



ALIVE! Wire

Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically

Spring 2005

President's Message

A few of us were trying to come up with a new and innovative plan to serve the needy of Alexandria, in search of new grant funds. As I tried to come up with an idea, I realized that by its very nature ALIVE! is innovative.

A coalition of almost forty congregations from different faiths and members of the community at large is very innovative. And for that coalition to be serving the community for more than thirty years is a true testament to stability. It's working, and working well.

Some things have changed, of course, as will happen in any organization as time marches on. Last year Fools ALIVE! took on a new look, and this year there were a few more changes. This year the Board decided to hire an executive director, who has begun working for us. Some of our core volunteers have stepped down for various reasons. The red truck that has been so useful to ALIVE!'s furniture committee has gone beyond its limits, yet we have a large panel truck that has been so successful that we're looking for another panel truck. We now have a van that can be put to many good uses.

ALIVE! was founded by innovative people. ALIVE! is filled with innovative people who are doing innovative work, and the work continues as needs change and grow.

Sincerely, Laura Rogers, President

24th Annual STEP ALIVE! Walkathon Sunday, May 1st

By Allen Sadler

Join us on Sunday, May 1 at 1:30 pm for the 24th Annual STEP ALIVE!, the annual walkathon for the ALIVE! Child Development Center (CDC). Walkers will enjoy a 5-mile scenic loop through Old Town. The start and finish location is at First Christian Church, 2723 King Street. There will be a picnic for all walkers and volunteers immediately following the walk around 3:00 p.m.

The registration fee for the walk is \$10 for adults and \$5 for seniors and youth (children under 10 walk for free). Walkers are encouraged to raise additional funds through pledges of support from friends, family and associates. There are three easy ways to get a pledge form: 1) turn to page 7 of this newsletter; 2) request one from your ALIVE! Congregation Representative; or 3) download one from the ALIVE! website – www.alive-inc.org. Additional information about the walk can also be found online.

ALIVE! CDC is the only program in Alexandria providing subsidized early childhood education, childcare, parent education and family support services to low-income working families. Founded in 1972, the CDC is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). STEP ALIVE! is the Center's only community wide fundraising event, last year raising over \$15,000.

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ALIVE! Welcomes Ken Naser

by Laura Rogers

If you call the ALIVE! office, chances are you'll hear a new but familiar voice answering the phone. In answer to the call of service, Kenneth Naser has stepped into the role of Executive Director. Many of you already associate Ken with ALIVE! – he has been volunteering in the various committees for years, and served as chair of ALIVE! House, chair of the Child Development Center, and as president.

Not only does Ken know ALIVE! "inside and out," he also brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position. His many years of service in the Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior have proven him to be an effective manager and steward of resources.

Ken is happy to be serving in this new role, and has the support of his family and his wife Cris. We are very pleased that he has come to us in this new capacity.

Note from the Executive Director –



Ken Naser, ALIVE!'s Executive Director

As I started my new position as Executive Director, I received many warm welcomes and good wishes. Probably none made me feel so good, however, as the simple, "Welcome Home" that one greeter offered. As many of you know, I have been in and around ALIVE! for many years. Starting back in the 1970s, then Vice-President Bill Masterson (not the same one as today's active Bill Masterson from Fair-Park Baptist) asked me to paint the steps at ALIVE! House. I guess that's all it took - I was hooked. The rest, as they say, is history.

What an exciting time to be joining ALIVE! Inc. There have been grants to tend to (thank you Allen), taxes to file, snow days for the Child Development Center, and, of course, the fabulous Fools ALIVE! gala at the George Washington Masonic Memorial. (Thanks to Lesli Creedon, and Mary Jo Johnson Committee Co-chairs, and their fabulous Fools ALIVE! committee for the super job they did on this year's event.) Not to rest for too long, we are all looking forward to the annual Step ALIVE! Walk-A-Thon: a rite of Spring in the ALIVE! family and, indeed, for the City.

