



# ALIVE! Wire

Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically Spring 2009

## ALIVE! Reaches Out

ALIVE! is caught in the middle. In these difficult times, more and more people need the assistance that ALIVE! provides, such as food, shelter, and emergency monetary assistance to help pay the rent and keep the heat on. At the same time, many of ALIVE!'s usual sources of financial support are threatened. The State and City are faced with declines in revenue and are looking for expenses to cut. And ALIVE!'s grantmakers, concerned about the dramatic loss of value in their investment portfolios, have begun to notify ALIVE! that grants will be reduced or eliminated in the coming year.

So, squeezed from both ends, where can ALIVE! turn? First, ALIVE! turned to its loyal grass-roots volunteers and donors, and they have responded with generosity. Next, ALIVE! called upon its 41 affiliated congregations. Several have been able to respond with gifts exceeding their usual annual contributions, in honor of ALIVE!'s 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and in recognition of the heightened demand for ALIVE!'s services. ALIVE! also has contacted businesses and associations that have provided support in the past. Thus far, nine have come forward as "40<sup>th</sup> anniversary sponsors" of ALIVE!'s work in this difficult year.

Where can ALIVE! turn next? You, who have received this *Wire*, are part of ALIVE!'s community. Perhaps you can refer ALIVE! to others who can help: perhaps to an unaffiliated congregation that is committed to the same mission, or to a business or association that has not engaged in ALIVE!'s work in the past, or to other generous individuals who may not know much about ALIVE! and the work that it does. Please, use the information in this *Wire* to tell ALIVE!'s story to people that you feel might be moved to join the effort. Additional information is available at [www.alive-inc.org](http://www.alive-inc.org) and at 703-837-9300. Thank you.

Diana Day  
ALIVE! President

## ALIVE!'s Online Auction Open until-March 7, 2009



Participate in the ALIVE! Online Auction through March 7th, 2009, and help support ALIVE! during its 40th Anniversary year. The ALIVE! Online Auction is part of a series of events marking ALIVE!'s 40 year history. The ALIVE! Auction site is open and accessible online from the menu of our website at [www.alive-inc.org](http://www.alive-inc.org). You can go there now to view and bid on some of ALIVE!'s best donations ever—and help ALIVE! meet the increased demand for food, shelter and other support for the neediest families in our community.

Don't wait! Go today to access descriptions and photos of auction items, and submit your bids. The Auction will offer some 30 select items: mostly favorites from past ALIVE! on-site Auctions, such as vacations, hotel getaways, fine dining, and entertainment -- from concerts and plays to Nats baseball tickets!

Save the date for March 8th: The online bidding will culminate at ALIVE!'s family-oriented 40th Birthday Party at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Cameron Mills Road on Sunday afternoon, March 8th. The highest online bids will be announced -- and those attending the March 8th event can attempt to out-bid the online bids. We hope you will join us there for the fun!

## Notes from the Executive Director

These past few months have presented me with some very gratifying work on behalf of ALIVE! In the course of working on the 'first ever' plan for development, I've had the opportunity to look more deeply into the reasons we have many long, long serving volunteers, the various reasons people care so deeply about our programs and, thus, are very generous in their giving. It is in learning these that I am able to share the stories and the reasons with newer people and help them realize that perhaps they, too, can find something they can work for and support in ALIVE! The reasons, of course, are many – and varied. Sometimes it is the direct contact with those we serve and witnessing first-hand the assistance making a difference. Sometimes it is the person having the ability to carry out the work of their faith.

In pages that follow, you'll see Marian Van Landingham's article on our newly established ALIVE! Legacy Society. It is very rewarding to talk to people who welcome this type of option for something that they can do immediately, that costs them nothing now and actually helps take some degree of worry out of future decisions they have to make. Marian references a bequest that was received recently. Having learned some of the particulars in that situation, it made me think that this woman, the last of her immediate family, made a decision that affected literally thousands of peoples' lives. I'm sure she is very pleased.



