



ALIVE! Wire

Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically

Summer 2007

President's Message

As I complete my second year as President of ALIVE!, I am reminded almost daily of the amazing volunteers that make ALIVE! the special organization that it is. I witness people helping their neighbors in need virtually every single day.

I visit with our furniture committee volunteers, for example, who pick up used furniture from generous Alexandrians and deliver it to people, transforming an empty public housing unit into a home in a matter of minutes. And our furniture committee operates 52 Saturdays a year!

I see my mother, in her 80's, transporting boxes of house wares to needy families throughout the year. She and other volunteers provide families with the pots, pans, sheets, towels and other items needed to carry on in our daily lives. By the time our furniture committee and house wares committee finish visiting, families that perhaps were homeless just days earlier now are living in a place they can call their own. And these places they now call home are complete with furniture and other donated house wares made possible by generous people like you.

I see the residents of ALIVE! House nurtured by those who oversee our transitional shelter, as we take in homeless families and help get them back on their feet. You and I go to work each day and often are unable to see first-hand the struggles of young mothers with children who find themselves homeless. All they are looking for is a place to live in peace with support from people who care. ALIVE! House is such a place.

I see children at the Child Development Center learning in a safe and accredited pre-school environment, taught by teachers who understand that children with an exposure to a pre-school education will have a better chance of succeeding when they enter kindergarten. I also see parents of modest means who are grateful that their children are enrolled in a first-rate, affordable pre-school and after-school child care setting.

I see people uplifted in fundamental ways by the many



FEP Volunteers Think With Their Hearts

The ALIVE! Family Emergency Program (FEP) volunteers know the guidelines for approving a request for assistance for an Alexandrian in need. Generally, ALIVE! can assist with up to \$100 every three months towards a client's rent, utilities, medical expense, or prescription medication.

FEP volunteers process as many as 25 or 30 requests for emergency food every week. Once a month, an eligible individual or family can receive a three-day emergency supply of food consisting of food donated by ALIVE!'s member congregations, the Boy Scouts, the U.S. Postal Service, and other groups and organizations, as well as food provided by the Capital Area Food Bank to ALIVE! at little or no cost.

Granted, there are a number of terrific food programs in our area for those who are hungry, but the Family Emergency Program is unique in that volunteer drivers deliver the food to the clients' homes, Monday through Friday. Those home deliveries are especially helpful to the elderly, the disabled and single parents with small children.

Our FEP volunteers know that our program's guidelines are flexible and that each request is to be considered on its own merit. Recently, Alexandria's Department of Human Services (DHS) referred a family for an emergency food delivery, a family with some overwhelming circumstances.

A single mom (we'll call her Annie) with two children learned of a relative who was no longer able to care for her own six children. Without hesitation and thinking only of the welfare of those six children, Annie took them into her home. Upon seeking assistance from DHS, her caseworker forwarded a referral to ALIVE!'s FEP program for an emergency food delivery. That same day, volunteer drivers delivered 15 bags of food to the family.

And that wasn't all. Instead of FEP's normal once-a-month food delivery, arrangements were made for the family of nine to get a food delivery every two weeks for the foreseeable future. Annie's courage and determination to care for those children deserves ALIVE!'s wholehearted support.

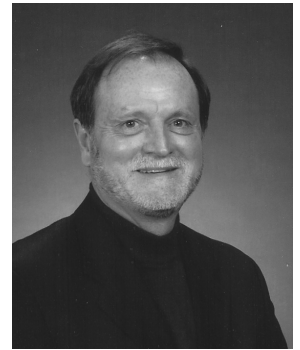
ALIVE! appreciates everyone who supports our programs in the Alexandria community, and we are grateful for volunteers with huge hearts who treat each request with thoughtful consideration.

continued on page 2

Notes from the Executive Director

It was music to my ears: *"ALIVE! Chosen for Catalogue For Philanthropy."* Good news came when we received notification that The Catalogue For Philanthropy told us "ALIVE! has been chosen for inclusion in the 2007-08 Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington. Catalogue reviewers and staff believe that yours is one of the finest smaller charities Greater Washington has to offer!" Approximately 30,000 donors will get a copy of the Catalogue this Fall. We hope many of them feel the same way.

ALIVE! will be a member of the Catalogue's Fifth Anniversary Class of great smaller nonprofits. The Catalogue introduces the smaller non-profits to individual donors, the largest source of private support. Donors trust the Catalogue. Increasing numbers of people report that they look forward to each year's new edition as it puts the Catalogue's stamp of approval on these smaller non-profits.



