



# ALIVE! *Wise*

Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically

Summer 2012

## *President's Message*

### **The Largest Private Safety Net in the City of Alexandria**

Over the past two years of my tenure as president of ALIVE!, I've been asked often "what is ALIVE!". I always include as part of my "elevator speech" that ALIVE! is "the largest private safety net in the City of Alexandria." It's a source of great pride that the many volunteers, congregations, donors and community supporters have come together for over 42 years to provide that safety net. But it's also a source of concern that there are so many people that need our help that we can't help—either because of lack of resources for additional financial assistance or food or because of lack of space in the child development center or ALIVE! House.

As the Federal, State and City governments have cut back on social safety net services during the recession, the need for ALIVE! to help those who have fallen through the cracks has increased. I've had a front-row seat over the past two years as ALIVE!'s Board and committee chairs have grappled with rising demands and resources that simply can't keep up. The commitment is there to deliver more and healthier food to the more than 700 families each month that come to Last Saturday Food Distributions or need to have food delivered; to provide shelter for more of the 50 families counted as homeless in Alexandria; to distribute financial assistance to more of those 5000 Alexandria households paying more than 50% of their income for rent who are struggling to pay rent and utilities each month; to offer affordable early childhood education to more of the 400 low-income children who arrive in kindergarten each year in Alexandria with little or no preschool experience; and to deliver basic furniture and housewares to more of the families moving from a shelter to their own apartment.

The need sometimes feels overwhelming, but the commitment and the will to address that need are inspiring. I have been privileged to work with the many people and organizations in Alexandria who are giving of their time, talents and treasures every day to help their neighbors in need. And I'm proud to say that I'm part of "the largest private safety net in the City of Alexandria." And we make a difference.

Cheryl Malloy, ALIVE! President



Cheryl Malloy

### **CDC Quality Reaffirmed with Four Star Rating**

The ALIVE! Child Development Center staff and volunteers are very excited that the CDC has once more received a Four Star Quality Rating after a recent evaluation by the Virginia Star Quality Initiative. This initiative is administered by a partnership of the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation and the Office of Early Childhood Development to provide a way to distinguish the level of quality in early childhood education programs across the state. Early learning providers who participate in the program are awarded one of five quality levels with five stars being the highest. However, of the 295 programs currently rated, none has five stars. Based on points earned in the evaluation process, the CDC ranks in the top 2% of programs rated.

After receiving a rating, programs are provided mentoring, technical assistance, grants for quality improvements, and financial incentives linked to achieving higher levels of quality, especially for those programs serving at-risk children. The system is called Quality Rating and Improvement System, or QRIS. Programs are judged – and points awarded -- in four performance areas: (1) staff education, qualifications and training, (2) interactions, (3) staff to children ratio and group size, and (4) learning environment and instructional practices. The total points earned by the CDC increased appreciably between 2010 and 2012.

All of ALIVE! can be justly proud of the accomplishments of the CDC, led by its director Pam Blankenship. CDC staff members work hard to ensure that the very young Alexandrians that they serve receive the best possible care and education. This quality rating demonstrates that they are succeeding.



Students learn about the force of gravity with an assist from a volunteer.

## Notes from the Executive Director

This year's Spring2ACTion exceeded all expectations, raising \$320,000 City-wide in just 24 hours! Raising \$12,641 from 135 donations, ALIVE! finished 10th place for most donors and 5th place for most dollars raised out of 72 Alexandria nonprofits! We would like to extend a special thank you to The Mason Hirst Foundation and Give Back Alexandria for providing matching grants to incentivize support. We also extend our appreciation to the owners and staff of Cafe Pizzaiolo for facilitating the Cameron Station Open House that was pivotal to our Spring2ACTion success. Larry and Christine from Pizzaiolo were terrific hosts.

Cameron Station residents Shelli Vasser Gilliam (L) and Carla Besosa (R) with ALIVE! Executive Director Ken Naser enjoy the ALIVE! Spring2ACTion event at Café Pizzaiolo in Cameron Station.



