



ALIVE! Wire

Alexandrians InVolved Ecumenically

Spring 2004

President's Message

Dear Friends,

The pace at ALIVE! is intense. Although I was previously aware of ALIVE!'s many facets, I've been awed and humbled by the dedication and commitment of ALIVE!'s volunteers who, along with hardworking staff, continue to make the fulfillment of ALIVE!'s mission a reality.

When I arrived at this year's Turkey Trot, I was proud to see our new ALIVE! truck bearing the tree of life that symbolizes ALIVE! as approximately 1,300 runners arrived with their donations of food. Two service organizations from T.C. Williams joined numerous other volunteers to make quick work of sorting bag after bag of food and loading them on the truck. What an inspiring sight!

That same new truck collects and delivers donated furniture and food, all the while carrying the sign of our commitment to Alexandrians in need. Mike Diffley's and Don Mela's articles elsewhere in this issue tell

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The Step ALIVE! Walkathon ... a Family Affair

FOOLS ALIVE! 2004—April in Paris!

What a great evening is planned to benefit ALIVE! Get ready for some merriment as we will once again celebrate Fools ALIVE!—April in Paris on Saturday, April 3, 2004. Mark your calendars now and join us for a wonderful evening at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

Come one, come all to celebrate a glorious fun-filled evening, meet your friends, and view and bid on one-of-a-kind auction items. Dance to a swing band, enjoy a cocktail buffet, and most importantly, contribute to ALIVE! and its worthy work. Kerry Donley promises to keep us all entertained as he serves as the Fools ALIVE! auctioneer.

To join in the evening!

The merriment will begin at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$60 per person or \$110 per couple, and includes a bar with beer, wine and soft drinks. To purchase tickets, use the form on page 7 and send reservations in early!

To donate to the silent or live auction!

Please request an auction donation form from Joan or Don Burchell by phone at 703-683-3115 or email at burchelli@aol.com.

To sponsor the evening!

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact Nancy Petersen by phone at 703-518-4700 or 571-426-3203 or email at npetersen@mitchellpetersen.com.



See order form for tickets on page 7

Step ALIVE! 23rd Walkathon

ALIVE!'s 23rd annual Walkathon for the ALIVE! Child Development Center (CDC), will be held *Sunday, May 2, 2004, beginning at 1:30 p.m.* Join us as we gather at First Christian Church, 2723 King Street to walk a 5-mile loop through Old Town past many of Alexandria's historic places of worship.

The Step ALIVE! Walkathon is the CDC's major fundraiser—last year we raised over \$16,000! The CDC is the only nationally accredited center in Alexandria providing high quality preschool and full-time childcare on a sliding fee scale for families who otherwise could not afford quality care. Although full tuition is \$170, parents pay an average of only \$80 per child per week. Due to cuts in state

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Use the Step ALIVE! Walkathon pledge form in this issue (see page 6) or get your pledge form from:

- ▶ ALIVE! Congregational Representatives
- ▶ ALIVE! Child Development Center at 2723 King Street—703-538-9255 or alivecdc@aol.com
- ▶ Allen Sadler, Step ALIVE! Co-Chair—703-619-9075 or sadler1@verizon.net

Step ALIVE! Registration fee:

- ▶ \$10 for adults
- ▶ \$5 for seniors and youth (children under 10 walk for free)

To be a sponsor, mail your check for \$200 or more by April 12th to:

ALIVE! Child Development Center, 2723 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302

Step Alive! Continue from page 1

budgets, United Way and other grant funding, the CDC needs your help more than ever.

All walkers receive a Step ALIVE! t-shirt along with food, drink, and fellowship at the family picnic following the walk, starting around 3:00 p.m. This year, the participant in each age category with the highest pledges will receive special recognition. So if you can't make the walk, make a pledge for a walker!

Sponsors are also needed—please ask your congregation, business or community group to be a Walkathon sponsor. Sponsors who contribute \$200 or more will have their name printed on this year's Walkathon t-shirt.

