

ALIVE! Wire

Fall 2014



President's Message



Boy, do I have some big shoes to fill! Ellen Brown is one of many past ALIVE! Presidents who, in recent years, has helped transform ALIVE! into a more professional organization that reaches goals on par with much bigger, more well-funded organizations. During Ellen's term, our first Development Director, Jennifer Greiner, was hired; the CDC was

remodeled; and the Family Emergency Program instituted a new program to help keep families from becoming homeless. In her spare time, Ellen assisted Susanne Arnold in her efforts to help resettle eight Afghan families! Over the past two years, this energetic, caring woman still found the time to spend countless hours in a café booth with me trying to prepare me for this volunteer job. I hope, with your support, Ellen's valuable time will not have been wasted.

The autumn is a quixotic time; a time of beginnings and also a time of endings. The leaves fall from the trees as the freedom and ease of summer give way to the excitement of a new school year. This year, ALIVE! seems to be in perfect sync with the season. There are many changes coming for ALIVE!.

Ken Naser, ALIVE!'s first Executive Director, has announced his retirement. ALIVE! has been diligently reviewing resumes in preparation for filling the position that Ken pioneered for our organization. Additionally, our long-time Food Program Chair, Jean Moore, has announced her retirement. Jean's shoes are so hard to fill that we believe it will take at least four volunteers to replace her. And, on top of that, Beth and Donald Campbell, who have been managing our warehouse and food drives, and who have given countless hours to ALIVE!, also announced their intention to retire from their volunteer jobs. These incredibly dedicated volunteers have given years of their time to help their neighbors. We are looking for people with the same kind of dedication to their neighbors to take a turn at making a difference in our community.

What motivates people to give so much of their time, their gifts, and their hearts to ALIVE!?! The experience is not for everyone. The work is hot in the summer and cold in

President's Message continued on page 3



Register Now!

Rock and Stroll is the flagship fundraiser for ALIVE! House, and we are counting on your participation in this fun event to support the women and children who are working toward independence at ALIVE! House. With drastic cuts to public funding for transitional housing like ALIVE! House, we need you now more than ever.

To support Rock and Stroll and ALIVE! House:

- Register today.
- Make a donation online.
- Start a Rock and Stroll Team at your workplace, club, or congregation.
- Spread the word.

Event Details:

October 11, 2014

8:00 am - 2:00 pm

7:00 am on site runner registration begins

8:00 am 10K race begins

9:00 am 5K race begins

9:15 am 1K walk/fun run begins

Races start and end at Eisenhower Avenue in front of the U.S. Patent and Trademark office. All runners receive complimentary admission to the Rock and Stroll Festival at John Carlyle Square following the race. An awards ceremony will take place after the race. Prizes will be given to the top 3 male and top 3 female runners in the 10K and 5K events.

Online registration is available until October 7th at 11:59 p.m.

To register and for more information, visit www.rockandstroll.net.



Notes from the Executive Director - Ken Naser



It Has Been An Honor.....

Ten years ago this fall, I was selected to become the first Executive Director of ALIVE!. After thirty-five years of having the volunteer President of the Board of Directors serve as chief spokesperson, manager, and top officer, the 2004-2005 Board decided it was time to “professionalize” the organization and hire an Executive Director.

Having served as a volunteer for nearly thirty years prior to that, I wasn’t exactly new to ALIVE!. But, I think it’s safe to say, neither I nor the Board knew exactly what to expect. Well, I know, from my perspective, it has been a good ten years. I have had the pleasure to represent ALIVE! at all kinds of venues, get to know many of the amazing clergy from our 42 member congregations, and, of course, work with some of the most loyal and dedicated volunteers/board members one could ever hope for.

So, after ten years as Executive Director, I am retiring from ALIVE!. But, I’m not going away. I expect that, since ALIVE! has been part of my entire adult life (almost), I’ll just be shifting back into the role of volunteer.

It has been a real honor to have served in this capacity.

Ken



On Sunday, September 21, ALIVE! member congregations gathered at Fairlington Presbyterian Church to celebrate their commitments to a Hunger Free Alexandria. Congregations and individuals pledged to “step up to the plate” and address many of the issues reported in the recent study, “Toward a Hunger Free Alexandria,” issued July, 2014.

We will be following and reporting on those efforts to address hunger as they are implemented. Thank you to all who participated and who made the commitments.

Food Program Wish List

Canned meat & tuna
Canned spaghetti sauce
Canned fruit
Peanut butter & grape jelly
Complete pancake mix
(needs only water)
Syrup
Dried milk
\$ Money to buy meat \$
(We are able to purchase meat at
\$0.19/lb., so a \$20 donation buys
more than 100 lbs. of meat for
those in need.)

