed ALIVE!’s help before and, in some cases, were even volunteers or contributors. Such was the case with a woman I’ll call “Angela”. She was a typical working middle class woman, living in a nice apartment here in the City. Then, through a reorganization, she lost her job. If that wasn’t bad enough, while still unemployed and searching for work, she became seriously ill. As is often the case, unemployment ran out, resources dried up and she fell behind on her rent.

ALIVE! ended up helping Angela like we help thousands of people every month. But, unlike a lot of others, Angela recently sent a thank you note to Linda Coleman, Chair of our Family Emergency Program with a generous contribution. Her note said:

Dear Mrs. Coleman & the ALIVE! Team,

In the summer of 2009, ALIVE! provided me with rent assistance from ALIVE! & support from other churches (St. Paul & Christ Church) for which I am very grateful & have never forgotten. Please accept this donation of gratitude in thanks for the caring support that I received from you so that you can help others.

I am back on my feet with steady work & ALIVE! helped to provide stability for me when I most needed it!

God bless all of you,

Cordially, Angela

That says it all.

Ken

Spring2ACTion 2012

Spring2ACTion is an innovative online community-wide fundraising event designed to inspire unprecedented levels of charitable giving for Alexandria. Every donation you make gives your favorite nonprofit (like ALIVE!) a chance to win even more money through matching grants and prizes! Prizes are awarded to nonprofits on the number of donors who give, not the total amount of donations – so gifts of \$5 or \$10 can really help!

How can you help?

1. Visit www.Spring2ACTion.org on May 2 and make a donation to ALIVE! and other nonprofits doing life-changing work in Alexandria. Sign up for notifications!
2. Be a fundraiser! Adopt ALIVE! as your favorite nonprofit and run your own fundraising campaign. For details, visit www.Spring2ACTion.org.
3. Spread the word on email, Facebook and Twitter!



ALIVE!

President: Cheryl Malloy, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Vice President: Ellen Brown, Community Representative

Treasurer: Rick Glassco, Immanuel Church-On-The-Hill

Recording Secretary: Eric Winakur, Agudas Achim Congregation

Kenneth D. Naser: Executive Director

Kathy Richards: Editor, ALIVE! Wire

ALIVE! Participates in the Virginia Neighborhood Assistance Program!

The Virginia Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) is a program developed by the Commonwealth of Virginia that provides state tax credits as an incentive for businesses and individuals to contribute directly to non-profit organizations, such as ALIVE!, that serve economically disadvantaged citizens. We are one of the few organizations in Virginia which are approved to distribute these tax credits.

Eligible individuals making charitable contributions to ALIVE! may receive tax credits valued at 40% of their donation. This is a direct dollar-for-dollar credit against taxes owed to the state, not a deduction. As an example, an individual who donates \$500 can claim a \$200 state tax credit, which will lower their tax bill by \$200. This is in addition to any deductions a donor might normally claim on a charitable gift.

"This (the Virginia NAP) is an added bonus and I am glad that ALIVE! let us know about it as we will now consider more 'local' charities within VA when making donations in the future."

-Anh and James

Requests will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis. Credits can be given on donations made by June 30. To apply, please contact the ALIVE! office by calling (703) 837-9321 or sending an email to tricia.ritchie@hotmail.com.



ALIVE'S Newest Member Congregation

Congregational Representative Nataki MacMurray and Pastor James A. Parker of **Church of God and Saints of Christ Sixteenth Tabernacle**, ALIVE!'s newest Member Congregation, display their ALIVE! banner for the first time.

In Memory

On February 2nd, ALIVE! lost a wonderful friend and supporter when Doris Mela passed away at home after a long illness. She had been an active volunteer from the Beth El Hebrew Congregation since the early days of the organization and served on the Board of Directors as Corresponding Secretary for fifteen years, from 1989 to 2004. Doris is survived by her husband Don and three children.



Doris Mela pictured with her husband Don at the ALIVE! Annual Recommitment and Volunteer Recognition Dinner in 2005.

Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?"
Then said I, "Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6:8

Celebrating Thanksgiving by Giving Back By Linda Coleman

Bill Gates has said, “Our success has really been based on partnerships from the very beginning”. And, through the years, that has been so true of ALIVE!.

