

ALIVE! Wire

SPRING 2017



Investing in Alexandria's Future

Meet Kathie Boling, our new Child Development Center Director



After 35 years in North and South Carolina, Kathie Boling, has returned to her hometown to serve as the director of the ALIVE! Child Development Center (CDC). She brings to ALIVE! 36 years of early education and child care experience. She happily spends

parents, siblings, friends and volunteers.

Why is the CDC so important to the Alexandria community?

We are meeting the needs of a unique population through our full-time, year-round preschool for low-income, working families. Our doors open at 6:45am and close at 5:45pm. At the CDC, there is a sliding fee scale that is supplemented by the ALIVE! CDC tuition assistance program which is funded 100% by donations from the community. This is a program designed for families who might not otherwise be able to access quality early education. It is a gateway to a brighter, stronger future.

her days looking after the care and education of 30 amazing three- and four- year olds and managing a staff of seven dedicated professionals.

What makes the CDC so special?

The CDC was founded in 1972 by a group of working mothers who needed affordable childcare. More than four decades later, we continue to provide the highest quality early education and childcare for Alexandria children from low-income families. The program has been recognized for its excellence with national accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and consistent four star quality ratings from the Virginia Star Quality Initiative.

The CDC isn't a "one size fits all" program. All of our parents are either employed or enrolled in educational programs. We celebrate Alexandria's diversity and promote learning that reflects this value. Our students represent 16 different countries – and speak 10 different languages! On Multicultural Festival Night, families shared their favorite dishes, special customs and dress. It was an evening of fun and fellowship shared by students, staff,



What does the CDC tuition assistance program mean to CDC families?

One hundred percent of our families receive tuition assistance. While some families may have access to child care subsidy funds, these government funds are declining and are not available to all. The gap between what our families can afford to pay and what it costs to provide

this program is significant and growing. All parents and families want their children to start kindergarten ready to succeed and reach their full potential. The tuition assistance program makes that a reality. I am looking forward to thanking the CDC's supporters in-person at this year's StepALIVE! Walkathon!

What is a day like at the CDC?

Busy, noisy and interactive. Every day is filled with exploration, individual learning and group activities in a safe, healthy and enriching learning



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Important Community Message from the President & Executive Director

Patrick Anderson and Diane Charles

“Neighbors Helping Neighbors”

The timing of the March 4th launch of “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” at the Giant Food store on Duke Street could not have come at a more critical time. The in-kind, store-based, giving campaign is the result of ALIVE!’s most recent strategic partnership to address hunger relief in Alexandria. In just four short days, our community responded to the new campaign with Giant shopping carts and “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” boxes overflowing with much needed food donations. Within one week, these items were already being included in food deliveries to households and to partner sites across Alexandria.

There are many ways to serve our community. For the ALIVE! Founders, it was the vision of a community coming together to care for its most vulnerable residents. Forty-eight years later and that vision remains our guiding principle. Not only providing food, but offering financial assistance for rent and utilities, ensuring that preschool and childcare is accessible to low-income, working families, giving shelter and support to homeless mothers and their children, and facilitating furniture and housewares donations.

At a heightened time of uncertainty for so many, ALIVE! stands strong in our commitment to leadership in serving our neighbors in need. We will do so by staying true to our mission and to our existing programs. And, we will do so with the knowledge that ALIVE! is not a stand-alone organization. We are a community of neighbors dedicated to service and to helping our fellow citizens.

With your support, we will continue our role in Alexandria with programs that provide valuable – and often life-changing - assistance when resources are stretched or when the unexpected happens. We can do this thanks to partners like Giant and the so many individuals, congregations, businesses, schools and community groups who volunteer or donate funds to ensure ALIVE!’s program implementation and success.

“Neighbors helping Neighbors” truly speaks to the heart of ALIVE! At some point in our lives, most of us have faced difficult circumstances. During a time when essential programs are targeted for elimination, ALIVE! continues to be the organization that our neighbors, City and partners rely on. We are blessed to live in a community that not only cares but rallies to support our most vulnerable neighbors. Together, we are a community strong, compassionate and dedicated to service. Thank you for all you do to support ALIVE! and make our important work possible.

If you have any questions about this article or ALIVE!’s role in our community, contact Diane at diane.charles@alive-inc.org or (703) 837-9320.



Recent ALIVE! Accomplishments

In February 2017, the ALIVE! community achieved the following:

- Distributed 42,369 pounds of food to more than 2,500 individuals
- Celebrated at ALIVE! House as one of our families moved into their own apartment, beginning the successful transition to independent living
- Partnered with Alexandria City Public Schools to hold a Kindergarten Readiness meeting for low-income, working families served by the Child Development Center
- Delivered donated furniture and “welcome” food boxes to 24 households
- Provided emergency financial assistance to 67 families

Food Happenings for ALIVE!

