



ALIVE! Wire

Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically

Spring 2006

President's Message



I want to talk with you about what ALIVE! means to my faith. Now I know that can be an uncomfortable topic for some, and one's faith is a very personal matter. But ALIVE! is after

all a faith-based organization, where wonderful people from different churches and synagogues regularly put their faith and love into action to help the needy in our community. So I don't feel shy about talking about this subject. But before I tell you about ALIVE! and my faith, let me first explain what motivates me to write about this at this particular time.

The ALIVE! Gala is set for March 25th. It will surely be a great evening, with dancing, delicious food and drink, and two auctions. And it will all be held at a wonderful facility: the George Washington Masonic Temple. We need you to come to this event. It is vitally important to ALIVE!'s mission, because it is the biggest fundraising event that ALIVE! has each year, and we desperately need funds at this time to continue operating our programs. Charitable giving is down, and ALIVE! is running in the red! Now before you stop reading and say, "oh no, not another plea for money," please consider the following:

We live in a world that often seems full of need. We get overwhelmed with so many calls for help, the Tsunami devastation, Hurricane Katrina relief, etc. It seems there's always a real need for us to open our hearts and wallets. Many of us often feel that we suffer from "compassion burn out". I know I do.

continued on page 3

We're Counting Down ... Come Out for A Hot Night on the Town in Alexandria

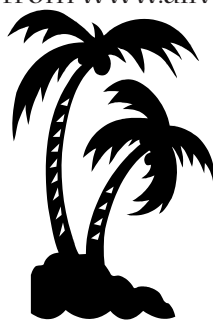
Don't Miss ALIVE!'s Havana Nights: A Caribbean Celebration on March 25th. This fun-filled evening is hosted at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. Come out for:

- Caribbean food;
- Open bar;
- Latin dancing; and
- A silent/live auction

Proceeds benefit ALIVE! (ALExandrians Involved Ecumenically) and a portion of your ticket is tax deductible. For more information, call 703-837-9300 or alivegala@alive-inc.org.

Register TODAY! Tickets are \$75/individual or \$130/couple. A registration form is attached here or you may purchase tickets online at www.alive-inc.org.

We are still accepting auction items. If you have a one-of-a-kind item, are willing to auction off a weekend stay at your beach house, or have entertainment or sports tickets you are willing to contribute, please complete the attached form (or download it from www.alive-inc.org) and return it to ALIVE!.



Sponsoring this event will help tremendously in allowing ALIVE! to increase its net proceeds. ALIVE! already utilizes approximately 95% of each dollar it receives for direct program support. If you cannot attend this event, please consider contributing to ALIVE!'s cause! The sponsorship levels and are payable online at www.alive-inc.org.

We look forward to seeing on March 25th!



See how you can help! See pages 4 & 5

Notes from the Executive Director

We have often featured articles in The ALIVE! Wire on our outstanding volunteer corps and we all recognize that without our volunteers, we wouldn't exist. It was pointed out to me recently, however, that we seldom mention anything about the employees at ALIVE! It's true that I am often asked about the staff at ALIVE! and those asking are usually very surprised to learn that we are truly a "bare bones" operation. Five of our seven major programs are managed and staffed entirely by volunteers; the two that have paid staff are the Child Development Center (CDC) and ALIVE! House.

Of the three lead teachers in the CDC, the "newest" will pass her 7 year mark with ALIVE! this year; the other two will have 15 and 21 years respectively. Unheard of in the world of early childhood education/daycare. There is one assistant teacher in each classroom, the CDC Family Case Worker and the CDC Director.

ALIVE! House has the Director who provides case management for all of the families in residence and follow-up for past residents, and a resident manager living at the house.

The office has our half-time administrative assistant and me. That's it. That's the ALIVE! staff.

I am very proud of the good work the professionals within ALIVE! are able to accomplish and the mix of staff and volunteers is a good one - one that works. Supporters of ALIVE!, too, can be assured that this combination provides a very efficient use of donated dollars with 96% going directly to program support.

Ken



*Ken Naser, ALIVE!'s
Executive Director*

ALIVE! House NEEDS LIST

Toaster oven
High-backed office chair

Lady Litterbug visits CDC

Sue Cournoyer's interactive story telling company, "GLEE MANIA" visited the Child Development Center to present "Lady Litterbug Learns Her Lesson". The children participated in the production by wearing costumes and acting out ways to reduce pollution in their daily lives.



