



# ALIVE! Wire

Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically

Summer 2006

## President's Message



In my bible, it says that "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled." So I wonder, is it possible then that being hungry can sometimes be a good thing? It has been said that to "hunger after righteousness" is to desire within our hearts to grow a right relationship with God and humanity. As people of faith who "hunger after righteousness," it is our duty to continue to share our bounty with those less fortunate than us.

But we can only do so much. Our resources are limited. That is why it is so important for the interfaith community, for churches, synagogues and mosques, to find its collective voice, and to stand up in public arenas across our country, demanding God's justice and mercy for the poor and the oppressed in every city, including here in Alexandria, Virginia. Each of us needs to find ways to express the collective will of the people--to do God's justice, to show God's mercy, and to seek God's peace.

I want to spend a moment talking about a number of ALIVE!'s programs which focus on feeding the hungry. Our last Saturday Food Distribution program is one of those. On the last Saturday of every month, ALIVE! distributes food to those who are hungry at three sites across Alexandria. You know, food stamps carry a person only so far, and they have a tendency to run out before the month is over. The Last Saturday Food program bridges that gap between the time food stamps run out and the new ones arrive at the beginning of the next month. Over 500 Alexandrians are fed each Last Saturday.

Our Family Emergency Program also responds daily to crises for those who are in need and hungry. Each and every day in our City there is a family or individual in a desperate situation, struggling to keep their head above water. ALIVE!'s Family Emergency Program is there for them, paying utility bills so people can continue cooking food on their stoves or heating their apartments, helping out with rent payments to

continued on page 3

## CDC Holds 25<sup>th</sup>

### Step ALIVE! Walkathon

ALIVE!'s 25th annual walkathon for the Child Development Center (CDC) was held on Sunday, May 7, 2006. Approximately 115 walkers – from preschoolers to octogenarians - participated on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. When all pledges have been received, we expect to have raised at least \$12,000.

**For the third year in a row, Jill Robinson raised the largest pledge amount (over \$1,800) this year primarily from her fellow members of Trinity United Methodist Church. Over the past three years, Jill has raised over \$5,000 for the walkathon. CDC is deeply appreciative of Jill's dedication to this event and the outstanding support from Trinity UMC.**

The Step ALIVE! Walkathon is the Center's major fundraising event. Alive! CDC is the only nationally accredited, full day preschool/day care program for children of low-income families in the Alexandria area.

The support of Alive! congregations, our friends in the community, and all of our generous volunteers were essential to making this event a success. We would especially like to express our appreciation to First Christian Church for the use of their facilities, and to Alfred Street Baptist and Christ Church Episcopal congregations for providing water stations for the walkers.



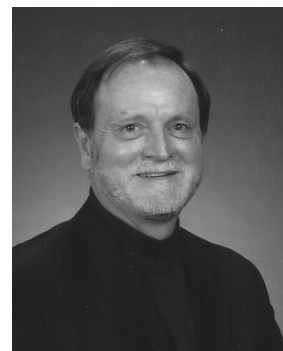
*Top pledge walker Jill Robinson and friend get a hug at the Walkathon (Photo by Louise Krafft)*

See more photos on page 2

## Notes from the Executive Director

Here it is the dawn of a New Year. Not the calendar year, but the ALIVE! fiscal year which begins July 1, 2006. We had a very busy year with lots of new challenges and opportunities (see related articles on our Business Leaders For ALIVE! efforts and read the words of our President, Gerry Hebert, that he delivered at the beautiful event we hosted in recognition of National Hunger Awareness Day on June 5.)

And, as we start this new year we have some hurdles to clear. Contributions in several categories were lower than anticipated this past year and rather than increase program outcomes the shortfall required making significant budget adjustments downwards in most program areas. But, as the old saying goes, when one door closes another one opens. In 2006 - 2007, we'll be looking for ways to open wide those doors of opportunity to keep the spirit of ALIVE! going and to keep serving the most needy individuals and families within our community as we have done since 1969. Ken



*Ken Naser, ALIVE!'s  
Executive Director*

## Tenth Birthday Party Benefits ALIVE!

For their tenth birthday, local twins requested that in lieu of gifts, guests make a donation of food or cash to ALIVE!. This selfless gesture resulted in significant donations of food and money to ALIVE!. The food donated was immediately put in our food pantry where emergency food is bagged every day, Monday through Friday, for those in need. And, at the same time, the cash that was donated will be used for the Family Emergency Program to help those in need with short term financial emergencies such as assisting with rent, medical needs or utilities bills. Happy 10th Birthday girls!



