



# ALIVE! Wire

Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically

Spring 2007

## President's Message

*"To Everything, Turn, Turn, Turn, There is a Season"*

As a baby boomer, every time I hear this 1965 hit by the Byrds, it immediately takes me back to that tumultuous period. I recall hearing this song as a teenager and feeling such a strong connection between its words and my faith. After all, from my earliest days, I had been taught to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless (although we didn't call people homeless back then), and generally to help those less fortunate than I was. Since the United States had declared a war on poverty, the words to this song, calling upon us to find the right time "to love", "to plant", "to sow", and "to heal" resonated with me in many ways. It still does, and I suspect when you listen to it too, the song may have a special meaning or bring back certain memories.

Consider the opening lyrics, which are taken from the Old Testament Book of Ecclesiastes (3:1-8). "To everything turn, turn, turn, there is a season, turn, turn, turn, and a time to every purpose under heaven." I think this is such a powerful reminder to us all that we all go through phases, or ups and downs, in our lives. There are days when we feel hopeless, or days we feel great and ready to conquer the world, or days we are totally stressed out, or days when in the midst of chaos we are able to find serenity.

I recently drove several families from a local shelter to an event in the ALIVE! van. I asked the young mother in her early 30's about living in the shelter with three children. She said to me, "Gerry, I was so afraid when I became homeless and realized that I was going to have to move into the shelter." She explained "I'd never lived in a shelter before, and I was scared for my children's safety." She then explained how happy she was to discover this shelter was a good and safe place for her and her children, and that she was grateful for it. But what happened next astounded me. She then said, "you know Gerry, all of us in the shelter are people too and we just caught a bad break. But we are



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## Hunger in Northern Virginia

The Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB) recently hosted a "Hunger Tour" to several different agencies that serve low-income and hungry people in the Northern Virginia area. The purpose of the tour was to educate public officials of the high demand for services such as those provided by these agencies and the CAFB. One quarter of all Virginia residents live in the area served by the CAFB and, 1 in 6 children in our area is at risk of, or experiencing hunger.

Virginia Attorney General Robert McDonnell, a graduate of Bishop Ireton High School and native of the Mount Vernon area, accompanied the group as did a representative from Senator John Warner's office and Mayor Robin Gardner of the City of Falls Church. Executive Director Ken Naser represented ALIVE! and Ms. Ann Moore represented the Office of Community Services from the City of Alexandria. Chris Jenkins, a reporter for The Washington Post who often writes about the plight of the poor was along for the full four hour event.



*Virginia's Attorney General Robert McDonnell and Ann Moore from the City of Alexandria Office of Community Services approach the Capital Area Food Bank's Lorton site for the Hunger Awareness Tour.*

*"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*

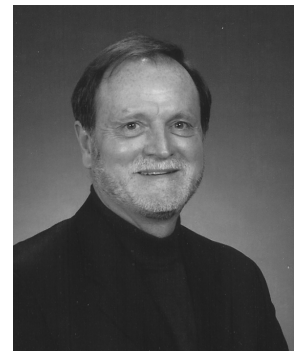
## Notes from the Executive Director

The appearance of *The ALIVE! Wire* changes a bit with this issue as we put a big emphasis on the upcoming fund-raisers that are so important to the work we do in each of our programs. Keeping the funding stream flowing in an organization like ALIVE! is a constant effort, one that could literally be a full time job. But, of course, feeding people, assisting with financial emergencies and just plain helping people in need takes money.

We are so pleased to have the new **Whole Foods Market** partnering with us for the March 28, Community Day. What a generous offer they have made for ALIVE! to not only share in a percentage of the sales on that day but also to pass on information about ALIVE! and its programs at the Duke Street store. We hope to see many regular and new shoppers at Whole Foods on Community Day.

The announcement of our **April 14<sup>th</sup>** Spring Gala, “**A Night at The Pyramids**” is like a sale at Macy’s – it takes up the whole page. But, what better way to call attention to our largest fundraiser. We invite everyone to share in a fun evening at a very reasonable price. Party with a purpose!

If we were a retail establishment we would be thrilled at the increase in our customer traffic this fiscal year. For the first six months of this year, we realized an increase of 18% in requests for food and financial assistance coming in to our Family Emergency Program. Referrals for food at our Last Saturday Food Distribution jumped 27% in the first four months of this fiscal year.



*Ken Naser, ALIVE!'s  
Executive Director*

Our business is booming. Unfortunately. ~ Ken

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

going to get back on our feet, and soon I'll be in my own apartment and starting over.”

