



ALIVE! Wire

Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically

Winter 2008

The President's Message

ALIVE!'s 40th Year: Celebratory and Challenging

ALIVE! was founded in May 1969, by farsighted lay leaders and clergy from a few congregations, meeting together at Fairlington United Methodist Church. By the end of its first year, ALIVE! included 17 affiliated congregations of different faiths and traditions, working together to provide food, clothing and emergency financial assistance to those in greatest need in our community. Soon thereafter, the dedicated leadership of this budding organization opened an early-childhood-education center, furniture and housewares recycling programs, and a shelter for women and families.

Throughout calendar year 2009, we will acknowledge and celebrate the leadership of ALIVE!'s founders and the results that ALIVE! has been able to achieve during its 40 years of service to Alexandrians. Each month will offer a special opportunity to commemorate ALIVE!'s history, starting with:

- a special Board meeting and opening celebration on Tuesday evening, Jan. 6 at Beth El Hebrew Congregation
- participation in the George Washington's Birthday parade on Monday, Feb. 16
- a 40th anniversary "Birthday Party" for ALIVE! on Sunday afternoon, March 8, at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

ALIVE! invites you to join us for these events. For more information, contact Kathy Richards at alivetoo@aol.com or (703) 837-9321.

Even while celebrating its past accomplishments, however, ALIVE! also must focus on continuing to serve the community in the future. Given current economic conditions, the year 2009 could well become one of the most challenging years ALIVE! has ever faced. The number of families needing assistance from ALIVE! is increasing rapidly. For example, from September to October alone ALIVE!'s food programs experienced a 20 plus percentage increase in demand. And this is serious, authenticated need, by families referred by private-agency and City social workers. There have been times when our food-delivery volunteers, upon making a delivery,



Boy Scout Annual Food Drive

Volunteers led by Food Chair Jean Moore sort and pack the 1600 bags of food donated during the Boy Scouts' Food Drive on Saturday, Nov. 8th at the warehouse that the City of Alexandria provides for ALIVE!'s food pantry. Between July and September this year, ALIVE! provided food to 1903 households which include 5,368 Alexandrians in need. As reported in the local and national media, the demand for assistance is up and resources are down. Thanks to all who donated to and participated in the drive. The need is growing. Please continue to support ALIVE! with food donations and financial support.



BIG THANK YOUs ! ...
to the participants in the Thanksgiving Turkey Trot and all of the business, organizations and congregations that are sponsoring food collections for ALIVE!

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Notes from the Executive Director

As I write this, I have just returned from a community forum, “*Moving Ahead in Hard Times: A candid conversation about the realities of the economic crisis and the effect it has on the most vulnerable families,*” sponsored by the Women’s Giving Circle of Alexandria. The panel featured City Council Member Rob Krupicka; Debra Collins, Assistant City Manager for Community and Human Services, and Terri Freeman, Executive Director of the Community Foundation of the National Capital Region, and the discussion centered on how the many organizations serving those most in need in our community will be able to respond to the conditions brought about by an already fragile economy.

The signs are already there – increases in the numbers of people seeking assistance who’ve never before needed it. Our Family Emergency and Last Saturday Food Distribution Programs saw a significant jump in requests for food assistance in October. Up about twenty-three percent compared to the previous month. All indications are that this is just the beginning. And, the once-reliable resources organizations like ALIVE! depended upon for support will not necessarily be available to us. For example, grant funds from local government are likely to be reduced or eliminated to meet other needs as sales and real estate tax revenues fall. Support from small foundations that depend on earnings from their investments to make their grants is drying up in a faltering economy, and some funding sources have disappeared.

While the conversation was serious, there was a great feeling of positive energy in the room about how agencies, organizations and individuals can work together to meet the big challenge before us. For almost forty years, we have depended on the support of caring individuals and organizations to help us meet the demand for assistance from those less fortunate in our community. As jobs are lost and people are faced with a rough economy, requests to ALIVE! for helping meet very basic needs will increase dramatically. We will need to be diligent as well as creative in figuring out how we as a caring community respond to this call.