Giving Begins Early

Eight year old Lynn Stevens presents ALIVE! House Director LaRue Barnes with \$100. (photo left)

Lynn wrote an essay on the real meaning of Christmas and won a bicycle in the Tour d'Essay contest in memory of Jean Beiro at St. Rita School. Since she received a bicycle for Christmas, Lynn took her prize in cash - saving a third, spending a third, and giving a third to charity. She chose ALIVE! House to benefit from her gift because she knew about the shelter from her experiences with Brownie Troop 3221. These girls have been collecting brown bags for the ALIVE! Family Emergency Office for several years, and this Christmas they bought presents for some of the children. When Lynn arrived at ALIVE! House she was carrying a box of home-baked brownies for the residents (and staff). A wonderful young example.

ALIVE! Honors Long-Time Volunteers (Continued)



Joe and Alice Krafft (Photo credit, Louise Krafft)

In the last issue we covered the recognition of several of our long-time volunteers at the November, 2005 Recognition and Recommitment Dinner. One of those honored, the indefatigable Don Mela, brought it to our attention that he and his wife, Doris, had been identified as “our longest-running volunteers” (Page 3, The ALIVE! Wire, December, 2005.) While the Mela’s are in the three decade category, Don pointed out that Joe and Alice Krafft, long of the Furniture Program fame and now Thursday afternoon volunteers in the Family Emergency Office, had in fact been volunteering with ALIVE! since “day one”. In fact, the 25th Anniversary Recollection written by Eleanor S. Wainstein in 1994, states under the first year of operation 1969-1970, “Joe Krafft...lent his back, his truck and his truck-repairing skills.” So that puts the Kraffts close to the FOUR decade category of volunteering at ALIVE! Congratulations, Joe and Alice and of course, Thank you!

“I believe that there is a plan and a purpose for each person’s life and that there are forces working in the universe to bring about good and to create a community of love and brotherhood. Those who can attune themselves to these forces - to God’s purpose - can become special instruments of his will.”

-Coretta Scott King, in her 1969 autobiography My Life with Martin Luther King, Jr.

ALIVE! Needs Volunteers

Interested in helping families in need in Alexandria? Want to get to know others in the community? Consider spending an hour or more on a one-time or more regular basis volunteering for ALIVE! (Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically). For over 30 years, ALIVE! has been helping low-income residents in Alexandria. We have a wide range of volunteer needs (weekday and weekend). Please visit www.alive-inc.org, email volunteers@alive-inc.org or call 703/837-9300 for more information. Thank you!

President’s Message continued from page 1

But when I do, I am reminded of this story.

In 1994, Sargent Shriver, the first Director of the Peace Corps, was speaking at a Yale graduation. He challenged the graduates to look in the mirror and see something other than themselves. He said: “tear down that mirror in front of you, that mirror that only makes you look at yourself, and beyond that mirror you will see millions of people that need your help.” He went on to say that when we help those in need, we bind all human beings together in a common cause to assure peace and survival for all.

When I hear those words, I immediately think of ALIVE! volunteers. Each day, ALIVE! volunteers use funds donated by people like you to change people’s lives. Recently, I visited an elderly woman in Alexandria who had no furniture or housewares, and who had been sleeping on towels on the floor. ALIVE! came to her aid and provided a bed to sleep on, a dinette set so she could have a place to sit and eat, and pots and

pans to cook her food. Right before her eyes and literally in a matter of minutes, ALIVE! volunteers transformed her empty living space into a home. Tears filled her eyes as the volunteers carried in furniture and as the last box of housewares was delivered, she said: “how can I ever thank you?” Of course, we told her, “you just did!”

If you can donate to ALIVE!, whether it’s by attending the ALIVE! gala on March 25th or just by making a donation, you will be helping fulfill the obligations we all have to each other, and especially to the poor. And won’t it be a wonderful feeling to know that we looked beyond the mirror and saw the needs of those who were hurting, and we did something about it? That, to me, is one true way to live out our faith, and it’s why I am an ALIVE! volunteer.

