



# ALIVE! Wire

Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically

Winter 2006

## President's Message

One reality show I actually enjoyed watching was "Extreme Makeover, Home Edition". In it, a family leaves their run down home and returns after a few days blindfolded; when the blindfolds are removed, they find their place has been transformed into a thing of beauty. They are overwhelmed when they see it. They cry. They hug the show's producers and the workers. They cry some more. And the tears they cry are tears of joy and gratefulness. So what does this have to do with ALIVE!?



Well, if you've ever been part of our furniture team, which delivers furniture every Saturday of the year, you know why the reality show reminds me of ALIVE!'s work. People who have been homeless are provided public or subsidized housing. It comes completely unfurnished. They arrive with little more than the clothes on their backs. ALIVE!'s family emergency program is called by city social workers and supplies some food. ALIVE!'s housewares committee delivers pots, pans, towels, and other items. And then, usually on the following Saturday, our faithful servants on the furniture committee arrive. And the person once homeless watches as a couch, chairs, beds, dressers and a dinette set are brought in. And suddenly, what was once a lifeless empty apartment is now ALIVE! again. It's ALIVE!'s edition of the extreme makeover!

To me these transformations are quite spiritual. Not just because you see an empty apartment become a warm and friendly home in just a matter of minutes. But it's the uplifting of the spirit of the poor that makes it so. You see people who have been in such desperate situations finally given a roof over their heads—a place they can call home. And they now have food to feed themselves and their children. And for the first time in a long time, they have possessions—silverwares,

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## A Child's Wish

Dear Santa,

I want to go to school! My mom does not have much money. She went to the Department of Human Services to try to get subsidy so I can go to a fun pre-school. The lady told my mom that the Commonwealth of Virginia does not have any money for new subsidy students. People who were getting it before last May still get it but no one new. Everyone else must go on a waiting list until Virginia has money again.

I have friends that go to school. They tell me it is so much fun. They read stories, do arts and crafts, sing songs, play on the playground and learn lots of things to make them ready for kindergarten. When my mom goes to work she drops me off with a nice lady but I just watch T.V. and hang out all day. Sometimes I feel sad and lonely because we don't do much at her house. I just have to do stuff by myself.

Then at my cousin's birthday party my mom was talking to one of her friends who told her about a school called ALIVE! Child Development Center. ALIVE! has a sliding scale for tuition, my mom says, based on her income and the number of people in our family. I don't know what that means but I'm sure happy there is a school that helps kids like me.

Thank you Santa.

Maybe soon I will be in school with other children to learn and grow - even if we don't have a lot of money.

Jamil



*" 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*

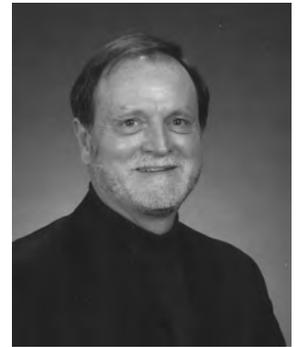
## Notes from the Executive Director

The calls for emergency assistance increase as the resources to meet those needs decline. A recent survey done at the National level reflects exactly what we are experiencing on the local level at ALIVE! here in Alexandria. Consistently, throughout the country, those providing emergency assistance to people in need are finding that the requests for food and financial assistance for essential items such as rent, utilities and medical prescriptions, are on the increase while the contributions to help meet those needs are not keeping up.

