

ALIVE! Wire

Summer 2016



President's Message



It is a bit sobering to realize that this is my last ALIVE! Wire article. It has been an honor to be President of the ALIVE! Board. I have been privileged to get to know the depth of commitment made by so many volunteers and staff. I want to thank each and every one of you for your intelligence, determination, care, and commitment.

Thanks to the dedication of our volunteers and staff, ALIVE! is able to provide services to our

neighbors in need. Prior to serving as ALIVE! President, my experience was limited primarily to the food and furniture programs. I have learned so much about all of the programs, the people we serve and the many amazing volunteers, staff and donors who make it possible. I see the commitment, care, and effort our staff and volunteers take to help our neighbors.

ALIVE! is incredibly lean and does an amazing amount of good work in our community. Both our long-term and one-time volunteers are critical to our ability to help our neighbors. Like me, many people have been involved with ALIVE! for a long time, while others are new to ALIVE!, bringing fresh ideas which help us to meet the challenges ahead. It is even more challenging today to help make our community better for all who live here. The disparities are deep. Our community needs your help. We need you to advocate, to volunteer, to donate.

Alexandria is a wonderful community, but housing costs have increased dramatically, making it very difficult for working families to live in our city. What can ALIVE! do beyond what we are currently doing? What can congregations do to help? We need to look into our hearts to find the answers to these questions. I have faith that we can all continue to work together to help all Alexandrians. I feel certain that when we do look within, we strengthen our resolve to make choices that ensure that our community continues to have a place for the elderly, the disadvantaged and the disenfranchised. There is something that each one of us can do to make it work. **We just have to do it.**

Deborah Patterson

Welcome to our 44th ALIVE! Congregation



ALIVE! is proud to announce our newest congregation to join the ALIVE! family: Third Ward of the Mt. Vernon Virginia Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ

of Latter Day Saints has become ALIVE!'s 44th member congregation.

The congregation has been participating in furniture and food distributions for some time and looks forward to expanding its service to the Alexandria community through this formal ALIVE! commitment. We look forward to working together to serve Alexandrians in need!



Last year, wonderful donors like you came together for a new event to feed our neighbors in need, contributing \$37,000 to help people in Alexandria who are struggling to put food on their tables. With your help, we know that we can feed even more people this year.

Please save the date **November 12, 2016**, for Empty Bowls, and stay tuned for more information.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Notes from the Executive Director - Diane Charles



ALIVE! is ALIVE! because of the dedication of so many! What a service Deborah Patterson has provided ALIVE! during her two-year presidency that wrapped up at the end of June – and for her over 15 years of service to ALIVE! in so many other ways. Thank you, Deborah!

ALIVE!'s traditional change in leadership on July 1st coincides with ALIVE!'s fiscal year, including the adoption of an organizational budget for Fiscal Year 2017. Adopted at the June meeting, the ALIVE! Fiscal Year 2017 budget supports critical programming that addresses emergency needs through the provision of food, financial assistance, furniture and housewares. Programming that supports self-sufficiency for Alexandrians through the operation of ALIVE! House and the ALIVE! Child Development Center is also included in the FY17 budget. However, reductions at various levels amongst all the programs were necessary to match the revenue projections expected this year. As part of its fiscal responsibility, ALIVE!'s Board is committed to continued due diligence of budgeting for the next two years – and beyond, revisiting the organization's strategic plan, understanding community needs and making difficult decisions that align mission, needs and revenues.

The reality is that budgets serve as valuable roadmaps to setting priorities and strengthening the organization. As we venture into this new fiscal year, ALIVE!'s work will continue on a path that includes discernment about where our resources are most needed and best utilized to continue to fulfill the ALIVE! mission in today's world. Thanks to the commitment of the Alexandria community, volunteers, donors and our partners, I believe ALIVE!'s path will continue to make an important difference in the lives of our neighbors in need.

CDC Walkathon throughout the years

Thank you Alexandria for making the 2016 Step ALIVE! Walkathon a success! The **35th Annual** ALIVE! Walkathon raised over \$60,000 to support the ALIVE! Child Development Center preschool operations. In addition to the sponsors identified on page 3, the CDC would like to thank the following businesses for their support of Step ALIVE! 2016: Fresh Market, Giant Food, Harris Teeter, Jeffrey's Catering Company, MOM's Organic Market, and Rocklands Barbecue and Catering Company.



