

ALIVE! Wire

WINTER 2017



ALIVE! Empty Bowls Alexandria a Community Success!

Thank you to more than 170 members of the community who attended ALIVE!'s second Empty Bowls Alexandria fundraiser on Saturday, November 12, raising more than \$47,000 to support ALIVE!'s food distribution and delivery programs. Each attendee selected a handmade bowl donated by the Northern Virginia Community College Alexandria Fine Arts Department and the Alexandria Clay Co-op Studio.

Fifteen restaurants participated in providing the meal of soup, bread and dessert – with a special addition this year of barbecue sliders. Guests enjoyed music provided by Provázek Quartet from George Washington Middle School and Minnie Howard campus of T. C. Williams High School, and Ein Lanu Z'man from Agudas Achim Congregation.

ALIVE!'s Executive Director, Diane Charles, spoke briefly that evening and recounted a recent experience: "Just two weeks ago, I had visitors arrive at the office late in the afternoon. A Mom, Dad and their two adorable young daughters came to my office – in search of food sources. Having been in the City and likely this country for just two months, they were in need and clearly still learning their way around. Fortunately, just two days later was ALIVE!'s Last Saturday Food Distribution program, that I was grateful to share with them. In fact, one of our sites is located near their apartment. But, I'll never forget the look on Dad's face when I said this food was available once a month. As was obvious to me, at this point in their life, this was not going to meet their full need." The need is real – and the assistance makes a difference.

ALIVE! thanks the many business, corporate, congregation and personal sponsors who supported Empty Bowls, among them The Jennifer L. Walker Realtor Team, Kim and Patrick Anderson, Whole Foods Market – Old Town, Wells Fargo, King Street Wireless and John Marshall Bank.

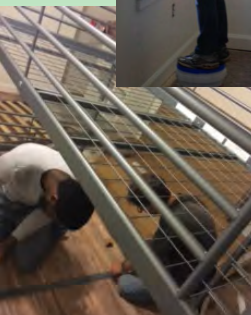
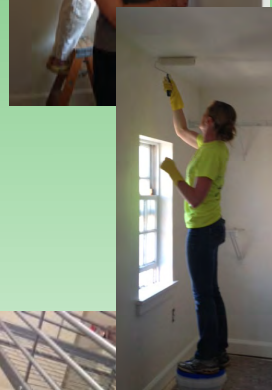
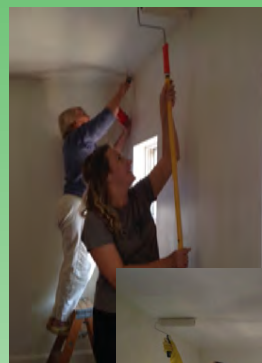
The rising cost of living in Alexandria means that more and more families are making nutritional sacrifices for themselves and their children just to make ends meet. ALIVE! is grateful to have joined together as a community to make a significant contribution to hunger programs that are responding to the needs of these families.



ALIVE! House Renovations Underway

Thank you to all the volunteers who came out November 18th and 19th to begin the first bedroom renovation for ALIVE! House. The renovation involves painting, new flooring and new furniture. The first completed room looks amazing, and there is much more space for the family!

ALIVE! House received a grant from the Philip L. Graham Fund to make improvements to all the bedrooms at ALIVE! House, as well as other upgrades in the house. The other updates at ALIVE! House include the purchase of new refrigerators and oven ranges on both floors. In the next few months, similar renovations will be completed for each bedroom. If you are interested in volunteering or learning more, please contact Amanda Isaac at alivehousedir@alive-inc.org to get more information.



ALIVE! House Wish List

Laundry detergent
Trash bags
Cleaners – bathroom and kitchen
Bleach
Diapers – sizes 3 – 6 and pull-ups
Baby wipes
Baby wash
Baby lotion
Soap
Shampoo/Conditioner
Feminine products
Toilet paper
Dish soap
If you are able to donate any of these items, please call ALIVE! House (703-684-1430) or email alivehousedir@alive-inc.org.