Sincerely,
Gerry Hebert

Gala Sponsors To Date

Salsa

CVK
The George Washington Masonic
National Memorial

Merengue

Susan & Martin Goodhart
Bill & Betty Livingston
James & Juliette McNeil
Mary Riley & George McDonald

Cha Cha

Don & Joan Burchell
David & Kathleen Deal
Kathy Dewey & Greg Vogt
Pamela Goodell
John & Judith Hansen
Dr. Christopher Lillis & Amy Garrett
James & Cheryl Risher

Mambo

Dr. & Mrs. John Davies
Ralph S. and Janice M. Goodell
Margaret Howe
Fr. Dennis W. Kleinmann
Mary Murdock
Thomas O'Connor & Gail Evans
William & Marie O'Neill
The Honorable Redella Pepper
Eleanor L. Wilson

Sponsorship Opportunities

\$100 - Mambo

- 1 Complimentary Ticket
- Listing in Evening Program
- Recognition on ALIVE! Website
- Acknowledgement in ALIVE! Wire

\$200 - Cha Cha

- 2 Complimentary Tickets
- Listing in Evening Program
- Recognition on ALIVE! Website
- Acknowledgement in ALIVE! Wire

\$500 - Merengue

- 4 Complimentary Tickets
- Listing in Evening Program
- Recognition on ALIVE! Website
- Complimentary ¼ page ad in Evening Program
- Acknowledgement in ALIVE! Wire



\$1,000 - Rumba

- 6 Complimentary Tickets
- Listing in Evening Program
- Recognition on ALIVE! Website
- Complimentary ½ page ad in Evening Program
- Acknowledgement in ALIVE! Wire

\$2,000 - Salsa

- 10 Complimentary Tickets
- Listing in Evening Program
- Recognition on ALIVE! Website
- Complimentary full page ad in Evening Program
- Acknowledgement in ALIVE! Wire



ALIVE! Gala

Havana Nights: A Caribbean Celebration

March 25, 2006

Registration Form or purchase online at www.alive-inc.org

Yes, I/We Are Attending and/or Sponsoring ALIVE! Presents Havana Nights: A Caribbean Celebration

Individual (\$75) \$ _____

Couple (\$130) \$ _____

Sponsorship (Specify Level: _____) \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Attending - Please Print Name(s) Below

Payment:

____ Check Enclosed for \$ _____ (checks are payable to ALIVE!)

Credit Card:

No. _____

Expiration _____

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Please send registration form
and payment information to
ALIVE!, Attn: ALIVE! Gala,
2723 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302,
or it may be faxed to 703-837-9399.

ALIVE! Presents
Havana Nights: A Caribbean Celebration
March 25, 2006

Auction Donation Form

Donor Information

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Do you want your name listed in the program? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Donation Information

Item(s) Being Donated: _____

Description for Catalog: _____

Is the item included with this form? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Does the item need to be picked up? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Will you deliver the item? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please return form to:

ALIVE!,

Attn: Laura Rogers

2723 King Street,

Alexandria, VA 22302

Fax to: 703/837-9399

Thank you for your generosity!

Thanks, Baptist Temple, From the Furniture Committee

by Michael Diffley, Chairman, Furniture Committee

Recently the furniture committee had its first Saturday morning outing with two box trucks. I was lucky enough to be there; and it was a great experience for a number of reasons.

First, the capacity and versatility of those two trucks is nothing short of awesome. We were able to help five families who began that Saturday morning with virtually no furniture. I remember only weeks earlier: filling one apartment with furniture delivered by the "little red pickup" was a full-morning affair. Thank you, Phillip L. Graham Fund, for the funds to purchase our trucks and for once-again believing in ALIVE! And thank you, all the past and present members of the furniture committee, for establishing the 30+ year track record that makes ALIVE!'s furniture program so believable.

Second, the furniture committee's inaugural run with two box trucks was also Baptist Temple Church's inaugural run with the furniture committee. I love Baptist Temple! The volunteers were numerous (the furniture committee likes this!), strong (the furniture committee likes this too!), and full of the Spirit (the furniture committee likes this most of all!).

I was on the truck with Rev Todd Thomason. What a treat! Having the pastor join us was, for me, so inspiring. I cherish my Catholic heritage and will do so forever; but I also cherish the Spirit I see on Saturday mornings by volunteers from all the congregations. They have no idea what I have learned from them ... Their spirit, love, openness. I can't explain it; but they've made me a better Catholic and, certainly, a better person.

I'll have to admit that I was a bit nervous ... Baptist Temple's first time out with the furniture committee ... Rev Todd in attendance. And -- let's face it -- some Saturday mornings are better than others. But Rev Todd's and my guardian angel had apparently gotten their heads together because it was a grand day. As a matter of fact, after filling one bare apartment in Arlandria with furniture, Rev Todd commented, "That was kind of our own little 'Extreme Makeover'." Yes, it was.

