

ALIVE! Wire

Winter 2014



President's Message



What a difference a couple of months makes! Change is the only constant at ALIVE!. Ken Naser is retiring after 10 years as our Executive Director, Jean Moore is stepping down as Food Chair after an amazing 10 years and Beth and Donald Campbell are retiring from their positions as Warehouse Managers, Food Drive Coordinators and MVPs! And our wonderful Administrative Assistant, Joanna Neil, has

left for the joy of staying home with her new baby. A normal person would panic. Fortunately, the staff and volunteers at ALIVE! don't panic but instead put their heads together and come out of the huddle with great results.

As you will read elsewhere in the ALIVE! Wire, Ken will transfer his experience and wisdom to Diane Charles who has extensive experience and was approved by the Board as our next Executive Director. John Perlman has stepped up to run the ALIVE! Warehouse and Charlotte Martinsson has agreed to be one of two Food Co-Chairs. We have a wonderful new Administrative Assistant, Nancy McCormick.

Take a look the remaining volunteer job descriptions which can be found elsewhere in the ALIVE! WIRE. Think seriously about taking on one of these opportunities. We need your help now. No one has the time for such things, yet we all find the time. I guarantee that if you take on one of these volunteer jobs, your life will be enriched. It will change your life and the lives of the people you help.

In addition to the changes at ALIVE!, the changes in our community require all of our attention. We have seen a big increase in the numbers of persons coming for food at the Last Saturday Food Distributions programs and increased demand at the Family Emergency Program. The challenges of working and living in

A Fond Farewell

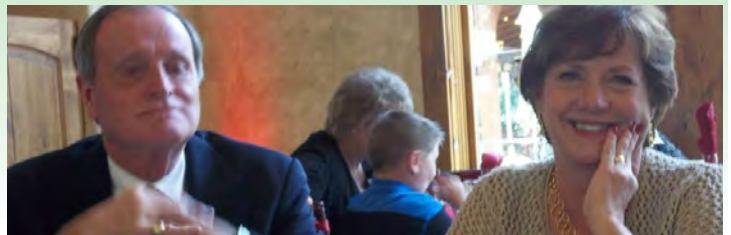
After 10 years of dedicated service to our community as the Executive Director of ALIVE!, Ken Naser is retiring. Many people talk about getting faith communities involved in helping those in need, but, through his work with ALIVE!, Ken has lived and led that effort in Alexandria.

Prior to becoming the first Executive Director of ALIVE!, Ken volunteered for ALIVE! for close to 30 years, served as chair of two of its programs and as President in 1982-83. During Ken's term as Executive Director, ALIVE! increased its reach and assistance to families in need. This growth now allows ALIVE! to help over 14,000 individuals each year with food, financial assistance, early childhood education, transitional housing, furniture and housewares.

Ken has been the face of ALIVE!, and he has represented our organization well. Among his other accomplishments, he has worked closely with City social workers and other non-profits in the City to coordinate efforts to assure that families in need receive the assistance to achieve self-sufficiency. ALIVE! provides hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to aid to our less fortunate neighbors. Ken's fundraising effort, have made this possible along with his close work with many hundreds of volunteers, as well as with the congregations that compose ALIVE!. In 2010, Ken was recognized for his efforts when Volunteer Alexandria presented him with the Nonprofit Leader of the Year award.

Ken's recent leadership has brought faith communities, non-profits, local businesses, and the City together in support of "A Hunger Free Alexandria". This can be a legacy that assures families and individuals in Alexandria access to affordable, healthy food, Which striving to see that no one in Alexandria goes hungry.

We congratulate Ken on his outstanding career at ALIVE! and his many contributions toward making Alexandria a better place to live for all, but particularly those most in need. After close to 40 years as a volunteer and then Executive Director at ALIVE!, we wish Ken and his wife Cris a long and happy retirement and know that, even in retirement, they will be caring for the less fortunate in our community.



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Notes from the “New” Executive Director - Diane Charles



Participating in the Annual Alexandria Turkey Trot has been a part of my family's tradition for many years. The connection to ALIVE! always made it more meaningful – and a valuable reminder of the many blessings we have to share. Now, as my relationship with ALIVE! evolves, the Turkey Trot – and all it represents – carries an even greater significance.

I'm so grateful and excited to be ALIVE!'s next Executive Director and become an integral part of the interfaith energy that serves our Alexandria neighbors who need that extra boost of support they get through ALIVE!'s programs. I'm honored to follow Ken Naser who has served the organization and Alexandrians in such an effective, respectful and diligent manner.