Feeding Our Neighbors

ALIVE! Hunger Relief Efforts in Alexandria



ALIVE! is Alexandria's largest hunger relief organization. We feed over 14,000 individuals annually thanks to the support of our community. With no formal food distribution site, ALIVE!'s strategic partnerships and dedicated volunteers make daily food deliveries possible. One of our newest delivery sites is Brent Place in the West End. In March, ALIVE! delivered approximately 2,020 pounds of food to 65 families (119 adults and 101 children). We were asked to share some of the residents' stories – and their gratitude - with you.

"I have a disability. I live with my mother, and my mother is disabled too. The food helps me and my mother a lot. I am very thankful with ALIVE! for that support. Without ALIVE!, I feel worried I would not have money for food".

Family of two; an adult child and parent with disabilities

"The food is very helpful. I am disabled, another adult in our household is disabled and my son doesn't have a job. The food is very, very helpful. I don't know what I would do without it. I hope the food will continue. I have no car, and I don't drive, so it's convenient to have the food delivered to Brent Place".

Family of five; three adults and two grandchildren

"I clean houses. Sometimes I have only a little money when I find houses to clean. That's the only money I have. Right now I have no work. The help from ALIVE! for

me and the kids I'm really thankful with ALIVE! If you analyze what I spend money on, it's food. Especially when I don't have money, the food is important because it compliments some things I can find. It also helps me directly. Amalia (note: City of Alexandria employee Amalia Quinones) allows me to volunteer, it allows me to be connected to families who receive the food. I feel it's a privilege to help give out the food. With a little money we can get meat, oil, or chicken to go with the food. It can last 20 days. The ALIVE! food is great help".

Family of three; single mother with two children, ages five and nine years

One out of five of Alexandria's are struggling to put food on their table. For more information on ALIVE's hunger relief efforts or to join us in our important work, contact us at info@alive-inc.org or (703) 837- 9321.



Right, Giant Food Manager Garrison Miller and Diane Charles celebrating the "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" campaign launch

Student Leaders In Action

We wanted to take a moment to send a BIG thank you to our student volunteers! ALIVE! is inspired by your leadership and dedication to community service. Keep up the great work! To volunteer, contact Pat at volunteers@alive-inc.org

Alexandria County Day School
Blessed Sacrament Youth Group
Bishop Ireton
Bishop O'Connell
Boy Scout Troop 129
Brownie Troop 2602
Capitals Academy
Crew 129
Episcopal High School
Girl Scout Troop 4737
The Madeira School
T.C. Williams High School



Volunteers from T.C. Williams High School at February's Last Saturday Food Distribution



Delegate Mark Levine during his recent visit to the CDC



“Meet Kathie Boling, our new CDC Director”

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environment. Our guiding belief is that children learn best in a loving and nurturing environment. We provide a developmentally appropriate program that encompasses the social, emotional, cognitive, physical, language and creative growth of each child. In the classroom or on the playground, the emphasis is always on knowing and responding to each child's learning style and building on individual strengths, interests, and needs.

Our weekly lesson plans promote language development, literacy and math skills and we have a full-time, on-site social worker who offers many and varied services to support our children and their families for success in transitioning to kindergarten and beyond. Our healthy and nutritious breakfast, lunch and snacks are served family-style and meet the USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program standards.

We are so fortunate to have wonderful volunteers. On Thursdays, after naptime, you will hear cheers of delight when “Mr. Bud” arrives for his weekly reading time. We recently had a very special guest during “Circle Time”. Delegate Mark Levine returned from Richmond and joined us for an “Al's Pals: Kids Making Healthy Choices” activity. The children were so excited to welcome him and had *many* questions for him.

What do you LOVE about working at the CDC?

I am humbled and honored to join the ALIVE! Family. Each and every day is filled with children exploring, laughing and learning. Along with the joy of being with 30 preschoolers, is the awesome responsibility to support our dedicated staff.

Each moment, whether it is giggling with a child while reading a book or providing positive redirection for challenging behavior or meeting with a family about their needs, is a gift for me. It's been almost 20 years since I worked in a classroom. After working in supervisory positions and as a Specialist Contractor with the Office of Child Care at the U.S. Administration of Children and Families, I feel like I am back where I belong – *working directly with the children*. This is where reality is our future.

To find out more or to support the CDC, please join us on May 7th for the 36th Annual StepALIVE! Walkathon

Attention ALIVE! Member Congregations!

Are ALIVE!'s Upcoming Events & Volunteer Opportunities on your website?

Are you following us on Facebook and Twitter?