Please join us for a fun, rewarding day to support this important community program. We look forward to seeing you at the 23rd annual *Step ALIVE! Walk-a-thon!*

Volunteering - The Family Way

by Mike Diffley

Soon after receiving delivery of our new box truck, I was seized by a panic attack: "Will we be able to pull this off? Can the Furniture Committee keep two trucks staffed with volunteers each Saturday? Sometimes we've found it hard to find volunteers for one small truck!"

I don't know why I have doubts like that ...old habit, I guess. The fact is I have (yet again!) been inspired by the great people in our community. New challenges like the need to recruit additional volunteer drivers, schedulers and Saturday morning delivery folks have been met with new responses. Most heartening to me are the families who have responded.

We have long had the awesome husband-wife team of Joe and Alice Krafft—I love them dearly! Recently, a second husband-wife team, Andy and Katie Lynch, joined our crew. Andy, a Marine Corps Captain, drives, and Katie, a school administrator, does the scheduling and joins Andy for Saturday rounds. What a delightful young couple! And they are newlyweds!! Is that cool or what?!

We also have the father-son team of John Bohn and his son, Kevin, a junior at Bishop Ireton. These two great Alexandrians supplement our crews whenever possible, which is more often than not, since they have been out nearly a dozen times in just the last 4 months. Now, that is "walking the talk!"

And, of course, I have my own favorite "go-to" guy, my son, Tim. I cherish our times out together. And I really cherish hearing things like, "Dad, you know that if ever you need me for ALIVE!, the answer is 'yes'. If I have to cancel something, it's cancelled ... no problem." Coming from a busy thirty-year old with his own plans for Saturday mornings, that is really, really, really cool.

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the full story of our truck.

Recently—and thankfully—new volunteers with energy and vision have joined a core of long-time volunteers who have shared years of their lives with ALIVE! Thank you to all the volunteers who have donated time in both large and small amounts.

Thank you also to all who have offered financial assistance to ALIVE! Whether you have contributed to ALIVE! regularly through the years or have donated just once, whether you have contributed a large or small amount of money, you have helped us provide the resources that allow ALIVE! to continue to support and reach out to Alexandrians in need.

Sincerely
Patrice Malley Tighe

RARELY DOES ONE KNOW WHERE FURNITURE WILL GO

by Don Mela

ALIVE! deliveries of donated furniture rarely go as planned.

Last November, a volunteer crew consisting of Bill McCarthy, Peter Kalil, Mike Diffley, Mike Oliver and I made two scheduled deliveries at an apartment building in Arlandria. As we delivered an apartment full for one family, across the hallway a Hispanic man stood in his doorway watching silently, and in the next doorway, a small girl and mother also stood watching.

Mike Diffley noticed the man's apartment was bare. We had more furniture on the truck, so we could save a future trip by delivering here. With the aid of Peter's fluent Spanish, we told the delighted man that we would bring him furniture that he needed.

As this was going on, the child in the next apartment spoke up, "Mama, can I have a bed?" Fortunately, the answer was "yes," and the little girl got her bed as well as a few other items for her apartment.

This was the first day we fully utilized ALIVE!'s new box truck's capacity, for we had big donations and twice filled the new truck, as well as the old Toyota pickup.



ALIVE! CDC children and Alexandria leaders celebrate the new larger, enclosed box truck at the Alexandria United Way's Fall 2003 Campaign Kick-Off

Back row, from left to right, ALIVE! President Patrice Tighe, Alexandria United Way's Allen Lomax, United Way of the National Capital Region CEO Charles Anderson, Kerry Donley, Mayor Bill Euille, Congressman Jim Moran, and Rev. Tim Mabbott

ALIVE! Child Development Center Corner



^ Jim Moran visiting with CDC children on the newly spruced up playground this fall.