I look forward to working alongside the amazing volunteers who are ALIVE!, learning from you and working together to make ALIVE! even more vibrant in the services it delivers. Together, we can continue to strengthen the incredible programs that are essential to our community and explore ways to improve their delivery, in turn helping more of our neighbors in need.

Thank you for this leadership opportunity to work with you, serve our community and together live our faith by assisting people to improve their lives and become self-reliant.

Diane

Introducing Diane L. Charles as ALIVE!'s Executive Director

Most recently, Diane served in the Alexandria District office of Congressman James P. Moran as a Constituent Services Manager where she facilitated problem solving for constituent issues pertaining to Social Security, Medicare, health care, federal retirees and small business. Prior to this work, Diane was the Director of National Programs at the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships, overseeing the programming that supports the mission to increase academic achievement and access to higher education for economically disadvantaged students. Prior to her work at NCCEP, Diane led SCAN of Northern Virginia, a regional community-based nonprofit organization, for 11 years where she built and oversaw three programs, managed a staff eleven and a budget of \$665,000. Previously, Diane worked as the only staff member to the Mayor of Alexandria, Virginia, where she served as the Mayor's liaison to the various city departments about issues of interest and concern to the community.

Diane holds a MS in Adult Education and Human Resource Development. Diane has served in numerous leadership roles in the community, including Chair of the Alexandria FEMA Board, Chair of the Human Services Coalition of Northern Virginia, Chair of the Education & Advocacy Committee of the Alexandria Council of Human Service Organizations, and a member of the Executive Committee of the Board of the Alexandria Police Foundation. She has also previously served on Alexandria's Early Childhood Commission, the Alexandria Child Welfare Partnership and the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) Advisory Board. During her tenure as Executive Director of SCAN of Northern Virginia, Diane was recognized as the Alexandria Nonprofit Leader of the Year.

Concert to Benefit “Hunger Free Alexandria”

On Saturday, February 28, 2015, at 6:00 PM, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 100 W. Luray Ave., Alexandria, VA 22301 will host the group “Lost & Found” in concert in the Main Sanctuary. There will be a \$5.00 admission charge per person, families may pay \$25.00 for 5 persons or more. There will be a collection of canned food items and a free will offering to benefit ALIVE! Please make plans to attend this exciting event! Contact: Denise Steene, 703 644 2215 email: leuctra@verizon.net



CFC Code:
44658



United Way
Code: 8352

PLEASE CONSIDER ALIVE! THIS YEAR WHEN MAKING YOUR
UNITED WAY/CFC CONTRIBUTIONS.

The 45th Annual ALIVE! Recommitment & Recognition Potluck Dinner



On Tuesday, October 7, ALIVE! volunteers and donors gathered at the Annual Recommitment & Recognition Pot Luck Dinner to be treated to an array of sumptuous dishes provided by the attendees! The dinner was held at Old Presbyterian Meeting House. The lovely Fellowship Hall provided a warm gathering place for the evening. Our students from the CDC created table centerpieces which reflected the warm colors of the Autumn season. Special recognition was given to Ms. Leslie Ariail, of the Washington Forrest Foundation. The Honored Speaker was Mr. David Wynne, of the T.C. Williams International Academy. David spoke of the students who come to the International Academy from all over the world. How often the basic daily needs such as housing and food are not readily available. Yet, ALIVE! has stepped in to help the families of these students countless times! David brought five students with him and they each spoke eloquently

to the excellent education and support they are receiving in the Alexandria community. Though she was not listed as a speaker, Mr. Wynne was accompanied by Ms. Anna Bonilla from Charles Barrett Elementary School where she is a social worker. Ms. Bonilla shared that her own family from El Salvador had come to the United States many years ago. Had it not been for the assistance they received from an organization similar to ALIVE!, they may not have been able to work towards their family's goal of becoming independent and contributing citizens. Ms. Bonilla remarked "My mother was able to take that bag of groceries and stretch to feed all of

us over the week. It was a life saver." Ms. Anna Bonilla has been selected as the 2014 Social Worker for the Commonwealth of Virginia. ALIVE! congratulates Ms. Bonilla and thanks both her and Mr. David Wynne on their commitment to the students in the Alexandria City Public Schools.