*Low sugar and low salt food is much preferred
and appreciated.

39th Annual Alexandria Turkey Trot

Come to George Washington Middle School, 1005 Mt. Vernon Avenue, on Thanksgiving morning, and join us for the 39th Annual Turkey Trot! This event, brought to you by the DC Road Runners Club and the Del Ray Business Association, will start at 9:00 AM. Runners will support ALIVE! by bringing non-perishable food to donate. Volunteers who are not running may participate by collecting, sorting, and packing the donations for delivery to our ALIVE! food warehouse. Last year’s Turkey Trot was a wonderful success and the biggest event yet with over 5500 registrations!

Let’s make this year’s even better! The Turkey Trot is a fun for the whole family, and we hope to see you there! Registration details are available online at <http://www.alexandriaturkeytrot.com>.



Alexandrians Receiving Food from ALIVE! Between June 1, 2014 and August 31, 2014

| | Households | Individuals |
|---------------|------------|-------------|
| June | 621 | 2345 |
| July | 607 | 2282 |
| August | 833 | 3064 |

ALIVE! House Happenings

This summer, ALIVE! House participated in the “We Are Readers!” summer program with Reading Connection. Reading Connection volunteers typically come to ALIVE! House once a week throughout the entire year. The “We Are Readers” summer program was special because the volunteers came twice a week for six weeks, presenting fun summer themes and activities. The amount of reading the kids did each week was tracked and charted. The kids received prizes for reaching goals, with the end goal being a pizza party. The kids read so much that they reached their pizza party goal within three weeks of the six week program! Reading

Connection did a wonderful job of finding additional prizes to keep our young readers excited. They even brought a special guest, a zookeeper who works at the National Zoo and takes care of the pandas and apes, to teach the kids about the animals.

ALIVE! House thanks Reading Connection for its continued support in helping our kids foster a love of reading!



President's Message *from page 1*

the winter. Our neighbors who receive our services can be difficult and some of the situations you encounter will break your heart. But where else can you help make a difference in the lives of your neighbors and community and discover unexpected stores of time, energy and patience in the bargain?

Our City is changing in myriad ways, and no one would dispute the benefits of many of these changes. The challenge for all of us is to know who we are as members of this community. We are a community that cares for our elderly, our children, our disabled, our mentally ill, our poor and our disenfranchised. ALIVE! needs you to help us continue to meet the challenges. Volunteer. Participate. Donate.

Deborah Patterson

ALIVE! House Wish List

- Dish soap
- Laundry detergent (unscented preferred)
- Bleach
- Trash bags
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Diapers – size 1, 2, 5 and pull ups
- Baby wipes
- Vacuum cleaner
- TVs (2)



CFC Code:
44658



United Way
Code: 8352

FALL IS UPON US, AND CAMPAIGN SEASON IS HERE AGAIN! PLEASE CONSIDER ALIVE! THIS YEAR WHEN MAKING YOUR UNITED WAY/CFC CONTRIBUTIONS.

Executive Director Search

As you have seen elsewhere in the Wire, ALIVE! is in a time of transition. Ken Naser, after 10 years as Executive Director of ALIVE!, is retiring, and we are in the process of finding a new Executive Director. We are not looking for a replacement for Ken, because Ken would be impossible to replace. Before Ken became ALIVE!'s first Executive Director in 2004, he served for nearly 30 years as a volunteer, performing almost every volunteer position possible including President of the organization. We will always be indebted to Ken, and we are delighted that he is not going away, just going back to being a part-time volunteer rather than a more-than-full-time Executive Director.

The search for a new Executive Director began with a vacancy announcement which was widely disseminated in June. To generate a large pool of applicants, ads were placed in a number of publications as well as on internet job posting sites. The announcement also was distributed to all of our member congregations and the Alexandria Council of Human Service Organizations (ACHSO) members. We were fortunate to receive a very good response.

Applications were first reviewed by three former ALIVE! Presidents who selected a group of well-qualified applicants. These applications were then reviewed by the Search Committee which included a former ALIVE! President, a former Board member and active volunteer who is also a personnel professional, and a former City employee who has worked extensively with ALIVE! over many years. Final candidates will be interviewed by the current ALIVE! President and Vice President, who will select a candidate to be presented to the Board of ALIVE! for approval.

It is hoped that this process will be completed in October and a new Executive Director will be in place before the holidays. While Ken's experience, guidance, and diligence will certainly be missed, we are excited about this next phase of ALIVE!'s growth and opportunity to pursue our mission.