Crunchy on the Outside, Cozy on the Inside

Even though there are freezing temperatures outside, it is warm and cozy in the ALIVE! Child Development Center. The walls are filled with artwork shaped like hats and mittens, scarves and snowmen as we explore winter. The children had a paper snowball fight in the classroom, and the teachers lost! There was a lot of giggling going on.

The CDC has reached full enrollment, and there is currently a waiting list for all the classrooms. The services we offer are desperately needed in the community. Parents need a high quality, nationally accredited, affordable preschool so that they can feel good about leaving their children during the day while they work towards self-sufficiency.

We welcome children on childcare subsidy and our income-based tuition sets us apart from other early childhood education programs in Alexandria. On top of that, we have incredible nurturing teachers who absolutely adore the children!

Zero to Three Grant

ALIVE! CDC is participating in a grant project through Zero to Three, an organization that advocates for young children based in Washington, D.C.

They recently received \$2 million to support preschool teacher education in Alexandria and encourage literacy in a developmentally appropriate manner. Zero to Three will provide coaches in the classrooms to help teachers develop strategies to improve literacy, and will pay for staff to further their professional education. Our children will benefit by developing a love of books, reading and writing. The CDC staff is participating 100% and is excited about this innovative program.

Housewares Room Re-Do

Thanks to the efforts of Michael Karona, who is pursuing a Boy Scout Eagle Scout badge, ALIVE!'s Housewares Program room at Fairlington United Methodist Church has been completely renovated with brand new shelving and a beautiful coat of cheerful orange paint. Donated housewares are now neatly organized and more easily accessible by our volunteers.

Michael's mom, Mary Ann Karona, is a volunteer with ALIVE!'s Furniture Program. Our thanks to the Karona family for making this happen!



Boy Scout Michael Karona, ALIVE! Housewares Program Chair Gerry Hebert and Addie Hebert in the newly renovated Housewares room at Fairlington United Methodist Church

Forrest Foundation Grant Award

The CDC recently received a \$5,000 grant award for 2004 from the Washington Forrest Foundation. This grant will help us continue to offer income-based tuition rates to families who otherwise could not afford quality preschool and childcare. Parents only pay an average of \$80 per week per child at the CDC, even though full tuition is \$170 per week per child. We extend our sincerest thanks to the Washington Forrest Foundation for their support of our program.

"The Fabulous 92"

ALIVE!'s Housewares Program has made several changes over the last year to deliver more housewares to a greater number of needy families and persons. We are excited about these measures to improve the efficiency and scope of our program.

We have expanded the number of housewares given away at Last Saturday Food Distribution sites so that over 150 families each month now receive needed basic household goods.

We have also recruited over 90 volunteers from Fairlington United Methodist Church so that housewares can be promptly delivered to needy families within days of a request. This group of volunteers was originally dubbed "The Fabulous 52" (to reflect our goal of recruiting one volunteer for each week of the year). But the response has been so great that we have renamed the group "The Fabulous 92"!

ALIVE! HOUSE Happenings



^ Santa Claus, a.k.a. Mike Oliver, lights up faces at ALIVE! House

Santa Claus Lights Up ALIVE! House

Christmas is a merry season at ALIVE! House. Our home was aglow with a Christmas tree on each floor and candles in all the windows. A bountiful supply of presents poured in from the Montessori School of Alexandria, St. Rita's School, and Brownie Troop #4592 at St. Rita's School.

Santa Claus was a hit with the teenagers and their moms as he entertained with song and story. The annual Christmas Party ended with everyone enjoying fried chicken, salad and ice cream cake—and much talk and laughter!

Volunteers Help Residents File Taxes

Volunteers from Rebates for Free for Metro DC have helped ALIVE! House residents file income tax forms so they will receive Earned Income Tax and child credit funds—our thanks to these dedicated volunteers!