*Ken Naser, ALIVE!'s  
Executive Director*

Recently, I received a call from the family of a long-term (I'm talking 30 or 40 years!) volunteer and supporter of ALIVE! As the family was preparing funeral arrangements, the thought immediately came to them that it would be their father's wish to have memorials to ALIVE! in lieu of flowers. Yes, this happens frequently but it struck me that even at a time of loss and family sadness, much good can happen even after one is gone. Ken

## Officers and Committee Chairs FY 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<br>(Co-Chairs) | Beth McFarland – Fairlington Presbyterian<br>Beverly Patton – Downtown Baptist |
| Development Council                | Marian Van Landingham - Beverly Hills Community UMC                            |
| Family Emergency Program           | Linda Coleman – Trinity United Methodist Church                                |
| Food                               | Jean Moore – Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community                              |
| Food (Asst. Chair)                 | Suzanne Lamb – Immanuel Church-On-The-Hill                                     |
| Food (Asst. Chair)                 | Deborah Patterson – Washington Street United Methodist Church                  |
| Furniture                          | Mike Diffley – St Mary's Catholic Church                                       |
| Housewares                         | Addie Hebert – Fairlington United Methodist Church                             |
| Personnel                          | Cathy Thompson – Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community                          |
| Publicity                          | Gerry Hebert – Fairlington United Methodist Church                             |
| Volunteers                         | Vacant   |

## ALIVE! Initiates Legacy Society and Honor Roll of Major Donors

Faced with meeting the tremendous needs of the poorest of the poor in our city, ALIVE! is starting two new programs this year to provide support above that provided by member congregations and other current sources.

The first is a Legacy Society in which individuals indicate that they have written or intend to write ALIVE! into their wills or other estate plans. The Development Council has prepared "how to" material to help guide potential donors. For a confidential discussion of how to become a Charter Member of the ALIVE! Legacy Society, please contact Ken Naser, ALIVE! Executive Director, at 703-837-9320.

A recent bequest from the estate of Mrs. Catherine Cole is an excellent example of what the ALIVE! Legacy Society can accomplish. Mrs. Cole came to this area from England after WWII. She and her late husband, Dr. Hugh M. Cole lived in the area for most of their 60 year marriage. What a wonderful tribute to her memory and what a wonderful gift to ALIVE!.

The second new program is the establishment of an Honor Roll of annual givers of substantial contributions. The gifts can come all at once or in installments during a year, helping smooth out ALIVE!'s income stream. People are not hungry just at Thanksgiving and Christmas!

The Honor Roll will have these categories: \$99 and under, Friend; \$100-\$249, Associate; \$250-\$499, Partner; \$500-\$999, Patron; \$1,000-\$9999 Leadership Circle; \$10,000 and up, Benefactor.

I would be pleased to speak to any group or congregation on either of these new programs to help people understand how they work and the benefits to both ALIVE! and the individual in participating.

Marian Van Landingham, Chair,  
Development Council

Please join us  
For the fun  
As we celebrate the

40th Birthday of  
ALIVE!

Sunday, March 8, 2009  
2 to 4 P.M.

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
2701 Cameron Mills Road  
Alexandria, VA

RSVP: [alivetoo@aol.com](mailto:alivetoo@aol.com)  
Or 703 837-9300 Ext. 6

(admission is free,  
but donated  
"Birthday Gifts" for  
ALIVE! are welcome)

## NEED CONTINUES TO GROW

With the downturn in the economy, the demand for food and assistance from ALIVE! has increased. For example, this winter in December and January, ALIVE!'s Last Saturday Food Distribution (LSFD) program provided bags of groceries to feed 4057 individuals, 41% more than the 2874 individuals served during the same period one year ago. In this environment, more and more large families need assistance, and ALIVE! plans and prepares for more clients every month.

During the last three months of 2008, ALIVE! provided food through both LSFD and the Family Emergency Program to 1509 households which included 4799 individuals. We were able to give \$47,798.82 in financial assistance to 520 household that needed help with medical expenses as well as rent and utilities helping to avoid evictions and utility cut offs. Furniture was delivered to 75 families and the Housewares Program helped more than 800 families. ALIVE! House sheltered women and children for a total of 393 total bed nights and the Child Development Center provided a preschool education to 38 children of Alexandria's working families, offering tuition fees based on family income.

We were able to do all of this because of the countless hours given by our wonderful volunteers and the generous financial donations from those who care. As you listen to the news about our economy, please don't forget those in need right here in our community.