Message from the President and Executive Director

Patrick Anderson and Diane Charles

Moving out of a shelter and into an apartment must be an exhilarating experience. It is likely also a bit frightening. With self-sufficiency comes the high cost of living, especially in a city like Alexandria. **ALIVE!'s Furniture Program** exists to support people who are moving forward, but still need some assistance. Gratefully accepting donated furniture to give to those who need it the most is the foundation of **ALIVE!'s Furniture Program**. In partnership with generous Alexandrians who donate their beds, dressers, chairs and dining tables, ALIVE! coordinates volunteers, truck drivers, the routes and the schedules to match those who give - to those who need, reaching as many as 24 clients a month. The stories are endless, but this one symbolizes the true value of this program:

A family was ready to let go of no longer needed bunk beds. After the volunteers picked up the bunk beds, they arrived at the apartment of a grandmother and her two grandsons. There was a couch, but no beds. Grandma was sleeping on the couch and the young boys were on the floor. Imagine the look on the faces of the young boys when they saw bunk beds and realized they would be sleeping in them that night! It was a perfect match: bunk beds no longer needed by one family and two young boys no longer sleeping on the floor.

Each week, ALIVE!'s Furniture Program is filling critical needs. Currently operating without warehouse space to store donated furniture, the program is limited. ALIVE! can only accept donated furniture that is needed *that particular week*. Warehouse space to store donated furniture is in great need – to enable the Furniture Program to function in its most effective way. We are seeking a minimum of 1000 square feet of warehouse space and up to as much as 6000 square feet. Access to the space is needed for a multitude of volunteers who deliver furniture (in and out with ALIVE! trucks) and for volunteer coordinators, who assess inventory on a weekly basis. A loading dock is ideal, but accessible warehouse space is the key need at this time. If you know of any potential space in the City of Alexandria, such as a vacant building or an unused warehouse, please contact us. Share this need with your congregation, your neighbors, your real estate agent and your colleagues. Talk it up in your community – and wherever you go in Alexandria – so we can find a place to ensure that the Furniture Program can operate at its full potential. Do what *you* can to help us get the word out about this warehouse need!

Working together with the Alexandria community, ALIVE! will continue to facilitate the support that is so essential to helping our neighbors in need who are making positive strides and moving forward.



Meet new Congregational Representatives to ALIVE!'s Board

Brenda Bickel became the congregational representative for Washington Street United Methodist Church in the spring of 2016. During a 44 year membership at Foundry United Methodist Church in Washington DC, she was active in helping develop a homeless mission and a transitional residence for formerly homeless women. Serving the 'last and the least' is still among her concerns. Relocating to Alexandria five years ago, she considers herself very fortunate to have found a like-minded church in WSUMC and to be the ALIVE! representative. Brenda is a retired social worker, loves biking the town and is a very proud grandmother of two.

Bridget Gaddis and her husband Sanjay, both longtime Bahais, have been living in Alexandria since 2011. Her son and his family live in Cleveland, but that does not prevent her two grandsons, 6 and 8, from making frequent visits. She is a registered architect with a small practice in Old Town, a member of the American Institute of Architects, and writes a blog about architectural subjects. She is participating in ALIVE! as an alternate representative of the Local Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Alexandria who have been longtime supporters since ALIVE!'s earliest days.

**Thank you ALIVE!
Volunteers**

**We hope that volunteering
with ALIVE! in 2017 will
be one of your New Year's
Resolutions!**

**Volunteers have been an
important part of delivering
ALIVE!'s programs throughout
2016! Your participation
helped many in our community
to have a better quality of
life. The next Last Saturday
Food Distribution is January
28th! To sign-up contact:
Volunteers@alive-inc.org!**

Food Happenings for ALIVE!



- The annual **Boy Scout Scouting For Food** event on November 12th was a resounding success, resulting in a whopping 11,810 pounds of food collected and donated to ALIVE! food assistance efforts. Sorting that incredible amount of food was only possible with the outstanding support of the Phi Nu Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the Xi Alpha Lambda Chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and the Public Health Service.