^ Our thanks to Stephen D'Antoni, ALIVE!s 9-11 Project Worker, who has worked diligently to help 9/11 economic victims still in dire financial straits.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 15th Our Annual Sidewalk Sale

- organized by Ann Matikan
and staffed by Suzanne Lamb

It Was A Beautiful Day for a Walk

ALIVE! House supporters gathered on the National Mall on Saturday, November 22nd to participate in the annual Fannie Mae Help The Homeless Walkathon. A warm sunny day encouraged walkers as they tramped around the Tidal basin and back to the Mall.

Representatives from our congregations were seen in the crowd, particularly a large contingent from Old Presbyterian Meeting House. Others came from Beverley Hills United Methodist, Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community, Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, St. Rita's Catholic Church, Beth El Hebrew Congregation, Trinity United Methodist and Westminster Presbyterian. The Virginia Pride basketball team was there—and Girl Scout Troop #2895 from Reston, the SADD class from Hylton High School, Senior Girl Scouts, residents and alumni of ALIVE! House, and many friends.

Thanks as well to Mt. Vernon Elementary School, St. Rita's School, and Washington Street United Methodist Church who held Mini-Walks beforehand. We are also very grateful for the generosity of Fairlington United Methodist Church who became a Partner in the campaign.

All of us together earned \$17,237 for ALIVE! House. Now, put Saturday, November 20, 2004 on your calendar—we're going to do it again!

> **Thomas Geiger, from Westminster Presbyterian, and Old Meeting Meeting House volunteers walked for ALIVE! House**



ALIVE! House Volunteers Needed

An archivist to put our scrapbook and photos in order

A project manager to oversee our renovations this spring

Drivers - to take our residents to the Last Saturday Food Distribution Program and to grocery shopping

Please contact La Rue Barnes, ALIVE! House Director, at 703-684-1430 to learn more

A Musical Treat for All

ALIVE! House residents and alumni recently enjoyed the opportunity to see the Broadway musical *Mama Mia*. Our thanks to Linda Coleman of Trinity United Methodist Church for her help in getting the complimentary tickets to the performance provided by Mr. John Loomis of the National Theater!

9/11 Assistance Project Going Strong

ALIVE!'s 9/11 Assistance Project is still going strong thanks to a generous grant from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

In the last six months, ALIVE! has provided almost \$141,000 of emergency financial help to 100 economic victims and their families — 156 adults and 104 children. Almost 60% of these victims have not been helped by the 9/11 Assistance Project before.

Recently ALIVE! paid back due rent to keep a cab driver and his family from being evicted. Since 9/11, this cab driver has only been making \$13,000 a year, and in the past few months, his wife has been unable to work as a daycare provider because of a difficult pregnancy.

"ALIVE! has been a life-line for these families struggling to catch-up — it's hard to imagine what would have happened to them without assistance from ALIVE!," said Ann Moore, Community Services Coordinator, Alexandria Department of Human Services.

Let's Do the Numbers

—An Overview of

ALIVE! Programs in FY 2003

- Family Emergency Program responded to 2,959 requests for help with payments for rent, utilities and other critical needs.
- Last Saturday Food Program distributed a five-day supply of food to more than 500 families each month
- Food Program volunteers delivered a three-day supply of food to 1,504 individuals.
- Housewares Program volunteers delivered more than 1,100 housewares donations to 250 families.
- Furniture Program delivered over \$37,200 worth of donated furniture such as beds, dressers, tables and other basic furniture to approximately 200 families.
- ALIVE! Child Development Center offered affordable, full day, accredited, high quality early childhood education and wrap-around services to 46 children and their families.
- ALIVE! House Shelter provided a nurturing environment for women and families in emergency and transitional situations to assist 41 individuals in achieving an independent role in the community.
- ALIVE! 9-11 Assistance Project helped 426 economic victims of the September 11th tragedies with funding from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the United Way September 11th Fund.

Family Emergency Assistance Up 42%

On New Year's Eve, Rick Glassco, ALIVE!'s volunteer Treasurer, wrote check number 50,000.