## ALIVE! Furniture Deliveries Top \$100,000 Annually

By Mike Diffley

In April, ALIVE!'s Furniture Committee completed an internal audit to establish the value of furniture delivered between April 1, 2011 and March 31, 2012. Each weekend members of ALIVE!'s furniture committee and volunteers from ALIVE!'s member congregations collect donated furniture and deliver it to families in need within our community. During that year, ALIVE! dispatched one or two trucks on 51 weekends. (Icy conditions forced the cancelation of activities one weekend.)

The audit analyzed the schedules (chosen randomly) of 35 volunteer crews during the year. Deliveries made by the crews were recorded and valued at the lesser of one-half the median price for like items at the Salvation Army Thrift Store or one quarter of the medium price of like items in the JC Penny online catalogue.

When the results were tabulated, the audit revealed that furniture deliveries had exceeded \$100,000 in that 12 month period for the first time in ALIVE!'s history. In business terms this means: Furniture deliveries are ten times the program's annual operating costs ... a 1000% return each year. Over the anticipated lifetime of the trucks, they will pay for themselves between thirty and forty times.

Some summary statistics for the period are:

- The total number of trucks dispatched during the 51 weekends was 97.
- The average value of furniture delivered by a crew was \$1062 per truck.
- The total estimated value of furniture delivered for the year was \$103,014.
- The most frequently delivered items were dining room and dinette chairs (316), beds of all sizes (208), sofas and love seats (158), dressers (155), living room chairs (111)
- The number of families helped: 301
- The community spirit and love-of-neighbor demonstrated by the Furniture Committee members and congregational volunteers: **priceless.**



ALIVE!

President: Cheryl Malloy, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
 Vice President: Ellen Brown, Community Representative  
 Treasurer: Rick Glassco, Immanuel Church-On-The-Hill  
 Recording Secretary: Eric Winakur, Agudas Achim Congregation  
 Kenneth D. Naser: Executive Director  
 Kathy Richards: Editor, ALIVE! Wire

## **ALIVE! Officers and Committee Chairs for FY2013 (July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013)**

Officers and Committee Chairs were elected by the Board of Directors during their June 5th meeting at Old Presbyterian Meeting House. Newly elected officers include Ellen Brown as President and Deborah Patterson as Vice President. John Bohm and Cheryl Malloy will serve as Co-Chairs of the newly formed Affordable Housing Committee, Larry Thompson will be Chair of the Investment Committee, and Mary Anne Beatty will become Chair of the Publicity Committee. Special thanks go to Susanne Arnold who has stepped down as Chair of ALIVE! House after years of dedicated leadership.

### **Officer**

**President - Ellen Brown, Community Volunteer**

**Vice President - Deborah Patterson, Washington Street  
United Methodist Church**

**Recording Secretary - Eric Winakur,  
Agudas Achim Congregation**

**Treasurer - Rick Glassco, Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill**

**Assistant Treasurer (General Fund) - Deborah Schaffer,  
Beth El Hebrew Congregation**

**Assistant Treasurer (Payroll) - Tony Tighe,  
Community Volunteer**

### **Program Chairs and Co-Chairs**

**Affordable Housing Committee - John Bohm,**

**St. Joseph's Catholic Church  
& Cheryl Malloy, Good Shepherd Lutheran  
Church**

**ALIVE! House - Kevin Heanue,  
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community**

**Child Development Center - Mary Eileen Dixon,  
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**

**Audit Committee - Alison Utermohlen,  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

**Congregational Representatives - Ann Marie Hay,  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington**

**Development Council - Marian Van Landingham,  
Beverly Hills United Methodist Church**

**Investment Committee - Larry Thompson,  
Grace Episcopal Church**

**Nominating Committee - Cheryl Malloy,  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**

**Personnel Committee - Cathy Thompson,  
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community**

**Publicity Committee - Maryanne Beatty,  
Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill**

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## **Help Wanted and Needed!!**

### **IT Helper**

The staffs of ALIVE!, the Family Emergency Program, and the Child Development Center -- quite possibly the nicest people in the whole world -- seek a volunteer who is knowledgeable in information technology software and/or hardware. In short, they seek a Geek -- not necessarily a Super Geek ... a modest Geek will do -- to help them trouble shoot various problems when they arise. This could be an excellent resume-builder for computer-savvy high school or college student.

