



# ALIVE! Wire

Alexandrians InVolved Ecumenically

Winter 2005

## President's Message

I was standing out in the frigid weather the other day waiting for a friend to pick me up. He got caught in traffic and the sub-freezing temperatures almost became unbearable after awhile. Besides, I had skipped lunch. It was dinnertime and I was hungry. Fortunately for me, my friend eventually arrived and I went home, and soon I was in my warm house and eating dinner. As I stood there that day though, I wondered, what about the many people I see in Alexandria each week who have no warm home to go to? Or who are hungry every day?

One of the best things about being ALIVE! President is that I get to be among some of the most generous volunteers I have ever met. They are generous with their time, with their money, and perhaps most importantly, with their spirit. I have witnessed ALIVE! volunteers transform the weary faces of the poor in a matter of minutes, by carrying into their new public housing unit furniture that has been donated to us by people like you, or by carrying bags of canned goods from the ALIVE food pantry to their dinner table and filling their bare cupboards with food donated at the Turkey Trot race, or some other local food drive. I have also seen the relief on the face of a young single mother, whose eviction is prevented when, through no fault of their own, they fell behind a little in rent and ALIVE! comes to the rescue. I see the human spirit uplifted each week in my work for ALIVE! and it is the most meaningful thing I do in my life.

ALIVE!, with the help of more volunteers than any other charity in

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## ALIVE Honors Long -Time Volunteers

On Tuesday, November 1, ALIVE!'s family members came together at the Alfred Street Baptist Church to recognize the volunteer achievement and to recommit themselves to continuing ALIVE!'s mission at the 36th Annual ALIVE! Recognition and Recommitment Dinner.

While enjoying home-baked dinner and dessert, ALIVE!'s board, program chairs, congregational representatives, and volunteers along with Alexandria's community representatives learned about how ALIVE! continues to shape Alexandria as a community that sincerely cares about the less fortunate and turns that caring into action.

Keynote speaker Chuck Anderson, President and CEO of the United Way National Capital Region, spoke eloquently about the efforts of the United Way, in partnership with organizations like ALIVE!, to improve the quality of life for people in need. Through his background with similar organizations, he conveyed a deep respect for the work that ALIVE! does and our ability to face and solve challenges.

ALIVE!'s President Gerry Hebert talked about how faith plays a guiding force in allowing ALIVE!'s volunteers to achieve everything they do.

Have you ever wondered who the people are who have volunteered with ALIVE! the longest? It may not be difficult to guess who those people are, if you really think about it.

**Continued page 3**



*Gerry Hebert presents an award to Alice Quint, Agudas Achim for her many years of service as ALIVE! food chair.*



*Doris & Don Mela honored for more than 30 years of service to ALIVE!*

## Notes from the Executive Director

This is the time of year that most of us reflect on the many things we have to be thankful for (at Thanksgiving and Eid) and the numerous opportunities we have to share the gifts that we have been given (like at Christmas and Hannukah.) The months that I've been here have flown by and yet daily I continue to be amazed by the people and the activities that are ALIVE! I am convinced that we have a volunteer corps that is second to none in the City. The energy and dedication of our many devoted volunteers is the heart and muscle of this organization. And, because of their selfless giving of their time and effort, **ALIVE! is able to proudly say that more than 96 cents of every dollar given to ALIVE! goes directly into program support.** That's a huge percentage; one most organizations cannot even approach.

Throughout this issue of the ALIVE! Wire you'll read articles featuring the generosity of those individuals and groups in our community. While ALIVE! is always struggling to meet the demands of our two food programs and the financial challenge of our Family Emergency Program, we continue to be remembered by many thoughtful individuals and organizations in Alexandria.

My reasons for being grateful this season just continue to grow. ALIVE! has wonderful volunteers, a supportive community and a strong and dedicated Board of Directors – much to be thankful for.

Peace. Ken



*Ken Naser, ALIVE!'s  
Executive Director*

## Stretching the Dollar with FEP

Recently someone asked if the Family Emergency Program (FEP) had enough money each month. The answer is that we never have enough money to fill all of the requests we receive. We all know what has happened just this year to the cost of living in our city. Every single month we spend the money budgeted before the end of the month.

