



# ALIVE! Wire

Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically

Fall 2005

## President's Message

It is an honor and privilege for me to be ALIVE!'s president. I admire so much the efforts of all our volunteers who make ALIVE! the most effective and meaningful organization with which I have ever had the privilege to be associated. I also am pleased to work alongside Ken Naser, our first full-time Executive Director. Ken brings a great institutional memory to ALIVE! having served as its President. Ken has been responsible for a number of changes that have streamlined our operation and saved us money that we are now dedicating to our many successful programs.

ALIVE!'s 36th year is off to a fast start. We have added a new congregation to our membership. We have adopted a family devastated by Katrina and are coordinating our outreach efforts through the City and Red Cross to assist other families. Did you know that more than 100 people have taken up residence here as a result of the flooding and devastation caused along the Gulf Coast. And ALIVE! has stepped forward to assist those families in need, working hand in hand with our City's Department of Human Services.

In addition, we continue to expand our food distribution program, most recently with the Anchor Project in Fairlington, which is detailed in an article on page 2.

ALIVE! House continues to provide a safe haven and nourishing environment to several families throughout the year. We see so many women come through ALIVE! House who are trying to get back on their feet financially and emotionally. Their hope is that we can help them bring stability to them and their children.

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## ALIVE! (#8352) Kicks Off United Way Campaign

At the October 11, meeting of the Board of Directors, President Gerry Hebert kicked off the UW campaign within ALIVE! All Board members were asked to share the UW information with their individual congregations and ask that United Way, and ALIVE! in particular, be remembered in individual UW/CFC work place campaigns.

ALIVE! employees, though small in number, will have a campaign, too! It is an opportunity to recognize how important the United Way is to our organization, both through individual contributions and UW Community Impact grants. Anyone can participate in our campaign, employed or retired, just designate ALIVE! #8352. For further information, call the ALIVE! office at (703)837-9321.



## Cold and Crisp; Warm and Sunny; Rain or Snow -Help the Homeless Walkathon - Join the ALIVE! House Team

It's time to shine! On Saturday, November 19th, ALIVE! House fans will be down on the National Mall for the 18th Fannie Mae Foundation Help the Homeless Walkathon (HtH). Our small shelter for women and families asks the community for financial support once a year during this HtH Campaign. We receive all of the registration fees as well as significant incentives relative to the numbers participating - e.g. \$5000, for 250 walkers!

Join us as individuals or as members of the team, ALIVE! House. Go to [www.helpthehomelessdc.org](http://www.helpthehomelessdc.org) to register and to learn more about homelessness. Can't walk? Sponsor an ALIVE! House resident or former resident, \$15 for 25 and under; \$25 for 26 and older (\$30 on the day of the Walk).

Send checks made out to Help the Homeless to ALIVE! House 125 South Payne Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

For registration forms or information call 703-684-1430. We welcome contributions to cover the cost of Metro tickets for residents (make checks out to ALIVE! House) or send in a ticket. Come visit our shelter and see what we are like. It's the best way to understand our program and why we are raising funds to help our residents reach their goals.



## Notes from the Executive Director

During the long Labor Day weekend, many Americans were being awakened to the horror of the hurricane damage along the Gulf Coast of Louisiana and Mississippi. By the time the ALIVE! Board of Directors met on September 6, ALIVE! was postured to help in many ways and the meeting focused on what we should do and how we should do it. Two days later, ALIVE! issued a press release reminding the City agencies and others in the community that we were ready to help in what ever way we were needed. President Gerry Hebert was quoted in the press release as saying, "ALIVE! has a long and rich history of responding to the needs of people in our community – it's what we do." A separate phone line was established to accept volunteers and new offers of assistance for Katrina victims. We coordinated with the Alexandria Emergency Management Coordinator, Alexandria Red Cross and the Office of Community Services. At this writing, the demand for our assistance has been small but only time will tell what will be needed as other assistance drops off and as some of the Katrina victims settle more permanently into our community. When that time comes, we'll be there. "...it's what we do."



*Ken Naser, ALIVE!'s  
Executive Director*

The ALIVE! family lost a long-time friend and supporter with the passing of Emma Cooke Willis in August. Emma was a long-standing member of the Alfred Street Baptist Church where she and her husband Will (Bill) represented ALIVE! for many, many years. She will be missed by all.

Ken

## ALIVE! Welcomes 40th Member Congregation!

At the October Board of Directors meeting, ALIVE! warmly welcomed Baptist Temple Church as its 40th Congregational member. The Reverend Todd Thomason sought membership for his congregation and eagerly stepped forward to host the January, 2006 Board Meeting and to volunteer his members for January, 2006, Furniture duty. (Brrrr...)