What a wonderful statement of hope. And what strength of purpose, I thought. I do not know how hard it is to be a single parent like her. I just know it's very hard. But I know how easy it would be for me to feel down and out if I were in her shoes. And yet here was this remarkable young woman reminding me of her own hopes and that “to everything turn, turn, turn, there is a season”.

If there is “a time to every purpose under heaven,” and I believe there is, then right now is the time for us to do something to help those in need. I wonder what season you find yourself in as you read this? Perhaps your job prevents you from being able to devote time to volunteer for ALIVE!. Perhaps you are unable, due to age or physical disability, to help right now. So “the time to every purpose” for you to volunteer is not right now. That's okay. Not everyone is always able to help. “There is a season,” as the song goes, but maybe it's just not a season you can be a part of right now.

Oh, but you can! ALIVE! can take your small financial contribution and grow it in Superman proportions by leaps and bounds. ALIVE!, can take your \$10 contribution and purchase 110 pounds of food to feed the poor, and we can take your \$100 donation and buy 1100 pounds of food—enough to feed many families for many weeks. That's because ALIVE!, as a nonprofit charity, is able to purchase food at huge discounts from the Capitol Area Food Bank. And because ALIVE! is virtually an all-volunteer army of people like you, nearly 100% of every dollar donated goes directly to the poor, and your donation is tax deductible.

My second year as President of this wonderful and uplifting organization is coming to a close. In my two years, I have been witness to many miracles of faith. I have seen poor people, down in spirit and hungry, transformed by the work of ALIVE! volunteers. When hungry people are given food, you see, it's not just their stomachs that get fed, their spirits get nourished too. And that is a priceless gift that ALIVE! gives out each and every day.

In recent months, we have seen unexplained dramatic increases in requests for food. Send ALIVE! a check today for whatever you can afford or donate securely online. If you do, you will be uplifting your neighbors in need and it will be your way of making your “time to every purpose under heaven.”

Contributions may be sent to ALIVE!, 2723 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22302, or made online via PayPal at [www.alive-inc.org](http://www.alive-inc.org)

Gerry Hebert

***ALIVE! Presents***

**A Night at the Pyramids**

**April 14, 2007**

**7:00 – 11:00 pm**

**The George Washington Masonic  
National Memorial  
101 Callahan Drive  
Alexandria, VA**

**\$75/Individual**

**\$140/Couple\***

***Mediterranean Food  
Silent/Live Auctions***

***Dancing  
Open Bar***

***For more information, contact  
703-837-9300 ext 6 or  
[alivegala@alive-inc.org](mailto:alivegala@alive-inc.org)***

***ALIVE! is a 501c3 organization. A portion of this ticket is tax deductible.***

***\*Any two people regardless of marital status and gender***

**ALIVE! Walk-A-Thon .....Sunday May 6**

On Sunday, May 6, please join dedicated walkers from all around our City for the 26<sup>th</sup> consecutive Walk-A-Thon known as "Step ALIVE!" to benefit the ALIVE! Child Development Center. It was 1982 when the first walk took place to raise funds to repair the broken down ALIVE! school bus. Well, the bus is long gone but the need to raise funds for the ALIVE! Child Development Center is more critical than ever.

The Child Development Center is a Nationally accredited, full-time preschool for children of low-income working families who live or work in the City of Alexandria. In fiscal years 2006 and 2007, budgets that provided child care subsidies for low income families were drastically cut at the Federal government level. The net result of the loss of those funds, which came to local jurisdictions via the State was dramatic. The ALIVE! Child Development Center faces a shortfall of nearly \$85,000 this year alone.

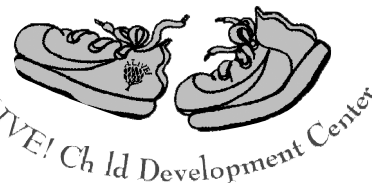
The registration fee for the walk is \$10 for adults and \$5 for seniors and youth (children under 10 walk for free). The walk takes place along King Street through Old Town starting at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday May 6. A picnic for participants at the end.

Walkers are encouraged to raise additional funds through pledges of support from friends, family and associates. ALIVE! congregations, Alexandria civic organizations and businesses are urged to support this event through a minimum \$200 Sponsorship. The names of sponsoring organizations will appear on the popular *STEP ALIVE!* t-shirts worn by walkers and volunteers.

Pledge forms and additional information are available on-line at [www.alive-inc.org](http://www.alive-inc.org) or by calling ALIVE! CDC at (703) 548-9255.

