



ALIVE! Wire

Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically

Summer 2009

Congregations: ALIVE!'s Roots

As we reach the midpoint of ALIVE!'s 40th anniversary year, I find myself thinking back to ALIVE!'s origins and reflecting on the sources of support that have sustained ALIVE! ever since. ALIVE! was founded by 17 visionary congregations of different faiths, which acknowledged their common values by coming together to serve those in greatest need in the City of Alexandria. Within just a few years they had created the core programs that ALIVE! continues to deliver today: food, shelter, early childhood education, household furnishings, and emergency monetary assistance.

Over the years, as ALIVE!'s programs have evolved and expanded, ALIVE! has received more and more support from secular sources: government, foundations, businesses and associations, individual donors, and volunteers from the community. However, affiliated congregations, now 41 in number, remain at the root of ALIVE!. The congregations send representatives to serve on ALIVE!'s Board of Directors. They provide financial support, volunteers, client referrals, and donations of food, furniture and housewares. They organize fundraisers for ALIVE! and provide work crews for special projects. They help keep ALIVE! alive.

The contributions of ALIVE!'s founders and all of its affiliated congregations will be recognized at a Founders Night celebration on Tuesday evening, October 6. ALIVE!'s extended family of volunteers and donors will be invited; we hope you will be able to join us for this special event.

Diana Day, President

Congregational Representatives Bring Congregations Together

Representatives from ALIVE!'s affiliated congregations serve on the ALIVE! Board of Directors and keep their congregations connected with each other and involved in ALIVE!'s work. These reps recruit many of the volunteers who, together, make ALIVE!'s programs possible. They also ask their congregations to provide the essential support needed for those programs to continue.

Nine months ago, the Congregational Representatives Co-Chairs, Beth McFarland and Bev Patton, initiated an information sharing program for congregational representatives. As part of this effort, Margie Carpenter, Westminster Presbyterian; Dave Taylor, First Agape Baptist; Beth McFarland, Fairlington Presbyterian; and Ann Marie Hay, Unitarian Universalist of Arlington, made presentations to the Board describing the things they have done to involve their congregations in ALIVE!'s work. They demonstrated that effective congregational reps are well-informed about ALIVE!'s programs, needs, and current challenges.

Old Presbyterian Meeting House volunteers spent part of Sunday afternoon on May 17th doing some cleaning for the CDC and Family Emergency Program as part of a mission work day. Seen here are volunteers washing the windows and blinds in one of our classrooms. It made Monday morning even brighter! Thanks to all who helped.



Dave Taylor, Congregational Representative from First Agape Baptist Community of Faith, explains the strategies that he and Co-Representative Herb McKoy use to keep their congregation informed about and engaged in the work of ALIVE!.

At the June 2nd Board Meeting, Beth McFarland (Right), Co-Chair of the Congregational Representatives Committee, presented Susanne Arnold (left) and Dr. Constance Richardson (center), the Congregational Reps for St. Rita Catholic Church, with plants to acknowledge their perfect attendance at Board Meetings over the last year.



Notes from the Executive Director



Ken Naser,
ALIVE!'s Executive Director

In May of this year, the ALIVE! monthly board meeting was held in the Fellowship Hall of Fairlington United Methodist Church, the same room where the very first meeting of ALIVE! was held 40 years earlier. Throughout this anniversary year, many have been involved in various activities and efforts to celebrate this milestone. In this issue you'll see pictures that capture some of those activities and you'll read about how our many different congregations continue to stay involved.

The annual report of the first year of ALIVE! is quite an interesting read. It documents the fact that during the first year, seventeen congregations became members. Those vintage minutes also spelled out three simple qualifications for congregations to belong to ALIVE! Later incorporated into the ALIVE! bylaws, those qualifications were: commit to participate in the "ruling body" (the Board); designate a congregational representative; and, commit to provide funds.

The last qualification had a parenthetical goal spelled out, too, for providing funds. It read, "ALIVE!'s goal for funds is \$3.00 per year from each member family in your congregation..." That seems pretty modest. But, imagine what that would mean if we had the same goal today... \$3.00 (adjusted for 40 years of inflation, of course, would still be only \$17.43) for each member family in our 41 member congregations. I think we'd be in a better position to meet the current demands on our programs caused by the very challenging economy facing us today.