*Ken Naser, ALIVE!'s
Executive Director*

We will wear this honor proudly as we do with our exceptionally low overhead rate. Both allow us to announce to the world that we take very seriously our commitment to ALIVE! and all those whom we serve.

Ken

President's Message continued from page 1

glorious works of ALIVE! volunteers. Take, for example, the Last Saturday Food Distribution program. ALIVE! gives out food to families whose food stamps may have run out before the end of the month, so they won't go hungry during the last week of the month when next month's food stamps are distributed. I see grateful food recipients thanking ALIVE! volunteers for their efforts. I wonder: have we reached the point in our lives where people thank us for simply caring about them? I think we have.

But our volunteers in the Family Emergency Program (FEP) are the ones who day in and day out are on the front lines. Consider this note I received this month from one of our FEP volunteers: "our client is a 65 year old Asian woman who does not speak English. She has terminal pulmonary artery disease and is on oxygen. She had no income and lived with her sister who was her caregiver and provider. Tragically, her sister was killed in an auto accident in April. A group based in Southern Virginia contacted FEP to see if we provide assistance. She had been turned down for help by the Department of Human Resources and other agencies. ALIVE provided rent money, several bags of food, and is in the process of trying to find an agency who can help her."

The volunteer's note continued: "On an ordinary Thursday in the middle of May, FEP delivered 25 bags of food to needy people. On that same day, FEP spent \$550 to help pay utility bills, rent, and medical prescriptions. And that was only one day!"

It may have been an "ordinary" day for FEP, but the volunteers in FEP and throughout ALIVE! are anything but ordinary. And each of us should be thankful we have them in our community to care for those in need. We should be thankful that nearly 40 years ago, some visionaries in our City had the wisdom to create ALIVE!—the safety net for the City's poor.

Contributions may be sent to ALIVE!, 2723 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22302, or made online via PayPal at www.alive-inc.org

Gerry Hebert

A Letter of Thanks

Dear ALIVE Furniture "Miracle" Workers,

Thank you for getting us off to a great start in our new apartment. Since my divorce we have been homeless for the past five years, moving from post to pillar...while I saved money for a two bedroom apartment.

My daughters are very happy that we have our own home, with our own rooms and that we made it this far. My children are very appreciative and would never complain that they had no dining room table, living room furniture or bedroom furniture.

ALIVE Miracle Workers, you are not just delivering furniture, you are helping to rebuild people's hopes and dreams. Thank you so much!

Sincerely, Helen, Mary and Holly

CDC Holds 26th Step ALIVE! Walkathon

Step ALIVE!, the annual walkathon for the Child Development Center (CDC) was held on Sunday, May 6th. Approximately 100 walkers participated on the windy but gorgeous spring day. Participants enjoyed a 5-mile loop starting at First Christian Church and heading into Old Town, past many of Alexandria's historic places of worship. Marsha Bell of St. Rita's Catholic Church, led this year's walk playing her bag pipe. Participants received commemorative tee shirts and enjoyed a picnic lunch back at First Christian Church following the walk. Don Mela of Beth El Hebrew provided musical entertainment with his accordion.

The support of ALIVE! member congregations, friends in the community, and our generous volunteers were essential in making this event a success. There was significant increases in support from a number of congregations. When all pledges have been received, we expect to have collected close to \$18,000 – about 20% more than last year.

For the fourth year in a row, Jill Robinson was the top fundraiser of all the participants. This year, Jill raised an astounding \$3,500, almost doubling her total from last year. Her friends and fellow members at Trinity United Methodist Church are not surprised by the energy Jill showed in supporting Step ALIVE!. Teaching children is a passion of Jill's, and she frequently gives the Children's Sermon at Trinity among many other ways in which she supports the church and its mission. Jill is looking forward to a special lunch visit with the CDC children this summer.

Step ALIVE! is the Center's major community fundraising event. ALIVE! CDC is the only nationally accredited, full day preschool/day care program, which offers sliding scale tuition for children of low-income families in the area. The need for financial support dramatically increased this year with the discontinuation of federal and state funding for child care subsidies for all low-income working families not already receiving support. This created a crisis in the availability of affordable professional childcare for low-income working families in the Alexandria community and throughout Virginia. Many of these families face the immediate choice of leaving the work force or being forced to rely on informal, un-licensed childcare arrangements.

As always, we express our gratitude 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.

Allen Sadler, Step Alive! Chairman

Maria Medrano, Jill Robinson, Mary Beth Buchholz, and Wendy Donahue represent Trinity UMC.



Marsha Bell of St. Rita's leads the walkers with her bagpipe.