*Left : ALIVE! Walkathon young participants added to the festive mood.*

*Below so familiar friendly models show off their NEW Walkathon Ts (l-r)  
Pam Allen, CDC Director, Doris Mela, Rep. Jim Moran, Dr. George Pera,  
Nancy Pera, Mike Oliver, & Patrice Tighe*



## ALIVE! Hosts Hunger Awareness Day Event

As food pantries and hunger programs who are affiliates of America's Second Harvest from all over the country were preparing to acknowledge National Hunger Awareness Day, ALIVE! was asked by the Capital Area Food Bank to host a Northern Virginia Event in Alexandria. Some notable figures from the social justice realm joined local leaders at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community to learn about, and focus on the issue of hunger.

President and CEO of Bread For The World, David Beckmann, together with Rabbi Jack Moline, Vice Chair of The Interfaith Alliance, spoke to the gathering and offered their own particular insights and wisdom. Lynn Brantley, President of the Capital Area Food Bank spoke to the origins of the Food Bank and the important work to alleviate hunger in our area.

Making the event particularly moving was the wonderful music provided by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington Choir and the St. Joseph's Catholic Church Gospel Choir. Both are members of ALIVE! congregations. ALIVE! President Gerry Hebert served as Master of Ceremonies and his opening remarks are contained in the Letter From the President on page one of this issue.

*" 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*

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

prevent eviction, and getting food to the hungry. And when Hurricane Katrina struck last year, a number of those residents landed here in Alexandria, and the Red Cross referred them to ALIVE! for emergency food and services. You see that is what we do at ALIVE! - serve as the safety net for the poor and those who need a helping hand.

I am proud to be president of ALIVE!. As one of ALIVE!'s many volunteers, I spend a lot of time among people in need. People who suffer from the lack of a home, the lack of a job, the lack of money and the lack of food. Many live day to day, not really sure what tomorrow will bring for them.

As we get to know each other better, I have become a better listener. I have learned to listen to their stories. I have let them share their hopes and dreams, their disappointments, their sorrows. And I have listened to them. **And what I have found is that being listened to is so close to being loved that most people can't tell the difference.**

I think many of us in the middle class fail to understand how the poor are crushed under the weight of challenges that many of us can't begin to imagine.

Poverty stinks and sucks the life out of people, both figuratively and literally. A Jesuit priest once remarked that "we read the gospel as if we had no money, but we spend our money as if we had no gospel."

We see every day on the TV or hear on the radio about the plight of the hungry, the poor, the downtrodden. When we get tired of seeing the poverty and the hunger, we turn off the TV. The poor, the hungry and the suffering, of course, can't do that.

Our Nation is the richest on earth.

Yet, Mother Theresa said that the worst poverty she had ever seen was here in the United States: a spiritual poverty. We isolate the poor, we reject the poor; we shame the poor.

Think about the scene today if God came down to earth today and saw what we had done with the earth entrusted to us. God would look on the earth and see 6.5 billion people. God would see that 1 in 6 of us on earth are suffering from extreme poverty. These are just numbers, of course, but do we know what they mean for the human condition? Those who are extremely poor, the 1.1 billion on earth, they live on \$1 a day or less. 8 million people on earth die each year because they lack life necessities of food, water and medicine.

But you and I can improve our world, one step at a time. In the year ahead, let us look for new ways to open our hearts to each other, and to see the needs of those in our community. What we will be judged by, of course, are the actual deeds of mercy that we perform for each other. It's not enough to feel compassion for the poor. It's not enough to feel sorry for the poor. It's not enough to care about the souls of those who are hungry.

The problem in our world is not poverty or hunger. The problem is our unwillingness to do something about them.

If you are reading this, you are a person who knows these things, feels these things, and believes these things. So to you I say we pledge ourselves once again to not only being aware of the hunger in our world, but to do something about it. We know the way, we need only the will.

Gerry Hebert



## Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Members Break Bread with ALIVE!