We really appreciate the active and supportive congregations that you will read about in this issue. But, we'd like all 41 members to be active and supportive. If your congregation is not active any longer, think about changing that. I am available to work with any individual or group to see how we can get your congregation re-engaged in ALIVE!'s important service to our community. Give me a call. (703) 837-9320. *Ken*

Officers Elected for FY 2010

Officers for 2009-2010 were elected at the June 2nd Board Meeting. The only change for next year is that Beverly Patton of Downtown Baptist Church will step down as Co-Chair of the Congregational Representative Committee and Ann Marie Hay was elected to take her place. Many thanks Beverly for a job well done!

Officers and Committee Chairs FY 2010

Officers

President	Diana Day – Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington
Vice President	Cheryl Malloy – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
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

Program Chairs

ALIVE! House	Susanne Arnold – St. Rita Catholic Church
Child Development Center	Ellen Brown – Community Volunteer
Family Emergency Program	Linda Coleman – Trinity United Methodist Church
Food	Jean Moore – Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community
Furniture	Mike Diffley – St. Mary's Catholic Church
Housewares	Addie Hebert – Fairlington United Methodist Church

Management Committee Chairs

Congregational Reps. (Co-Chairs)	Beth McFarland – Fairlington Presbyterian Church
Development Council	Ann Marie Hay – Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington
Personnel Committee	Marian Van Landingham – Beverley Hills United Methodist Church
Publicity Committee	Cathy Thompson – Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community
	Gerry Hebert – Fairlington United Methodist Church

ALIVE! House Happenings . . . Renovation & Renewal



Diana Day cuts the cake following the presentations. With her (left to right) are Ken Naser, ALIVE!'s Executive Director; Rick Cole, HomeAid Northern Virginia President; Susanne Arnold, Program Chair of ALIVE! House; Gary Chandler, President of the Virginia Division of K. Hovnanian Homes; and Joe Murray, Vice President of Construction for K. Hovnanian Homes.

complete make over.

Residents, staff, friends and neighbors gathered at the Ice House next door to celebrate the transformation. They listened to Director Dimitri Warren describe the program for residents at ALIVE! House; and to Suzanne Chis, Director of Social Services and Mary Ellen Ruff, Coordinator, Alexandria Family Drug Court Treatment, testify to its value. Two residents and an alum expressed their gratitude for the ALIVE! House experience. Then it was the turn of Gary Chandler, President of the Virginia Division of K. Hovnanian Homes and Rick Cole, President of the HomeAid Board to acknowledge the gifts of labor, expertise, and goods, which made the renovation possible. Joe Murray, Vice President of Construction handed out plaques to the participating trades. All enjoyed a delicious lunch and cake decorated with the ALIVE! logo before taking a tour to see the results for themselves.

ALIVE! House is truly grateful to all who made this renovation so successful, a long list, - and for those who eased the process, especially: The Old Town Residence Inn By Marriott which housed the residents, and Boyd Walker who gave the Director office space, telephone & internet for the duration of the work. We also thank HomeAid – the pro bono part of the Northern Virginia Building Industry Association – the link between K. Hovnanian Homes and ALIVE! House. They guided the enterprise from the application to the celebration at work's end – without them ALIVE! House would not be renewed

WISH LIST

- Gently used children's summer clothing: Sizes: Boys – 3T, 4T ; Girls – 18 mths
- Diapers, Size 3 & 4
- Umbrellas – (Retractable)
- Clock Radios - w/alarm function
- Bus Tokens
- Metro Cards,
- Treat Cards - ice cream, fast food restaurants, etc.
- Outdoor Thermometer
- Stainless Steel/Iron Clad pots & bake ware for new stoves
- 2 Upright Vacuum cleaners new or excellent condition

Cold, damp, disagreeable – that was the weather. Warm, excited, joyful – that was the atmosphere as ALIVE! House celebrated the renovation of the interior of the building on April 22nd. Thanks to K. Hovnanian Homes, the “Builder Captain” and their many trade partners, there now are fully equipped kitchens on each floor, bright shining bathrooms, laundry areas, new flooring, new furniture, – and even new gutters!

ALIVE! House is the oldest continuously operating shelter for women in Northern Virginia, providing a safe home for women and families while helping them develop the necessary life skills to achieve independent living. Located in the heart of Old Town Alexandria, the townhouse was built in 1820 and was previously renovated in 1994 when an addition was built to add living space.