We know that we are helping families and individuals to keep the electricity on, to stay warm in the winter, to pay for essential medications and to rescue families from becoming homeless. With ALIVE!'s emergency assistance of \$100 per household every three months, it doesn't seem like much of a band aid, but the city social workers are wizards at putting together several sources of money and count on ALIVE!'s funds to help clients pay their bills..

Every request for help that the FEP volunteers receive has a compelling story. On a recent Monday volunteers handled 25 requests for help. Here are some recent examples:

- A hospital social worker called and asked if ALIVE! could pay for a motel room for just one night for a patient being discharged who wasn't well enough to stay in a homeless shelter. He needed a place to stay to give him time to work on finding a room to rent to match his disability income.
- A mother and child needed emergency rental assistance because the restaurant where the mother worked cut her hours down to two days a week. She had already arranged for an interview at another restaurant with the hope of being able to make enough money to get by. She needed the money to stave off an eviction notice.
- The last referral received was for an elderly gentleman taking twelve different prescription medications who desperately needed to fill at least the most essential ones to survive. By the time the request was received, we were out of money; therefore the volunteer asked the social worker if a delivery of food from ALIVE! would save the man enough money to pay for some medicine. Due to the generosity of the churches and community groups who had donated food during the holidays at least we could offer him food.

Over half of FEP's budget is spent on utility bills each month. Last year ALIVE! helped one thousand people pay their electric, gas or water bills.

FEP's staff of 35 volunteers are very proud of the fact that every request is carefully considered and sound decisions are made in determining how ALIVE! can help those in need. Our job is to use the donors' money wisely. So again, the answer is "YES," ALIVE! FEP runs out of money every month. We wish instead that we could say we have accomplished ALIVE!'s mission to eliminate poverty in our city.



## Long-Time Volunteers (continued from page 1)



*Gerry Hebert presents an award to Bill Willis, Congregational Representative from Alfred Street Baptist Church for his many years of service to the programs of ALIVE!*

Doris and Don Mela have spent more than 30 years helping ALIVE! and are our longest-running volunteers. Without a doubt, ALIVE! is much better through the work of these extraordinary people.

During a truly special part of the evening, ALIVE! recognized four of its long-time volunteers: Joan and Don Burchell, Alice Quint, and Bill Willis. As everyone knows, these individuals have had an enormous impact on ALIVE! through their hard work and effort. In recognition, ALIVE! presented each with a framed Isaiah 6:8. In addition, ALIVE! will honor Alice Quint's legacy by designating Room 14 in First Christian Church as the "Alice Quint Food Sorting Room." Bill Willis will be honored in a similar fashion. The cab of the truck that he generously drives for ALIVE!

each week will be stenciled with "Will Willis, Alfred Street Baptist Church"

All in all, this wonderful event demonstrated how blessed ALIVE! is. On behalf of ALIVE!, we would like to extend our appreciation to the Alfred Street Baptist Church for being gracious hosts, Reverend John Peterson for his invocation, Pam Goodell for organizing the event, Laura Rogers for arranging the location, the volunteers who helped set up and clean up, and everyone who attended.

Recipes from this event are still being collected. These recipes will be collected into a recipe book to help raise money for ALIVE!. If you haven't submitted your recipe yet, please do so asap. Email them to [volunteers@alive-inc.org](mailto:volunteers@alive-inc.org). If you did not come to the ALIVE! Volunteer Recognition and Recommitment Potluck Dinner but would like to submit a recipe, please feel free!