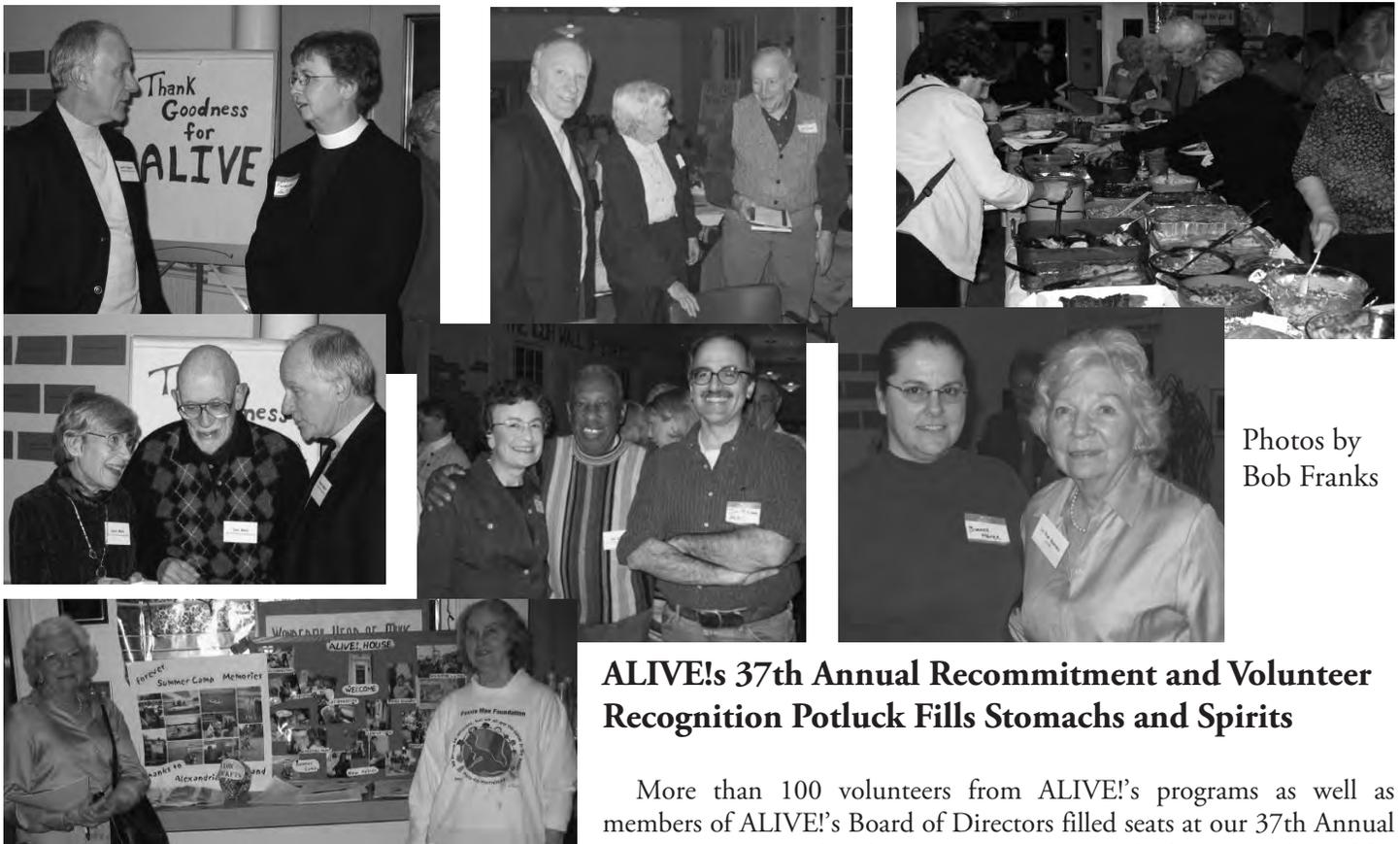
Rev. Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA which conducted the study, says “Year after year, we continue to see that requests for help are growing much faster than the money to provide assistance, putting continued strain on social services.” And, eighty percent of the requests for emergency assistance are coming from the working poor.

As we approach the time of year when great emphasis is on perusing the retail flyers, running up the credit card bills with our spending, and indulging at too many holiday parties, perhaps this is a time to reflect on our priorities with our families and friends.

Poverty takes no holidays. ~ Ken



Ken Naser, ALIVE!'s Executive Director



Photos by Bob Franks

### ALIVE!'s 37th Annual Recommitment and Volunteer Recognition Potluck Fills Stomachs and Spirits

More than 100 volunteers from ALIVE!'s programs as well as members of ALIVE!'s Board of Directors filled seats at our 37th Annual Recommitment and Volunteer Recognition Potluck Dinner, hosted by Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill. Similar to the generous contributions of

time ALIVE! volunteers give, the contributions of food provided ample dining opportunities. Reverend Rosemary Sullivan, Pastor, St. Paul's Church Rock Creek Parish, provided attendees with uplifting words and expressions of gratitude.

