

ALIVE! Wire

Holiday 2017



Alleviating Hunger In Alexandria

Hunger is a reality in the City of Alexandria. It knows no boundaries. One out of five Alexandrians struggles to put food on their tables. Given the high cost of living in our region and limited affordable housing, low-income Alexandrians are often faced with making nutritional sacrifices for themselves and their children. For these families and other Alexandrians living with food insecurity, ALIVE!'s volunteers, partners, supporters and donors are working diligently to ensure that children, families and individuals have access to free, nutritious food items. It is an effort that takes place 365 days a year through ALIVE!'s four food assistance programs.

Working with ALIVE! teaches you not to judge others. We all have our own personal and unique stories. A bag of groceries can do more than fight hunger. For some of our neighbors, that bag of food means a family can avoid eviction or cover an unexpected medical expense or pay for childcare or a buy a winter coat.

Recent stories about childhood hunger help raise awareness of the issue, but don't always share the details about efforts in the community and how to access free, nutritious food. Each and every day, ALIVE! and our partners are working in the community to get food to Alexandrians suffering from hunger.

If you or someone you know is living with food insecurity, or if you would like to support the ALIVE! Food Program, please contact us at info@alive-inc.org or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/alive4alexandria.



In September and October, over 4,000 Alexandrians received food through Last Saturday Food Distribution – including 1,520 children and their families.

In response to referrals from case managers and ALIVE! partners, volunteers make weekly home deliveries of groceries to seniors, individuals with disabilities and households in need.

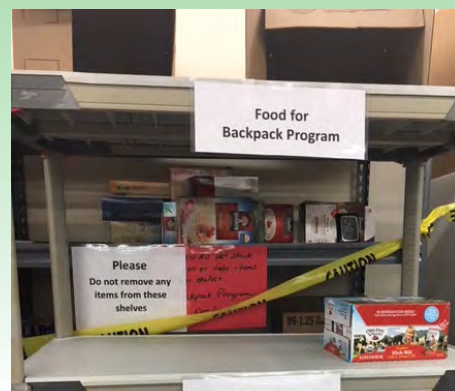


Every Saturday, Furniture volunteers deliver bags of groceries along with donated furniture.



During the school year, ALIVE! partners with Alexandria City Public Schools to provide weekend food for students and their families.

ALIVE! delivers thousands of pounds of food each week to community partners for on-site distributions.



Message from the President & Executive Director

Patrick Anderson and Diane L. Charles

As we approach the end of 2017 and look forward to the opportunities and challenges of 2018, it is good to reflect on what is truly important.

Serving the most vulnerable in our midst has been ALIVE!'s mission for more than 48 years. Always at the forefront is keeping our eye on what really matters – our children, our families, our neighbors. Being a caring community, it is what those who came before us and those of you who continue to support us know to be true.

The fight to alleviate suffering from poverty and hunger begins with community. It begins with us. Serving together, we can put food on tables, keep roofs over heads and utilities on, help meet medical and other emergency needs, and work to break the cycle of poverty by providing educational opportunities and transitional housing for at-risk families.

Thank you for so generously joining ALIVE! in our important work. Through your selfless donations of time, talent and treasures, we are able to serve Alexandrians who are lacking the most basic necessities of life - food, shelter, essential services and educational opportunities. Together, we are changing lives and creating stronger futures.

On behalf of the children, families and individuals we serve, all at ALIVE! thank you and wish you a blessed holiday season and a joyous new year.



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 Wish List

- Laundry Detergent
- Diapers - size 5, 6 and pull ups
- Bathroom and Kitchen cleaners
- Body wash/soap
- Feminine products

Donations or Questions:

Please contact

*Amanda at (703) 684-1430 or
alivehousedir@alive-inc.org.*

Back to School means it's time to update your Harris Teeter *Together In Education* donations!

Simply give the cashier your VIC Card and the CDC's *Together In Education* code (#6383) during checkout or go to harristeeter.com and click on "*Together in Education*." It is as simple as that.