I am thrilled to be working full-time for ALIVE! and I look forward to a renewed relationship with all of our energetic volunteers, our ardent supporters and especially with those who have not yet had the privilege of learning about this wondrous organization that is, truly, ALIVE! Regards. Ken

Fools ALIVE! Goes Irish

By Laura Rogers and Pam Goodell

Most of the time visitors find the George Washington Masonic Memorial to be a stately building, but on March 5 it was decked out in Irish finery with beautiful greenery, fragrant spring bouquets, and elegant tables with an delicious meal. Irish musicians and dancers completed this spectacular transformation from stately memorial to Irish gala; Fools ALIVE! went Irish.

The building wasn't the only transformation that evening. Instead of blue jeans and sweatshirts with rolled up sleeves, many of our volunteers arrived in sequined dresses, suits, and even a few tuxedos. Instead of sneakers they wore dancing shoes.

When the evening was over several volunteers rolled up their sleeves and took off their dancing shoes. The décor was removed, and the transformation was undone. The gala was over, but the work of ALIVE! continued in Alexandria.



Above: Grace Rose accepting delivery of the Laran Ghigliere sculpture which she bid on at the Fools ALIVE! Auction March 5, 2002. Former mayor Kerry Donley was successful in enthusiastically elevating the bidding to the high point of the evening. Photo by Bill E. Mattison

Family Emergency Program Needs

The Family Emergency Program is in urgent need of the following food items. Food can be dropped off at the First Christian Church, 2723 King Street. *Please Note:* If the food closet at the First Christian Church is full, please go to Room 18 or, if you need assistance, please ring the buzzer. This will help keep the foyer at the First Christian Church neat and tidy.

Thank you!
Cereal
Peanut Butter
Jelly
Canned meat (other than tuna)

ALIVE! would like to thank the following sponsors of

Jokers

The Mitchell Peterson Family Foundation

The Weissberg Foundation

The George Washington Masonic
National Memorial

Irish Rovers

Denise Gray, Seyfarth Shaw, LLP

The William D. Euille Foundation

Mimes

Don & Joan Burchell

Ellen Cleary

Church of the Resurrection

A.G. Edwards, Inc.

Susan & Martin Goodhart

Margaret Howe

Julie Robben Lineberry

Debbie Mason

Jan & Bill Masterson

Dreamers

Susan Abramson

Donna & Mel Bergheim

Patricia Chapla

Lesli Creedon

The COK Group

James Edmundson

The Honorable William D. Euille

Robert & Maureen Franks

Emily & Neil Goetzman

Cris & Ken Naser

Marie & Bill O'Neill

Ann Ritchie

Simpson Development Inc.

Jack Taylor Toyota

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St. Joseph's Church

Kerry & Guy Whitlock

Virginia Commerce Bank

Connie & Bud Hart

Christine Howard

Mary Jo Johnson

Rev. Dennis Keinmann

Betty & Bill Livingston

James Naser

The Honorable Redella Pepper

Mary Ann & Al Pierce

Eugene Steuerle

Cathy & Lawrence Thompson



A note of appreciation goes also to the volunteer groups and individuals who helped make this event a success, including: Alexandria Jaycees, AmeriCorps, Bishop Ierton High School, Single Volunteers of DC, Volunteers for Change and the friends and family members of Fools ALIVE! Committee Members. And a special thank you to the Art League of Alexandria and Queen of Apostles Church for the decoration donations.

Volunteering with ALIVE!– The Spirit is Catching!

by Pam Goodell

When I think back, I can't remember how I learned about ALIVE! Probably it was through my church bulletin which asked for volunteers at Last Saturday Food Distribution. I showed up, and, as they say, that was that. I was hooked. After two months, I volunteered to become the Volunteer Coordinator. (Note: For those of you who are experiencing déjà vu after reading Ken Naser's Letter from the Executive Director, this only stresses the point that the ALIVE! spirit is truly catching!)

In that time, I have come to realize that ALIVE! is much more than the sum of its parts. The magnitude of the assistance ALIVE! provides is deceiving. Many volunteers are aware of just one or two programs and therefore have no idea how far ALIVE! reaches and how many people ALIVE! assists each and every day. It is truly amazing to me that an organization, run almost solely by volunteers, serves 12,000-15,000 needy Alexandrians each year. That is a lot of time, effort, and devotion. Those who volunteer will tell you that the lack of monetary compensation pales in comparison to the spiritual rewards and the good will received.