President's Message from page 1

Alexandria have greatly increased for Alexandrians. The cost of living in our City has increased dramatically while, at the same time, the supply of affordable housing has plummeted. The cost of housing has caused more families to face a shortage in the amount they have to spend on food, clothing, and other essentials.

Winter brings even more cause for concern. Workers who work in construction, lawn care, agriculture, delivery, maintenance and other outdoor jobs will face fewer hours of work and fewer job opportunities. Their families are going to need more help from all of us. Please think about your community, think about your neighbors and think about how you can help. Your commitment to volunteer and/or donate can keep a family together, can keep a child in school, can keep your neighborhood healthy and can make a REAL difference in Alexandria.

Deborah Patterson

Child Development Center *by Pam Blankenhip, Director CDC*

The new school year brought lots of excitement for ALIVE! CDC's children. In September, we were visited by volunteers from Wells Fargo, who spent an afternoon cleaning up our garden boxes and playing with the children. The dancing activity in the fellowship hall was a big hit!! Many thanks to the Wells Fargo folks for sharing your time, talent, and treasure with us!

September also brought the completion of a beautiful new playhouse for our playground. Fashioned like a barn, the new house is the result of a collaboration between the Seaport Foundation and the Running Brooke Foundation. Together, these organizations have provided additional opportunities for ALIVE! CDC's children to engage in healthful outdoor activities. Thanks for helping our children get the exercise their bodies (and minds) need!

In October, the ALIVE! Inc. Board held it's annual pot luck dinner to honor the volunteers who make our programs possible. The CDC's children had a joyful time creating fall-themed centerpieces for this occasion. The centerpieces turned out so well that the decision was made to keep them to use again in the future.

And use them again we did, when the Voices For Virginia's Children organization held a Legislative Roundtable here at ALIVE! on October 29. Five state lawmakers joined local early childhood program providers to discuss a variety of issues including access to high-quality education, teacher qualifications, and lack of sufficient space. Participants all agreed that it was a productive meeting that held great promise for future collaboration.



The CDC's children, staff, and parents made our annual trip to Cox Farms on Oct 24th and the weather could not have been more beautiful! We started our visit with the hay ride and then proceeded in small

groups to visit the many other attractions which included seeing farm animals and trying out farming activities such as pumping water and hoisting hay bales. Everyone agreed that the most fun activity was zooming down the Giant Slide. On our way out, everyone selected a small pumpkin to bring home.

Each classroom carved and decorated a jack-o-lantern for the Halloween holiday. On Oct 31st, the children and staff

dressed in colorful costumes and paraded over to visit our neighbors at Woodbine next door. The residents and staff there provided special treats to the children, who returned to the CDC tired and happy.



CDC Wish List

Children's underwear (boys & girls) sizes 3T to 6
Children's shoes (boys and girls) sizes 7 to 13.5
Printer ink cartridges (color and black)
HP Photosmart Express C3180 all-in-one
Epson Stylus C88 +

In response to "Hunger Free Alexandria", Whole Foods Market is joining their 'Food 4 More' program with the ALIVE! Food Program from November 1, 2014 until December 31, 2014.



Thank you Keller Williams Realty!!!!

Brenda Stone and her colleagues at Keller Williams Realty raised \$12,000.00 this year to purchase food for the Thanksgiving Baskets they delivered to 435 families in Alexandria. They also received a discount from Shoppers Food Warehouse at Potomac Yards, to purchase turkeys at 14 cents a pound. With an additional donation of 75 turkeys from Poor Robert's Charities, an additional 75 Alexandria families received holiday baskets delivered on Tuesday, November 25.

ALIVE! sends an enormous THANK YOU to Keller Williams Realty and ALIVE! Family Emergency Program volunteers for creating a successful and blessed Thanksgiving holiday!



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.

Alexandrians Receiving Food from ALIVE! Between September 1, 2014 and October 31, 2014

	Households	Individuals
September	804	2915
October	720	2635

Dear Fellow Congregational Representatives,

As we have for at least 35 years, the Fairlington United Methodist Men's Group will be selling Christmas trees beginning on Thursday, Dec 4th.

The Trees arrive at about 5pm at the Fairlington United Methodist Church at 3900 King St. parking area.

As always, 100% of the proceeds go to support those in need in our community -- the vast majority going to ALIVE!

Before you buy your tree from Home Depot or other commercial establishment, please consider visiting Fairlington.

Thanks for all you do!