- Thanks to **Jack Taylor Toyota** for conducting a very visible and effective food drive for ALIVE!'s food programs! Their goal to the **Fill The Tacoma** came true as they collected 600 pounds of groceries and donated them to ALIVE!



- Cheers for Port City! **Port City Brewing** conducted their second monthly food collection for ALIVE! at Giant Grocery Store on Duke Street in Alexandria in November where they gathered a total of 698 pounds of food.



- The Stone Wood Team of Keller Williams Realty** worked with ALIVE! to put together 82 Thanksgiving Baskets that went to families in need in Alexandria. Also partnering in this generous holiday project was JK Moving, who picked up the 75 turkeys that were donated by Poor Roberts Charity. A true collaboration made for a Happy Thanksgiving for 82 families!



Thank you to our generous 2016 sponsors!

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ANDERSON**

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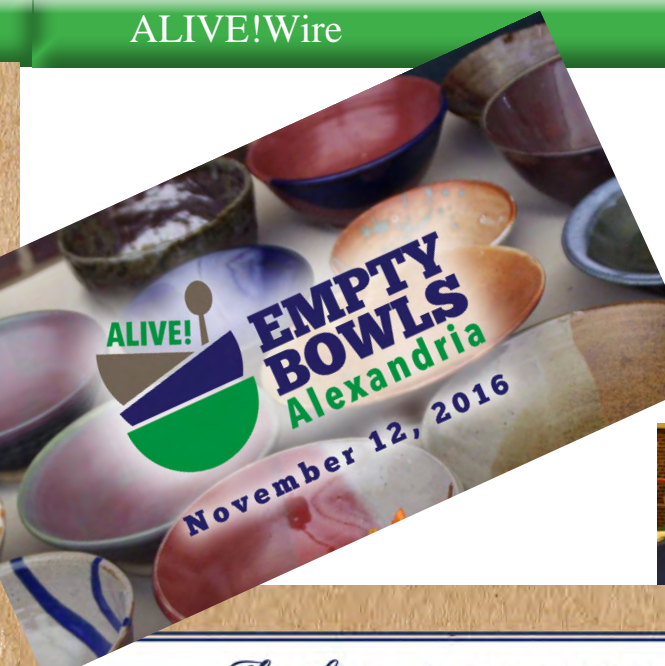
Alexandria Fine Arts Department



**ALEXANDRIA CLAY
CO-OP**



#EmptyBowlsAlexandria



*Thank you to our generous
2016 Restaurant Sponsors!*



TAVERNA CRETEKOU



#EmptyBowlsAlexandria



CDC Celebrates “Miss Carrie”

On November 11, Carrie Diggins, known affectionately as “Miss Carrie” to students and parents, celebrated 25 years with the ALIVE! Child Development Center. Hired in 1991 to teach two and a half year olds, she subsequently became the lead teacher in the three-year old classroom. For the last nine years, Ms. Carrie has been preparing four-year olds for kindergarten and doing a wonderful job of it.



Anyone who enters Ms. Carrie’s classroom knows that much purposeful, fun-filled activity is taking place. Happy, engaged students are involved in a variety of positive learning experiences, all under Ms. Carrie’s quiet but firm guidance. Each year, her Blue Room

students “graduate”, sad to leave the CDC, but ready to tackle the challenges of kindergarten and beyond.

Students and staff celebrated Ms. Carrie’s milestone with a special cake, balloons, gifts and many good wishes. ALIVE! is very grateful to Ms. Carrie for the warm, nurturing care which she has provided to her students over the years and hopes that she will continue to prepare four-year olds for kindergarten for many more years.

Other Happenings at the Center

On September 22, parents of most of the Center’s students attended the annual **Back to School Night**. After a presentation welcoming them and introducing them to the curriculum used at the Center, parents headed to the classrooms where their children’s teachers filled them in on what to expect during the year... On October 12, CDC students, teachers, and many parents made a visit to **Cox Farms** to meet barnyard animals, take a hayride, and choose pumpkins.... On October 20, Pam Blankenship, the former director of the CDC, returned to lead a Parent Circle meeting on “**the Gift of Literacy**,” instructing parents on ways they can work with their children to develop pre-literacy skills.... On October 28, CDC students visited the Woodbine Rehabilitation Center, showing off their Halloween costumes and collecting treats from the residents Vision and speech and hearing screening of students also took place during October.