*Keynote address was given by Chuck Anderson, CEO, United Way - National Capital Area.*

## President's Message continued from page 1

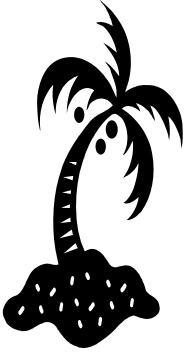
this region, helps the hungry and homeless. And ALIVE! does it very, very well, and has been doing it very well since 1969. Did you know that if you invest in ALIVE! by making a donation, over 96¢ of every \$1 you donate goes directly to those in need in our City? Perhaps you are like so many other people in our City. You work a lot, but you have real heartfelt compassion for the less fortunate, the hungry, the homeless, and the poor. Perhaps you may have very little time to volunteer. But you can make a difference in people's lives in a fundamental way. You can donate to ALIVE! and know that by your generosity, there will be fewer people left out in the cold and more will be fed. During the holiday season, the needs of the poor seem even greater. They seem almost unbearable to us at ALIVE!, as our resources get stretched thin. But the burdens on the poor are even more unbearable from their perspective than they are from ours. We owe it to each other to act in circumstances such as these, and ALIVE! looks forward to 2006 with great anticipation that we will be able to meet the needs of the poor in our City. We can do it, but only with your help and generosity. Please volunteer your time, and if you can write a check to ALIVE!, no matter the amount,

please do so. In the year ahead, ALIVE! faces many challenges, especially as we face a budget shortfall. The need grows, and our financial resources seem to be unable to keep up. But I am confident that once again ALIVE! will rise to the challenge. I am confident, too, that as we continue to tell the story of ALIVE! and the mission we've been on since 1969, more and more business and community leaders will recognize that partnering with ALIVE! is not only good for them individually, but is also good for their organizations, good for business, and good for the community in which they have invested.

Alexandria is a wonderful place to live. Our mission at ALIVE! to help the poor is an awesome task, but one we consider a privilege to be asked to carry out. As we close this year grateful for the many blessings we've been given, let us resolve in the New Year that all of us will renew our energies and tackle these challenges with even greater conviction. We know the way, we need only the will.

I wish all of you a very happy 2005 holiday season.

Sincerely,  
Gerry Hebert



## Caribbean Cool, Not the Winter Chill, Comes to Alexandria on March 25

Warm sand, sun-drenched beaches, blue water as far as the eye can see, and lots of fruity drinks with little umbrellas in them. As we head into December and the chill of winter, we guess that vision is more a fantasy than a reality for most of us. However, on March 25, live out this fantasy at ALIVE!'s Havana Nights at the George Washington National Masonic Memorial.

On this evening a warm, exotic Caribbean evening will invade Alexandria, blowing away the winter chill. Plan now to be swept away to a Caribbean island where you can:

- Dine on some of the Caribbean's best recipes
- Show off your best salsa, rumba, and other dance moves or simply let the music move you.
- Bid on travel, entertainment, and personal service packages and items specially-designed for this event during a silent auction.
- Participate in a live auction

Proceeds from this event will benefit ALIVE!'s programs. Ticket information will be available beginning in mid-January. Visit ALIVE!'s website – [www.alive-inc.org](http://www.alive-inc.org) – for more information.

Are you interested in helping bring the Caribbean to ALIVE!? For donations of time and auction items as well as sponsorships, contact Pam Goodell at [alivegala@alive-inc.org](mailto:alivegala@alive-inc.org).



## Help the Homeless Walkathon



Beautiful Day! Beautiful People! having fun supporting ALIVE! House in the 2005 Help the Homeless Walkathon on the National Mall on November 19th. Many other friends were scattered throughout the crowd. Thank you Walkers and Sponsors. Details of campaign in next WIRE.

# What's With the Red-Letter Envelope ?

Over the past several years, ALIVE! has sent out a first-class letter requesting that our supporters and readers consider an end-of-year charitable contribution be made to ALIVE! in support of all of its many programs. In the interest of sparing all of you wonderful people on our mailing list from yet ANOTHER request coming through the mail, and in the interest of saving the cost of first-class postage (and putting that money toward meeting our program expenses instead) we are not sending out a separate mailing this year. Of course, that is not to say that we aren't going to ask for, or that we don't need, your serious consideration for a donation.

ALIVE! very much depends on the generosity of our supporters. There have been a number of natural disasters recently requiring all of our extra attention, and as a result, contributions have been spread more thinly. Please consider including ALIVE! in your end-of-year giving plans. Now as much as ever, when our Family Emergency Program funds will be stretched to the maximum to meet utility bills and our food pantry will be looking bare, we will appreciate your support

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## Mission Accomplished: ALIVE! Volunteers Make Quick Work of Generous Donations during the Annual Boy Scout Food Drive

On Saturday morning, November 12, around 9:30 am, cars with bags of food donated through the Annual Boy Scout Food Drive began arriving. And they kept coming and coming. Until several thousand (yes, over four thousand) plastic bags filled the foyer at the First Christian Church.