ALIVE! Child Development Center Code: #6383.



Your donations to the ALIVE! Food Program make a huge difference in the fight against hunger in the City of Alexandria. In October and November, more than 41,000 pounds of food was donated through community drives. Thank you to the following groups for their support!

Agenda Alexandria

Agudas Achim Congregation
 Alexandria County Day School
 Alfred Street Baptist Church
 The City of Alexandria
 Alexandria Renew Enterprises
 The 42nd Alexandria Turkey Trot
 Beth El Hebrew Congregation
 Beverley Hills Church Preschool
 First Christian Church of Alexandria
 Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church
 Boy Scouts "Scouting for Food"
 Bright Start Learning Center
 Campbell Wealth Management
 Carlyle Tower Condominiums
 Church of St. Clement
 Christ Church
 Convergence
 DASH
 Del Ray Business Association
 Del Ray Farmers' Market
 Downtown Baptist Church
 Episcopal High School
 Emmanuel Episcopal Church
 Fairlington Presbyterian Church
 Fairlington United Methodist Church

Food Rescue US

Francis Hammond Middle School
 Giant – Duke Street
 Giant – Potomac Yards
 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
 Hunger Is
 Islamic Relief USA
 Keller Williams
 Lerner Excelsior Tower
 Olympus Condominiums
 Parkside at Alexandria
 Port City Brewery
 Safeway – King Street
 Safeway – Royal Street
 Safeway – Van Dorn
 SHRM
 St. Rita Catholic Church
 St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School
 T.C. Williams Titan Robotics Team
 TEGNA/WUSA9
 Trinity United Methodist Church
 Volunteer Alexandria
 Whole Foods Market – Old Town
 Westminster Presbyterian Church
 Westminster Presbyterian Preschool



Thank you to our generous 2017 sponsors!

COMMUNITY CHAMPION SPONSOR

Jen Walker Team

SPREAD KINDNESS BUILD COMMUNITY

TUREEN SPONSORS



Kim & Patrick Anderson • Allison DiNardo • Micheline Eyraud

BOWL SPONSORS



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church • Westminster Presbyterian Church

LADLE SPONSORS



**Beverly Hills Community United Methodist Church • Cindy & Keith Davis • Jean S. Moore
Patty Sheetz • Leslie & Craig Stevens • West Masonic View Friends Group**

SPOON SPONSORS

**Clarke & Sampson • Commonwealth Baptist Church • Emmanuel Episcopal Church • Fiske Law Group, PLLC
Marcia & Tom Fulham • The Goodhart Group • Kiwanis Club of Alexandria
KWC Certified Public Accountants • Meridian Imaging • St. Joseph Catholic Church**

BOWL ARTISTS



THANKSGIVING



VENUE



PRINTING



Thank you for making the 3rd Annual Empty Bowls Alexandria a huge success! Over \$66,000 was raised - exceeding 2016 revenues by more than 40% - with all proceeds providing direct support for Alexandrians living in poverty and with hunger through ALIVE!'s programs.

The event's success was made possible by the support of the Alexandria community, including our sponsors, donors and volunteers. Attendees at the sold-out event, which took place on Saturday, November 18th at the Durant Arts Center in Old Town Alexandria, received ceramic bowls handcrafted by artists from the Alexandria Clay CO-OP and Northern Virginia Community College - Alexandria Fine Arts Department before enjoying a simple supper of soup, BBQ sliders, bread and desserts donated by local restaurants and bakeries. At the end of the evening, guests kept their bowls as a reminder of the need they were filling in our community. Music was provided by the T.C. Williams High School Jazz Band.