Furniture Program Serves

A donor may call telephone number 703-837-9300, Option 3 or email at furniture@alive-inc.org and leave the following message: “I have a bed, a table and some other items I would like to donate. Please call me”.

That is how it all begins. ALIVE!’s Furniture Ministry works every week to match the needs of clients with furniture given by very thoughtful, generous ALIVE! donors. The donors are many and the messages are varied, but volunteers aim to return every call and try to secure the items that are needed - as identified by clients. Without a warehouse to store furniture, only those items currently needed can be accepted. Thus the ALIVE! volunteer challenge is to match the immediate needs with the offerings from donors. The program is completely volunteer-operated, including the Program Chair, Mike Mackey, congregational and community volunteers who pick-up and deliver the furniture, the skilled schedulers/matchmakers and the diligent truck drivers.

Referrals for those who are in need, such a family just moving out of a shelter into an apartment, are accepted from social workers, clergy and congregations.



ALIVE!’s Furniture Program is an ongoing partnership between the donors who offer their furniture and the volunteers who are integral to getting the furniture to those who need it most. Both donors and volunteers can be reminded of their impact on individual lives. Case in point: in late November, a *grateful call* came in from a high school student who was pregnant, living with her grandmother and was the recipient of a bed and rocking chair. One generous Alexandrian donated these items and several generous Alexandria volunteers ensured they were delivered to her.

Alexandrians Receiving Food from ALIVE!

Between September 1, 2016 and November 30, 2016

	Households	Individuals
September	528	1,902
October	679	2,335
November(FEP)	67	122



ALIVE! recently said good-bye to Jennifer Greiner, Development Director, as she moved on to a position as Director of the Annual Development Fund at Virginia Theological Seminary. Jennifer has been a key part of ALIVE!'s fundraising for the last 3 ½ years and we wish her well in her new adventure!

Your United Way and Combined Federal Campaign gifts make a difference. You can provide a safety net for people in Alexandria who are struggling to make ends meet by designating #8352 through the United Way or #44658 through the Combined Federal Campaign.



Winter 2017 Calendar

JANUARY

31 ALIVE! Board Meeting, 7:00 PM Agudas Achim Congregation, 2908 Valley Drive, Alexandria 22302

28 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 Catholic Church, First Baptist Church, Emmanuel Episcopal Church

FEBRUARY

25 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, Robert's Memorial UMC, St. Andrew's UMC

Furniture Collection: Beverley Hills Community UMC, Fairlington Presbyterian, OPMH

MARCH

7 ALIVE! Board Meeting, 7:00 PM St. Mary Catholic Church, Lyceum, 313 Duke Street, Alexandria 22314

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

Food Collection: Alfred Street Baptist, Beverley Hills Community UMC, Church of St. Clement, Commonwealth Baptist, St. James UMC, Third Baptist, Washington Street UMC

Furniture Collection: First Agape Baptist, OPMH, Sixteenth Tabernacle

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

ALIVE! Wire

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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



Turkey Trot Runners and DRBA support ALIVE!

The 41st Annual Turkey Trot sponsored by the Del Ray Business Association (DRBA) again supported the work of ALIVE! by donating \$5,000 to ALIVE!'s Food Programs and asking runners to bring nonperishable food. On Thanksgiving morning, ALIVE! volunteers collected over 2,000 pounds of food that will go to those in need in the coming months. ALIVE! appreciates this valuable partnership with DRBA!



ALIVE! Executive Director, Diane Charles, receives \$5,000 check from DRBA Board Member Gayle Reuter.



A youth cohort was "on board" to support ALIVE! in collecting food at the annual Del Ray Business Association Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning. Over 2,000 pounds of food was collected!