ALIVE! honored Doris and Don Mela and Alice and Joe Krafft for their more than 30 years of service to ALIVE!. The couples are still active volunteers with ALIVE!.

Special thanks to: David Ingold (Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill), Pam Goodell (Fairlington United Methodist Church) and Bill Haymon (Alfred Street Baptist Church) for helping make this event a success!

### ***A New Way to Make a Difference: Tax-Free Charitable IRA Rollovers***

You can avoid taxes this year and next through direct transfers to ALIVE! from your IRA account. It's easy, but you must be age 70 ½ or older, and other limitations apply. Before proceeding with any transfer, please contact your financial advisor to learn more about this extraordinary time-limited opportunity and how you may direct your funds.

Please secure independent advice to ensure that you receive the full benefits of a Charitable IRA Rollover.

### **Two Angels Share Their Toys and Joys**

Recently two little girls paid a visit to the ALIVE! Child Development Center hoping to share some of their many gently used toys with the CDC and perhaps the children at ALIVE! House. Madeline age 3 and Sydney, age 6, accompanied their parents to the CDC, carrying in the toys, saying good-bye to the favorites that they had outgrown, and delivering a very generous check to be used for the Family Emergency Program.

Evidence, indeed, that sharing and caring can start at a very young age. Thank you Madeline and Sydney. (And, thanks Mom and Dad, too.)



## **NON-PROFIT PROVIDES FREE HOME REPAIRS**

Is your home in need of rehabilitation or repair? Are you a low-income Alexandria homeowner? Rebuilding Together Alexandria (formerly Christmas in April) is seeking homeowners who need assistance with home repairs. Teams of volunteers work on many houses throughout Alexandria, repairing and renovating homes so that homeowners may continue to live in warmth, safety, and independence. All repairs are made at no expense to you!

Founded in 1986 by Barbara Joseph, Alexandria Christmas in April (as we were originally known) held its first 'rebuilding day' in 1987. On that last Saturday in April, 8 homes and 2 shelters were repaired, at no cost to the homeowners, by 174 volunteers. Last year, 850 volunteers worked on 72 homes and non-profit agencies—throughout the year and on National Rebuilding Day (the last Saturday in April). Now known as Rebuilding Together Alexandria, we've repaired and rehabilitated nearly 1,000 Alexandria residents' homes and non-profit agencies; repairing leaking roofs, replacing broken windows, building handicap ramps, replacing electrical systems, painting, and so much more.

Rebuilding Together Alexandria is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for low-income Alexandria homeowners.

If you are a low-income Alexandria homeowner and need help with home repairs, contact us for an application. Call 703.836.1021 or email [info@rebuildingtogetheralex.org](mailto:info@rebuildingtogetheralex.org)

for more information. Hurry -- limited applications accepted.

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

towels, sheets and furniture. They sometimes get tears in their eyes when ALIVE! volunteers start carrying items into their homes. Their eyes so often show profound gratitude and thankfulness for what ALIVE! is doing for them and their families. Did you know we have even received a small check from some of these recipients in later years as they worked their way back into society? And with the check, a brief note saying they will never forget what ALIVE! did for them in their time of need.

It's also spiritual to see these transformations because you get to witness a fellow human being infused with a new spirit. When someone is shown love by people of faith, they soften right before your eyes, and their heart is opened in a new and special way. And the hearts of the volunteers are warmed as well. Some call this the Holy Spirit. But regardless of what you call it, one thing is for sure about being an ALIVE! volunteer: you get to see the goodness of God at work time and again as we alleviate the suffering caused by poverty. And for me, that's why ALIVE! allows me a way to live out my faith.