In addition to a basement that is used primarily for storage, the house has three floors. The first has an administrative office for ALIVE! House Director, Dimitri Warren, and an efficiency apartment for the House Manager, Ben Carruthers, who is there in the evenings and weekends. Each of the two upper floors has one large and one small bedroom for the residents, a bathroom, and a common living area which provides a sitting area with television, dining area, a washer/dryer, and now a kitchen. This much needed renovation included lighting fixtures, window treatments and newly painted walls for a



Dimitri Warren, ALIVE! House director, addresses the group at the dedication of the renovations in April. Next to her are Diana Day, President of ALIVE!, and Grillette Bates, a former House resident, who also spoke at the event.

ALIVE! Office Needs List

Copy machine (color would be a PLUS) that will collate copies.

A volunteer who can give us **information technology service** on occasion



George Washington Birthday Parade

ALIVE! was well represented in the George Washington Day Parade in Old Town on Feb. 16 by a youth group from Old Presbyterian Meeting House as well as participants from other member congregations including: Beverly Hills United Methodist, Fairlington Presbyterian, Fairlington United Methodist, St Clements, and St. Rita . We were led by Alice and Joe Krafft in their vintage auto, Ken Naser in his convertible carrying Ms. Ruby Tucker, the ALIVE! van and one of the box trucks. Ms. Tucker, of First Agape Baptist Community of Faith, served as Director of the ALIVE! Child Development Center for 23 years.



Proclamation

At the April 7 ALIVE! Board meeting ,Councilman Justin Wilson presented an Alexandria City Council Proclamation naming May 3rd as ALIVE! Day in Alexandria and recognizing ALIVE!'s 40 years of service to those in need in our City.



ALIVE! CONTINUES TO

We began our 40th year with a celebration a See the Winter Wire for coverage of our big 40th Birthday Party!



Vivian Webb, of Blessed Sacrament, and Rick Glassco, of Immanuel Church on the Hill, help Beth McFarland, Fairlington Presbyterian, check out following the auction. In the background are Ellen Brown(seated) chair of the CDC, and Margie Carpenter of Westminster Presbyterian.

Westminster Presbyterian Church hosted a 40th Birthday Party and final day of our Auction on March 8th. A great time was had by all as we raised about \$13,000 for ALIVE! The hall was beautifully decorated with tulips and green balloons. In addition to the punch and cake shown in this photo, there were lots of snacks and cupcakes to decorate!



Auction Coordinator Mary Shilton, the great work of webmaster Jim F and Auctioneer Kerry Donley

CDC Walkathon on May 3rd

Bagpiper Marsha Bell, of the Church of St. Clements, got the walkers off to a great start on a rainy day.



The Children's Choir of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington sang in concert in Market Square on ALIVE! Day to draw attention to all of ALIVE!'s programs and encourage the walkers supporting the CDC.



CELEBRATE 40 YEARS

at Beth El Hebrew Congregation in January.
kick-off event. Since then we have been busy!



Musical Fund Raiser Convergence: A Creative Community of Faith offered "The Gospel of Mary" a musical fund raiser written and directed by Lois Ceasarini on April 3rd and 4th. The play was well attended and raised over \$2,000 for ALIVE!



President Diana Day applauds event chair Priscilla Goodwin of Westminster Presbyterian, who welcomed all to the birthday Party.

n acknowledges
Richardson and

May Board Meeting Where it all Began

The May 5th Board of Directors Meeting was held at Fairlington United Methodist Church in the same room that hosted ALIVE!'s very first meeting 40 years ago. Ted West, on the left, and Joe Sapp present President Diana



And the bluegrass group New Mode Grass, which includes Fred Nelson, a board member and the congregational representative from First Christian Church, had the audience dancing to the music.



A Face-to-Face Meeting Made My Day! By Linda Coleman, Chair of the Family Emergency Program

Those of us who volunteer for ALIVE!'s Family Emergency Program (FEP) are justly proud of the fact that our program is the only one in the city of Alexandria that delivers emergency food to hungry Alexandrians' homes. Since January of this year FEP drivers have made over 400 deliveries.

As Chair of FEP, I spend most of my time on administrative tasks and seldom get the opportunity to meet those Alexandrians face-to-face. It's my loss. Earlier this year, however, I had occasion to call a gentleman, one who regularly is referred to us for emergency food by Alexandria's Department of Human Services, to see if he'd be home that day for a delivery. During our brief conversation, he mentioned that he'd soon be celebrating his 90th birthday.

As a break from my usual routine, I visited the gentleman a day or two after his birthday, taking with me a few extra food items from our pantry and a birthday dessert. I very much enjoyed meeting him and learning about this life-long Alexandrian. He lives alone, having lost his wife several years ago. They had no children. He's relatively healthy, has a wonderful attitude, and is somehow making ends meet on \$900 a month.....with a little help from others.