*Volunteers help those in need with food at the Last Saturday Food Distribution at Cora Kelly Rec Center in January. Check the calendar in the Wire for future dates when you can help.*



### FOOD WISH LIST

Canned tuna and meat  
 Cereal  
 Pancake Mixes that need only water  
 Soup  
 Jelly  
 Baby Food  
 Canned or Packaged Milk  
 (doesn't need refrigeration)

Help is needed on the Friday before Last Saturday Food Distributions at Cora Kelly Rec Center (25 Reed Avenue) from 6:30 to 8 pm to unload the food truck so that they are ready for Saturday morning. If you can help, please join us. The more folks we have the quicker we can finish. The next dates are: March 27, April 24, May 29 and June 26. Thanks



CFC  
 Code:  
 44658



United Way  
 Code:  
 8352

The ALIVE! Board of Directors commemorated the organization's 40th Anniversary just prior to the January Board Meeting at Beth El Hebrew Congregation on Jan 6th. Alexandria's Mayor Euille and members of the City Council were present and the Mayor spoke about ALIVE!'s vital place in the community. Also present were members of the clergy from some of the organization's member congregations. Pictured (Right to Left) are Rabbi Brett Isserow of Beth El, Rev. Jennifer McKenzie of Christ Church, Rev. Joanne Bates of First Agape Baptist, Rev. John Hortum of Church of St. Clement, Rev. Lowell Schuetze of Good Shepherd Lutheran and Ken Naser, Executive Director of ALIVE! Other clergy in attendance were Rev. Mitzi Manning of Fairlington UMC, Rabbi Jack Moline of Agudas Achim, and Rev. Pierce Klemmt of Christ Church.



## Mark Your Calendars

**Step ALIVE!**  
Walkathon



Sunday, May 3, 2009  
1:30 Pm

Starting at the CDC, 2723 King Street  
Walk for the ALIVE! Child Development Center

### PLAN AHEAD NOW

- Be a \$ 200 sponsor & you'll be listed on the Tee shirts!
- Organize your teams – NOW
- Gather support from family & friends – NOW
- If there's a conflict, choose another date and do a mini-walk!

Have questions? Want help or someone to talk to your group?  
Call the ALIVE! Child Development Center – 703 548-9255  
For more information and details as well as the Pledge Form  
please go to [www.alive-inc.org](http://www.alive-inc.org)

*“ 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*

## Determination Begets Independence

Grilette Bates knew what she had to do – she understood the requirements of the ALIVE! House program – and she wanted the results it could bring her. Grilette had been a user, but when she came to ALIVE! House, in May 2004 she was free of that addiction and ready to concentrate on moving ahead with her life. Her goals were to unite her family, to live in her own place with her daughter and son, and to have a career. And she's done just that. All who watched the "12 Days of Giving" telecast in December saw a confident, attractive woman and a good advocate for the ALIVE! House program. Grilette saved money, paid off her debts, regained her driver's license and got her credit back together. She graduated from Training Futures, well prepared for her job as Accounts Assistant at General Dynamics. And, most importantly, she now has her children with her.

Grilette doesn't forget ALIVE! House; she comes back each year with her family and friends to participate in the Help the Homeless Walkathon. She was eager to share her experience during the Telethon. "Living at ALIVE! House is like living in your own apartment, (they're) not breathing over you. The Director (La Rue Barnes) opens up the opportunities available and gives you the encouragement to take advantage of them." It wasn't easy, but Grilette persisted knowing that her goals were worth the struggle. She is not through yet; she will continue her journey to independence by going to NOVA Community College and on to a BS degree.

### ALIVE! House Spring Wish List:

- Mops (3)
- Brooms (3)
- Paper Towels
- Toilet paper
- Laundry Detergent
- Hard surface cleaners
- 2 Vacuum cleaners new or excellent condition

also

### ALIVE! House needs Volunteers to help:

- Design an efficient up-to-date office
- Design the renovated spaces
- Compile statistics and enter data
- Inventory and record House contents
- Supervise children's programs and field trips
- Drive residents to medical appointments, grocery shopping, and to LSF
- Shop for household supplies
- Mentor/tutor residents and former residents
- Assist with the Help the Homeless fund-raising program
- Research the problem of homelessness, proposed solutions and the experiences of other communities
- Create House scrapbook

If you have any questions, or can help with any of these needs, please call Susanne Arnold, 703 683-5138. Thanks



*ALIVE! was chosen by the local NBC affiliate (Channel 4 News) to be featured as part of their 12 Days of Giving series leading up to Christmas last December. It was a mini telethon of sorts. Shown here (left to right) are Joe Malloy, Cathy Thompson and Patrice Tighe in the front row who handled phone calls and standing in back are Ken Naser, ALIVE!'s Executive Director; Grilette Bates, a former ALIVE! House resident; and Dimitri Warren, the Director of ALIVE! House; who were interviewed on the noon and evening programs.*

## ALIVE! House Renovation

HomeAid of Northern Virginia, one of our 40th Anniversary Sponsors, will be coordinating a major renovation of ALIVE! House beginning in March. HomeAid is the non-profit charitable arm of the Northern Virginia Building Industry Association (NVBIA) that builds and renovates homeless shelters. The ALIVE! House project, led by builder captain K. Hovnanian Homes, includes painting and new flooring throughout the building, improvements to the kitchenettes and bathrooms, as well as a new HVAC system.