The CDC Welcomes New Staff Members

ALIVE! and the Child Development Center (CDC) were pleased to welcome three new staff members this summer. One of them is a totally new face, while the other two have previous experience with ALIVE!.

The first to arrive was Enna Blanco who reported to work on July 9 to serve as a classroom support staff member. She has more than four years of experience working with young children, including serving as an Assistant Teacher in a preschool classroom. Enna is fluent in both English and Spanish and has begun the pursuit of an Associate's Degree in Child Development at Northern Virginia Community College.

Next to arrive, on August 8, was Raena McKinney, the new Lead Teacher in the Red Classroom. Raena holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Arts Management and is currently taking courses to achieve licensure in Early Childhood Education. She also has more than six years of experience working with young children and has served as a Lead Teacher at another Alexandria preschool.



Raena is a familiar face to CDC staff, students, and parents. Her son Asa was a proud graduate of the CDC in June and will enter kindergarten this fall.

Last to arrive, on August 11, was Jennifer Newman, the CDC's new Family Support Worker. Jennifer is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with more than 12 years of experience working with young children and their families. Jennifer is very familiar with ALIVE! and the CDC, having served as Family Support Worker from April 2004 until June 2007.

Welcome, Enna, and welcome back, Raena and Jennifer. We are delighted to have each of you on the staff.

CDC Wish List

- Rolls of paper towels
- Packs of disposable hand-and-face wipes
- Boxes of tissues
- Cans of Lysol spray
- Simple Green cleaner
- Bleach
- Dawn dish detergent
- 2 Portable classroom sinks (\$1600 each)

Annual Pumpkin Sale Benefits Neighbors in Need

The fall season has arrived! What better way to celebrate than by purchasing a pumpkin from Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill's 21st annual pumpkin sale? Proceeds from the event will benefit ALIVE! and other non-profit organizations in our area. The pumpkins and gourds for sale are grown on a Navajo Indian reservation in New Mexico and shipped in on trucks just in time for fall festivities. Hardworking congregation volunteers will unload, size, and price the gourds to be sold between Sunday, October 5th and October 31st. Delicious soups, hearty stews, and other sweet treats will also be available for purchase! The pumpkin patch will be open from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm daily. Stop by for tons of fall fun and to benefit charities in our community!

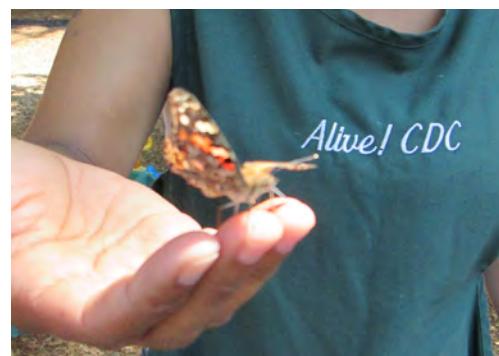


Butterflies Galore!!!

This summer, the CDC staff wanted to present new camp themes for the children's learning and enjoyment. One of the themes chosen was "Insects and Bugs." Each classroom had a different type of insect to study. The Green Room had ladybugs, the Red Room had ants, and the Blue Room had butterflies. Of the three, everyone agreed that studying the butterflies' development was the most fun and rewarding.

We first received a set of little caterpillars with special food to eat. Each day, the children observed them and saw how they got bigger and bigger. Then, they watched with wonder and anticipation as the caterpillars entered the chrysalis stage. Finally, one day near the end of July, the butterflies began to emerge, one by one. They were "Painted Lady" butterflies with beautiful markings. After all of them had come out of their chrysalises, it was time to release them. We took the "butterfly nursery" to the playground and opened it up. Some of the butterflies seemed reluctant to leave and were helped along by the staff. Away they all flew to their adult butterfly lives!

We plan to raise another set of butterflies next summer!



Relink Your Harris Teeter VIC Card Today!

It is the beginning of a new school year! Are you looking for a way to support the ALIVE! CDC? The Harris Teeter TIE (Together in Education) program makes it easy. Harris Teeter's TIE program is a fundraising effort that supports local public and private schools. When you purchase select Harris Teeter brand products using your VIC Card, a percentage of those purchase dollars can go to the school of your choice.



If you would like to support the CDC while you shop, simply link your VIC card with the ALIVE! CDC (TIE school code #6383). A cashier can link your card for you at checkout, or you may link it yourself by visiting harristeeter.com and clicking on "Together in Education." Cards must be relinked at the beginning of each school year.

Thank you for supporting the CDC!