Ken



*Ken Naser, ALIVE!'s
Executive Director*

Officers and Committee Chairs 2008-2009

President	Diana Day – Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington
Vice President	Cheryl Malloy – Good Shepherd Lutheran
Recording Secretary	Jann Masterson – Convergence: A Creative Community of Faith
Corresponding Secretary	Vivian Webb – Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community
Treasurer	Rick Glassco – Immanuel Church-On-The-Hill
Treasurer (CDC)	Margie Carpenter – Westminster Presbyterian Church
Asst. Treasurer (CDC)	Linda Oliver – St Clement Episcopal Church
Asst. Treasurer (Gen. Fund)	Deborah Schaffer – Beth El Hebrew Congregation
ALIVE! House	Susanne Arnold – St. Rita’s Catholic Church
Child Development Center	Ellen Brown – Community Volunteer
Congregational Reps (Co-Chairs)	Beth McFarland – Fairlington Presbyterian
Family Emergency Program	Beverly Patton – Downtown Baptist
Food	Linda Coleman – Trinity United Methodist Church
Food (Asst. Chair)	Jean Moore – Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community
Furniture	Deborah Patterson – Washington Street United Methodist Church
Housewares	Mike Diffley – St Mary’s Catholic Church
Personnel	Addie Hebert – Fairlington United Methodist Church
Publicity	Cathy Thompson – Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community
Volunteers	Gerry Hebert – Fairlington United Methodist Church
	Lisa Kelly - Community Volunteer

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learn that the recipient family has gone without food for as long as two days.

In this environment ALIVE! must redouble its efforts to meet the community's needs, and the support of ALIVE!'s extended family of volunteers and donors is essential. In the pages of this newsletter you will find many suggestions as to how you can help. Please, join us to celebrate, and join us to serve.

Diana Day
ALIVE! President

CDC - Celebrate Worldwide

Parents and children from the ALIVE! Child Development Center gathered recently to celebrate and share the many different nationalities and cultures represented in the Center. Countries represented were Ethiopia, Ireland, Kenya, Peru and the US Territory of Puerto Rico.



Council of Past Presidents Created

ALIVE! President Diana Day polled most of the active past presidents of ALIVE!'s Board of Directors to determine the level of interest in their forming a body to work with the current President in an advisory capacity. The thinking was that the experience and knowledge that each past president had was a unique gift and it could be used on an ad hoc basis, on special projects. On November 15, the newly formed Council of Past Presidents met for the first time. Ten past presidents signed on to the new Council which is open to any past president who is currently active or wishes to become active again.



L-R Standing: Rick Glassco, Ken Naser, Patrice Tighe, Cathy Thompson, Seated: Diana Day, Bill Willis, Mike Oliver



CFC
Code:
44658



United
Way
Code:
8352

Saying Happy Holidays & Helping Our Neighbors Through ALIVE!

Don't know what to give a friend or family member for the holidays? Want to reduce the frenzy of gift-giving and advocate for a simpler lifestyle? Want to share your faith and blessings with those less fortunate around you while honoring a friend or relative? Whatever your reason, by purchasing a gift through ALIVE! you are directly benefiting families in Alexandria who need your help.

PURCHASING A GIFT IS SIMPLE:

1. Review the following list of "gift" suggestions.
2. Cut out and Fill in the order form.
3. Write a check payable to ALIVE! for the total amount. And mail your check and order form to ALIVE!, 2723 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302 or fill out the credit card Information
4. For each purchase, you will be sent a gift card with an envelope and an insert describing your chosen gift. The actual gift will be delivered by ALIVE! to the beneficiaries in need.

ALIVE! HOLIDAY GIFT ORDER FORM

(Please Print Legibly)

Your Name: _____

Your Address _____

Phone Number _____

Item Number	Quantity	Cost	TOTAL

GRAND TOTAL \$

Instead of a gift selection, we would like to make a contribution in the amount of \$ _____ to be used where needed most.

Please charge to my (circle one) Mastercard Visa Discover American Express
Name on Card _____

Account Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Customer's signature _____ Date _____

ALIVE! Programs and Descriptions of Gifts

A. ALIVE! House ► Temporary housing for women and families in emergency and transitional situations. ALIVE! House provides 6-12 months of shelter, support, and help developing life skills for up to four homeless families at a time.

