



ALIVE! *Wire*

Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically

Winter 2011

Giving Back

One of the most rewarding parts of being the President of ALIVE! is getting to meet and work with the many people who give of their time, talents and treasure to help ALIVE! achieve its vision of alleviating the suffering caused by poverty and dramatically improving the lives of those in need in the City of Alexandria.

I've been amazed at how much time the many program chairs and regular volunteers give to the organization and how generous many donors are with their often limited resources. I've taken the opportunity as President to volunteer in all aspects of ALIVE! and I have found it to be immensely rewarding. I enjoy delivering groceries to families in need each Wednesday. Last Saturday Food Distribution is always an interesting and enjoyable day at Cora Kelly, particularly as I have gotten to know many of the "regulars" who come to receive much-needed food and housewares, despite the weather and the crowds. I often help deliver furniture when it's Good Shepherd's turn and am amazed at the gratitude from the families who need the furniture so desperately. Walking in both the CDC walkathon and the Help the Homeless mini-walks is energizing and tiring and, for some reason, the weather is always just fine and the camaraderie of the walkers most welcome. Serving in the Family Emergency Program office, I have learned so much about the needs of families in Alexandria and the importance of our assistance in keeping families in their homes with their lights on. Even serving on the Development Council and asking people for much-needed funds can be a blessing as you tell the story of ALIVE! and help potential donors understand how important their contributions are to our work.

I guess the biggest surprise to me as I have worked with volunteers in all these areas is how much the volunteers and the donors get out of the experience. I think we get as much or more satisfaction from the work as our clients get out of receiving our assistance. It truly is a blessing to both sides of these activities.

As the holiday season approaches, I'd like to challenge each of you to step up your involvement in the work of ALIVE!. There are numerous opportunities in this newsletter to get involved as a volunteer, and this is certainly a perfect time to become a donor or to increase your commitment to ALIVE!. The ALIVE! family is known as a group that puts our faith and love into action in Alexandria. This is a great time to renew that effort and even increase it. Our neighbors in Alexandria need us and, from my experience, I can tell you that you'll get much more back than you give.



Cheryl Malloy

Virginia Governor Volunteers at ALIVE!

Governor Bob McDonnell helped pack groceries in ALIVE!'s Family Emergency Program offices on September 27 in recognition of Hunger Action Month. The Governor's visit was coordinated with the Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB) as part of the Federation of Virginia Food Banks' invitation to local officials to raise awareness of hunger in their local communities by volunteering. Governor McDonnell grew up in the Alexandria area. The groceries he packed were delivered that afternoon to an Alexandria family in need.

The Governor met with ALIVE! President Cheryl Malloy, Executive Director Ken Naser, Food Program Chair Jean Moore, Board Member Vivian Webb as well as representatives of the CAFB, including Lynn Brantley its President and CEO, to discuss hunger issues and the importance of food banks and volunteer agencies like ALIVE!. "This is what we do well as Americans," the Governor said, "We help each other when people are in need."



Governor McDonnell gets some advice from Food Program Chair Jean Moore about packing groceries for one of ALIVE!'s client families.

Notes from the Executive Director



Ken Naser,
ALIVE!'s Executive Director

ALIVE! Welcomes 42nd Member Congregation

At their November meeting, ALIVE!'s Board of Directors voted to accept the organization's 42nd member congregation. Church of God and Saints of Christ, Sixteenth Tabernacle on Wythe Street in Alexandria was unanimously approved for membership by the ALIVE! Board.

I began talking to members of Sixteenth Tabernacle back in the Spring of 2011 when I was approached by Ms. Nataki MacMurray, a member of the congregation. In June, I met with Pastor James A. Parker, Ms. MacMurray and another trustee of the church to brief them on the many activities of ALIVE! Over the next few months, the trustees, officers and members of the congregation met and decided to seek membership.

In his letter to ALIVE!, Pastor Parker said "I lovingly refer to my congregation as the 'Special Forces' because we are able to deliver results disproportionate to our size. We are a congregation with an abundance of love and respect for God and our fellow man, demonstrated in our commitment to aid suffering humanity." Indeed, even before being voted in, members of the congregation participated in the Fannie Mae Help the Homeless West End mini-walk at Fort Ward Park.

We welcome Sixteenth Tabernacle to ALIVE! and would welcome other Alexandria congregations of any denomination to join us in our interfaith effort to serve the less fortunate within our community.

Contact me at (703) 837-9320 or ExecDirALIVE@aol.com

Ken

Consider joining ALIVE!'s Legacy Society

When you know your children and grandchildren have enough to be taken care of, go to college and start life on the right track, leaving something to those in need provides a great sense of satisfaction. You are creating a legacy of giving and helping. This not only supports the charity immediately upon your death, but it sets an example for others to support charities, donate and work for good causes. Just because you are no longer going to be a part of the world, you can still help to make it a better place for those who you leave behind. For more information, contact our Executive Director, Ken Naser, ExecDirALIVE@aol.com

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



CFC Code:
44658



United Way Code:
8352



ALIVE!
President: Cheryl Malloy, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Vice President: Ellen Brown, Community Representative
Treasurer: Rick Glassco, Immanuel Church-On-The-Hill
Recording Secretary: Eric Winakur, Agudas Achim Congregation
Kenneth D. Naser: Executive Director
Kathy Richards: Editor, ALIVE! Wire

Home Delivery of Emergency Food - Truly a Community Effort!