Put it on your calendar now and join us for a fun and rewarding day at the 26th annual **Step ALIVE! Walk-a-thon.**

Allen Sadler \* CDC Committee Chairman \* (703) 619-9075 \* [sadler1@verizon.net](mailto:sadler1@verizon.net)

**Step ALIVE  
Walkathon****Mentoring Awareness**

In recognition of the importance of responsible adult mentoring in the lives of the City's youth, the Alexandria City Council declared January as "Mentoring Awareness Month".

The Alexandria Mentoring Partnership was formed as a result of feedback received from the community through initiatives of the Alexandria Gang Prevention Community Task Force, the Alexandria Community Services Board, and community outreach. It is a central clearinghouse of mentoring information available to enhance mentor recruitment, screening and training to ensure that quality mentoring programs reach Alexandria youth.

For more information on the Partnership visit <http://alexandriava.gov/mentoring/> or contact Mike Mackey, City of Alexandria Gang Prevention & Intervention Coordinator at 703-838-4180, ext. 242, or via email at [mike.mackey@alexandriava.gov](mailto:mike.mackey@alexandriava.gov).

**Wish List for ALIVE! House - March 2007**

- Alarm clocks
- Bus Tokens and Metro Cards
- Gift Cards: for Shoppers, Target, Old Navy, Ross
- Treat Cards: ice cream, fast food restaurants, movies, etc.
- Hand-cranked radio w/ AC adaptor
- to charge cell phones (\$49.95!)
- Shower Caddy - (2) to carry to & from bathroom

**Help the Homeless Campaign A Success!**

\$25,011 is the grand sum realized from the Help the Homeless Campaign 2006. Thank you everybody! The 196 walkers in the Mini-Walks at Grace Episcopal School, St. Rita School and Washington Street United Methodist Church; the 123 walkers in the Walkathon on the National Mall; the three Partners: Anonymous, Immanuel -on-the-Hill Church, and Fairlington United Methodist Church; and the many participants in the Youth Engagement program. We are very grateful for all these Friends.

**Did You Know?**

The City of Alexandria Office of Adult and Aging Services and the Arlington Agency on Aging are actively searching for approximately 1500 Medicare recipients who may be eligible for help in paying for their Medicare Part D plan. Individuals with incomes under \$1276/month or \$15,315/annual and assets under \$11,710 and couples with incomes under \$1711/month or \$20,535/annual and assets under \$23,410 may be eligible for this help.

If you or someone you knows fits within these categories, please contact the Arlington Agency on Aging at (703) 228-1700 or email them at [arlaaa@arlingtonva.us](mailto:arlaaa@arlingtonva.us).

# Shop Community Day!



1700 Duke Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

**Wednesday, March 28, 2007**  
to benefit



**ALIVE!**

*(ALexandrians In Volved Ecumenically)*

[www.alive-inc.org](http://www.alive-inc.org)



## The Women's Giving Circle of Alexandria Assists ALIVE!'s Last Saturday Food Distribution

On Saturday, February 24, the Women's Giving Circle of Alexandria (WGCA) kicked off its first Community Service Day in conjunction with the Alexandria Volunteer Bureau. Over 20 women from the WGCA donated and helped bag non-perishable food and produce, which were distributed to approximately 200 individuals and families. In addition, WGCA members donated bedding and non-perishable protein products.

The Women's Giving Circle of Alexandria is a community-based, philanthropic organization working to address the needs and hopes of Alexandria's children, youth and families. For more information, visit [www.womensgivingcircleofalexandria.org](http://www.womensgivingcircleofalexandria.org).

ALIVE! would like to extend its gratitude for the assistance and support of the WGCA and the Alexandria Volunteer Bureau for making the February Last Saturday Food Distribution event at Cora Kelly Rec Center a tremendous success!

## Member Congregations to Host Chili Cook Off

The congregations of Good Sheperd Lutheran and Emmanuel Episcopal are hosting a Chili Cook off on April 21<sup>st</sup> to raise funds for the ALIVE! Child Development Center. Spend an evening sampling a delicious variety of chili with friends and family. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. at Emmanuel Episcopal at 1608 Russell Road. For more information please contact Patrick Anderson at [panderson@pnalaw.com](mailto:panderson@pnalaw.com).

## Bagels Benefit ALIVE!

Bruegger's Bagels opened their newest store in Alexandria at 606 King St. and dedicated a portion of the opening day proceeds to ALIVE!. The Grand Opening took place on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and was attended by Ken Naser, ALIVE! Executive Director, Bruegger's CEO James J. Greco and Mayor Euille. ALIVE! would like to thank Bruegger's for hosting the benefit.