*"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*

Katrina Evacuee Gives back to ALIVE!

Sampson Allen, an evacuee from Katrina devastated Metairie, Louisiana, came to Northern Virginia to start over. ALIVE! supplied him with furniture, housewares and food to set up his apartment in Alexandria. Willing and eager to help others when he can, Sampson volunteered with ALIVE! to install a DSL for ALIVE! House. He has also checked over some computers donated to the shelter to make sure they are in good working order. Thank you Sampson.

Sampson Allen, at right



Save paper, Save \$

Would you prefer to receive the ALIVE! Wire electronically?

Please send your email address to alivetoo@aol.com. Distributing the ALIVE! Wire electronically will save ALIVE! postage and you will receive the information more quickly also in color!

If you want to continue to receive ALIVE! Wire via the mail, you do not have to do anything.

Please send your address corrections to alivetoo@aol.com or call 703-837-9321.



ALIVE! partners with SOHO

ALIVE is proud to lend a hand to the SOHO (Space Of Her Own) program, an art-based mentoring program for low-income at-risk girls in Alexandria. SOHO is a unique collaboration between the City of Alexandria's Court Service Unit and The Art League. This year SOHO is partnering with George Washington University's Interior Design Program, which will provide a large team of students to serve as designers and mentors.

Girls that live in low-income housing and are identified as 'at-risk' are matched with adult female mentors who work with them complete art and design classes, creating hope chests, personalized thrones, lamp shades, floor cloths, face masks, etc. The program is loosely based on the popular television show, 'Trading Spaces'. Upon completion of the art course work, girls and mentors work on teams to remodel each other's personal space in the home.

ALIVE will assist SOHO by donating furniture and providing delivery assistance on remodeling weekends. All are welcome to attend the free SOHO reception and art exhibit on Friday, May 5, 2006 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at the Art League Annex on the corner of Duke and Union Streets in Old Town.

Before



After



THANKS MIKE!

In the entire retail world, there is only one public place where the consumer can buy the attractive ALIVE! note cards and ALIVE! pins. That place would be Cameron Perks Coffeehouse, tucked away inside of Cameron Station on 4911 Brenman Park Drive.

Owner/manager Michael Fleming has over the past few years become a good friend to ALIVE! Not only has Cameron Perks provided display space for note cards, pins and ALIVE! brochures, but many an important decision and much deliberation about ALIVE! has taken place at the small meetings held there by our current President, Immediate Past president, Executive Director, and other local ALIVE! leaders. Mike has even served as a "drop point" for papers to be picked up, signed and delivered allowing important deadlines to be met.

Cameron Perks is an asset to the neighborhood and supporter of ALIVE! More importantly, however, is the fact that it's a cozy spot offering good coffee, good food and good friends.

City Mental Health Dept needs volunteers

The City's Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse is in need of volunteers to serve as:

Guardians for adults with mental retardation and mental illness. Guardians make decisions about personal care, health care, living conditions and recreation. Guardians are court-appointed and bonded. The duties require approximately four hours per month.

Representative Payees to receive Social Security checks and pay bills for persons with mental retardation or mental illness. A separate bank account is opened with automatic deposit and there are few monthly transactions. The duties require two hours per month, per account.

By giving a small amount of time, volunteers can meet a tremendous need in the community. For more information about these volunteer opportunities, contact Jennifer Cohen Cordero at jennifer.cohen-cordero@alexandriava.gov or 703.838.4455, x165.

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

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



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

Spring 2006 Calendar

March

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

April

- 4 **Board Meeting** - Old Presbyterian Meeting House
29 **Last Saturday Food Distribution:** Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center, and Ladrey High Rise
Food Collection: Agudas Achim Congregation, First Christian, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Old Presbyterian Meeting House, St. Joseph's Catholic, Trinity UMC, Unitarian Universalist Church, Zion Baptist
Furniture Collection: Grace Episcopal, Church of the Resurrection, Fairlington Presbyterian.

May

- 2 **Board Meeting** - Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington
7 **Alive! Walk-A-Thon**
27 **Last Saturday Food Distribution:** 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 Collection: Blessed Sacrament Catholic, Westminster Presbyterian

June

- 6 **Board Meeting** - TBD
24 **Last Saturday Food Distribution:** 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 Collection: St. Paul's Episcopal, Unitarian Universalist