To many, the prospect of sorting, boxing and storing all the food seemed daunting. However, through the hard work of many volunteers and the assembly line organizations, we were done in just about 3 hours. All in all, the Boy Scout Food Drive provided ALIVE! with about 100-120 boxes of non-perishable food. This helped replenish ALIVE!'s near empty shelves with food to provide to low-income families in Alexandria.

ALIVE! would like to extend its sincerest gratitude to the residents of Alexandria who so generously donated food to this annual event. In addition, ALIVE! would like to thank the many volunteers who helped, including students from St. Rita's School, Single Volunteers of DC and the many others. We couldn't have done it without you!

ALIVE! would also like to thank the following organizations holding major food drives in November:

Beth El Hebrew Congregation  
 Agudas Achim Congregation  
 Westminster Presbyterian  
 Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community

US Patent and Trade Office  
 Good Shepard Lutheran  
 YMCA of Metropolitan Washington

### Leave a Lasting Legacy

There have been some queries lately about how to ensure that one's desire to leave a legacy gift to ALIVE! is fulfilled once a person has passed away. A local attorney advised that it is really quite simple. All a person has to do is state in his or her will or living trust documents that "I wish to leave x dollars (or a certain percentage of the estate) to ALIVE!, (Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically.)" It is probably a good idea to include the address in the event the executor or trustee is not in the local area.

This is a wonderful way for a person to make a lasting statement of his or her faith and values as their life on this Earth comes to an end. Further questions on this subject can be directed to our Executive Director, Ken Naser, at (703) 837-9320.

### ALIVE! Food NEEDS LIST

Cereal  
 Dried Milk  
 Jelly  
 Canned Meat  
 Canned Tuna

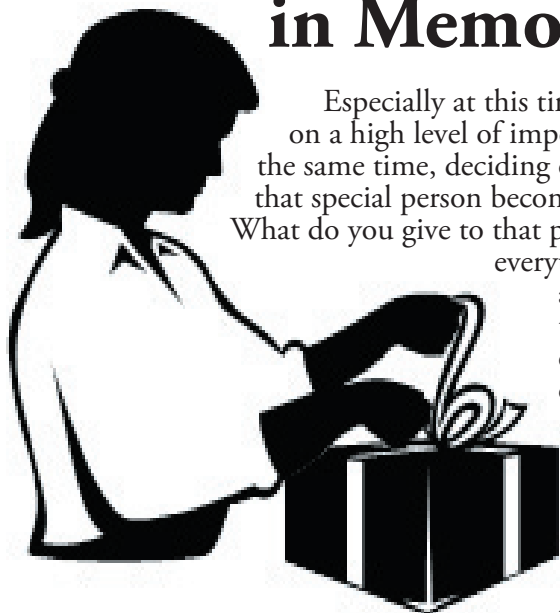
## Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically (ALIVE!) Needs YOU !

Volunteers are particularly needed to help with furniture delivery, spreading mulch in the CDC playground and to help with weekday food deliveries for the Family Emergency Program. Please visit ALIVE!'s website ([www.alive-inc.org](http://www.alive-inc.org)) for more information or contact Pam Goodell (email: [volunteers@alive-inc.org](mailto:volunteers@alive-inc.org); phone: 703-837-9300 ext 2).

We are asking all ALIVE! volunteers affiliated with one of our member congregations to check the delivery schedules on the mailer page of this newsletter. If it's your congregation's month to help delivery furniture or housewares, please contact your congregational representative and offer to help!

Thank you.

## Gifts in Celebration – Gifts in Memory



Especially at this time of year gift giving takes on a high level of importance for many of us. At the same time, deciding on just the right gift for that special person becomes increasingly difficult. What do you give to that person who “has

everything”? Why not consider a special gift to ALIVE! in the name of your loved one? The gift can be designated to be used for the Family Emergency Program, for our Child Development Center pres-school program, the ALIVE! House or left undesignated. You and that special person receiving the gift will be

comforted to know that your gift will go to a very good cause and will be used to help out those that are truly in need.