Harris Teeter VIC card benefits ALIVE! CDC

Next time you are in the check out line at Harris Teeter you can simultaneously raise money for the ALIVE! Child Development Center by shopping with your VIC card. Simply tell your cashier that you want ALIVE! CDC [account number 6383] linked to your VIC card and every time you shop 5% of your Harris Teeter private label purchases will be donated to the CDC. Be sure to tell your friends and neighbors about this super easy way to help out the CDC. Thanks Harris Teeter!

La Rue Barnes Retires!

And she will be missed. For nine and a half years, La Rue Barnes has been an important part of the ALIVE! mission to serve the people of Alexandria. As the first Director of Brighter Futures she initiated the program to provide mentors for women struggling to stay off welfare and become self-sufficient. When that program closed in 2002, La Rue was selected to become the first director of ALIVE! House, our shelter for homeless women and families. In that position she used her own considerable mentoring skills to guide residents in making the decisions that would change their lives for the better. She provided the structure and support they needed, while ensuring they followed the required steps towards their goals. Just as the flowers La Rue planted brighten the front of ALIVE! House, her real concern for their welfare brightened the lives of its residents. She established a true nurturing environment in which the residents could grow. Since joining ALIVE! House, La Rue has facilitated the reunification of several families, of mothers with their children, so that the House has become a "wonderful resource" for Alexandria Social Services. The ALIVE! Board of Directors has always been aware how fortunate we were to have someone with La Rue's outstanding experience and warm, nurturing demeanor as the Director of Brighter Futures for Families and of ALIVE! House. Happy retirement, La Rue! (Your grandchildren are so lucky!)



La Rue Barnes Serving ALIVE! House Residents

Sidewalk Sale a Success!

A bright sunny day, cheerful vendors, happy customers, and many, many items to sell - all made the 5th annual ALIVE! House Sidewalk Sale a success. Over \$2500 was realized -the largest amount ever! Ann Matikan, our neighbor the organizer, and her crew: Lindsay Bondreaux, Nathan Work, Daniel Buzby, Lynne D'Amico, Irene Stefanski, Jennifer Padgett, Margaret Dhillon, Debbie Corder, Nancy Rowe, Mary Riley, Cathy Thompson, La Rue Barnes, Ramona Blajev, and Susanne Arnold, all kept the bargains flowing. The incomparable Sign Lady, the one walking up and down King Street enticing the buyers, was none other than Suzanne Lamb! These unrestricted funds will be used to help ALIVE! House residents and former residents.

Wish Lists for ALIVE! House

Wish list for summer campers

- Alarm clocks
- Bus Tokens
- Metro Cards
- First Aid supplies
- Detergents
 - (small sizes of dishwashing & laundry detergents)
- Gift Cards: 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

Wish list for summer campers

- Sunscreen
- Insect Repellent
- Rain Ponchos
- Flash Light w/Batteries
- Umbrellas

Happy Birthday Dana!

Alexandria resident Dana Downs celebrated her 11th birthday by giving to those in need this year. She asked her friends and classmates to consider making a financial donation to ALIVE! instead of buying her a gift. As Dana put it, "I have enough stuff already."

Dana has helped out with ALIVE!'s Housewares program and LSFD so she has seen children in her own community who have very little and who need so much. She has donated some of her clothes and toys. This year she raised \$235 in honor of her birthday and set a wonderful example of compassion and caring in the community.

Dana Downs with Gerry Hebert



"A Night in the Pyramids' Gala - Yields Good Times for ALIVE!



Above: ALIVE! Prez hob nobs with Pharaoh Don Mela and his Queen Doris



Right: Mike "Indiana" Oliver investigates the auction for a valuable find!

GOTR Community Project gives to ALIVE!

Fourteen 3rd-4th grade girls at Douglas MacArthur Elementary school donated to Alive this Spring as a result of a community project they completed through their after school program called Girls on the Run. This life-changing program for girls in grades 3-5 instills self-esteem and strong values through health education and physical training. The program culminates with the girls running a 5K with the other programs in the Northern Virginia Elementary schools:

Ken Naser is presented with a check from GOTR of MacArthur Elementary



Good Shepherd Lutheran raises funds for CDC

When the members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church learned about the state and federal funding cuts affecting the ALIVE! Child Development Center (CDC), they decided to raise enough money to make up the shortfall for one child for one year. Good Shepherd is a smaller congregation with only 400 baptized members; so raising \$5000 was an ambitious goal.

Each year, Good Shepherd hosts a Chili Cook-off with entertainment provided by musicians from our Contemporary Worship Service. This year the proceeds of the goodwill offering were pledged to the CDC. Donations, both at the event and in subsequent Sundays, totaled over \$1700. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans matched \$1500 of the donations for a grand total of \$3200.