ALIVE!'s Family Emergency Program (FEP) has dedicated volunteers who, every Monday through Friday, deliver bags of groceries to individuals and families in need in our city. But this year, for the first time in recent memory, volunteers from the business community have become a part of this all-important effort.

In the Spring of 2011, Federal Management Partners, a consulting firm headquartered in Alexandria's West End, which was already giving back to the community in several ways, began volunteering with FEP. Since then, the firm's employees, working in teams of two, deliver our emergency food orders one day each month for which we are, indeed, grateful.

More recently, and in conjunction with Hunger Action Month and an AARP-sponsored food drive to benefit ALIVE!, three employees from AARP's Washington office volunteered at FEP on September 9th, packing and delivering that day's emergency food orders to hungry Alexandrians' homes. After making the deliveries, the three reported how much it meant to them to be able to be a part of this critical program.

Also during September, FEP partnered with ExxonMobil and employees from its Fairfax office which brought much-appreciated manpower and funding to ALIVE!. On September 26th, eight ExxonMobil employees volunteered with

FEP, delivering emergency food to 19 low income families referred to us for help. Those volunteers received many hugs and "God Bless You's" from the recipients and came away from the experience with a renewed awareness of the suffering and hardship so many Alexandrians endure, and an overwhelming appreciation for ALIVE! and its mission. One ExxonMobil volunteer reported how gratifying it was to help the recipients in such a direct and immediate way. ALIVE! is also greatly appreciative of a \$500 grant from ExxonMobil.

Below, ExxonMobil Volunteers



Above, Barbara Roberts, FEP volunteer (center), with AARP employees Steve Lotterer and Kristian King. AARP participating employee not pictured: Nono Kusuma.



Above, Karen Hurley, ExxonMobil Volunteer Project Coordinator



Recognizing Our Own

ALIVE!'s Forty-Second Annual Recommitment and Volunteer Recognition Potluck Dinner was held on October 4th at the Community Praise Center. The gathering of Board Members and volunteers was treated to inspiring words by key note speaker Rev. Dr. Elbert Ransom, Jr., Itinerant Instructor at Virginia Theological Seminary and Special Speaker for the United States Department of State. Honored that night were: Susanne Arnold, who is stepping down as Chair of ALIVE! House; Linda and Mike Oliver, long-time Congregational Representatives from the Church of St. Clement; and Vivian Webb, who had served as ALIVE!'s Corresponding Secretary.



Above, Linda and Mike Oliver with President Cheryl P. Malloy.



President Malloy presents plaque to Vivian Webb

Right, Susanne Arnold receives plaque from President Malloy.



IRA Charitable Rollover May Be Right for you!

The IRA Charitable Rollover was first enacted in 2006 as part of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 and has been reinstated for 2011. This law allows you to make a charitable gift directly from your IRA while excluding the amount of that gift from your adjusted gross income (AGI.)

- You must be 70-1/2 or older and required to make an annual distribution from your IRA. The IRA Charitable Rollover permits you to make donations directly to charitable organizations such as ALIVE! from your IRA without counting the distribution as part of your AGI and, consequently, without paying taxes on it.
- Your total combined charitable IRA rollover

contribution cannot exceed \$100,000 in any one year.

- Charitable contributions from an IRA must go directly to ALIVE!.
- Distributions can only be made from traditional Individual Retirement Accounts or Roth IRAs.

We recommend that you seek advice from your accountant prior to making a charitable rollover as personal circumstances can have a significant impact on whether charitable rollovers are advantageous. In order to benefit from the 2010-eligible IRA contribution, contact your IRA administrator as soon as possible as some administrators may place a deadline on requesting transfers.

ALIVE! House Happenings:



Once again, ALIVE! House was a beneficiary in the **Fannie Mae Help the Homeless** Program this Fall. We won't know all the results until next year, but we did have lots of wonderful participants in mini-walks and on the Mall. Over one third of ALIVE! House's FY 2011 budget resulted from friends' participation in this program. Thanks to all who helped!

ALIVE! HOUSE WISH LIST

Children's Birthday Party Kits:
(decorations, candles, small party favors, gift wrap)

Cookware

Laundry Detergent

Night Lights



Susanne Arnold, as always, our enthusiastic "team captain."

ALIVE! House Needs a Handy Person Committee

The residents of ALIVE! House are responsible for routine cleaning and upkeep. There are, however, many occasions when minor repairs are needed. It is very expensive to call in a professional to undertake the type of repairs that many of us do routinely in our own homes. As the new program chair for ALIVE! House I am interested in forming a "handy person" committee of individuals who would be willing to donate a few hours every few months to assist in such activities. If you would like to volunteer or have questions, please give me a call (703 549 7039) or drop me an e-mail (kheanue@comcast.net). Please pass this request on to members of your congregation or friends who might also be interested. Thanks, Kevin Heanue



Student Success Story

This spring, ALIVE!'s Child Development Center (CDC) was honored to achieve accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children. This comes on top of a 4-star rating from the State of Virginia which was received in 2010. But what do these ratings really mean to the children entrusted to the CDC? The following is a report from a parent whose daughter, Keira, attended preschool at the CDC for two years and is now in kindergarten.