Welcome to Reverend Thomason and all the members of Baptist Temple Church. We look forward to working with you on behalf of our entire Alexandria community.

## Community Anchor Project

ALIVE! is joining an initiative by Capital Area Food Bank to decentralize food distribution and increase access to food in underserved areas. ALIVE! is partnering with Fairlington United Methodist Church to sponsor a food hub in the church parking lot. Smaller agencies lacking the transportation, storage and staffing to retrieve food from the Newington site will benefit from this location. The decentralized approach should reduce transportation costs for the smaller agencies serving this community. Successful programming and a long running history of working with CAFB made ALIVE! an ideal to candidate for the project.

### President's Message .... continued from page 1

Our early childhood development center recently was reaccredited and passed with flying colors. We continue to believe that investing in children brings long-term benefits to our community, and the CDC does just that. Providing pre-school education to families on a sliding scale basis (the first organization to do so in Virginia) has enabled ALIVE! to make a difference in the lives of those families so that their pre-schoolers are as ready for kindergarten as they can be.

What makes ALIVE! work today is what has always made it work: the many talents and gifts that people like you have generously bestowed on us, so that we may advance the good work of ALIVE! Those gifts come in many forms, from funds donated, to food donated and collected, to the service of our volunteers. Thank you for the opportunity to carry on the mission of this wonderful organization.

Sincerely,  
Gerry Hebert



## Farewell to Burchells

by Cathy Thompson

Don and Joan Burchell are relocating to Charlottesville. They have bought a home, which they are in the process of renovating. It has a porch for Don and a garden for Joan and provides yet another opportunity for them to create a lovely new home. I think most of us are in a state of denial that they will actually leave because they have been such active advocates for the neediest among us for as long as we can remember. Here are just a few things that came to mind as I sat down to write this article.

Do you think there will ever be passenger space in Don's car? Every time I see it, it's full with either food or diapers or prizes for the Bingo games at Ladrey.

Did Joan ever work on Friday afternoons in the 80's? Actually, she took annual leave to prepare dinner at Carpenter's Shelter. Slicing, dicing, always making something delicious with food purchased and donated by the Burchells.

Guess who was in charge of the fabulous auction at the 2003 Fool's ALIVE! celebration?

Joan and Don collected auction items in their condo until it looked a bit like a maze and you'd have to be careful to check before you turned on the shower.

Our Last Saturday Food Program, feeding over 500 families a month, was Joan's brainchild. Don started the ALIVE! 9/11 Assistance Program that helped so many Alexandrians get back on their feet.

Perhaps none will miss Joan and Don more than the senior citizens at Ladrey House. The Burchells have sponsored their Bingo night for years and Joan manages the ALIVE! Last Saturday Food program for the residents, most of whom must live on a small fixed income. Their love and caring are nowhere more evident than when they are serving the Ladrey community.

When it was time for Christ Church to collect food for ALIVE!, the parish children dressed as fruits and vegetables when gathering the donations from the congregation. Whose idea? Joan, again! As you can imagine, we were fortunately inundated with much-needed food.

The ALIVE! holiday gift wrapping at Landmark Mall + another Burchell idea that brought in thousands of dollars and much good will for ALIVE!

The children at Our Little Roses Orphanage in Honduras know Joan and Don, especially one child, now a young lady, who received financial assistance for schooling and moral support from Don and Joan, including many trips to Central America to help.

"Mac", a former street person, now has his own apartment, furniture and a steady income. He has been reunited with his family and, after years of hard times, is able to enjoy some of the simple pleasures we all take for granted. Joan and Don, the guardian angels, were there to help him with every step of his journey to independence.

Both Joan and Don served on the founding board of Carpenter's Shelter, both were President of ALIVE!, and active board members for many years. Don was Treasurer of the Red Cross board, Joan served on the United Way board in Alexandria and the National Capital Region.

Joan and Don were worthy recipients of the Burke award in 2003. This award, presented by the Alexandria Red Cross, is given to those who have contributed outstanding philanthropic and humanitarian service to the Alexandria community.