I am so glad that ALIVE! is there for this gentleman and so many others like him. In fact, he called me just hours after my visit to his home and said to me, "You've got to tell the volunteers that the only reason I've lived to be 90 years old is because they bring food to me. Now don't you forget to tell them!". I *did* tell the volunteers, and now I'm passing this story on to all of you. Without your support, our work on behalf of those in need would not be possible.



Linda Coleman, Chair of the Family Emergency Program and Congregational Rep for Trinity United Methodist Church discusses the day's emergency food deliveries with volunteer driver Stephen D'Antoni, a member of St. Mary Catholic Church.



ALIVE! Support Starts Young....

Levi was having a birthday party – turning four years old – and asked his friends to bring a donation of food for ALIVE! rather than a birthday present. A student at the Washington Street United Methodist Church preschool, Levi and his mom Tamera learned of the work of ALIVE! through their congregation. Good job, Levi! Good example, Mom.

**FOOD PROGRAM
WISH LIST**

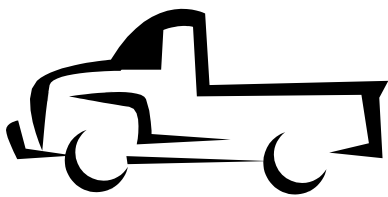
Canned meat and tuna fish

Soup

Fruit Flavored Gelatin

Spaghetti Noodles

Jelly



Truck needed for Gleaning

The Food Program planners hope to add gleaning to the ways ALIVE! acquires food to share with our neighbors who are hungry. In addition to volunteers to help, a big need is the use of a pickup truck for the Friday before the Last Saturday Food Distributions between January and October. The truck is needed to pick up the produce either directly from the fields or from a warehouse for gleaned food in Maryland. The truck is then needed that evening to deliver the produce to the Cora Kelly and Church of the Resurrection distribution sites. The truck driver won't have to load or unload the vehicle. In fact, the owner of the truck doesn't even have to be the driver. We can recruit drivers if the owner prefers. So if you own a truck you would like to donate to the cause, please call the ALIVE! office at 703 837-9321. Thanks!

Postman Delivers!



Food Program Asst. Chair Deborah Patterson works with Letter Carrier Brain McCormick of Branch 567 on this year's very successful Letter Carriers food drive. Thanks to all who donated and to all that helped!

Walkers Support the ALIVE! Child Development Center – Rain or Shine

On May 3rd, members of ALIVE! congregations, parents of preschoolers, and friends of ALIVE! walked through Old Town, past a number of ALIVE!'s member congregations, in support of the ALIVE! Child Development Center. The CDC committee is thankful for all the CDC's supporters, and particularly grateful to this year's walkers, since it was raining!

Marsha Bell, of the Church of St. Clement, again this year began the walk with bagpipe offerings. Entertainment was provided in Market Square to encourage walkers and draw attention to all of ALIVE!'s programs to provide assistance to Alexandrians in need. The children's Choir of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington sang in concert. What a nice idea – children supporting other children. Also, New Mode Grass, a bluegrass group that performs in Alexandria and includes ALIVE! Board of Directors member, Fred Nelson,

contributed to the festivities and was a big hit.

Thanks to the generosity of numerous individual, congregational, and corporate supporters, we believe that, despite the rain, the fundraising aspect of the Walkathon was successful. Since this 28th annual CDC Walkathon coincides with ALIVE!'s 40th anniversary, the CDC is fortunate to have the support of the ALIVE!'s 40th anniversary sponsors. Individual sponsors were very generous, and again this year Jill Robinson, of Trinity United Methodist Church, collected the most substantial level of pledges – over \$2,800. “Mr. Bud,” a favorite of the CDC children, walked with the support of his fellow Kiwanians. There were numerous other “regulars,” as well as many new supporters. Special thanks go to Barbara Watts of Westminster Presbyterian for doing a great job as coordinator for the first of many times (we hope!)

The CDC is unique in Alexandria in that it offers full day, high quality education and care, on a sliding fee basis, to low income families who live and work in our City. The Walkathon is the CDC's only major fundraiser. In difficult financial times, when grants are less available and subsidies are less certain, it is particularly important to the CDC and the children and parents it supports to have the backing of the community. The CDC committee thanks all who participated in this year's Walkathon – in the rain or otherwise.