Since July 1, 2003, Rick has written 1,108 checks for emergency payments of rent, utilities, prescription medicine, and other urgent expenses for Alexandrians in need. ALIVE! has provided \$85,000 in emergency payments from July through December 2003, compared to \$60,000 last year—an increase of almost 42%.

ALIVE! budgeted more funds this year to provide help to needy Alexandrians through the Family Emergency Program than it has in any year since the program began more than thirty years ago. ALIVE!'s Family Emergency Program has paid over \$3 million to prevent Alexandrians from becoming homeless, to keep their lights and heat on, and to help them afford medical care and other necessities.

Of payments made July-December 2003, 47% went to prevent utility cut-offs; 26% went to pay for prescription medicines, office visits, and other medical expenses; and 21% went to pay for rent. This program also pays for bus tokens, work boots, tools, emergency childcare and other expenses to help Alexandrians find and keep jobs to become self-sufficient.

Those in need of financial help must have a social worker or member congregation request assistance from ALIVE!, and payments go directly to landlords, utility companies and other service providers.

2003-2004 Elected Officers and Chairs

Patrice Tighe, President, Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community
Laura Rogers, Vice President, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Bill Eckert, Recording Secretary, Westminster Presbyterian Church
Doris Mela, Corresponding Secretary, Beth El Hebrew Congregation
Rick Glassco, Treasurer, Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill
Jim Richardson, Assistant Treasurer
Ellen Brown, CDC Treasurer
Linda Oliver, Assistant CDC Treasurer, Church of St. Clement
Susan Weber, CDC Co-Chair, Meade Memorial Episcopal Church
Allen Sadler, CDC Co-Chair
Eleanor Wainstein, Family Emergency Chair, St. Mary's Catholic Church
Alice Quint, Food Co-Chair, Agudas Achim Congregation
Bill Willis, Food Co-Chair, Alfred Street Baptist Church
Mike Diffley, Furniture Chair, St. Mary's Catholic Church
Susanne Arnold, ALIVE! House Chair, St. Rita's Catholic Church
Gerry Hebert, Housewares Chair, Fairlington United Methodist Church
Joan Burchell, Last Saturday Food Distribution Co-Chair, Christ Episcopal Church
Cathy Thompson, Last Saturday Food Distribution Co-Chair, Blessed Sacrament CC
Don Burchell, Congregational Representatives Chair, Christ Episcopal Church
Leslie Creedon, Fundraising & Publicity Co-Chair, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Eleanor Geiger, Fundraising & Publicity Co-Chair, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Pam Goodell, Volunteer Co-Coordinator, Fairlington United Methodist Church
Cathy Thompson, Personnel Chair, Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community

Use this pledge form to keep track of pledges and contributions for the Step ALIVE! Walkathon, and turn the form in with your pledges and registration fee. Ask your sponsors to step as high as they can, because every step counts for ALIVE! Make checks payable to **ALIVE! Child Development Center**, and bring them to the event or mail them before May 1 to ALIVE! Child Development Center, 2723 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302 (tel. 703-548-9255). All paid pledges are tax deductible to the sponsors.

Organization/Church: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zipcode: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Registration Fee Enclosed:

- ☐ Adult (18-60 years old)--\$10
☐ Youth or Senior (10-18 or over 60)--\$5
☐ Child (Under 10)--free

Step ALIVE! Walkathon

[illegible]

To donate, call 703-548-9255

To donate, call 703-684-1430

**Leave them outside
the ALIVE! Housewares Room
in the basement at
Fairlington UMC**



Cocktail Buffet! Live and Silent Auctions!

April in Paris

✶ Please reply by March 26

SEE BELOW FOR ADDRESS, TELEPHONE AND EMAIL

- ☐ Enclosed is a check for \$_____ made payable to ALIVE! Inc.
for _____ tickets at \$60 per person or \$110 per couple.
- ☐ I would like to be a sponsor
- ☐ Please charge my ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard Expiration date _____
Account No. _____
Cardholder's Name _____
Cardholder's Signature _____
Address _____
_____ Zip _____
Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Estimated value of each ticket is \$30. Reservations will be held at the door.