## ALIVE! House Annual SIDEWALK SALE!

Saturday, May 12, 2007 9 - 2  
Corner of Prince and South Payne  
To donate in advance call 703-684-1430

## Ready for some Spring Cleaning?

### ALIVE! Furniture Program accepts :

Twin, Full, Queen size beds  
and box springs  
Dressers and bureaus  
Living room furniture  
Dinette tables and chairs  
Dining tables and chairs  
*Furniture should be in reasonably good condition -- not broken, torn or heavily soiled*

### ALIVE! Housewares Program accepts

Pots, pans, dishes, towels and sheets.  
Small appliances in working order  
Stainless flatware, cooking utensils

### ALIVE! does not accept donations of the following:

King size beds, Large sectionals, Sleeper sofas, Large/heavy wall units  
Rugs, Appliances, Electronics (to include TV's, computers, stereos)  
Cribs, Outdoor furniture, Office furniture, Barstools  
Broken items or anything needing repair



To arrange for a pick up of furniture in the City of Alexandria, call our Furniture program at 703-837-9300 x3. To find out where to deliver your items for the Housewares program, call 703-837-9300x5. You may also learn more about our other programs at [www.alive-inc.org](http://www.alive-inc.org).

## GIVE THE GIFT OF LITERACY

The Alexandria Tutoring Consortium (ATC) was founded as a faith based organization in 1997 by then Supt. Herb Berg, Old Presbyterian Meeting House Pastor Gary Charles and Steve Rideout, Judge of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court in Alexandria. Judge Rideout, who spoke at the March 6 ALIVE Board meeting, has spent his career creatively changing the philosophy and operations of the court system to benefit at-risk children. His stories of interacting with children and young people as a Judge and as a tutor for the Alexandria Tutoring Consortium illustrated the importance of intervention by a caring adult in helping children and young people learn to read and to love learning. He mentioned that prisons are full of young people who never learned to read. Currently a year in juvenile detention costs society \$70,000 and the loss of a contributing member of the community.

Through ATC, your congregation has an opportunity to provide tutors in reading so the approximately 25 first and second graders who read below grade level in ATC's nine schools can still have the extra help they need this year. Fourteen active congregations provide the core volunteers for this program. However, the need for tutors is growing, so ATC must look to new congregations and groups to find more volunteers.

Tutoring offers members in your congregation an opportunity to make a measurable difference in one child's future learning success. The good news is that over 80% of first and second graders identified by teachers and testing for tutoring by ATC volunteers end the year being able to read at or above grade level! With your help, ATC can continue to improve on that percentage.

Please visit the ATC website: [www.alexandriatutors.org](http://www.alexandriatutors.org) for more information. You may submit an application on-line or call 703-549-6670 ext. 119 to receive an application in the mail. If you have any questions or would like to talk about making tutoring through ATC a part of your mission as a congregation, please call Gwen Mullen, Executive Director, or Meredith Wade, Program Manager. They hope they will be hearing from some of you soon!

## Alexandria Times Citizen of the Year

ALIVE! would like to congratulate it's very own **Mike Oliver** on being named the Citizen of the Year 2006 by The Alexandria Times. ALIVE! is fortunate to have both Mike and Linda Oliver as dedicated volunteers.

### 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!**  
 2723 King Street  
 Alexandria, VA 22302  
 703-837-9300  
[www.alive-inc.org](http://www.alive-inc.org)  
 E-mail: [alivetoo@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:AliveToo@aol.com)  
[www.alive-inc.org](http://www.alive-inc.org)

## Spring 2007 Calendar

### April

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Board Meeting at Fairlington Presbyterian
- 14<sup>th</sup> A Night at the Pyramids **ALIVE!** Gala
- 28<sup>th</sup> Last Saturday Food Distribution: Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center and Ladrey Senior 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

### May

- 1<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting at Washington Street UMC
- 6<sup>th</sup> Step **ALIVE!** Walk-a-thon
- 12<sup>th</sup> **ALIVE!** House Sidewalk Sale
- 26<sup>th</sup> Last Saturday Food Distribution

**Food Collection:** Agudas Achim Congregation, Christ Episcopal Church, Church of the Resurrection, Fairlington UMC, Grace Episcopal

**Furniture Collection:** Blessed Sacrament, Westminster Presbyterian

### June

- 5<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting at Downtown Baptist
- 30<sup>th</sup> Last Saturday Food Distribution: Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center and Ladrey Senior 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