I invite those of you who haven't yet spent a few hours helping with one of our programs, to do so. Regardless of how much time you have to give, I encourage you to donate an hour or so to ALIVE! You will receive a ten-fold return on your investment. A list of opportunities is below and a current list is available on our website www.alive-inc.org. Please contact alivevolunteers@aol.com if you are interested.

Family Emergency Program—Drivers and Administrative Assistants Needed!

Volunteers are needed to help in the Family Emergency Office with referrals and other administrative tasks as well as delivery of food to clients. We are looking for people to commit a minimum of 3 hours a month.

Housewares and Furniture Delivery

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

Last Saturday Food Distribution

Volunteers are needed to help bag and distribute nonperishable food and fresh produce to low-income families at one of three locations in Alexandria: Cora Kelly Recreational Center (3600 Commonwealth Avenue); LaDrey Senior Residence (300 Wythe Street); and Church of the Resurrection (2280 N. Beauregard Street).

Dates: April 30, May 28

Food Sorting

We need people that are available to help with sorting donated food occasionally. If you would like to be on the list of people to be contacted, please let us know.

A New Face in the Community

By Laura Rogers

There is a new face representing ALIVE! in Alexandria these days. This "face" has windows, benches, and wheels. Yes, wheels. Thanks to the generosity of Fairlington United Methodist Church we now have a fifteen passenger van!

Soon the new face will be a makeover as the van receives new signage indicating it is the ALIVE! van.

The van needed a few repairs, which were donated by Gerry and Victoria Hebert, and has already been in service in its short time with ALIVE!. It has delivered housewares, carried passengers, and was fundamental in the set-up and clean-up of Fools ALIVE!

We truly appreciate the generosity of Fairlington Methodist and the Heberts.



*ALIVE!'s new van is already being put to good use!
Photo by Pam Goodell*

The Wonders of ALIVE!

By Gerry Hebert

Last month, I was at a birthday party for a friend and neighbor of mine. There were about 50 people in attendance, about half of whom I knew. The rest were various acquaintances and co-workers of the birthday honoree. During the evening, a young couple starting chatting with me about work. During the course of the conversation, I asked how they met and about their interests. They in turn asked me about my work and my interests and I started to talk about ALIVE! I explained to them each of our programs, and then said, as wonderful as all this sounds, it pales in comparison to the personal satisfaction that we receive as volunteers when we give away food, housewares, or furniture to a needy family. I explained how when we deliver or distribute these items, how I have seen recipients praise God for blessing them with bringing ALIVE! volunteers into their lives. I told them how I have seen eyes swell up with tears of joy and gratitude, and how when I saw that happen, it made me feel alive! I explained too that when we help our clients, they know someone in their community is looking out for them, and how recently, one former resident of ALIVE! House had actually made a financial contribution back to ALIVE! House in gratitude for what had been given her. I spoke with enthusiasm and conviction about how the volunteers working through ALIVE! touched people's lives in a fundamental way by addressing their basic needs of food and shelter.

When I was finished, the man reached into his pocket and pulled out a \$20 bill. He said that a couple of weeks ago, he had found it. He said he asked God to tell him what to do with it. He then said to me, "When you were explaining about all the wonderful things that ALIVE! does, I heard God's voice say to me that it was time for me to give this \$20 away" He then said: "Here, take this \$20 for ALIVE!, God told me to give it you."

ALIVE! Congregations Team Up For A Chili Cook-Off

By Laura Rogers

What do you get when you combine the talents of Lutheran musicians, space in a beautiful Episcopal church, and chili cooks from several congregations? Why you get a chili cook-off, of course! Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and Emmanuel Episcopal Church, both ALIVE! congregations, combined their efforts for this tasty occasion. There were chefs from several ALIVE! congregations, including Doris Mela from Beth El Hebrew Congregation with her fabulous Turkey Chili.

The Shepherd's Flock, GSLC's contemporary worship team, played a few blues, a little country, and a bit of rock and roll. Everyone ate, quickly found out which chili was the hottest, and drank a lot of soda.

Just over \$800 was given to ALIVE! through a free-will offering. Thank you to everyone who participated in making the cook-off such a fun-filled event, especially the Flock who hosted and entertained. My special thanks to Roger Lotz who organized the cook-off, and to his wife Julie Carpenter Lotz who kept Roger organized.