EVENT SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- ☐ COURT JESTER — \$10,000: ad on back cover of catalogue and 10 tickets
- ☐ MASTER JESTER — \$5,000: ad on inside front/back cover and 10 tickets
- ☐ JESTER — \$2,500: full page ad in catalogue and 10 tickets
- ☐ JOKER — \$1,000: half page ad in catalogue and 10 tickets
- ☐ TRAVELING MINSTREL — \$500: quarter page ad in catalogue and 4 tickets
- ☐ MIME — \$250: 2 tickets
- ☐ DREAMER — \$100: 1 ticket
- ☐ I will be unable to attend, but will support ALIVE! with a tax deductible donation of \$_____.

All sponsors will receive featured recognition the night of the event and in ALIVE promotional materials (Gazette -Packet, ALIVE website and Newsletter).

www.alive-inc.org

Please return reservation form to:

Mrs. Brenda Hatton
3404 Saylor Place
Alexandria, VA 22304
Phone: 703-370-4939 email: <cleos-mom@comcast.net >

To donate to the silent or live auction!

Please request an auction donation form from
Joan or Don Burchell by phone at 703-683-3115
by email at <burchelli@aol.com> or at <www.alive-inc.org>



ALIVE!
2723 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22302
703-837-9300
www.alive-inc.org
E-mail: alivetoo@aol.com

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ALIVE! Wire

Join us for
Fools ALIVE! 2004
April 3, 2004
&
Step ALIVE! Walkathon
May 2, 2004
See inside for more details!



ALIVE! Calendar for Spring 2004

March

- 2 **ALIVE! Board Meeting** at Beverly Hills Community UMC
27 **Last Saturday Food** at Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Rec Center, and Ladrey High Rise
Food Collection: Alexandria Church of the Nazarene, Alfred Street Baptist, Beverly Hills Community UMC, Church of St. Clement, St. James UMC, Third Baptist, Washington Street UMC
Furniture Delivery: Old Presbyterian Meeting House, First Agape Baptist Community

April

- 3 **Fools ALIVE! 2004 at the George Washington Masonic Temple, 7:00 p.m.**
6 **ALIVE! Board Meeting** at Alfred Street Baptist Church
24 **Last Saturday Food** at Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Rec Center, and Ladrey High Rise
Food Collection: Agudas Achim Congregation, First Christian, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Old Presbyterian Meeting House, St. Joseph's Catholic, Trinity UMC, Unitarian Universalist Church, Zion Baptist
Furniture Delivery: Grace Episcopal, Church of the Resurrection, Fairlington Presbyterian

May

- 2 **Step ALIVE! Walkathon beginning at 1:30 p.m. at First Christian Church, picnic at 3:00 p.m.**
4 **ALIVE! Board Meeting** at Fairlington Presbyterian Church
29 **Last Saturday Food** at Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Rec Center, and Ladrey High Rise
Food Collection: Agudas Achim Congregation, Christ Episcopal Church, Church of the Resurrection, Fairlington UMC, Grace Episcopal
Furniture Delivery: Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community, Westminster Presbyterian

June

- 8 **ALIVE! Board Meeting** at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community
26 **Last Saturday Food** at Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Rec Center, and Ladrey High Rise
Food Collection: Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community, Fair-Park Baptist, First Baptist, Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, St. Mary's Catholic Church
Furniture Delivery: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Unitarian Universalist

Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically

ALIVE! is ... a nonprofit organization founded in 1969 to help Alexandrians facing emergency situations become self-sufficient community members. ALIVE! has grown from a handful of organizations and volunteers to a vigorous organization of 39 congregations and many volunteers.

ALIVE! offers needy Alexandrians help through ALIVE! House Shelter, Furniture, Housewares, Food Pantry, Family Emergency, Child Development Center and Last Saturday Food Distribution Programs.

Contact ALIVE! at 703-837-9300 or by e-mail at