- A1 Bus tokens or Metro Fare cards: Provide transportation for a formerly homeless woman to get to class or a job interview \$ 8
 A2 Ice cream treats: Provide an ice cream treat for displaced children living in ALIVE! House with their mothers \$ 10
 A3 Dress for Success: Formerly homeless women need professional clothes to enter or re-enter the workforce.
 Your donation will purchase a gift card to a local store \$100

B. Child Development Center (CDC) ► A full-day preschool and early childhood education facility serving up to 46 children of working, poor Alexandrians throughout the year. Tuition and fees are based upon the parents' ability to pay.

- B1 Educational Game or Toy: Provide a 3-pound tub of play dough or a floor puzzle for a classroom \$15
 B2 Cooking Activity: Allow a class to have a fun, new experience and learn how to prepare a nutritious snack for themselves.
 Your gift provides the food and materials needed \$25
 B3 Nutritious Food: Learning to eat and enjoy healthy food is important for preschoolers.
 Provide nutritious lunch and healthy snacks for one child for one week \$35
 B4 Books: Help make reading at home a habit for a child.
 Your gift will buy a set of beginning reading books for a child, selected by the CDC's social worker. \$40
 B5 Tuition: An early childhood education experience is critical to prepare a special needs child for kindergarten.
 Help a family pay for one week's tuition for their child to attend the CDC \$200

C. Family Emergency Program ► Assistance with rent, utilities, and medical expenses, as requested by social service agencies or clergy of member congregations. Also donates canned and packaged food, for a week of meals, delivered by volunteers to almost 1,000 needy families each year.

- C1 Eggs : Provide a dozen eggs for five families in need as a primary source of protein \$9
 C2 Medication: Prescriptions are becoming more expensive.
 Your gift will provide the co-payment for a senior citizen otherwise unable to afford to fill prescriptions. \$50
 C3 Utilities: Help a minimum-wage family pay for a portion of their heating bill for one month this winter \$75

D. Housewares ► Donate housewares, including lamps, towels, sheets, dishes, silverware, pots, and pans, delivered on Saturdays.

- D1 Towels: Purchase new bath and kitchen towels for a family moving into an apartment from a battered women's shelter \$35
 D2 Pots and Pans: Families moving from a shelter need all types of housewares for their new home.
 While many are donated to ALIVE!, your gift will buy a new set of pots and pans for a family. \$50

E. Furniture ► Donate beds, tables, chairs, chests, and other useable furniture, picked up and delivered by volunteers to five to ten needy families each weekend.

- E1 Bookshelves: Encourage reading by donating bookshelves to a family with little furniture. \$25
 E2 Gas: Provide enough gas for one truck to pick up and deliver furniture to five needy families on a Saturday morning \$55

F. Last Saturday Food Distribution ► A five-day supply of surplus fresh produce and staple foods distributed by volunteers once a month to serve over 2,700 families each year referred by social service agencies and ALIVE! congregations.

- F1 Holiday Turkeys Provide a 10-pound turkey to a family for them to enjoy a traditional family meal during the holidays \$10
 F2 Beef Stew: Provide a case of beef stew (24 cans) as a quick, nutritious dinner for twelve families \$17
 F3 Tuna: Purchase a case of tuna (48 cans) to provide two dozen families with an alternative source of protein \$35
 F4 Folding tables: The hundreds of pounds of food donated during ALIVE!'s many food drives need to be sorted before being stored.
 Purchase one of the six commercial folding tables needed at the warehouse to help sort the donations \$47

*“ 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

Ways to Feed the Hungry

The world is having a food crisis! One billion people a day do not have enough food to eat. It is not in God's plan that the poor and the hungry take care of themselves.