“Keira began attending ALIVE!'s CDC in 2009. As a parent I was nervous about her adjusting to new friends and teachers. The staff at the Center made Keira feel welcome right away. Her teacher began working with her on identifying letters and writing her name. Keira fell in love with Ms. RaIsha, and Ms. Charlene and was always at their sides. It was at the CDC that Keira learned how to work through her issues with friends ‘using her words’.

In August 2010, Keira moved up to the Blue Room where she fell in love with Ms. Carrie, who really prepared Keira socially for kindergarten. Ms. Carrie also began working with Keira on her handwriting, because she was having difficulty (she is left handed). Ms. Carrie and Assistant Teacher Miss Shacola allowed Keira to be herself but at the same time focus on the tasks at hand.



Above, Keira and her mom

I recently attended a conference with Keira's Kindergarten teacher. I am proud to say that Keira is doing exceptionally well in all areas. Her current teacher said how surprised she is that Keira is able to take responsibility for her own actions, is very social, and has a love for reading. I owe Keira's excellent preparation for Kindergarten to the ALIVE! CDC.”

The CDC serves children between the ages of 2 ½ and 5 years of age and their working parents. Most of the children at the CDC are considered “at risk” and almost all receive some tuition assistance so that the family can afford a quality preschool education. It is a full-day, year-around program for up to 38 children.

Below, Keira, center, enjoys a snack at the CDC



Ms. Carrie Diggins recognized for 20 years of teaching with the Child Development Center



On Nov. 10th, Ms. Carrie Diggins celebrated with her class the 20th Anniversary of teaching in ALIVE!'s Child Development Center. Congratulations Ms. Carrie! You are truly loved.

ALTERNATIVE GIVING PROGRAM

If you're still trying to decide what to give friends and family for the holidays, or want to share your faith and blessings with those less fortunate while honoring someone else, don't forget that you can help ALIVE! help others.

Once again ALIVE! is offering an alternative giving program. You can purchase a gift to assist one of ALIVE!'s six programs and receive a card acknowledging your gift which you can then present to those you wish to honor. Gifts range from a holiday turkey for a low-income family at \$10 each to a single box spring and mattress for a formerly homeless child at \$100.

It's so simple to do. Go to ALIVE's website, at alive-inc.org, where you can locate the alternative giving page with the list of choices. Print and fill out the order form, select a gift, and mail the form to ALIVE! (2723 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302) along with your check. Gift cards for your selections will be sent to you within a few days so that you can present them to your recipients. This is an excellent way to help ALIVE! and the families we serve while honoring someone in a special way.



Food Program Wish List

Canned Spaghetti Sauce
Complete Pancake Mix (needs only water)

Syrup

Canned Meat

Tuna

Dried Milk

Baby Food

Crackers

Jell-O

Coffee and Tea

\$ Money to buy fresh eggs and meat.

\$ Money to purchase 10' by 10' Pavilion Tents
for LSF

Jaycees Project keeps children busy

In October, Amanda Creech of the Alexandria Jaycees led a project for the children at ALIVE!'s Last Saturday Food Distribution at Cora Kelly. While waiting for their parents, the children made beautiful cards to send to our men and women in the armed services. The Jaycees also gave each child their own crayons to take home along with a halloween bag. This was a wonderful project for the children who made delightful cards to send to the soldiers.



Alexandrians receiving food from ALIVE! between September 1 and October 31, 2011

	Households	Individuals
September	703	2307
October	753	2637

ALIVE! Wine

ALIVE!
2723 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22302
703-837-9300
www.alive-inc.org
E-mail: alivetoo@aol.com

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

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ALIVE!, founded in 1969, is a nonprofit 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 42 congregations and hundreds of volunteers.

ALIVE! offers Alexandrians in need help through 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 : alivetoo@aol.com
www.alive-inc.org

Winter 2012 Calendar

January

- 3 ALIVE! Board Meeting – 7 pm at Agudas Achim Congregation, 2908 Valley Dr.
28 **Last Saturday Food Distribution:** Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center, and Ladrey High Rise
Food Collection: Downtown Baptist, Ebenezer Baptist, First Baptist, Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, St. Rita Catholic
Furniture Collection: First Baptist Church, St. Rita Catholic Church, & St. Mary's Catholic Church

February

- 7 **ALIVE! Board Meeting** - 7 pm at Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N Beauregard St.
25 **Last Saturday Food Distribution:** Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center, and Ladrey 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. Andrews UMC
Furniture Collection: Beverly Hills UMC and Fairlington Presbyterian

March

- 6 **Board Meeting:** 7pm TBA
31 **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: Old Presbyterian Meeting House, First Agape Baptist Community, and St. Mary's Catholic Church