God Bless,

Joe Sapp

FUMC Congregational Rep

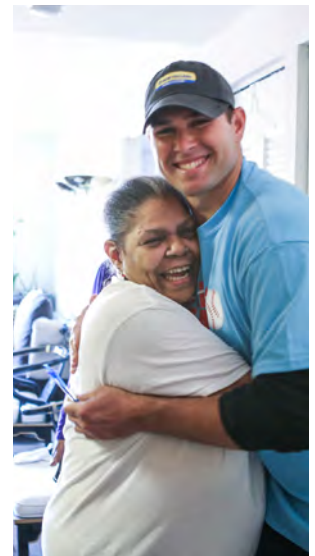


Ladrey Volunteer "Pitches" In



On October 25, the Last Saturday Food

Program at Ladrey House had a welcome celebrity who pitched right in to distribute bags of food for the families and individuals on that day. Washington Nationals' Pitcher Craig Stammen was there to sort, pack and deliver food. But the best delivery was a hug to a devoted Nationals fan!



Four Volunteers Needed for ALIVE! Food Program

ALIVE!'s dynamic Food Program is looking for four volunteers to fill these positions:

Food Co-Chair: One volunteer co-chair is needed who is willing to work with the existing Co-Chair.

The primary requirements are a big heart, a willing spirit and physical stamina. The two Co-Chairs share the overall responsibility for all aspects of ALIVE!'s relationship with the Capital Area Food Bank, including delivery and pickup all food. Co-Chairs will coordinate food programs with other ALIVE! volunteers, including the Warehouse Manager and Family Emergency Program leaders. Co-Chairs will coordinate with the Last Saturday Food Distribution Site Coordinators. Co-Chairs will oversee and manage the ALIVE! food budget. Co-Chairs handle communication and scheduling with volunteer food drivers. This job will enrich your life and broaden your horizons but is not for the faint of heart.

Assistant Warehouse Manager:

Assist Warehouse Manager with all the tasks included below but not limited to:

- Collect banana boxes.
- Move donated food from First Christian Church/ALIVE! office as needed to the warehouse.
- Unload donated food to the warehouse.
- Sort, box and shelve food according to inventory management system.
- Accompany the Tuesday Capital Area Food Bank shopper each week to the Capital Area Food Bank to help load and unload food items as needed.
- Accompany one of the Food Co-Chairs or other volunteer leader to all food drive locations to load food at donation sites and unload at the warehouse.
- Load warehoused food as directed by the Food Chair or Warehouse Manager to the ALIVE! Trucks for the Last Saturday Food Distribution each month for all three sites.
- Ensure that the warehouse is clean, swept, free of debris and organized.
- Support the Warehouse Manager in all matters regarding the receipt or shipment of food to and from the warehouse.

Food Drive Coordinator:

- Respond to organizations or individuals who want to donate food collected in a Food Drive. Evaluate what will be needed to result in a successful food drive.
- ALIVE! may need to provide support to the organization(s).

This could include:

Onsite labor

Banana boxes and labels

Volunteers to move and load the collected food

Truck space and availability

Signage

Coordinate with the Warehouse Manager to arrange for collection unload and possible sorting by volunteer.

These scheduled BIG ANNUAL Food Drives require advance planning:

Agudas Achim Congregation (Fall)

Beth El Hebrew Congregation (Fall)

Scouting for Food (Boy Scout Drive) (November)

Annual Turkey Trot – Thanksgiving Day

US Postal Service (Spring)

Food Program Project Data Manager:

- Work with the Food Co-Chairs to create and maintain a searchable database compatible with the Capital Area Food Bank for the USDA forms and data to be submitted to the Capital Area Food Bank in required monthly and quarterly reports.
- Create and maintain database of Capital Area Food Bank and Family Emergency Program volunteers.
- Create a searchable database to provide data as needed for grant proposals, reports, or the use of other ALIVE! committees.
- Train others to use the database or provide needed information for reports or grants.

Contact ALIVE! at: info@alive-inc.org

ALIVE! House Reflections *by Amanda Neer, ALIVE!House Director*

Many times throughout my first year at ALIVE! House, I was asked: What is ALIVE! House, what is it doing, and how can it be supported? ALIVE! House has created a very special program to support families in the community who need more time and skills before they can maintain their own permanent housing. Many of the families coming to us have escaped domestic violence situations, some are young mothers with a history of foster care, many do not speak English as their first language, some were homeless as children, and all have experienced significant trauma. While federal funding has not been supportive of this type of housing recently, there still seems to be a major need in Alexandria for the families we serve. ALIVE! House consistently maintains its maximum of four families, and many calls come in weekly inquiring as to when space will be available.