Here are some ways you can help:

- Pray. Thank God for your abundance and ask that He make you ever mindful of the needs of others.
- Food Pantry. Purchase and donate much needed items for ALIVE!'s Food Pantry. Peanut butter and jelly, tuna, spam, Progresso canned soup, fruit flavored Jell-O, Jiffy cornbread mix, complete pancake mixes (only require water) are needed.
- Take one night a month and eat a simple family meal. Donate what you would have spent on a night out at a restaurant, to feed the poor. Write your check to ALIVE!; mark food program on the memo line; and send it to us at 2723 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302.
- Volunteer to help deliver food for the Family Emergency Program or help at the Last Saturday Food Distribution. Go to ALIVE!'s web site at alive-inc.com and click the Volunteers tab to register as a volunteer for the Food Program.
- Pray some more. Know that what ever you are able to offer, God will take it and bless it and share it with the world.

This list was adapted from something that Michele Smith, the director of Outreach & Mission for Christ Church, developed for her congregation.



Above: To the delight of teachers and kids, Pam Blankenship, the Director of ALIVE!'s Child Development Center, cuts the ribbon to open the new playground "fort" with slides, a climbing wall, cabana roof and activity sections. As one of the boys said, "It's awesome!"

Below: Volunteers from Make Kids Smile and the New Boston Fund pose with CDC students after installing the first piece of new equipment for the playground that was destroyed during a summer storm. Lots of improvements still need to be added, but it's a great start. Thanks to all those who have contributed time and money! Let's keep working towards a finished playground for our kids!





The West End Congregations Help the Homeless Mini-Walk at Ft. Ward on November 9th was a big success. This combined effort of Beth El Hebrew Congregation, Fairlington Presbyterian, Fairlington United Methodist, and Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, the Mini-walk registered 82 walkers of all ages and raised over \$2000. The walk benefited ALIVE! House, which is the oldest continuously-operated shelter for women and families in Virginia. The Mini-walk was a preliminary for the November 22nd Help the Homeless Walkathon on the Mall in Washington, also sponsored by Fannie Mae. Proceeds from the Walkathon and Mini-Walks represent over 25% of the ALIVE! House annual budget. Other Mini Walks were held at St. Rita School and Grace Episcopal School. Thanks to all who contributed to this great effort to support our shelter!



POTLUCK

ALIVE!'s Annual Recommitment and Volunteer Recognition Potluck Dinner was held on Tuesday, November 18th at St Paul's Episcopal Church. Rob Krupicka, Alexandria City Councilman and chair of Gov. Kaine's School Readiness Task Force was our Keynote Speaker. He addressed the importance of early childhood education and preschools like ALIVE!'s Child Development Center. Honorees that evening were: Carrie Diggins, who has served as a teacher in the

CDC since 1991, Frances and Bob Barnett, who have been active volunteers for over 30 years; and the Ivakota Association, represented by Bruce Rodenberg, daughter of Viola Greenland Pope, a past ALIVE! President and active volunteer who passed away earlier this year. It was a wonderful evening.



ALIVE! Wine

ALIVE!
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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

Winter 2009 Calendar

January

- 6 ALIVE! Board Meeting and 40th Anniversary Kick-Off Celebration – Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road
31 Last Saturday Food Distribution: Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center, and Ladrey High Rise

Food Collection: Downtown Baptist, Ebenezer Baptist, First Baptist, Immanuel Church-on- the- Hill, St. Rita's Catholic

Furniture Collection: St. Rita's Catholic Church and Commonwealth Baptist

February

- 3 ALIVE! Board Meeting - Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 1427 W. Braddock Rd.
16 ALIVE! Celebrates its 40th Anniversary at George Washington's Birthday Parade
28 Last Saturday Food Distribution: Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center, and Ladrey High Rise

Food Collection: Beth El Hebrew Congregation, Del Ray UMC, Emmanuel Episcopal, Fairlington Presbyterian, Alexandria Assembly of Baha'is, Roberts Memorial UMC, and St. Andrews UMC

Furniture Collection: Beverly Hills UMC and Fairlington Presbyterian

March

- 3 ALIVE! Board Meeting - Fairlington Presbyterian, 3846 King Street
8 ALIVE!'s 40th Anniversary Birthday Party- Sunday afternoon at Westminster Presbyterian Church
28 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, Commonwealth Baptist, St James UMC, Third Baptist, and Washington Street UMC

Furniture Collection: Old Presbyterian Meeting House and First Agape Baptist Community