Did you know that the last official audit of ALIVE! showed that 96.3 cents of every dollar goes directly to ALIVE!'s programs? That means unusually low overhead/administrative costs and more funding directly where its needed.

*“ 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*

### ALIVE! House NEEDS LIST

**Toilet tissue**  
**Paper towels**  
**Robitussin (adult and children)**  
**Tylenol (childrens')**  
**Dish detergent**  
**Trash bags**  
**Aluminum foil**  
**AA batteries**  
**Advantix film**  
**Alarm clocks**  
**Bus Tokens**  
**Colored copier paper**  
**Dryer sheets**  
**Flashlights**  
**Gift Cards:**  
*from Shoppers, Target, Old Navy, Ross*  
**Hand broom (with dust pan)**  
**Hand-cranked radios**  
**(National Geographic, Herrington**  
**\$50.00 plus AC adaptor)**  
**Hard surface cleaners -**  
*409, Fantastic, Lysol, etc.*  
**Laundry detergent**  
**Metro Cards**  
**Plug Ins -Air Fresheners**  
**Shower Caddy Wall clocks - battery**  
**operated**

## IT Professional Needed

Volunteer your valuable expertise to help ALIVE! make the most of it's computers and network. A few hours of your time could help tremendously. Call the ALIVE! office for more information 703-837-9321.





Members of the extended Hyland family gather for support before the race. The family has participated in the Turkey Trot for 20 years. (back row) Josh, Chris, Lauren, Jenai, Daniel (second row) Joseph, Ben, Trent, Kyle, Morgan, Emily, Valerie, Linda, Pat, Tim, (in front) Anna



Alive members: Ken Naser, Will Willis, President Gerry Hebert and Mike Oliver are thrilled with the wonderful turnout and generous donations.

## Turkey Trot Stuffs ALIVE! Food Supply!

Participants in the 30th Annual Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving Day morning at the Cora Kelly Recreation Center brought sixty plus banana boxes full of canned food for ALIVE! We have been the recipients of this food for most of those 30 years, and ALIVE! thanks the Turkey Trot sponsor, the Potomac West Business Association, and of course, the runners.

We needed every one of the many volunteer collectors and sorters who gave us two fast and furious hours. ALIVE! will disperse the donated food to families and individuals in need of it well into the New Year.

Photos by Lynne T. Murphy



Annual volunteer Brenda Dixey, along with newcomer and first year volunteer Julie Roberts and Alive volunteer Barbara Seaman organize donations.

### CDC's Holiday Classroom Wish List:

Miniature African American and Latina family dolls for dollhouse

African American baby doll with hair to play with and comb and brush

Kitchen set (i.e. cabinets and stove) (4 year olds)

Child's refrigerator and stove (3 year olds)

Snap blocks (other manipulative toys)

Dramatic play dress-up clothes, shoes

Toy Chest (3 year olds)

Cars kids can sit on and ride in classroom (2 year olds)

Play dough for all classrooms (2-4 year olds)

### 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! Wine

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

Don't hesitate –  
**DESIGNATE! ALIVE!**  
United Way/CFC #8352

## Fall/Winter 2006 Calendar



### 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

### January

- 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

### February

- 7 **ALIVE! Board Meeting** – Fairlington Presbyterian Church  
25 **Last Saturday Food Distribution:** Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center, and Ladrey High Rise.  
**Food Collection:** Alexandria Baha'i Assembly, Emmanuel Episcopal, Fairlington Presbyterian, St. Andrews UMC, Del Ray UMC, Beth El Hebrew Congregation, Roberts Memorial UMC  
**Furniture Collection:** Beverly Hills Community UMC, Fairlington Presbyterian

### March

- 7 **ALIVE! Board Meeting** – St. Rita's Catholic Church  
25 **Last Saturday Food Distribution:** Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center, and Ladrey High Rise.  
**Food Collection:** Old Presbyterian Meeting House, First Agape Baptist Community  
**Furniture 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