This year, let each of us give thanks during the holiday season for all the blessings we receive each day. Let us give thanks to the many volunteers who make ALIVE! the wonderful organization we know it is. And let us share the news about ALIVE! with our friends and neighbors by giving them our copy of the ALIVE! Wire so they can see we are in mission to our community as we seek to bring about dramatic improvement in the lives of those in need.

Peace,  
Gerry Hebert

## Crowds Turn Out for Walkathon!

A beautiful day and beautiful people - the friends of ALIVE! House were down on the National Mall proving with their presence that they support the work of the shelter. Individuals ranging in age from a few months to over 80 years were part of the enormous crowd.

Contingents came from ALIVE! House (residents, former residents, staff, friends), Beverly Hills UMC, Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community, Downtown Baptist Church, Hylton High School, Marymount University, Old Presbyterian Meeting House, TC Williams (the Keyettes and Club Zonta), Trinity UMC, and Westminster Presbyterian Church. Adding in the happy feet from Mini-Walks at Grace Episcopal School, St. Rita School, and Washington Street UMC, it is expected that the final count will be over 250 walkers, earning an incentive of \$5000 from the Fannie Mae Foundation. ALIVE! House also benefits from their registration fees and sponsors.

Additional funds were raised by the generous contributions of three Partners, each donating \$1500 to the Help the Homeless Campaign: Fairlington UMC,, Immanuel Church the Hill and an anonymous donor on The participation of ALIVE! House in the Youth Engagement Program should also result in a financial award. We'll know the final result of the Help The Homeless Campaign in February. Thank you everyone!

## New Resident Manager Joins ALIVE! House Staff

ALIVE! House is pleased to welcome a new Resident Manager – Ramona Blajev, who hails from Greenville, SC has lived in Northern Virginia for about a year. Ramona has a degree in English and has lived in Egypt and England. She enjoys reading and art and is currently employed in Association Management. Welcome Ramona!



## ALIVE! House Wish List

- infant toys
- toilet tissue
- paper towels
- dish detergent
- trash bags
- bleach
- aluminum foil
- AA batteries- 2 pkg
- Advantix film - 2
- bus tokens
- flashlights - 4
- hand broom (goes with dust pan) - 2
- hand-cranked radios - 1
- (National Geographic, Herrington \$50.00 plus AC adaptor)
- 
- hard surface cleaners - 4
- (409, Fantastic, Lysol, etc.)
- laundry detergent (medium size)
- Metro cards
- umbrellas 4
- extra long mattress pads

## Leaving a Lasting Legacy in Your Community

What was she to do? Her husband had recently died, they had no children or direct heirs and she herself was getting on in years and in frail health. She turned to her trusted pastor and dear friend for advice. What should she do about her estate? How could she make sure that she did the right thing with the worldly goods that she and her husband had gained throughout their marriage? As always, her pastor gave her sound advice that she found wise and comforting at a troubling time.

This Fall ALIVE!, Inc was the recipient of a generous gift from a donor who designated ALIVE's programs in her will. If you have a desire to leave a legacy gift to ALIVE! 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.

## Craft Show Benefits ALIVE!

The American Physical Therapy Association hosted a holiday craft show in the lobby of their building in Old Town. A variety of vendors participated with tables of homemade crafts, jewelry, candy, cards and more. It was a great opportunity for folks to get a jump- start on their holiday shopping, while making a contribution to ALIVE!'s work in the community. APTA plans to host the show annually to benefit ALIVE!.

## ALIVE! & Christ Church to co-sponsor Bokamosa Youth Theater Performance

On Sunday Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. there will be a benefit concert at Virginia Theological Seminary for the Bokamosa Youth Theater, an energetic troupe of singers and dancers from South Africa. They will perform a short play, *Won't Happen to Me*, converse with the audience about their lives, and end the evening with traditional South African music and dance. This evening of music and drama to help provide funds for the education of young people in the desperately poor township of Wintervelt, a remote area originally created by the Apartheid system.