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! thanks our 2016 Step ALIVE! Walkathon Sponsors ~May 1, 2016

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Congregations

Agudas Achim Congregation

Alfred Street Baptist Church

Baha'is of Alexandria

Beth El Hebrew Congregation

Beverly Hills Community
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Community

Christ Church

Church of God & Saints of
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Church of the Resurrection

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Commonwealth Baptist Church

Del Ray United Methodist Church

Downtown Baptist Church

Emmanuel Episcopal Church
and Preschool

Fairlington Presbyterian Women

Fairlington United Methodist Church

First Christian Church of Alexandria

First Agape Baptist Community of Faith

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Grace Episcopal Church

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

St. James United Methodist Church

St. Joseph Catholic Church

St. Mary Catholic Church

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Saint Rita Catholic Church

Third Baptist Church

Trinity United Methodist Church

Washington Street United
Methodist Church

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Rebuilding Together Alexandria and ALIVE! House



Thanks to Rebuilding Together Alexandria and the volunteer team of 20 Wells Fargo employees, ALIVE! House was the beneficiary of several upgrades and renovations on National Rebuilding Day on April 30th. Led by Wells Fargo Team Captain (and Rebuilding Together Board Member) Jay Bradley, the volunteers created a new playroom for the children and an enhanced living space for the residents. The transformed playroom also includes a work space for the mothers to do homework, job search, etc. The Rebuilding Together Alexandria (RTA) work also included updates to the resident manager apartment and the office area. Because of RTA and Wells Fargo, the children have a safe place to play and ALIVE! House feels more like a home.

ALIVE! Sidewalk Sale partners with Spring for Alexandria

ALIVE! is grateful to the *Spring for Alexandria* volunteer team from the City of Alexandria Finance Department who helped ALIVE! House prepare for the Sidewalk Sale by cleaning up outside, unloading tables and packing the truck with donations for the sale. Although they had to brave the rain, they did a fantastic job! As a bonus, one volunteer stayed at ALIVE! House to unpack toys and set-up the new playroom. Alexandria's Department of Finance employees were energetic and fun, ensuring we were prepared for the Sidewalk Sale. We could not have held the Sidewalk Sale without them! \$5,000 was raised for ALIVE! House at this year's Sidewalk Sale. Thank you to all the volunteers who made it a real success!



ALIVE! House Wish List

- Laundry detergent
- Toilet paper
- Diapers -- size 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
- Baby wipes
- Baby wash
- Baby lotion
- Soap
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Trash bags
- Cleaners - bathroom and kitchen

ALIVE! Food Happenings

ALIVE!'s Food Program continues to serve Alexandria's hungry families through the Last Saturday Food Distribution Program. Additionally, ALIVE! is partnering with other agencies to provide more food to new and existing clients. Because of community support, ALIVE! is underway in securing more donated food to meet these growing partnerships.

The Last Saturday Food Distribution Program distributed over 30,000 pounds of food to approximately 2,000 individuals in 550 households each of the last three months. Volunteers continue to be key to implementing this large food distribution program every month!

The U.S. Postal Service Letter Carrier's food drive in May brought in approximately 10,000 pounds of food donated by area residents and collected by their letter carriers. This annual food drive is sponsored by the Letter Carrier Union. Each year, ALIVE! is amazed at the *above and beyond* work of the letter carriers to ensure such a successful food drive. Many thanks to the volunteers who were stationed at two area postal facilities where they gathered the food as the carriers brought it in, pre-sorted it, loaded it onto ALIVE! trucks, and unloaded it at The Alexandria Food Center/ALIVE! warehouse. The next day 40 volunteers sorted the food into 180 boxes, now ready for distribution this summer.

The new ALIVE! Weekend Care Bag Program, which provides single-serving meals, snacks and juice to 200 at-risk children from four Alexandria City Public Schools each weekend during the school year, winds down for the summer when other support programs kick-in for children. ALIVE!'s goal is to serve more children when school reopens in the fall. This program is a joint effort amongst ALIVE!, school and community partners.