Through their donation of time, expertise, and materials, K.Hovnanian and their subcontractors will drastically reduce the cost of the renovation for ALIVE! House. When the exact amount is determined, ALIVE! House will look for matching funds. ALIVE! House residents and staff will move off site during the renovation.

ALIVE! House, built in 1820, is the oldest continuously operating shelter for women in northern Virginia. It provides a safe shelter for women and families while helping them develop the necessary life skills to achieve independent living.



*ALIVE! Fortieth Anniversary Sponsors were celebrated at the January Board Meeting. Pictured are (Right to Left) Joe Murray of K. Hovnanian Homes and Christy Eaton of HomeAid next to Alexandria's Mayor William Euille, Denise Gray of Seyfarth Shaw, Michael Scheurer of HomeAid, and Ken Naser, Executive Director of ALIVE! Other Sponsors are Alexandria Toyota, CNA, Wiygul Automotive, National Milk Producers Federation, R&B Heating, Gymboree Play & Music, and T.J. Fannon & Sons.*

## IT WAS A MERRY CHRISTMAS

Despite the current economic challenges, the light of compassion shone warmly and brightly once again at ALIVE! House through the gracious gift of sharing at Christmas from the good friends of ALIVE! House! Thanks so much for making the ALIVE! House families' Christmas so special!

Thank you Crystal City Ward Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Fairlington United Methodist Church, Karen Ferguson, Bill & Marsha Haas, Immanuel Church on the Hill Youth Group, SENTEL Corporation, St. Rita Church, The Montessori School of Alexandria, Vickie Jewell & The Cactus Taverna Group, Westminster Presbyterian Church,

Best Wishes for a Happy & Prosperous New Year!  
ALIVE! House Residents & Staff

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 967

## Spring 2009 Calendar

### March

- 1-7 40th Anniversary Online Auction –ALIVE! website at www.alive-inc.org
- 3 ALIVE! Board Meeting - Fairlington Presbyterian, 3846 King Street
- 8 ALIVE!'s 40th Anniversary Birthday Party- - Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Rd.  
2 - 4 pm
- 28 Last Saturday Food Distribution – Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Rec 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

### April

- 7 ALIVE! Board Meeting - 7 PM Grace Episcopal Church, 3601 Russell Road (Reading of City Proclamation and Recognition Of 40th Anniversary Sponsors)
- 25 Last Saturday Food Distribution: Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Rec Center, and Ladrey High Rise  
Food Collection: Agudas Achim Congregation, First Christian, Good Shepard Lutheran, Old Presbyterian Meeting House, St. Joseph Catholic, Trinity UMC, Unitarian Universalist Church, Zion Baptist  
Furniture Collection: Christ Church, Grace Episcopal and Church of the Resurrection

### May

- 3 ALIVE! Day in the City of Alexandria
- 3 40th Anniversary Walathon Benefiting the ALIVE! Child Development Center
- 5 ALIVE! Board Meeting 7 PM Fairlington UMC, 3900 King St.
- 30 Last Saturday Food Distribution: Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Rec, Center and Ladrey High Rise  
**Food Collection:** Agudas Achim Congregation, Christ Church, Church of the Resurrection, Fairlington UMC, Grace Episcopal  
**Furniture Collection:** Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church and Westminster Presbyterian

### June

- 2 ALIVE! Board Meeting 7 PM St. Rita's Catholic 3815 Russell Rd
- 6 ALIVE!House Sidewalk Sale (Rain date June 7)
- 20/21 Red Cross Waterfront Festival - 40th Anniversary Booth
- 27 Last Saturday Food Distribution: Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Rec Center, and Ladrey High Rise  
**Food Collection:** Blessed Sacrament Catholic, Convergence Community, First Baptist, Immanuel Church-On-The-Hill, St Mary's Catholic Church  
**Furniture Collection:** Christ Church, St. Paul's Episcopal, Unitarian Universalist Church, and Washington Street UMC



*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