At Thanksgiving, the ALIVE! Family Emergency Program partnered for the first time with Keller Williams Realty in Old Town Alexandria to provide holiday dinners to 60 families in need in our city. The enthusiasm of all those involved, and the number of Keller Williams’ affiliates and clients who played a part in the success of this endeavor clearly demonstrated the thoughtfulness and caring of those in our community towards providing for some who are less fortunate.

The Family Emergency Program worked with the City of Alexandria’s Department of Community and Human Services, Alexandria City Public Schools, Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority, and ALIVE! Congregations, among others to identify households without the means to celebrate Thanksgiving with a traditional turkey dinner.

Associates and friends of Keller Williams did every bit of the necessary leg work, gathering the food, packing the gift baskets, and delivering them to the grateful families during Thanksgiving week. The effort was such a success that the goal for next Thanksgiving is to provide turkey dinners to 100 families.

What better way to show our thanks for all our blessings!

Keller Williams Realty associates, family and friends are shown with some of the bags used to deliver a Thanksgiving turkey with all the “fixins” to Alexandrians in need.



Alexandrians receiving food from ALIVE! Between December 1, 2011, and February 29, 2012

	Households	Individuals
December	784	2734
January	741	2419
February	651	2113



CFC Code:
44658



United Way Code:
8352



Food Program Wish List

Canned Meat
Tuna
Canned Spaghetti Sauce
Peanut Butter
Grape Jelly
Cereal
Complete Pancake Mix
(needs only water)
Syrup
Dried Milk
Baby Food
Crackers
Jell-O
Coffee and Tea
\$ Money to buy
fresh eggs and meat \$

New Glasses for those in need

On January 28th, clients of the Last Saturday Food Distribution (LSFD) at the Church of the Resurrection looked over a selection of eye glasses. Representatives of the Hispanic Institute for Blindness Prevention have met with clients at both Cora Kelly and the Church of the Resurrection to perform eye examinations and write prescriptions for glasses if needed. This is another way that ALIVE!'s Food Program is trying to make additional information and services available at the LSFD each month.



Coats, Coats, Coats....

Over the weekend of Feb. 17-19, The International Gem & Jewelry Show at the Dulles Expo Center offered shoppers the opportunity to donate gently used coats to gain two free admission tickets for the show. Over 1500 coats were contributed and all of them were donated to ALIVE! Most of the coats (some with price tags still attached) were distributed free to clients at the three Last Saturday Food Distribution sites on February 25th. Pictured here, clients are choosing from the hundreds of coats given out at the Cora Kelly site. Thanks go to the Gem & Jewelry Show and the ALIVE! volunteers who helped with this project.



Postal Letter Carrier's Food Drive



MAY
12
2012



ALIVE!



Please leave food at your Mail Box!

A portion of the food collected in Alexandria will be donated to the ALIVE! Food Program.

Volunteers are needed to sort the donations at the ALIVE! food warehouse starting at 2 PM on Sunday, May 13th. Please call the ALIVE! office (703) 837-9321 if you would like to volunteer.



Mark Your Calendars



STEP ALIVE!

Sunday, May 6, 2012
2:00 PM

Walk for the ALIVE! Child Development Center
This year celebrating the 40th year of the CDC
Starting at the CDC, 2723 King Street Enjoy the 5-mile walk and the community picnic that follows

Step ALIVE!
Walkathon



PLAN AHEAD NOW

- Organize your teams
- Gather pledges from family & friends
- Arrange a mini-walk for your congregation and your friends
- Have questions? Want to volunteer?

Call Mary Eileen Dixon (571-970-0369) or Ellen Brown (703-836-4922)
For more information and details go to www.alive-inc.org,



CDC Wish List

- 5" friskar scissors with blunt tip for kids - 10 pairs needed
- Simple Green cleaning solution
- Bleach
- Lysol spray
- Unscented baby wipes



Forty Years of Quality Preschool

By Ken Naser



Pam Blankenship and the late Ruby Tucker

It was 1972 when the fledgling “Mothers of Arlandria” was threatened with closure and the Reverend Chris Hobgood, pastor of First Christian Church on King Street, said, “ALIVE!, this is something you need to take on.” The program had lost its federal funding and was seeking a home so that the newly-employed mothers would not lose their source of child care and preschool for their children.