All of the families receive intensive support and encouragement to move forward. The residents are expected to maintain thirty hours per week of job search, working, and/or completing education or vocational programs. They save 70% of their income while learning about financial management and paying down debt. Each adult resident completes her own unique service plan that highlights her goals and the steps she needs to take to reach those goals. They meet with me weekly to demonstrate their progress. The Resident Manager assists them in the evenings and on weekends with extra support and by providing guidance for life skills such as cleaning and time management. Every week while all the kids take part in a reading program with Reading Connection, the moms come together to

discuss many topics, such as job skills, money management, parenting, stress management, and nutrition and wellness, and they share their visions for the future. Once a month, volunteers from the Sixteenth Tabernacle come to talk to the moms about a variety of topics, such as goal setting through a new program called *Tea with Auntie*. This has created an important mentor relationship and connection for the residents. Each opportunity given to families at ALIVE! House helps enrich them and provides support to reach their goals. The end and final goal for all families is to become self sufficient and acquire permanent housing.

ALIVE! House is a very special program due to the time and attention given to each of the families to help them achieve their goals. There is a need, so we continue to promote and seek out funding for transitional housing at ALIVE! House to help families in the community. There are many supplies and items that are needed to help the families get back on their feet and achieve self sufficiency. We also need help advocating for more affordable housing in Alexandria, so our families can stay in a community where they feel supported and are given the opportunity to succeed.



ALIVE! House Wish List

- Single or umbrella stroller
- Laundry detergent
- Bleach
- Dish soap
- Trash bags
- Baby wipes
- Paper towels
- Toilet Paper
- Diapers - size 2
- Pull ups - 2T-3T
- Loveseat slip covers
- Chair slip covers



ALIVE! extends a heartfelt thank you to all of you who participated in Rock and Stroll as runners and donors. Your support means so much to all of the families at ALIVE! House. Special thanks goes to our wonderful sponsors: Fairlington United Methodist Men, Marketing General, and the American Physical Therapy Association.



39th Annual Alexandria Turkey Trot

Once again on Thanksgiving morning, runners, walkers, strollers, and families joined the Del Ray Business Association and ALIVE! for the Annual Alexandria Turkey Trot! Participants supported ALIVE! by bringing non-perishable food to donate for ALIVE!'s food warehouse. ALIVE! volunteers collected, sorted and packed the food donations throughout the morning. A special thank you to the Del Ray Business Association for presenting ALIVE! with a \$5,000 check from the race proceeds to support ALIVE!'s work throughout the community. And, thank you to our community for the continued support of the ALIVE! Food Program! Your donations make it possible for many ALIVE! families to celebrate Thanksgiving Day.



ALIVE! Holiday Gift Order Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Gift Item	Quantity	Cost	Total
Grand Total:			

☐

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

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

*Please note that these gifts are examples of the types of items that ALIVE! will provide to families. ALIVE! may not necessarily purchase the items in the quantities sold, but will utilize all funds donated for the benefit of families in need in Alexandria.



God's Work. Our Gifts. ALIVE! Holiday Gift Giving

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

Optical Exam \$98



Eye exams are critical for seniors, but they are often put off to pay for rent or food when resources are scarce. This gift pays for an eye exam for a low-income senior.

Utilities \$75



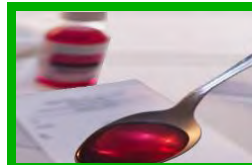
Rising utility costs can be the difference between stability and homelessness for low-income families. Keep a neighbor warm this winter by giving this gift of help with utilities.

Gas \$50



You can literally provide the fuel for our efforts to deliver furniture to families in need. This gift provides enough gas to pick up and deliver donated furniture to twelve families.

Medication \$50



Senior citizens who are struggling to make ends meet sometimes go without medication they need. This gift provides a co-payment for a senior citizen who cannot afford to fill prescriptions.

Books \$40



You can help foster a life-long love of reading for a child who may never have owned a book of his own. Access to books boosts children's long-term education and kindergarten readiness.

Healthy Snacks \$35



Healthy snacks keep ALIVE! preschoolers focused and ready to learn throughout the day, while helping them develop good eating habits. This gift provides two nutritious snacks for a whole class.