This is just a brief snapshot of what this couple has been doing for the last several years. It's like the "tip of the iceberg" because there is much, much more I could say. This city has been their home for most of their lives. They attended our schools, married, raised their son, Jeffrey, attended Christ Church, played bridge, worked for a living – the things we all do. Joan and Don also have given so much to those in need, not only financially but with their precious time and considerable talents. Remember being told as a child that you should leave a place better than you found it? Even though none of us want to see Joan and Don Burchell leave Alexandria, we all agree that they have made an outstanding contribution to the Alexandria community and that Alexandria is a better place because of their care and concern for our neediest men, women and children.



*Joan & Don Burchell*

*"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*

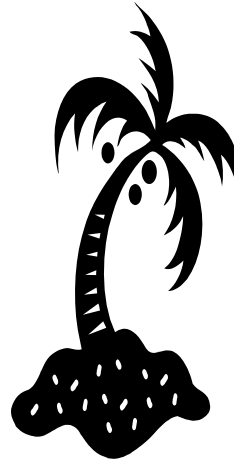


## LSFD co-chair receives award

Deborah Patterson, LSFD co-chair and congregational representative from Washington Street United Methodist Church, received a 2005 Community Champion Award from the Thompson Corporation. The corporation recognizes outstanding employee community service projects by making donations to the winners' charities. The \$2,500 prize will go to ALIVE!

### ALIVE! Food NEEDS LIST

**Canned only**  
**Meat**  
**Tuna**  
**Fruit**  
**Vegetables**  
**Soup**



## HEY MON! The 2006 ALIVE! Annual Gala Heats Up Winter

Set for Saturday, March 25, 2006 at the George Washington National Masonic Memorial, the ALIVE! Annual Gala will offer attendees welcome diversion from the winter. The theme of this year's gala is Havana Nights. Plan now to attend to this festive celebration of ALIVE! featuring the "coolest" Latin and Caribbean food and music in Alexandria!

For more information, visit ALIVE!'s website - [www.alive-inc.org](http://www.alive-inc.org)



## Family Emergency Program Office Gets Extreme Makeover

by Maureen Franks

The Family Emergency Program (FEP) Office received a much needed makeover this summer. A team of seven young people from the Catholic Heart Work Camp (CHWC), part of 350 students from around the country whose purpose was to serve others, eagerly tackled the work of cleaning and painting the FEP office. Two of the teenage girls were skilled in using tools and experienced painters. Other team members cleaned and lined the shelves before replacing the canned goods and boxes of food. The FEP volunteers all agree that it is now a pleasure to work in the cleaner and brighter office.

This same energetic team of seven also cleaned and reorganized the food storage room, painted the Child Development Center's bathrooms, cleaned the storage sheds and washed the children's toys. The teenagers agreed that their favorite activity was water play with the CDC children on a very hot day.

Two other CHWC teams cleaned and organized the housewares storage room and the furniture warehouse. In the evenings, the students returned to Bishop Ireton School, where they were staying, to share their experiences from the various work sites all around Northern Virginia. One young man who had reorganized the ALIVE! furniture warehouse, on a ninety-five degree day with no air conditioning, shared with the group his story. As he and his exhausted teammates were trying to decide how to dispose of a truck load of trash at the end of a back breaking day, an older man who was a city employee, praised the young people for their work and offered to finish the job of disposing of the trash. The young man told the assembly that "he had seen God today" through the man who offered to finish the job for the tired and thirsty teenagers.

We who worked with the youth are grateful that they chose to spend their summer days making ALIVE! look brighter and better.

*Moira Davies, Glenmoore, PA and Michelle Berns, St. Louis, MO painting the Family Emergency Program Office.*



## ALIVE! .... with talent

A benefit concert for ALIVE! was held Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at Trinity United Methodist Church. The two-hour concert featured local bands: Chameleon, Carbon Copy and Discretion. The concert was organized by Zach Barbara a local high school student, musician and 17 year old Eagle Scout. Organizing this benefit is part of Zach's Eagle Scout requirements prior to turning 18. Clothing or non-perishable food were required for admission.

*At left L\_R: Peter Smeallie, Keith Perkins, Jack Kilby, Jonathan Freeman, Zach Barbara, David Jones.*



### UUCA Choir hosts concert for children

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington also recently hosted an afternoon program titled "Songs for Blessed Beings". Cookies and lemonade were served while the UUCA adult choir performed several animal-themed Disney tunes. The event was free to the public but voluntary contributions were accepted. The money raised was donated to support the affordable childcare provided by the CDC.

### Alexandria Harmonizers



The Alexandria Harmonizers will collect donations of food for ALIVE! at their "Harmony Holidays" show. The concerts will be at T.C. Williams High School and shuttle service will be provided from First Baptist parking lot. On December 2 the performance is at 7:30 pm and December 3 at 4 pm and 8 pm. For more information and tickets visit [www.harmonizers.org](http://www.harmonizers.org) or call 703-922-5992.