We want to keep your congregations up-to-date and informed on our important partnership. Please contact Geof Caldwell, Communications Chair, at communications@alive-inc.org.



fb.com/alive4alexandria



[@alive4alexVA](https://twitter.com/alive4alexVA)



Walk for Alexandria's Children!

Since 1972, the ALIVE! Child Development Center (CDC) has provided high-quality early education and day care to children from low-income, working families. Now more than ever, Alexandria's children and families need our help. We hope you'll join the community in supporting them at the 36th annual StepALIVE! Walkathon.



365 days a year, ALIVE! provides emergency food and financial assistance, access to high-quality early childhood education and care, shelter for homeless mothers and their children, and furniture and housewares for struggling individuals and families. In 2016, ALIVE! served **14,000 Alexandrians.**

WHEN: Sunday, May 7, 2017
2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

WHERE: Start/End point at
First Christian Church
2723 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22302

WHAT: **5K or 5-Mile stroll** through Old Town Alexandria followed by a picnic of food, music and fun at the CDC

WHY: **90% of our current families receive tuition assistance.** StepALIVE! helps provide the funding that puts top-notch, accredited early education and day care within reach for those who couldn't otherwise afford it.

HOW: Register as a walker, form a team or make a donation and join us on Sunday, May 7th.

Register online at www.alive-inc.org or onsite at StepALIVE!

REGISTRATION FEES:

\$25 Individual Walker

\$10 Youth 12 – 18 and Seniors 70+

FREE Children under 12

Virtual Walkers are welcome!



ALIVE!, INC.
2723 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302
703-837-9321 info@alive-inc.org

www.alive-inc.org

fb.com/alive4alexandria • [@alive4alexVA](https://twitter.com/alive4alexVA)



Register ONLINE at www.ALIVE-Inc.org or on site at the StepALIVE!

“When Can I Visit Your School?”

ALIVE! House Resident Shautrice Visits Howard University

By Pharrah Poliard, ALIVE! House Resident Manager

“When can I visit your school?” was the persistent chant of an 8 year old girl who was desperate for something more. Shautrice is no ordinary 8 year old. A current resident of ALIVE! House, along with her mother and two younger brothers, pride graces her steps toward greatness. She is a leader and she knows it. She tackles school like a wrestler and plays her role as big sister with courage and cool! She is relentless in her pursuit of a future that is more than what her reality might appear to offer. My own conviction to help this little lady to see a future beyond her current life grew more intense with each request to visit my alma mater. When the opportunity arrived, I jumped on it. I told Shautrice that we would be going on a tour of Howard University in Washington, D.C. Amongst her gasps, “oohs”, and, “ahhs”, Shautrice was grateful. She loaded me with questions that provided glimpses of her future goals.

Our ride to my old university was filled with laughs. When we arrived, I realized her tiny feet were now gracing the very path that I walked for years. A path that afforded me great opportunities, let alone two degrees. During our visit, Shautrice posed for many pictures and read every sign she laid her eyes on. It was her day and she embraced it. She was all smiles as we made memories that will last a lifetime. To commemorate this special day, Shautrice picked out a Howard hat and an inspirational journal at the gift shop. During our journey, we caught a glimpse of Michelle Obama leaving a gym on Georgia Avenue. Who knows, maybe someday, Shautrice will be the one providing the tour for someone who shares her passion for something more.

Thanks to ALIVE!, we think she will.

The 2017 Sidewalk Sale to benefit ALIVE! House will be held on Saturday, May 20th. For more information or to make a donation, contact us at info@alive-inc.org or (703) 837-9321.

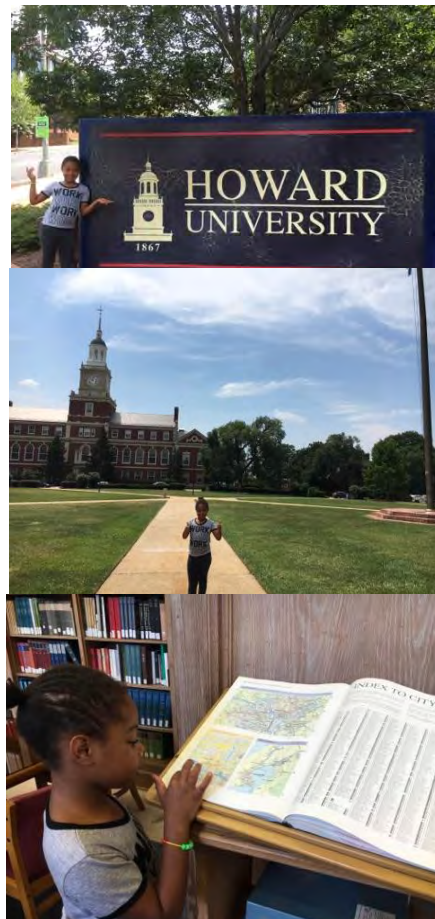


Photo credit: Pharrah Poliard

ALIVE! House Wish List

- Diapers: Sizes 4 – 6 and Pull-Ups
- Baby Wipes
- Trash Bags
- Bathroom and Kitchen Cleaners
- Laundry Detergent
- Soap
- Shampoo and Conditioner
- Feminine Products
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Smart Trip Cards

Donations? Please call Amanda at (703) 684-1430 or email alivehousedir@alive-inc.org.