Finger Paint \$30



Give the gift of creativity with a set of finger paints and paper for the children in our Child Development Center, helping to prepare them for kindergarten success.

Meat & Cheese \$29



ALIVE!'s Last Saturday Food Distribution program purchases groceries for 19 cents per pound from a local food bank. This gift provides 150 pounds of meat and cheese for families in need.

Cleaning Supplies \$25



Give this gift to a woman who is learning to be responsible for living on her own. This gift provides cleaning and laundry supplies for a family who is transitioning out of ALIVE! House.

Eggs \$10



\$10 really makes a difference when it is used to buy a dozen eggs for ten families in need as a primary source of protein.

Purchasing a Gift:



1. Review the list of items.
2. Fill in the order form.
3. Make a check payable to ALIVE!
4. Send your order form and check to ALIVE!, 2723 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302.
5. For each item you purchase, you will receive a holiday card and an insert describing your chosen gift via mail. When you receive these items, give them out as your holiday gifts to your recipients.

Do You See What I See? *By Linda Coleman, Chair, Family Emergency Program*

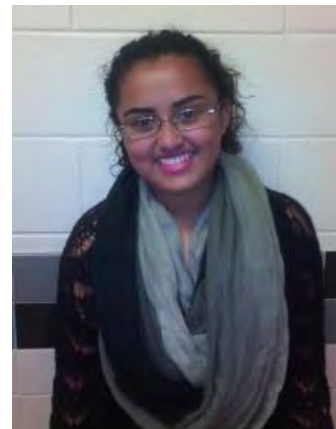
Does that title sound familiar? Simply a line from a Christmas Carol? But if we asked some students in our City's schools that question, they might say that, "no". They can't see what we see. At least not clearly,

They have uncorrected vision problems. If students' families struggle to pay rent and put food on the table, the chances of those students' families being able to afford eyeglasses for their kids are slim to none.

Our *Students Seeing Clearly Fund*, started almost one year ago, has helped over 30 Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) students from elementary, middle, and high school with exams and eyeglasses. One of those students exclaimed, "*I look good, and I can see what everyone else sees!*" But, sadly, the funds are depleted. And there are currently students who have had their eye exams, but are now having to wait for glasses until more donations come in.

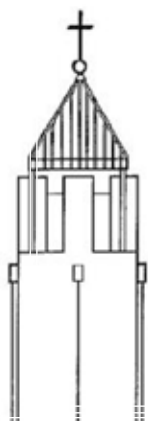
In 2015, we expect to receive an average of three requests each month on behalf of high school students. And, of course, the elementary schools and the middle schools will be referring their students as well. The average cost of the exam and glasses per student is \$300. The Lions Club and others can, and do help, but with the ACPS's student enrollment topping 14,000, it takes a joint effort to ensure that those students with vision problems can be helped so they are able to see, learn, and succeed!

Please help! You can send your check payable to "ALIVE!" and annotated for the "Students Seeing Clearly Fund".



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. At most of the 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:

January 9 7:30 p.m.

The Infancy of Christ by Berlioz

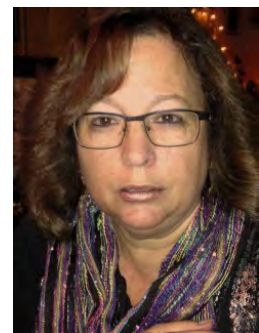
January 30 8:00 p.m.

Overture on Hebrew Themes by Prokofiev
and *Clarinet Quintet* by Brahms.

Introducing Nancy McCormick

Nancy McCormick is a native of Alexandria. She has three children who have all graduated from TC Williams High School.

In answer to her youngest son's special needs, in 1995 Nancy was co-founder of Families First of Alexandria, Inc., a chapter of the Federation of Families For Children's Mental Health. She served as Executive Director for 8 years. In 2009 she became the Meals on Wheels Program Manager for the City of Alexandria, under Senior Services of Alexandria, Inc. Nancy scheduled and managed over 250 Meals on Wheels volunteers each month until June 2012. "I am very happy to continue my service in the Alexandria community in the position of the Administrative Assistant for ALIVE! I hope to keep the wheels turning in the administrative office enabling all the staff and volunteers to continue the valuable work they perform each day to support the needs of so many Alexandria families and individuals."



Farewell, Thanks and Congratulations!