### **Volunteer Coordinator**

ALIVE! is seeking a volunteer who would serve as an important bridge between ALIVE!'s Program Chairs (Furniture, Food, Family Emergency, etc.) and individuals or groups who contact ALIVE! about volunteer opportunities. Duties require about seven hours a week ... returning calls and answering email messages. Work can be done from home. Since knowledge of ALIVE! operations is needed to answer questions posed by prospective volunteers, the new Volunteer Coordinator will undergo an extensive training program involving experience in all ALIVE! programs.

If you have questions or want to volunteer, contact:  
Mike Diffley at [volunteers@alive-inc.org](mailto:volunteers@alive-inc.org) or 703-837-9300, ext 2

Then 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

## ALIVE! House Happenings:

**Resident Spotlight:** We recently celebrated with a resident who, after successfully completing a five-month stay at ALIVE! House with her two daughters, moved to an apartment of their own. In 2002 she and her husband left a small African country and moved to the United States leaving their young daughters with her mother until they could get settled. The plan was for both parents to continue their educations, secure stable employment, and then send for their children. Shortly after the move, her husband became abusive and she left the relationship. Alone in a foreign country, separated from her two-year old children, she was determined to continue with her plan.

In 2011, her mother in Africa became terminally ill. She used her savings and several credit cards to bring her daughters to the U.S., incurring major credit card debt. The week that her girls arrived, she was laid off from her job of two years when the company went out of business. In August 2011, ALIVE! House welcomed the family into our program. In five months, she learned budgeting, time management, organization, and job readiness skills. In January 2012, she was awarded a Housing Choice Voucher and her family moved into a two-bedroom townhouse in Fairfax County. During her stay at ALIVE! House, she was able to pay off more than \$11,000 in credit card debt and assist her family in Africa with burial expenses for her mother. Today, she has only \$2,000 of credit card debt remaining. Continuing to practice the skills she learned during her stay at ALIVE! House, she uses community resources such as tutoring and mentoring programs for the children; she attends church regularly for religious support and fellowship; and she practices being a good neighbor. During a recent home visit that Nicole Goodman, our Director, made to the family in their new apartment the mother said: "I don't know where we would be without ALIVE! House. You helped me so much! I learned how to pay my bills and how to save money. I made friends. I got so much of what I needed from the neighbors including toys and clothes for my children. We got everything we needed. Thanks be to God for that place [ALIVE! House] and all those people who help [volunteers]." She continues to offer support to current residents by volunteering at ALIVE! House. We are very proud of the family's accomplishments.



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**Volunteer Spotlight:** ALIVE! House would not be able to carry out its mission without help from our amazing volunteers! We want to recognize a few outstanding people who have gone above and beyond for our residents. Our new Handy Person Committee: Ron Jerdonek, Cassy Ammen, Kevin Grim of Diversified Construction, and Kevin Heanue.

2012

**Fannie Mae HELP the HOMELESS**

2012

2011 RECAP

TOTAL RAISED: \$41,191

1000 WALKERS!

**2012 - LET'S RAISE \$50,000!**

There will be NO Walk on the National Mall this year  
Plan to participate in a Mini Walk in our community  
Saturday, September 29th, 1-4 at Cameron Run Park  
the Acacia Rock & Stroll!

more than a Walk –it's a Picnic in the Park: food, music, games  
Youth \$20 Adults \$30 – registration on line & at the park for ALIVE! House  
Other Mini-Walks dates TBA, go to: [alive-inc.org](http://alive-inc.org)  
East End, West End & More