## The Busiest Two Hours You'll Ever Spend!



*2004 Grand-Marshalls: Helen Manich, ALIVE! volunteer supreme, and Nora Partlow, owner of St Elmo's led the parade last year*

Get a pre-turkey feast workout! Help ALIVE! collect and crate canned and other non-perishable food donated by the runners at this annual event. Spend a couple of hours in the morning...and have more room for that pie later in the afternoon!

Come to the Cora Kelly Recreation Center (behind the school) at Commonwealth and Reed Avenues in Arlandria on Thanksgiving morning, Nov. 25 at 8:00 am and help sort donated cans of food brought to ALIVE! by runners in the Turkey Trot.

NO HEAVY LIFTING! (We have dollies for that, and our big new box truck has a pull-out ramp.) You'll enjoy your Thanksgiving dinner more, knowing you've helped ALIVE! help Alexandrians in need well into 2006.

Questions? Call Linda or Mike Oliver at (703) 683-3547 or Pam Goodell (703) 837-9300 Select Option2.



## Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically (ALIVE!) Volunteers Needed!

As we head into the last quarter of 2005, there is a significant need for volunteers to help with several ALIVE! programs. Below is a list of upcoming activities below for which volunteers are needed. We really need your assistance in getting your friends, family, colleagues, and members of your congregations involved with at least one of these activities. ALIVE! does so much for the Alexandria community – but we can't do it without help. Even a few hours of time during the next 3 months will have a tremendous impact!

### Houseware and Furniture Delivery

Make a Saturday a great day for a low-income family in Alexandria. Each week, drivers and volunteers are needed to help deliver much needed housewares and furniture.

Date: Ongoing. Based on schedule and need

Time: Varies according to schedule and need

Contact: Houseware - Gerry Hebert, Ghebert@campaignlegalcenter.org, 703-567-5916

Furniture – Mike Diffley, mcdiffley@msn.com, 703-683-4656

### Family Emergency Program

Help process requests, pack food, or deliver food for this important ALIVE! program. In the morning (9:00 am - Noon), volunteers process requests for food and financial assistance. Volunteers are needed beginning at noon (for about two hours) to deliver food to recipients.

Date: Ongoing. Weekdays. Based on schedule and need. Immediate need for drivers two or three Tuesdays each month as well as substitute drivers. Also need food packers on some Tuesdays and Fridays.

Time: Varies according to schedule and need

Contact: Linda Coleman, linda.l.coleman@verizon.net

### Unloading Food for Last Saturday Food Distribution

This is a great Friday workout with time for dinner and drinks afterward. Volunteers will help unload food from the ALIVE! truck at Cora Kelly Recreation Center in preparation for the Last Saturday Food Distribution. Hand trucks are provided.

Dates: December 9 Time: 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Contact: Pam Goodell,

volunteers@alive-inc.org, 703-837-9300 ext 2

### Last Saturday Food Distribution

Volunteers are needed to help bag and distribute non-perishable food and fresh produce to low-income families at 1 of 3 locations in Alexandria: Cora Kelly Recreational Center (3600 Commonwealth Avenue); LaDrea Senior Residence (300 Wythe Street); and Church of the Resurrections (2280 N. Beauregard).

Dates: December 10 Time: Approximately 8:30 am – Noon

Contact: Pam Goodell

volunteers@alive-inc.org, 703-837-9300 ext 2

### Food Sorters Needed for Collection from Annual Boy Scout Food Drive

Help sort the food collected from the Annual Boy Scout Food Drive. Some drivers may be needed to help take food to the ALIVE! warehouse.

Date: November 12 Time: 4:00 – 8:00 pm

Contact: Pam Goodell

volunteers@alive-inc.org, 703-837-9300 ext 2

### Annual Turkey Trot 5K Run on Thanksgiving Day

Date: November 24 see article page 5

Time: 8:00 – 10:00 am

Contact: Pam Goodell

volunteers@alive-inc.org, 703-837-9300 ext 2



*Sibyl and Rob Pierotti hosted the FEP potluck luncheon this year. FEP volunteers and guests enjoyed good food and company in the Pierotti's lovely home and garden.*

## CDC HAPPENINGS

A quick update as to some of the events going on at the CDC this autumn...