Thinking (and Doing) Outside the Box

by Linda Coleman, Co-Chair, Family Emergency Program

The “box” is ALIVE!’s Family Emergency Program (FEP). I’m only in my twelfth year volunteering with ALIVE! (always with FEP), but I presume that for most of the 45 years that ALIVE! has existed, FEP’s resources have been structured to assist Alexandrians in need in paying their rent, utilities, and medical bills. The needs of Alexandrians, however, don’t always fit in a tidy “box”. Sometimes those needs call for us to focus a measure of our efforts elsewhere. There have been a few of those needs in the last couple of years.

Our first “outside the box” program was the Security Deposit Loan Program which began in 2012. Intended to promote self-sufficiency, I’m happy to report that 41 percent of the funds that were loaned out during the first year were paid back. Quite impressive, I think, considering how very little these low-income individuals and families have available to live on from month to month. Among others, we have assisted with partial security deposits that enabled two families that had resided in our ALIVE! House shelter to move into homes of their own. Most recently, we helped a homeless mom and her two children with a security deposit loan that took them from the streets to an apartment where they no longer had to worry about where they would sleep from one night to the next.

In late 2013, a conversation I had with David Wynne, an Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) Social Worker, led to “Students Seeing Clearly,” another “outside the box” program. A great number of generous donations received before the end of 2013 enabled us to help quite a number of low-income students with both eye exams and glasses during the second half of this past school year. We hope to help even more students during the new school year.

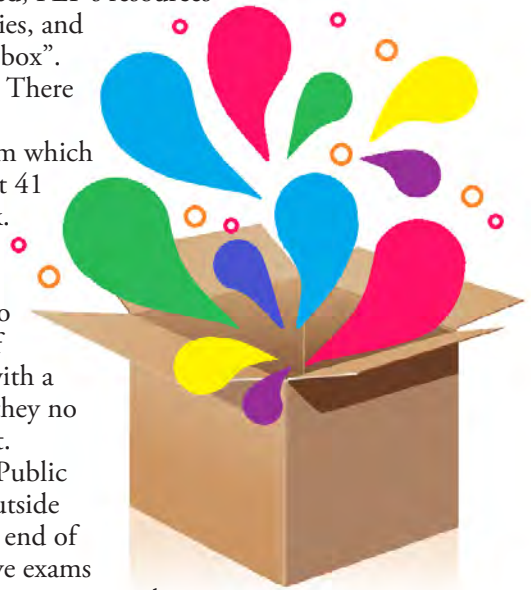
The relationship between ACPS and FEP is ever growing. In the spring, a student, newly arrived from the Congo, was enrolling in the T.C. Williams International Academy*. When asked if there was anything he needed, he asked for a bar of soap. I soon learned that the vast majority, upwards of 95%, of the approximately 500 students from foreign countries attending the TCW International Academy are living below the poverty line. When the word spread that many of these students were in need of toiletries/personal hygiene items, ALIVE! volunteers, as well as a couple of the ALIVE! congregations, donated enough supplies for all the students that needed those items to receive “fully loaded” gift bags. And we’re gearing up for the new school year with supplies stockpiled over the summer.

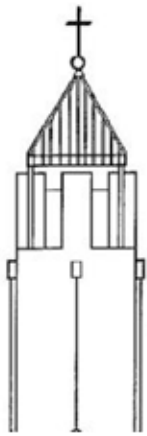
Three ALIVE! congregations - Trinity United Methodist Church, Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, and the Church of the Resurrection - have recently donated funds to provide \$500 in rental assistance, over and above any other available ALIVE! financial assistance, for Afghan immigrant families brought to the United States by the U.S. Department of State on “Special Immigrant Visas.” These Afghan nationals were employed by, or worked on behalf of, our country in Afghanistan for at least one year and had received threats because of that employment. Close to 20 such families have been settled in our City since December 2013. Since their arrival, limited assistance has been provided by Catholic Charities and Lutheran Social Services, as well as Alexandria’s Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS). However, despite this assistance, most of these families struggle to reach self-sufficiency. ALIVE!’s Furniture, Housewares, Food, and Family Emergency programs have all done much to support these families as they arrived with nothing more than what they could physically carry. FEP is administering the aforementioned rental assistance funds.

Lastly, I’ll mention our latest “outside the box” project. FEP’s FY 2015 Annual Budget is \$260,000. No overhead costs come out of that fund. Every penny goes towards helping Alexandrians in need. The amount of our annual budget has been stable over the last few years, thanks to our generous donors. But, for FY 2015, we are starting out with an additional \$26,000 over and above the \$260,000, and we will have yet another \$26,000 for the second half of the fiscal year. These funds, segregated from FEP’s main budget, are being earmarked for rental assistance for Alexandrians who are homeless or considered to be on the verge of homelessness. We are working closely with the Homeless Services’ Community Services Coordinator (DCHS) and others to assist those in the direst of circumstances.