ALIVE! bid farewell and thanks to Joanna Neil in October for all her work for ALIVE! as the Administrative Assistant staff member for the last two years. She retired just in time for the birth of her son. We congratulate Joanna and Will on the arrival of the young Owen Neil to their family



Joanna, Will and baby Owen

ALIVE! Sets Ambitious Goal for Family Emergency Program

ALIVE!'s Family Emergency Program is there for Alexandria families in crisis. For a family living near the poverty line that can mean the loss of a job, an illness, or an unexpected expense. Without emergency assistance, these changes in fortune can have disastrous consequences including homelessness.

Last fiscal year, ALIVE! provided \$260,000 in emergency financial assistance to people in our community to keep the heat on, a roof over their heads, and help them meet critical expenses. Yet every month, the funds available for this type of help are gone in a matter of hours.

Congregations, other non-profits, and City social workers refer families to ALIVE! Each year, ALIVE! responds to more than 2,000 requests from citywide referral sources for financial assistance to pay rent, utilities, medical needs, transportation, and other emergency expenses ranging from work boots to bus passes. During FY 13-14 ALIVE! provided emergency financial help to 1,338 households. 95% of these requests came from families with annual household incomes of less than \$22,000.

Each week, ALIVE! volunteers assemble and deliver emergency food supplies to people in need—especially seniors, the disabled, and families with young children. During FY 13-14, emergency food was delivered 670 times to households with 1,378 individuals (nearly 3,000 bags of groceries valued at \$43,905). But the need in our community is far greater than even this tremendous response.

That is why ALIVE! has set an ambitious goal to increase the FEP money every year for five years. Our goal this year is to raise an additional \$100,000 for families in need. This is money that can mean the difference between families staying in an apartment and becoming homeless... these families are that close to the line. To find out how you can help, contact Jennifer Greiner at jennifer@alive-inc.org.



The ALIVE! Family Emergency Program (FEP) provides emergency financial assistance for Alexandrians facing severe financial hardship, paying for basic needs such as rent, utilities and medical expenses.



95% of the households assisted have an annual income of less than \$22,000. ALIVE!'s support helps to prevent utility cut offs and evictions for these vulnerable families.



In FY 2014 the FEP provided a total of \$260,000 to assist more than 1,300 households. We believe that struggling families in our City need two or three times the amount of assistance we have been able to provide.



ALIVE!'s goal is to increase the amount of assistance provided by 10% every year for five years. **This year, the goal is to raise an additional \$100,000** above and beyond the \$260,000 baseline of assistance provided in the past.

Assistance for Mrs. Reilly & her Grandson

Mrs. Reilly (not her real name) is the sole provider for her grandson, Robert, who was born with brain damage and endures chronic physical ailments and a learning disability.

Her only income is a monthly social security payment, so at times she has been referred to ALIVE! by the Lazarus Ministry programs at St. Paul's Episcopal Church and Christ Episcopal Church, to receive help with rent, utilities, and food. When he graduated from high school Robert sent a homemade card to Lazarus that said, "Thank you for your help and love for my (grand) mom and me."

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

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 43 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: info@alive-inc.org
www.alive-inc.org

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

Winter 2015 Calendar

January

- 6 **ALIVE! Board Meeting:** 7:00 PM, Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria, 22304
- 31 **Last Saturday Food Distribution:** Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center, and Ladrey Senior High Rise
- Food Collection:** Downtown Baptist, Ebenezer Baptist, Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, St. Rita Catholic Church
- Furniture Collection:** St. Rita, First Baptist, Emmanuel on the Hill, Beverly Hills UMC

February

- 3 **ALIVE! Board Meeting:** 7:00 PM, First Baptist Church, 2932 King St., Alexandria, 22304
- 28 **Last Saturday Food Distribution:** Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center, and Ladrey Senior High Rise
- Food Collection:** Beth El Hebrew Congregation, Del Ray UMC, Emmanuel Episcopal, Fairlington Presbyterian, Alexandria Assembly of Baha'is, Roberts Memorial UMC, and St. Andrew's UMC
- Furniture Collection:** Beverly Hills Community UMC, St. Mary's, Fairlington Presbyterian, OPMH

March

- 3 **ALIVE! Board Meeting:** 7:00 PM, Downtown Baptist, 212 S. Washington St., Alexandria, 22314
- 28 **Last Saturday Food Distribution:** Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center, and Ladrey Senior 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:** First Agape Baptist, Sixteenth Tabernacle, OPMH

*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