Photo credit: Genesis Andia

ALIVE! DELIVERS***Furniture Program Stories from the Road***

On Sunday, March 12th, the ALIVE! Furniture Program volunteers were up bright and early for a day filled with pick-ups and deliveries. Mike Mackey shares a heartwarming story from the road.

“Our schedule of pick-ups and drop-offs included the delivery of a nice mattress. Our coordinator had contacted the potential recipient, who, upon learning that she would be receiving a mattress, cried and expressed her incredible gratitude. She had had a stroke some time ago and was struggling with her

current situation. Earlier that day, our volunteers picked up some items, including a shower chair. While shower chairs are rarely requested, we decided to accept it that day. And, low and behold, while dropping off the mattress, we found someone who desperately needed one. We were greeted by the recipient and her impressive 18-year old grandson. Yes, indeed, she would love to have that shower chair. She explained that the one she had was insufficient and she had been looking for a new one. She told us that the new shower chair would increase her mobility and independence. She was so grateful and could not believe that we had one. Me, neither.”

In February, our Furniture Ministry volunteers delivered donated furniture and “welcome” food boxes to 24 households!!



Photo credit: Genesis Andia

Furniture Donations and Requests?**Read This Important Update:**

To increase efficiency, ALL furniture donations and referrals must be made via email at furniture@alive-inc.org. ALIVE! Furniture Program volunteers will no longer receive voice mail messages.

After receipt of an email, volunteers will use email and phone to coordinate. We are already seeing a difference in our ability to perform the coordinating function. During the transition process, we will have one volunteer checking the old voice mail system, but things are moving ahead electronically. If you have any questions, please call – oh, wait! – no, please email us at furniture@alive-inc.org.

SPRING 2017 Calendar**APRIL**

5 Spring2ACtion: Please Support ALIVE! <https://spring2action.razoo.com/story/Alive-30>

26 Port City Brewery Event: www.portcitybrewing.com

29 Last Saturday Food Distribution: Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center, and Ladrey Senior Hi-Rise
Food Collection: First Christian Church of Alexandria, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, OPMH, St. Joseph Catholic Church, Trinity United Methodist Church, Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington

Furniture Collection: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Grace Episcopal Church, Christ Church, First Baptist Church,

MAY

2 ALIVE! Board Meeting: 6:30PM, Saint Rita Catholic Church, 3815 Russell Road, Alexandria, VA 22305

7 The 36th annual StepALIVE! Walkathon

20 ALIVE! House Sidewalk Sale

27 Last Saturday Food Distribution: Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center, and Ladrey Senior Hi-Rise
Food Collection: Agudas Achim Congregation, Christ Church, Church of the Resurrection, Fairlington United Methodist Church, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Grace Episcopal Church

Furniture Collection: Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, Westminster Presbyterian Church

JUNE

6 ALIVE! Board Meeting: 6:30 PM, Washington Street Methodist Church, 109 S. Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314

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

Food Collection: Blessed Sacrament, Church of God and Saints Sixteenth Tabernacle, Community Praise Center, Convergence Community, Immanuel Church-On-the-Hill, St. Mary Catholic Church

Furniture Collection: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Washington Street United Methodist Church, Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington

ALIVE!
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www.alive-inc.org
E-mail: info@alive-inc.org

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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, and Child Development Center. Contact ALIVE! at (703)837-9300
E-mail: info@alive-inc.org
www.alive-inc.org

ALIVE! Needs Your HELP!! Wednesday, April 5th 12:01AM - 11:59PM

<https://spring2action.razoo.com/story/Alive-30>

ALIVE! has been blessed to receive \$15,500 in 2017 Spring2ACTion matching funds. We need your help to ensure that we receive these funds. Please make a tax-deductible donation to ALIVE! through Spring2ACTion on April 5th.

We **must raise \$15,500** to match these funds.

All donations go directly back into our community. \$31,000 equals life-changing assistance for our neighbors in need.



Please ask your friends, family, neighbors and colleagues to join you in supporting ALIVE!



What if we all gave on one day?

— WEDNESDAY —

APRIL 5, 2017

www.Spring2ACTion.org