**[Helpthehomelessdc.org](http://Helpthehomelessdc.org)**

## ALIVE! HOUSE Sidewalk Sale – May 19, 2012

The weather was beautiful; we had an abundance of donations; and at 6 a.m. all was calm on the 100 block of South Payne Street. That changed immediately as neighbors, led by Ann Matikan, our special angel and next door neighbor appeared from their homes and ALIVE! volunteers from many congregations arrived. Tables loaned by three member congregations were set up, sales items were carried from the Ice House, the ALIVE! House basement and two neighbors' garages and by 8 a.m. all was ready to go. Ann Matikan, (shown on the left of the photo) described the scene as follows: "everybody worked like dogs all day--volunteers, shelter residents, ALIVE! House staff, shelter graduates, friends of volunteers, and members of the various congregations that support ALIVE! It was wonderful to see and be a part of. The most fun for me was snagging hapless tourists as they walked from the Metro stop to various sites in Old Town, having no idea we were there, then stopping and buying items."



Special thanks go to Susanne Arnold, former Program Chair for ALIVE! House, who, from the planning meeting to the final clean-up at the end of the sale, put in many hours and much effort to make the sale a success. We also want to recognize

the generosity of two local businesses: Bittersweet Community Partners provided a large platter of wraps and Chipotle provided a large quantity of assorted burritos as lunch for our many volunteers. Speaking of success, the sale netted over \$5,100 to benefit ALIVE! House programs. Many thanks to all who participated. See you next year!

### ALIVE! House Wish List



- Camp supplies for 5 former ALIVE! House kids going to Camp Kikoka:
- 5 containers of sunscreen
- 5 containers of bug repellent
- 5 sunglasses - 3 boys, 2 girls
- 5 water bottles
- 5 flashlights
- 5 disposable cameras

### Letter Carrier's Food Drive Really Delivers!



On Saturday May 12th, members of Branch 567 of the National Association of Letter Carriers picked up food left by Alexandrians near their mailboxes, and delivered an estimated 6500 pounds to the ALIVE! food pantry, which is a big help in restocking the shelves for the summer demand. Pictured working that day are (LtoR) letter carriers George Holmes and Brian McCormick. Thanks go to all those who contributed and sorted the food and to the Letter Carriers for all their support.



### Food Program Wish List

- Canned Meat
  - Tuna
  - Canned Spaghetti Sauce
  - Peanut Butter
  - Grape Jelly
  - Cereal
  - Complete Pancake Mix & Syrup
  - Dried Milk
  - Baby Food
  - Crackers
  - Jell-O
  - Coffee and Tea
- \$Money to buy fresh eggs and meat\$

### Alexandrians receiving food from ALIVE! Between March 1, 2012, and May 31, 2012

	Households	Individuals
March	698	2260
April	718	2360
May	686	2305

# Step ALIVE! 2012 Partners

## BENEFACTORS

Fairlington United Methodist Men  
 Gregory J. Vogt, PLLC  
 Renner & Company  
 Wiygul Automotive Clinic

## PACESETTERS

James and Juliette McNeil  
 Family Foundation  
 Reunions

## LEADERS

Gymboree Play and Music  
 Seyfarth Shaw LLP  
 T J Fannon & Sons

## PATRONS

Alexandria Toyota  
 The Stafford Foundation  
 THREE A.M., [www.StevenJohnBooks.com](http://www.StevenJohnBooks.com)  
 Virginia Theological Seminary

## FRIENDS

Alexandria Hyundai      Alexandria Times      BLT Shirt Printers  
 Carla's Copy Cat      Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage  
 Don Beyer Volvo      Fairlington United Methodist Women  
 Judith D. Willard Design      Phi Nu Omega Chapter, AKA  
 Pollard Construction Company  
 Rich Rosenthal Brincefield Manitta Dzubin & Kroeger, LLP  
 Speck-Caudron Investment Group of Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC  
 Sue Goodhart and the Goodhart Group, Realtors      Taste of Bluegrass Band  
 Yates Automotive Service      [www.BrendaStone.com](http://www.BrendaStone.com)