According to Roy Barber who worked with the young people to create and produce the play, "the Bokamosa Youth Theater was created to empower youth to speak with courage and clarity through art" about the challenges in their lives today. Bokamosa will also be selling CD's of their music and folk art from Wintervelt during the evening. A suggested donation of \$10.00 can be paid at the door or donations can be mailed to Christ Church with Bokamosa written at the bottom of the check. For further information, please email Liz Ward at [Lizward@comcast.net](mailto:Lizward@comcast.net) or call Mary Dixon Hutcheson at 703-549-1450 ext.127.

## 31st Annual Turkey Trot Stuffs ALIVE! Food Pantry For Holidays!



November 23, 2006, Participants in the 31st Annual Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving Day morning at the Cora Kelly Recreation Center brought seventy plus banana boxes full of canned food for ALIVE! We have been the recipients of this food for most of those 31 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 their time early on

Thanksgiving morning. ALIVE! will disperse the donated food to families and individuals in need of it well into the New Year.



photos courtesy of Shane Canfield

## ALIVE! would like to thank the following for donating food this Fall

St. Clement's Episcopal Church  
Trinity UMC  
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church  
Trade Center Post Office  
Good Sheperd Lutheran Church  
Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Immanuel Church on the Hill  
St. Mary's Catholic Church

Anderson & Associates  
Carol Lee  
Queen of Apostles Catholic Church  
St. Rita's Catholic Church  
American Physical Therapy  
Association  
Fort Myer Chapel  
Fairlington UMC

Emmanuel Episcopal Church  
Church of the Resurrection  
Baha'is Faith Assembly  
Virginia Estes  
Beverly Hills UMC  
Alfred St. Baptist  
*as of our Wire deadline*

## GET YOUR DANCING SHOES READY! - SAVE THE DATE - APRIL 14, 2007



ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 14, PLAN TO SPEND YOUR EVENING DANCING UNDER THE PYRAMIDS OF EGYPT AT ALIVE!'S ANNUAL GALA.

THE EVENING WILL FEATURE MOUTHWATERING DELICACIES AND MUSIC FROM THE MIDDLE EAST. STAY TUNED TO THE ALIVE! WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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## Caring for those in need all year long

The ALIVE! Family Emergency Program's (FEP) mission is to provide needy Alexandrians with emergency food and emergency funds for utilities, rent, medical services and prescriptions, thus feeding the hungry, preventing evictions, keeping the utilities from being turned off and providing for medical needs. Clients are eligible to receive a three day supply of food once a month and funds up to \$100 every three months.

One appreciative great grandmother counts on ALIVE's food and funds and volunteers to assist her throughout the year. She has already raised her children, but now finds herself at age 70 raising a teenage granddaughter who has an acute illness. In addition, she is also raising three great grandchildren. The youngest child is 20 months old and was recently diagnosed with a life threatening illness.

The great grandmother's caseworker checks with the family regularly to see that the family has food to eat and adequate shelter. Throughout the year, the FEP food drivers have delivered many bags of nutritious food for the hungry family. Recently, ALIVE! paid \$100 toward the family's gas bill to keep the heat on, which is extremely important with two children in the household with serious illnesses.

It is hard to believe that in our beautiful wealthy City of Alexandria that there are families living in poverty and going hungry. While most Alexandrians are fortunate enough to be able to decide on the latest electronic toy to buy their children and grandchildren for Christmas, others are deciding which bill to pay, the rent, utility or medical bill. Sometimes those bills cannot be paid when there are hungry children checking the empty pantry and refrigerator. The great grandmother in this story faces these choices daily.

When you are writing your end-of-year checks, please consider writing one to ALIVE! INC. The 45 volunteers in the Family Emergency Office promise you that they will be good stewards of your contribution as together we help the most vulnerable residents in our city.