At the invitation of Lonnie Rich, current President of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, Members of the Chamber from our local business and professional community came to breakfast on June 14, to learn of the many facets of ALIVE! After attending one of the Business Leaders For ALIVE! breakfasts in April, President Rich suggested ALIVE! have one for a group of Members of the Chamber of Commerce whom he felt would be particularly interested in the work of ALIVE! Present were: Rick Dorman, Catalyst Group of Alexandria; Elizabeth and Page Moon, Focus Data Solutions; Lynn Wyvill, Grant Street Communications, LLC; Andrew Palmieri, Vorys Sater Seymour and Pease, LLP; Chuck Langdon; McEneaney & Associates; Shawn McLaughlin, McLaughlin Investments, LLC; Amir Broumand and Jennifer Warren, BB&T; John and Joan Renner, Renner and Company, CPA, PC; Dennis Belmont, Belmont Inc; and, Amanda Alderman, Rich Greenberg Rosenthal & Costle, LLP

Other members of the Alexandria Community who might be interested in attending or hosting one of the Business Leaders For ALIVE! breakfasts should contact Executive Director Ken Naser on (703) 837-9320.

## Sidewalk Sale A Success!

Willing workers, a beautiful day, many "treasures" to sell - it was great day for the fourth annual ALIVE! House Sidewalk Sale. House neighbor and Advisory Committee member Ann Matikan organized the chaos into a successful endeavor raising over \$1600. She was able assisted by Lindsay Bondreaux, Vivian Webb, Gay Harrington, Susanne Arnold, and House Staff LaRue Barnes and Bonnie Meyer. With a sign held overhead, Suzanne Lamb marched up and down King Street to bring in the buyers. Thanks to these friends, the Sidewalk Sale continues to support ALIVE! House clients.



*Ann Matikan staffs the sidewalk sale.*



*Mary Riley receives UW Community Service Award from Regional Council Chair Allen Lomax*

## MARY RILEY RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS UNITED WAY AWARD

Long-time ALIVE! volunteer, Mary Riley received the Alexandria United Way Outstanding Service Award at the United Way Annual Meeting on June 14. This award is given to an individual who "demonstrates a long standing commitment to community betterment and outstanding service to Alexandria. The recipient must exemplify the highest tradition of service to the city and its residents."

Over twenty years ago, Mary started volunteering in the ALIVE! Family Emergency Program and discovered that the ALIVE! House was looking for a grant writer. She not only wrote many successful grants for the program but also assumed a leadership role as the ALIVE! House Advisory Committee chair and became an active board member.

When serving on the Homeless Services Coordinating Committee, Mary became chair of the Strategic Planning Committee and developed a plan to end homelessness in Alexandria within ten years. This plan was approved by City Council and is currently being implemented.

In addition, Mary is currently serving as chair of the Community Services Board and has assumed a principal role in the development of a Safe Haven for our chronically homeless who are afflicted with both mental illness and substance abuse issues.

Mary's commitment and contribution have been outstanding and her work continues to make our city a better home for the neediest Alexandrians.

Congratulations, Mary!

## First Annual Bon Appetit Alexandria Serves up Food and Community Spirit

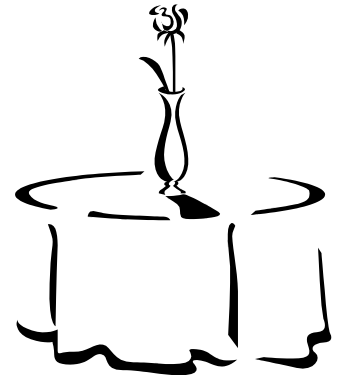
On May 16, residents of Alexandria turned out in fine fashion for ALIVE!'s 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Bon Appetit Alexandria. When the last dish was washed, the Family Emergency Program was the recipient of about \$300. This money will be used to assist families and individuals with much needed support for rent, utilities, and medical expenses among other things.

ALIVE! would like to express its appreciation to Del Merei Grille, Dishes of India and Hector's Place for their participation in this inaugural ALIVE! event.

### One More Chance!

If you weren't able to participate in ALIVE!'s 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Bon Appetit Alexandria, you have another opportunity to dine out and do good! Tempo Restaurant has generously donated a gift certificate for 4 complimentary brunch entrees. This certificate (estimated value of \$100) is available to the first person who contacts the ALIVE! office. Proceeds will be added to the total given to the Family Emergency Program. Thank you Tempo Restaurant!

We look forward to seeing you on May 15, 2007 for ALIVE!'s 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bon Appetit Alexandria!



## Power Outage brings unexpected donations to FEP

Following some major storms, the Family Emergency Program was contacted regarding a large donation of perishable items. The Alexandria resident was experiencing a lengthy power outage and was looking to donate over 30 lbs. of frozen meats and other perishable items. She received FEP's contact information from the Capital Area Food Bank. Unable to bring the food down to ALIVE! herself, she tracked down a courier service that was willing to retrieve the food from her apartment and deliver it to ALIVE! In a matter of hours, a courier arrived with a large plastic bin overflowing with frozen foods and an envelope from the donor containing a check made out to ALIVE! It was a very special effort on this donor's part to get this food over to ALIVE! and to include a check made out to an organization that until a few hours prior, she had never heard of. Thanks for your generosity!