ALIVE! House NEEDS LIST

4x6 or 9x10 carpet
for 3rd floor common room
Tall kitchen trash cans with lids
Tall kitchen trash bags
A television set for a former resident
Drawing pencils and sketch pad
for a budding resident artist
Lysol spray
Copy paper
Bleach

ALIVE! House Happenings

by La Rue Barnes

ALIVE! House residents recently enjoyed a delicious dinner prepared and served by the Westminster Presbyterian Church Youth Fellowship. Tablecloths and flowers helped make the dinner a special event. Other congregations have expressed an interest, so we plan to make once-a-month Sunday night dinners a tradition.

One of our residents has just completed CNA Training, graduating at the top of her class, and is currently seeking employment in her field. Another resident has received Section 8 housing and is looking forward to planting flowers in her own yard after she and the children move into their new home. The ALIVE! house wares and furniture programs are providing the furnishings. It is really great for ALIVE! House to have this kind of support for its residents!

One of our small bedrooms was painted between residents, transforming the walls from fuchsia to a cheerful pale yellow. A new resident and her daughter have already moved in. A single father with two boys is expected in the near future to occupy a large bedroom.

In the last quarter, we had to turn away 60 people for lack of space. In the same period we provided 1,225 bed nights – 368 for adults and 857 for children. We continue to serve our residents with your support.



First Christian Church, 2723 King Street is the start and finish of Step ALIVE!

Step ALIVE!
continued from page 1

ALIVE! congregations, Alexandria civic organizations and businesses are urged to support this event through a \$200 Sponsorship. The names of sponsoring organizations will appear on the popular *STEP ALIVE!* T-shirts worn by walkers and volunteers and will be acknowledged on the ALIVE! website.

Step ALIVE!
Walkathon



Easy Steps to Step ALIVE!

Step 1.

- Ask your family and friends to step in by pledging to support Step ALIVE! and the ALIVE! Child Development Center.
- Use the pledge form on the next page to record your sponsors' contributions.

Step 2.

- Collect your tax-deductible pledges before or after Step ALIVE!. Please make checks payable to ALIVE! Child Development Center. Bring them to the event or mail them before June 1 to ALIVE! Child Development Center 2723 King Street Alexandria, VA 22302 Tel. 703-548-9255

Step 3.

- Step out—rain or shine—on Sunday, May 1: come to First Christian Church, register, and enjoy the Step ALIVE! Walkathon and the picnic afterward. (Each registered participant receives a specially designed Step ALIVE! T-shirt.)

- NOTE: Parking is limited at First Christian Church. Park nearby or take the Metro to King Street Station.

Your Steps Count

Your Name: _____

Organization/Church: _____

[illegible][illegible]

Step ALIVE!

ALIVE! Child Development Center
Sunday, May 1, 2005
1:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Step ALIVE! Walkathon



ALIVE! Wire

ALIVE!

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

Return Service Requested

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 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 AliveToo@aol.com or on the web at www.alive-inc.org

Spring/Summer 2005 Calendar

April

5 – ALIVE! Board Meeting – Fairlington Presbyterian Church

26 – Last Saturday Food Distribution at 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's Catholic, Trinity UMC, Unitarian Universalist Church, Zion Baptist

Furniture Pick Up: Grace Episcopal, Church of the Resurrection, Fairlington Presbyterian

May

3 – ALIVE! Board Meeting – Grace Episcopal Church

14 – National Association of Letter Carriers National Food Drive

28 – Last Saturday Food Distribution at Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center, and Ladrey High Rise
Food Collection: Agudas Achim Congregation, Christ Episcopal Church, Church of the Resurrection, Fairlington UMC, Grace Episcopal

Furniture Pick Up: Blessed Sacrament Catholic, Westminster Presbyterian

June

1 – ALIVE! Board Meeting – Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community

25 – Last Saturday Food Distribution at Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center, and Ladrey High Rise
Food Collection: Blessed Sacrament Catholic, Fair-Park Baptist, First Baptist, Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, St. Mary's Catholic Church

Furniture Pick Up: St. Paul's Episcopal, Unitarian Universalist