Reverend Hobgood offered classroom space in the educational wing of his church, Mrs. Barbara Green, trained in the preschool methodology of Maria Montessori, volunteered to serve as the preschool director and the ALIVE! Child Development Center (CDC) was born. Now, forty years later, the ALIVE! CDC stands out in Alexandria as a quality preschool opportunity for 38 children. Nationally accredited by the NAEYC (National Association for Education of Young Children) and holding a Virginia Quality Rating Improvement System rating of four stars, the CDC offers the families of children a sliding-scale tuition

based on total family income and their ability to pay. The CDC also offers a full-day, year-round program that is very important to working parents.

Barbara Green served as Director for seven years, followed by Sister Marita Ellis who directed the center for five years. The first “paid” director was a ten year tenured CDC teacher, Mrs. Ruby Tucker who was appointed in 1983 and remained in that position for approximately 15 years, a record so far. Though our first three directors are no longer alive, their legacies live on in the care, commitment, professionalism and devotion to the ALIVE! CDC children in the person of our current Director, Pam Blankenship.

Congratulations to the ALIVE! Child Development Center for 40 years of service to the children of our community.



ALIVE! House Happenings:

Spring Sidewalk Sale

Join us on Saturday, May 19th from 8am-3pm for the Annual Sidewalk Sale that will benefit the ALIVE! House shelter. As you start your Spring cleaning, please save a few items for us!

For information about making donations please call 703-684-1430 or email alivehousedir@alive-inc.org. Whether you make a donation, or stop by to treasure hunt for yourself, you'll be helping the families at ALIVE! House break the cycle of homelessness for themselves and future generations!



ALIVE! Wire

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Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Alexandria, VA
Permit Number 567

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ALIVE!, founded in 1969, is a nonprofit organization devoted to helping Alexandrians facing emergency situations or long-term needs become capable of assuming self-reliant roles in the community. ALIVE! has grown from a handful of organizations and volunteers to a vigorous organization of 42 congregations and hundreds of volunteers.

ALIVE! offers Alexandrians in need help through ALIVE! House Shelter, Furniture, Housewares, Emergency Food and Financial Assistance, Child Development Center and Last Saturday Food Distribution Programs.

Contact ALIVE! at
703- 837-9300
E-mail : alivetoo@aol.com
www.alive-inc.org

Spring 2012 Calendar

April

- 3 ALIVE! Board Meeting** – 7 PM at St. Mary’s Lyceum, 313 Duke Street
- 28 Last Saturday Food Distribution:** Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center, and Ladrey High Rise
- Food Collection:** Agudas Achim Congregation, First Christian, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Old Presbyterian Meeting House, St. Joseph Catholic, Trinity UMC, Unitarian Universalist Church, Zion Baptist
- Furniture Collection:** Grace Episcopal, Church of the Resurrection, and Christ Church

May

- 1 ALIVE! Board Meeting** -7 PM at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt Street
- 2 Spring 2 Action** online giving
- 6 Annual Step ALIVE! Walkathon** Benefiting the ALIVE! Child Development Center
- 12 Stamp Out Hunger Letter Carrier’s Food Drive**
- 19 ALIVE! House Sidewalk Sale**, 125 South Payne Street in Old Town
- 26 Last Saturday Food Distribution:** Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center, and Ladrey High Rise
- Food Collection:** Agudas Achim Congregation, Christ Church, Church of the Resurrection, Fairlington UMC, Grace Episcopal
- Furniture Collection:** Blessed Sacrament and Westminster Presbyterian

June

- 5 ALIVE! Board Meeting** – 7 PM at Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 323 S. Fairfax St.
- 30 Last Saturday Food Distribution** – Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center, and Ladrey High Rise
- Food Collection:** Blessed Sacrament Catholic, Convergence Community, Immanuel Church-On-The-Hill, St Mary’s Catholic Church
- Furniture Collection:** Christ Church, St. Mary’s, St. Paul’s Episcopal, Unitarian Universalist Church, and Washington Street UMC