## CONGREGATIONS

Agudas Achim Congregation	First Agape Baptist Community of Faith
Alfred Street Baptist Church	First Christian Church
Beth El Hebrew Congregation	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Beverly Hills Community	Grace Episcopal Church
United Methodist Church	Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community	Old Presbyterian Meeting House
Christ Episcopal Church	Presbyterian Women of Fairlington
Church of God and Saints of Christ,	Presbyterian Church
Sixteenth Tabernacle	Spiritual Assembly of Baha'is
Church of St. Clement	of Alexandria
Church of the Resurrection	St. Joseph's Catholic Church
Commonwealth Baptist Church	St. Mary's Catholic Church
Day Alliance of the Unitarian	St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Universalist Church of Arlington	St. Rita Catholic Church
Del Ray United Methodist Church	United Methodist
Downtown Baptist Church	Women of Trinity Church
Ebenezer Baptist Church	Westminster Presbyterian Church
Fairlington United Methodist Church	

## 40 Years of CDC Service Celebrated at This Year's Walkathon



Bryan, a CDC student, leads the way with a bouquet of balloons



Walkers enjoy the music during the picnic



Ken Naser, Ellen Brown, and Pam Blankenship celebrate another successful Step ALIVE!



Board Member, David Taylor, joins students from Georgetown following the walk

On May 5th, a balmy spring day, the Child Development Center (CDC) held its 31st annual Walkathon. This year, the CDC celebrated 40 years of providing quality early childhood education to children of low-income families in Alexandria.

Approximately 120 actual walkers, an increasing number of "virtual" walkers, and numerous ALIVE! volunteers participated. The actual walkers meandered through Old Town, past a number of ALIVE! member congregations, and back to the starting point at First Christian Church. Christ Church and Alfred Street Baptist Church provided water stops along the way. The Taste of Bluegrass Band entertained walkers at the picnic following the Walkathon, and, in fact, some supporters came to the picnic just for the lively and enjoyable music.

It appears that the proceeds from this year's Walkathon will be even greater than those of previous years. Gross receipts already are over \$36,000, and donations continue to come in to the ALIVE! office.

The CDC is grateful to all the Walkathon participants, who by their support help provide much needed early childhood education to a segment of Alexandria's population to whom it might not otherwise be available. We also thank our Step ALIVE! 2012 Partners (please see the list on page 6) and ALIVE!'s congregations who helped make this year's Walkathon such a success.



Trinity UMC's Youth Group gets ready for the walkathon



L-R) Bud Hart presents Ken Naser and Pam Blankenship with a check from Kiwanis after the walk.

ALIVE! Wine

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Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Alexandria, VA  
Permit Number 567

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ALIVE!, founded in 1969, is a nonprofit organization devoted to helping Alexandrians facing emergency situations or long-term needs become capable of assuming self-reliant roles in the community.

ALIVE! has grown from a handful of organizations and volunteers to a vigorous organization of 42 congregations and hundreds of volunteers.

ALIVE! offers Alexandrians in need help through ALIVE! House Shelter, Furniture, Housewares, Emergency Food and Financial Assistance, 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 2012 Calendar

### July

**28 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 UMC, St Rita Catholic, Westminster Presbyterian

**Furniture Collection:** Emmanuel Episcopal, First Baptist and Trinity United Methodist Churches

### August

**25 Last Saturday Food Distribution:** Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center and Ladrey Senior High Rise

**Food Collection:** Commonwealth Baptist, Ebenezer Baptist, St Paul's Episcopal, Third Baptist, Washington Street UMC, Zion Baptist

**Furniture Collection:** Alfred Street Baptist and Downtown Baptist Churches

### September

**4 ALIVE! Board Meeting:** 7:00 PM Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 100 W. Luray Ave.

**29 Last Saturday Food Distribution:** Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center and Ladrey Senior High Rise

**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, Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill and St. Mary's Congregations