Step Alive! Sponsors 2009

Agudas Achim Congregation
 Alexandria NARFE 232
 Alexandria Toyota
 Allan Garnaas Associates
 American Physical Therapy Association
 Becker Electric
 Beth El Hebrew Congregation
 Beverley Hills Community United Methodist Church
 Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community
 BLT Shirt Printers, Inc.
 Burke & Herbert Bank and Trust
 Christ Episcopal Church
 Church of the Resurrection
 CNA Corporation
 Community Praise Center
 Ebenezer Baptist Church
 Emmanuel Episcopal
 Fairlington Presbyterian Church
 Fairlington United Methodist
 First Agape Baptist Community of Faith
 First Christian Church
 Food Matters
 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
 Grace Episcopal Church
 Gymboree Play & Music
 Home Aid Northern Virginia
 Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill
 Judith Willard
 Meade Memorial Episcopal Church
 Minute Man Press
 National Milk Producers Federation
 Pollard Construction Company
 R&B Heating
 Residence Inn by Marriott
 Reunions
 Richard Stone, DDS
 Safeway of Alexandria
 Sentel Corporation
 Seyfarth Shaw
 St. Paul's Episcopal
 St. Rita Catholic Church
 Staff of the Military Officers Ass'n of America
 The Stafford Foundation
 Thomas J. Fannon & Sons
 Trinity United Methodist Church
 Virginia Commerce Bank
 Westminster Presbyterian Church
 Wiygul Automotive

ALIVE!'s CDC



Danielle Young and Charlotte the spider enjoy the slide on some of the CDC's new playground equipment.

Danielle Young and 34 other “at risk” preschool students learn and play at the Child Development Center run by ALIVE! in large part because of the individuals and member congregations that support our annual walkathon, which was held on May 3rd. ALIVE! has operated the Child Development Center for children-at-risk-for-school- failure at First Christian Church for 37 years and for 28 of those, the Walkathon has helped fund it.

An energetic 5 year old who loves to draw and sculpt Gizmo the guinea pig, Danielle has been at the preschool for three years and has made great strides in language and social skills, according to center director Pam Blankenship. Her mother, Tiffany Oliphant, has a full time job and is able to drop her at the center early in the morning and pick her up after 5 pm. Oliphant says that Danielle is ready for kindergarten next year but will miss her friends, teachers, pets and toys at the CDC. When she is sick, she hates to miss a day, even when she has taken home one of her favorite toys like Charlotte the giant spider.

The ALIVE! CDC is open 51 weeks a year so that working families have a safe and secure place to educate their children.

[This article was adapted from a story written by Marian Van Landingham for the Gazette Packet]

ALIVE! Wire

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Alexandria, VA
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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 2009 Calendar

July

- 4 **Raffle Drawing** will be held at noon at Food Matters, 4906 Brenman Park Drive, Alexandria
- 25 **Last Saturday Food Distribution** – Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center and Ladrey Senior High Rise. **40th Anniversary** recognition at Cora Kelly Recreation Center
- Food Collection:** Meade Memorial, Roberts Memorial, St. Andrews, St Rita, Westminster Presbyterian.
- Furniture Collection:** St. Mary's Catholic Church and Trinity United Methodist

August

- 29 Last Saturday Food Distribution: Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center and Ladrey Senior High Rise. **40th Anniversary recognition** at Ladrey Senior High Rise
- Food Collection:** Commonwealth Baptist Church, Ebenezer Baptist, St Paul's Episcopal, Third Baptist, Washington Street, Zion Baptist
- Furniture Collection:** Alfred Street Baptist, Downtown Baptist and St. Mary's

September

- 8 Board Meeting at Christ Church (Note: Meeting is 2nd Tuesday)
- 26 Last Saturday Food Distribution: Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center and Ladrey Senior High Rise. **40th Anniversary** recognition at Church of the Resurrection.
- Food Collection:** Alfred Street Baptist, Beverly Hills Community, Church of St. Clement, Fairlington UMC, Spiritual Assembly of Baha'is
- Furniture Collection:** Agudas Achim, Beth El, and Immanuel Church on the Hill

DON'T MISS THE ALIVE! RAFFLE

A chance to win 4 premium tickets to
Washington Nationals vs. Chicago Cubs, July 17, 7:05p.m.
PLUS meet the umpires, visit their locker room and
receive souvenir game balls signed by the umpiring crew!

Limit 300 tickets at \$100 each—All profits benefit ALIVE!
Drawing July 4th at Noon -- You don't need to be present to win.
Contact: Gerry Hebert at gerry@foodmattersva.com or Ken Naser, 703 837-9320