- September 29<sup>th</sup> the Family Support Project and Alexandria Mental Health conducted a "Welcome Dinner Honoring Parents" focusing on Stress Management. Dinner and childcare was provided. 21 parents were in attendance.
- In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>-Oct 15<sup>th</sup>), Marlene Bonilla, parent of Sofia Flores in the 2's classroom, prepared a dessert, "Budín" from her culture for all the children at the center.
- On October 19<sup>th</sup>, the center made a field trip to Cox Farm to visit the pumpkin patch.
- On Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, the school hosted "Back to School Night" for parents to learn more about their children's activities during the day by participating in them with them.
- On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, Dr. Frank conducted free Dental Screenings for all the children.
- On November 4<sup>th</sup>, the Lions Club conducted free Vision and Hearing Screenings for all the children.
- "Al's Pals Wingspan" Social Skills Curriculum begins in the 3's and 4's classrooms.



*CDC children thanking the CHWC team. The work camp teams members: Team Leader, Rich Pugh, Coatesville, PA; Lauren Rock, Wooster, OH; Michelle Berns, St. Louis, MO; Nick Skolmutch, Big Prairie, OH; Matt Berg, Appleton, WI; Maureen Gardo, Lansdale, PA; Moira Davies, Glenmore, PA (See story page 4)*

### ALIVE! House NEEDS LIST

Advantix film - 2  
 Alarm clocks - 4  
 Bus Tokens  
 Colored copier paper  
 Dryer sheets  
 Flashlights - 4  
 Gift Cards:  
 from Shoppers, Target, Old Navy, Ross  
 Hand broom (with dust pan) - 2  
 Hard surface cleaners -  
 409, Fantastic, Lysol, etc. - 4  
 Laundry detergent  
 Metro Cards  
 Plug Ins -Air Fresheners  
 Shower Caddy - 1  
 Wall clocks - battery operated - 2  
 with batteries

### Alive! Inc.

#### Elected Officers and Chairs Effective July 1, 2005

Gerry Hebert, President, Fairlington United Methodist  
 Diana Day, Vice President, Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington  
 Jann Masterson, Recording Secretary, Fair-Park Baptist Church  
 Vivian Webb, Corresponding Secretary  
 Rick Glassco, Treasurer, Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill  
 Ellen Brown, CDC Treasurer  
 Linda Oliver, Assistant CDC Treasurer, Church of St. Clement  
 Laura Rogers, Assistant Treasurer (General Fund) Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
 Susanne Arnold, ALIVE! House Chair  
 Allen Sadler, CDC Chair  
 Laura Rogers Congregational Representatives Chair, Good Shepard Lutheran  
 Linda Coleman, Family Emergency Co-Chair, Trinity United Methodist Church  
 Maureen Franks, Family Emergency Co-Chair, Fairlington United Methodist  
 Jean Moore, Food Co-Chair, Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community  
 Deborah Patterson, Food Co-Chair, Washington Street United Methodist Church  
 Mike Diffley, Furniture Chair, St. Mary's Catholic Church  
 Gerry Hebert, Housewares Chair, Fairlington United Methodist Church  
 John Fitzpatrick, Publicity Co-Chair, Fairlington United Methodist Church  
 Pam Goodell, Volunteers, Chair, Fairlington United Methodist Church  
 Catherine Thompson, Personnel Committee Chair, Blessed Sacrament Catholic  
 Community

ALIVE! Wire

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

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



**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 40 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  
E-mail : AliveToo@aol.com  
www.alive-inc.org

## Fall/Winter 2005 - 2006 Calendar

### November

1 - ALIVE! Board Meeting –Volunteer Recognition & Recommitment Potluck Dinner  
Alfred St. Baptist,

Food Collection: Blessed Sacrament Catholic, Christ Church, Church of the Resurrection, Fair-Park Baptist, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Grace Episcopal, St. Paul's Episcopal, St. Joseph's Catholic, Trinity UMC, Westminster Presbyterian

Furniture Pick Up: Christ Church, Church of St. Clement

### December

6 ALIVE! Board Meeting – Church of St. Clement

10 – Last Saturday Food Distribution: Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center, and Ladrey High Rise

Food Collection: No Food Collections

Furniture Pick Up: First Christian, Good Shepherd Lutheran

### January - 2006

3 – ALIVE! Board Meeting – Baptist Temple Church

28 – Last Saturday Food Distribution: Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center, and Ladrey High Rise

Food Collection: Ebenezer Baptist, First Baptist, Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, St. Rita's Catholic

Furniture Pick Up: Washington Street UMC, St. Rita's Catholic, Baptist Temple