Thank you to the following businesses for their generous support of the 3rd Annual
Empty Bowls Alexandria



Balducci's
The Fresh Market
Giant
Harris Teeter
Safeway
Trader Joe's
Zoe's Kitchen



ALIVE! House Mural Project:

Transforming environments into places of joy, healing and hope

By Stephanie Mass

"The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." – Frederick Buechner

I found my calling and great joy as a school social worker, but when worsening illness required me to step back from that work, I felt adrift. What I've come to realize is that my calling and giftings have not changed; it's the format of the expression that needs to shift. One of my gifts is facilitating connections.

Because of this, a couple of years ago, I was inspired to deepen the connection between Convergence and ALIVE! I began a monthly food collection at our church. Then, last summer, I prepared a short presentation about the various ministries of ALIVE! and shared this with our congregation. Rodney Blake took up the mantle as congregational representative, and as Convergence has been more involved with ALIVE!, we've learned more about how we can apply our giftings through partnership with other local non-profits to benefit the community. For me, helping to link Convergence with ALIVE! has been part of the new expression of God's gifts in my life, and I've been gratified to see this alliance blossom and take unique shape.

With Convergence's focus on the arts, painting a mural in the playroom at the ALIVE! House, a shelter for women and children in Alexandria, was a perfect way to use the giftings of Convergence's many talented artists to bring joy to children in need. Accomplished painter, Lynne Heiser Blake, with help from her step-daughter, Delaney, designed the whimsical mural and then involved other artists from the Convergence community. Kate Ingram, Jordan Ingram, Gwyneth Kiehl, Matthew Kiehl, Diana Pregoner, her daughter Chloe, Rodney Blake and Jay Smith all assisted in completing the mural.

The Convergence artists not only enjoyed the process of painting the mural, we hope that adding this element of beauty to the ALIVE! House will nurture the spirits of all who inhabit the space. I am personally thankful to have had the opportunity, along with the Convergence community, to use my gifts to serve the women and children of the ALIVE! House in a unique way.



"People need love, fun and beauty in their lives not just food and shelter. We hope the children see the mural as a gift and that it can help show them that they too are a gift, cherished and valuable, in case there is any doubt."

-Matthew and Gwyneth Kiehl

To learn more about Convergence, A Creative Community of Faith, visit

ourconvergence.org Facebook: www.facebook.com/VergeNow Twitter: twitter.com/VergeNow

Falling Into A New School Year



The 2017-2018 school year is off to a great start at the ALIVE! Child Development Center (CDC)! It is such a thrilling time as friends – new and old – prepare for a year of new experiences, activities and adventures. We are blessed by strong participation from this year's parents and families.

“Back to School Night” was a great success with parents, family members, students and staff full of excitement for the year ahead. On October 19th, there was a great showing at our first “Parent Circle Meeting”. Hosted by the Virginia Cooperative Extension, this program was focused on good nutrition and healthy habits. Follow-up to the meeting includes four cooking classes for our parents and families!

One of our favorite fall traditions is our annual field trip to Cox Farms. Friday the 13th was a perfect day for our students as they enjoyed hayrides, corn mazes, farm animals, singing, dancing and picking pumpkins – and napping on the bus on the way back to school. The adventure was made all the more fun by the parents and grandparents who joined us as chaperones.

Our amazing Fall adventures continued with another CDC favorite – our annual Halloween parade and celebration at Woodbine Rehabilitation and Health Care Center. Our students, dressed in their Halloween costumes, paraded next door and through the halls at Woodbine collecting lots of treats and smiles from the residents and staff.



ALIVE!

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ALIVE! Wire



Founded in 1969, ALIVE! is the largest and oldest private social safety net for Alexandrians living in poverty. Our work focuses on four areas: Food, Shelter, Emergency Help and Education.

Contact ALIVE! at
(703) 837-9321
E-mail: info@alive-inc.org
www.alive-inc.org
[@alive4alexVA](https://fb.com/alive4alexandria)



Your tax-deductible gifts to ALIVE! have an immediate impact – providing food, shelter, emergency help and education for at-risk Alexandrians.

**To donate on-line,
visit www.alive-inc.org or
call (703) 837-9321.**



**United Way #8352
CFC #44658**