A June congregational talent show and pasta dinner “Pastability” raised an additional \$700. Upon learning about the work of the CDC, the children of the Sunday school elected to donate their annual offering of \$700 to the cause.

With the entire congregation pitching in, we are now less than \$400 short of our \$5000 goal and are confident that before the end of June, Good Shepherd will report that it has done its part to help one family afford quality childcare through ALIVE.

ALIVE! Responds to Federal Funding Cuts for Low-Income Child Care

In 2006, federal funding of early childhood education services was severely reduced for low-income working families. At the ALIVE! Child Development Center (CDC) the federal-funding cuts resulted in decreased program income of approximately \$80,000, or 18% of the entire CDC budget: a serious shock and financial crisis.

To compensate for the loss of federal funds, the CDC Committee sought additional funding from all possible outside sources: state and local government, foundations, corporate donors, and individuals. In addition, at the February Board meeting, the ALIVE! congregational representatives were asked to appeal to their congregations to support the CDC with additional funding in this time of crisis.

We want to thank the following congregations for their efforts thus far: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Fairlington United Methodist Church, Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community, Fairlington Presbyterian Church, Alfred Street Baptist Church and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington.

The emergency appeal also reached several generous individuals. One such individual, Pam Goodell, ALIVE! Volunteer Coordinator and Board member, pledged to donate monthly to the CDC; another anonymous “guardian angel” made a contribution of \$5000 -- enough to compensate for the decrease in federal support for one child for the whole year.



*“ 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*

Safeway Foundation Supports ALIVE! with \$5,000 Contribution

On April 28th, Ray Glover, representing the Eastern Division of the Safeway Foundation, presented a check for \$5,000 to Jean Moore, ALIVE!'s Food Chair, at the Last Saturday Food Distribution (LSFD) site at Church of the Resurrection. The donation will be used to purchase food from the Capital Area Food Bank that will be distributed through the LSFD program to Alexandrians in need.

Mr. Glover, Manager of the *Lifestyle* Safeway in Bailey's Crossroads and a member of the Safeway Foundation Committee, spoke briefly to LSFD volunteers and clients, explaining that Safeway employees in the Virginia, Maryland, and District of Columbia region contribute to the Foundation through payroll deductions. It's Safeway employees giving back to the communities in which they live and work.

This generous donation is the latest of many ways that Safeway has supported ALIVE! over the years, for which we are truly grateful.

At right: Ray Glover presents a \$5,000 check to Jean Moore, ALIVE!'s Food Chair



Officers & Chairs FY 2008

President
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, Convergence-A Creative Community of Faith*
Vivian Webb - *Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community*
Rick Glassco - *Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill*
Margie Carpenter- *Westminister Presbyterian Church*
Linda Oliver - *St. Clement Episcopal Church*
Laura Rogers - *Good Shepard Lutheran Church*
Susanne Arnold - *St. Rita's Catholic Church*
Ellen Brown - *Community volunteer*
Beth McFarland - *Fairlington Presbyterian, (cochairs)*
Pam Goodell - *- Fairlington UMC (cochairs)*
Linda Coleman - *Trinity United Methodist Church*
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*
Dave Ingold - *Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill*
Pam Goodell - *Fairlington UMC*

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



ALIVE!, founded in 1969, is a nonprofit organization devoted to helping Alexandrians facing emergency situations become self-sufficient members of the community. ALIVE! has grown from a handful of organizations and volunteers to a vigorous organization of 41 congregations and many volunteers.

ALIVE! offers Alexandrians in need 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 2007 Calendar

July

- No Board Meeting
- 28th **Last Saturday Food Distribution:** Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center and Ladrey Senior High Rise.
Food Collection: Meade Memorial, Roberts Memorial, St. Andrews, St Rita's, Westminster Presbyterian
Furniture Collection: Trinity UMC, St Mary's

August

- No Board Meeting
- 25th **Last Saturday Food Distribution:** Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center and Ladrey Senior High Rise.
Food Collection: Ebenezer Baptist Church, St. Paul's Episcopal, Third Baptist, Washington Street UMC, Zion Baptist, Baptist Temple
Furniture Collection: Alfred Street Baptist, St Mary's

September

- 4th Board Meeting at Washington Street UMC
- 29th **Last Saturday Food Distribution:** Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center and Ladrey Senior High Rise.
Food Collection: Alfred Street Baptist, Beverly Hill Community UMC, Church of St. Clement, Emmanuel Episcopal, Fairlington UMC, Spiritual Assembly of the Bahai's
Furniture Collection: Beth El Temple, Immanuel Church on the Hill, Agudas Achim