## The Post Office Delivers!

The saying goes that the Postman delivers through rain, sleet, and snow. On a very sunny May 13<sup>th</sup>, the National Association of Letter Carriers made a truly special delivery. Through their annual food drive, ALIVE! received over 4,000 lbs of non-perishable food. This food will be used to help feed needy families and individuals throughout the City of Alexandria.

ALIVE! would like to thank the following organizations and people for making this event a great success:

- The National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) for holding this annual food drive. This is an invaluable gift to ALIVE! and the hungry residents of Alexandria.
- Brian McCormick who did a wonderful job coordinating this effort for the NALC and United States Postal Service and his counterpart Chester Yates at the Parkfairfax Station
- Jean Moore, Food Chair, ALIVE! for coordinating the ALIVE! effort
- First Christian Church for allowing us to host the food drive
- All the wonderful volunteers who helped us sort and box the donations,

including the kids from St. Rita's, ALIVE! Board Members Patrice Tighe, Suzanne Arnold and Pam Goodell, ALIVE! Congregational Representatives Betty Pratt and Mike and Linda Oliver, and ALIVE! Executive Director Ken Naser.

• Last but certainly not least, ALIVE! would like to extend its appreciation to the generosity to the residents of Alexandria for their contributions. You made our day!

## Havana Nights Heats Up Alexandria



Think back to March 25, 2006. Where were you? If you can't say that you were at The George Washington National Masonic Memorial then you missed the HOTTEST party in Alexandria, if not the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Over 200 people danced the night away, courtesy of Stephen Samuel and the JFC Band. In between Latin rhythms, FreshStart Catering had attendees coming back to buffet tables of ropa vieja, black bean cakes, curried shrimp, and many other mouth-watering dishes. Exciting silent and live auction items kept the bidding lively throughout the evening.

As with all good things, the evening of merriment finally came to a close. Thanks to all who participated, ALIVE!'s programs and services will receive approximately \$20,000.

ALIVE! would like to express its sincerest appreciation to The George Washington Masonic National Memorial for hosting this event. In addition, there are many other sponsors to thank.

### SALSA

CVK  
The George Washington Masonic  
National Memorial

### RUMBA

FreshStart Catering  
Gerry and Victoria Hebert  
Stephen Samuels

### MERENGUE

Micki Aronson  
Burke & Hebert Bank and Trust Co.  
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Mary Riley and George McDonald  
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Corey Krall  
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Ken and Cris Naser  
Neil and Mary Newhouse  
Deborah Patterson  
James and Cheryl Risher  
Laura Rogers and Jeff Clark  
Sellers Expositions  
Cathy and Larry Thompson  
Patrice and Tony Tighe

### MAMBO

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Connie and Bud Hart  
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Fr. Dennis W. Kleinmann  
Karla K. Maloof  
Mary Murdock  
James Naser  
William & Marie O'Neil  
The Hon. Redella S. "Del" Pepper  
Susan Stacey  
West End Marine  
Eleanor L Wilson

### CONTRIBUTORS

Rebecca and George Bostick  
Mr. and Mrs. John Davies  
Rev. Francis Hull, S.S.J

Mary Merrick  
James and Kathleen Ring  
Harold Wilson

Kathleen Sullivan  
Sharon Steinberg  
Ronald T. White

*This event could not have been a successful without the hard work and tremendous effort of the Gala Planning Committee and the volunteers who helped on-site*

### Gala Planning Committee

Caroline Bergmark  
Joan Burchell  
Christine Coussens  
Gail Evans  
John Fitzpatrick  
Pamela Goodell  
Victoria Hebert  
Claire Maucieri

Trudy McGee  
Ken Naser  
Deb Patterson  
Marla Popkin  
Laura Rogers  
Trindal Stanke  
Francine Wargo