**Last year 3,318 bags of emergency food were delivered to 1079 households consisting of 1,472 adults and 783 children. In addition, emergency funds in the amount of \$186,842 were provided to 2,197 low income Alexandrians.**

Thanks to the following volunteers who served FEP in FY 2006: Bob Barnett, Stowe Boyd, Jim Carroll, Teresa, Clara Cavada, Shirley Cohen, Linda Coleman, Barbara Currie, Stephen D'Antoni, Lane Debevois, Kathy Dewey, Jack Dinan, Rita Foisie, Doug Fox, Maureen Franks, Pam Goodell, Alaine Henderson, Ginny Johnstone, Alice Krafft, Joe Krafft, Peter Loomis, Mary MacPherson, Don Mela, Jean Moore, Sande O'Keefe, Linda Oliver, Mike Oliver, Bill O'Neill, Tommy Newhouse, Rob Pierotti, Betty Powell, Terry Russell, Linda Scheid, Steve Scheid, Nancy Schuetze, Bob Shapiro, Maureen Shaprio, Mari Shine, John Smucker, Marilyn Stephenson, LaRue Van Meter, Sally Vermilye, Eleanor Wainstein, Kathleen Waldron and Vivian Webb.

## Gifts in Celebration – Gifts in Memory

Would you prefer to receive the ALIVE! Wire electronically? Please send your email address to [alivetoo@aol.com](mailto:alivetoo@aol.com). Distributing the ALIVE! Wire electronically will save ALIVE! the cost of printing and postage - plus you'll receive the information more quickly.

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](mailto:alivetoo@aol.com) or call 703-837-9321

Especially at this time of year gift giving takes on a high level of importance for many of. 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 for use by the Family Emergency Program, for our Child Development Center preschool 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 be used to help out those that are truly in need. See enclosed envelope for details on donations or visit the web site [www.ALIVE-inc.org](http://www.ALIVE-inc.org)



**It is not too late** to make a significant difference in the lives of the many people ALIVE! serves throughout the year.

Participate in the United Way or CFC campaigns and designate ALIVE! # 8352 as the recipient of your donation. It can have a very large and significant impact on someone's life



## Officers & Chairs 2006-2007

<b>President</b>	Gerry Hebert - <i>Fairlington UMC</i>
<b>Vice President</b>	Diana Day - <i>Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington</i>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Jann Masterson - <i>Recording Secretary, Fair-Park Baptist Church</i>
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	Vivian Webb - <i>Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community</i>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Rick Glassco - <i>Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill</i>
<b>Treasurer (CDC)</b>	Ellen Brown - <i>Community volunteer</i>
<b>Asst. Treasurer (CDC)</b>	Linda Oliver - <i>St. Clement Episcopal Church</i>
<b>Asst. Treasurer (General Fund)</b>	Laura Rogers - <i>Good Shepard Lutheran Church</i>
<b>ALIVE! House</b>	Susanne Arnold - <i>St. Rita's Catholic Church</i>
<b>Child Development Center</b>	Allen Sadler - <i>Community volunteer</i>
<b>Congregational Rep</b>	Beth McFarland - <i>Fairlington Presbyterian, (cochairs)</i>
	Pam Goodell - <i>Fairlington UMC (cochairs)</i>
<b>Family Emergency Program</b>	Linda Coleman - <i>Trinity United Methodist Church (cochairs)</i>
	Maureen Franks - <i>Fairlington UMC (cochairs)</i>
<b>Food</b>	Jean Moore - <i>Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community</i>
<b>Food (asst. chair)</b>	Deborah Patterson - <i>Washington Street United Methodist Church</i>
<b>Furniture</b>	Mike Diffley - <i>St. Mary's Catholic Church</i>
<b>Housewares</b>	Addie Hebert - <i>Fairlington UMC</i>
<b>Personnel</b>	Cathy Thompson - <i>Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community</i>
<b>Publicity</b>	John Fitzpatrick - <i>Old Presbyterian Meeting House</i>
<b>Volunteers</b>	Pam Goodell - <i>Fairlington UMC</i>

ALIVE! Wine

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 41 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

## Winter 2007 Calendar

### January

- 2 ALIVE! Board Meeting – TBD  
27 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, Baptist Temple  
**Furniture Collection:** Baptist Temple, St. Rita's

### February

- 6 ALIVE! Board Meeting – Beverly Hills UMC  
24 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 UMC, Fairlington Presbyterian, St. Mary's

### March

- 7 ALIVE! Board Meeting – St. Rita's  
31 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