So, to our loyal supporters, THANK YOU! And please know that FEP’s \$260,000 annual budget will continue, as always, to provide financial assistance to low-income Alexandrians for rent, utilities, and medical expenses. All of our “outside the box” initiatives described above have been funded and supported separately by generous folks like all of you who, like all of us volunteering at ALIVE!, care deeply about our neighbors in need.

* As of this writing, T.C. Williams International Academy is the only one its kind in the State of Virginia and one of only 19 in the United States. Learn more about the program at www.internationalsnps.org. The T.C. Williams International Academy needs tutors/mentors. Contact David Wynne at david.wynne@acps.k12.va.us for more information.





Blessed Sacrament's Musical Offerings

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church's extremely talented musicians perform once every month or so in hopes that their "performances will in some way stir the audience to wonder before the marvels of God and the created universe." All concerts are free though, at some concerts, free will offerings are accepted and donated to local charities such as ALIVE!. Thank you, Blessed Sacrament for your support of ALIVE! and for the beautiful music you make!

Upcoming Events:

| | | |
|------------|-----------|--|
| October 10 | 8:00 p.m. | <i>Enoch Arden: Melodramas</i> by Richard Strauss |
| November 7 | 7:30 p.m. | <i>Service of Remembrance</i> |
| January 9 | 7:30 p.m. | <i>The Infancy of Christ</i> by Berlioz |
| January 30 | 8:00 p.m. | <i>Overture on Hebrew Themes</i> by Prokofiev and <i>Clarinet Quintet</i> by Brahms. |

ALIVE! on AmazonSmile!

What is AmazonSmile? It's is an easy way for you to support ALIVE! every time you shop online! AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets you enjoy the same selection and prices as on Amazon.com. You can even use your regular Amazon account. However, when you shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to ALIVE! or another charity of your choice.



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You shop. Amazon gives.



Support ALIVE! with your AmazonSmile purchases by:

1. Going to <http://smile.amazon.com>
2. Logging in to your Amazon account or creating an account
3. Selecting ALIVE! as your charitable organization of choice

Thank you for supporting ALIVE!, and happy shopping!

THIS SEASON, Give a Gift That Keeps ON Giving!

Are you having trouble deciding what to give a friend or coworker this holiday season? Are you out of ideas for that family member that already has everything? Would you like to share your faith and blessings with those less fortunate and honor a friend or relative at the same time? Whatever your reason, by donating to ALIVE!, you will directly benefit families in Alexandria who need your help!

This holiday season, consider giving a gift to ALIVE! in honor of a friend, coworker, or family member. To make a gift in honor of someone on your holiday list, fill out the form below, and ALIVE! will send you a card that you can use to let them know of your gift.

Please send a check payable to ALIVE! and the following form to: ALIVE!, 2723 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302.

ALIVE! Holiday Gift Order Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Number of gift cards you would like for giving to recipients: _____



*ALIVE! is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation. Your donation is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowable under the law.

2723 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22302
703-837-9300
www.alive-inc.org
E-mail: alivetoo@aol.com

ALIVE! Wire



ALIVE!, founded in 1969, is a non-profit 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 its 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

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

Fall 2014 Calendar

October

7 ALIVE! Annual Recommitment and Volunteer Recognition Potluck Dinner: 7:00 PM, Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 323 South Fairfax St.

11 Rock and Stroll to End Homelessness: Visit <http://www.rockandstroll.net/> for more details.

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

Food Collection: Beth El, Del Ray UMC, Downtown Baptist, Fairlington Presbyterian, First Christian, Meade Memorial, St. James UMC, St. Mary's

Furniture Collection: Fairlington UMC, St. Joseph's, Good Shepherd

November

11 Board Meeting: 7:00 PM, Good Shepherd Lutheran, 100 West Luray Ave.

27 39th Annual Turkey Trot: Thanksgiving morning, 9:00 George Washington Middle School, 1005 Mt. Vernon Ave.

Food Collection: Blessed Sacrament, Christ Church, Church of the Resurrection, Good Shepherd, Grace Episcopal, Trinity UMC, St. Joseph's, St. Paul's, Westminster Presbyterian

Furniture Collection: Christ Church, St. Clement, St. Mary's

December

2 Board Meeting: 7:00 PM, Location to be determined

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

Food Collection: All donations are gratefully accepted.

Furniture Collection: Good Shepherd, St. Joseph's, First Christian

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