ALIVE! continues to build relationships with a number of organizations throughout Alexandria to provide food to clients in the weeks between the monthly food distributions. Current partners include Community Lodgings, who receives mid-month food for a number of its clients, and the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority Ruby Tucker Center, where ALIVE! supplies emergency breakfast items for children who spend time at the center during the summer. ALIVE! joined others in the community to provide snacks for children participating in programs at the Durant Recreation and Arts Center during spring break.



Thank you to the Alexandria Lion's Club for hosting a food drive in June at the Bradlee Safeway – and to everyone who donated food! ALIVE!'s Food Program welcomes other groups who wish to organize a food drive this summer or fall!



May was Community Action Month for Alexandria City employees and the Office of Community Services volunteered with ALIVE!

Pictured in the center is Barbara Roberts, ALIVE! volunteer, and (from left to right around Barbara) are Alexandria Department of Human Services - Office of Community Services staff Betsy Hiers, Hope Toye, Elizabeth Dorton, and Genevieve Frey. They packed and delivered emergency food to ten Alexandria households through ALIVE!'s Family Emergency Program. Thank you!



Kingstowne "Stamp Out Hunger Warriors" were key players in collecting food for ALIVE! at the May Postal Service Food Drive. Over 10,000 pounds of food was collected and donated to ALIVE!





MORE THAN 15%
of Alexandria's children
live in poverty.

The **ALIVE! CDC**
gives our preschoolers
the **brightest possible**
start in school and life!



Support the **ALIVE! CHILD
DEVELOPMENT CENTER**
www.alive-inc.org

2016 Nonprofit Board Leader of the Year



Cheryl Malloy, a past president of ALIVE! and very active ALIVE! Board Member was recognized as the 2016 Nonprofit Board Leader of the Year in May at the Alexandria Business Philanthropy Summit sponsored by Volunteer Alexandria.

Congratulations, Cheryl! Thank you!

You are amazing! Thanks to your contributions to **Spring2ACTion**, Alexandria's day of online giving, our preschoolers who face poverty are getting a great start on their education at ALIVE!'s Child Development Center. You are making an incredible difference for children and families at our highly-rated full-day preschool program. Thank you!



**MASON
HIRST**
Foundation

Special thanks to our very generous partner, the Mason Hirst Foundation, who provided a \$10,000 match for your donations, bringing our one-day total to more than \$20,000!

WANTED

Furniture Storage Space.

1,000 – 2,000 sq.ft.

ANY ideas or tips,
contact

ALIVE! Furniture Chair,
Mike Mackey

(Furniture@alive-inc.org)

or **ALIVE! Executive Director,**
Diane Charles

(diane.charles@alive-inc.org)



Alexandrians Receiving Food from ALIVE!

Between March 1, 2016 and May 30, 2016

	Households	Individuals
March	606	2,069
April	616	2,117
May	516	1,851

Please consider ALIVE! this year
when making your
United Way/CFC contributions.



CFC
Code:
44658



United Way
Code:
8352

Summer 2016 Calendar

JULY

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

Food Collection: First Agape Baptist Community of Faith, Meade Memorial Episcopal Church, Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church, St. Andrew United Methodist Church, Westminster Presbyterian, St. Rita Catholic Church

Furniture Collection: First Baptist of Alexandria, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Trinity United Methodist Church, Alfred Street Baptist Church

AUGUST

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

Food Collection: Commonwealth Baptist Church, Ebenezer Baptist Church, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Third Baptist Church, Washington Street United Methodist Church

Furniture Collection: Downtown Baptist Church, Alfred Street Baptist Church, Agudas Achim Congregation

SEPTEMBER

13 ALIVE! Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 323 S. Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

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

Food Collection: Agudas Achim Congregation, Alfred Street Baptist Church, Beverly Hills United Methodist Church, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Fairlington United Methodist Church, Old Presbyterian Meeting House, Church of St. Clement, Spiritual Assembly of Baha'is, Unitarian Universalist Church

Furniture Collection: Fairlington United Methodist Church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

ALIVE!
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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 44 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



Addressing the **basic need for food is woven throughout ALIVE!'s programs.** Whether we are providing emergency food to people who are hungry, feeding nutritious meals and snacks to the children in our preschool, partnering with our schools to send home weekend care bags with students, or preparing women at ALIVE! House to be able to feed their families...food is a most basic building block for a good day, a step forward, and a brighter future.