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**Vice President**

**Recording Secretary**

**Corresponding Secretary**

**Treasurer**

**Treasurer (CDC)**

**Asst. Treasurer (CDC)**

**Asst. Treasurer (General Fund)**

**ALIVE! House**

**Child Development Center**

**Congregational Rep**

**Family Emergency Program**

**Food**

**Food (asst. chair)**

**Furniture**

**Housewares**

**Personnel**

**Publicity**

**Volunteers**

Gerry Hebert - *Fairlington UMC*

Diana Day - *Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington*

Jann Masterson - *Recording Secretary, Fair-Park Baptist Church*

Vivian Webb - *Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community*

Rick Glassco - *Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill*

Ellen Brown - *Community volunteer*

Linda Oliver - *St. Clement Episcopal Church*

Laura Rogers - *Good Shepard Lutheran Church*

Susanne Arnold - *St. Rita's Catholic Church*

Allen Sadler - *Community volunteer*

Beth McFarland - *Fairlington Presbyterian, (cochairs)*

Pam Goodell - *Fairlington UMC*

Linda Coleman - *Trinity United Methodist Church (cochairs)*

Maureen Franks - *Fairlington UMC*

Jean Moore - *Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community*

Deborah Patterson - *Washington Street United Methodist Church*

Mike Diffley - *St. Mary's Catholic Church*

Addie Hebert - *Fairlington UMC*

Cathy Thompson - *Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community*

John Fitzpatrick - *Old Presbyterian Meeting House*

Pam Goodell - *Fairlington UMC*

## ALIVE! Hosts Pastor's Breakfast

On Wednesday, June 21, several pastors from local Alexandria congregations attended a breakfast and information session hosted by ALIVE!. Associate Pastor Ann Herlin (Old Presbyterian Meeting House), Pastor Dale Seley (Downtown Baptist Church), Pastor Don Davidson (First Baptist Church), Rev. Denis Donahue (St Rita's Church), Rev. Anne Gavin Ritchie (Church of the Resurrection), Rev. Scott Davis (Trinity UMC), and Rob Ross (Fairlington Presbyterian Church) heard about the background of ALIVE!, an overview of its program, and upcoming volunteer activities. Attendees were also able to view the ALIVE! video.

"This is a great opportunity for our members to hear about what ALIVE! is doing in the community," stated ALIVE's President Gerry Hebert.

ALIVE! plans to host another Pastor's Breakfast this fall.

## New Record for FEP!

Food Emergency Program had a record breaking day of food bagging and deliveries on June 28th. Fifteen requests came in which resulted in the preparation of 40 bags of food to be delivered around the city. Pictured here with all the bags are volunteers: (l-R) Jean Moore, Tommy Newhouse, Sande O'Keefe and Rob Pierotti.

## HELP WANTED!

The City of Alexandria's Office of Aging and Adult Services is seeking volunteers to act as legal guardians for senior citizens of limited means who have no family members to assist them in making decisions related to health care, personal care, and housing. Guardians will receive extensive training, support and guidance from a social worker. Background checks are required, and at least one year of committed service is recommended. To volunteer or for more information, call 703-519-3318 ext. 206 or email Suzanne.kratzok@alexandriava.gov.



ALIVE! Wire

ALIVE!  
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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

## Summer 2006 Calendar

### July

#### No Board Meeting

- 29 **Last Saturday Food Distribution:** Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center, and Ladrey Senior High Rise.  
**Food Collection:** Meade Memorial Episcopal, Roberts Memorial, St. Andrew's UMC, St. Rita's Catholic, Westminster Presbyterian  
**Furniture Collection:** Trinity UMC and St. Mary's

### August

#### No Board Meeting

- 26 **Last Saturday Food Distribution:** Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center, and Ladrey Senior High Rise.  
**Food Collection:** Ebenezer Baptist, St. Paul's Episcopal, Third Baptist, Washington Street UMC, Zion Baptist  
**Furniture Collection:** Alfred Street Baptist and St. Mary's

### September

#### 5 Board Meeting – Fairlington UMC

- 30 **Last Saturday Food Distribution:** Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center, and Ladrey Senior High Rise.  
**Food Collection:** Alfred Street Baptist, Beverly Hills Community UMC, Church of St. Clement, Emmanuel Episcopal, Fairlington UMC, Spiritual Assembly of Bahai's  
**Furniture Collection:** Beth El and Immanuel Church on the Hill

### October

#### 3 Board Meeting – St. Clements

- 28 **Last Saturday Food Distribution:** Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center, and Ladrey Senior High Rise.  
**Food Collection:** Alexandria Church of the Nazarene, Beth El Hebrew, Del Ray UMC, Fairlington Presbyterian, First Christian Church, Meade Memorial, St. James UMC, St. Mary's Catholic  
**Furniture Collection:** Fairlington UMC and St. Joseph's