Building a Better Future …

Addressing Emergency Needs …
ALIVE! Congregations

In 1969, representatives from five local religious congregations formed ALIVE! to serve Alexandrians in need. At the end of Fiscal Year 2014, membership included 42 congregations. Today, ALIVE! is the largest private safety net in the City of Alexandria.

Agudas Achim Congregation
Alexandria Church of the Nazarene
Alfred Street Baptist Church
Beth El Hebrew Congregation
Beverley Hills Community United Methodist Church
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community
Christ Church
Church of God and Saints of Christ Sixteenth Tabernacle
Church of St. Clement
Church of the Resurrection
Commonwealth Baptist Church
Community Praise Center
Convergence: A Creative Community of Faith
Del Ray United Methodist Church
Downtown Baptist Church
Ebenezer Baptist Church
Emmanuel Episcopal Church
Fairlington Presbyterian Church
Fairlington United Methodist Church
First Agape Baptist Community of Faith
First Baptist Church of Alexandria
First Christian Church of Alexandria
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Grace Episcopal Church
Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill
Meade Memorial Episcopal Church
Old Presbyterian Meeting House
Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church
St. Andrew's United Methodist Church
St. James United Methodist Church
St. Joseph Catholic Church
St. Mary Catholic Church
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
St. Rita Catholic Church
Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Alexandria
Third Baptist Church
Trinity United Methodist Church
Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington
Victory Temple Missionary Baptist Church
Washington Street United Methodist Church
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Zion Baptist Church
Dear Friends of ALIVE!,

In its 45-year history, ALIVE! has touched the lives of tens of thousands of Alexandrians in need. Our organization has grown and changed, but our mission has remained constant – “With faith and love, to help people faced with emergency situations or long-term needs become capable of assuming self-reliant roles in the community.”

Toward the end of Fiscal Year 2012, ALIVE! finalized its Strategic Plan. The goal of the plan is to build upon our organization’s strengths so that we may address an even greater share of the needs of low-income individuals and families in Alexandria. Since the Strategic Plan was put into effect, ALIVE! has maintained and improved the quality, accountability, and scope of our programs, and we have focused on strengthening our development capacity in order to help more of our neighbors.

Consistent with our Strategic Plan, ALIVE! established an advocacy process for the purpose of leveraging our volunteer and congregational base to attain increased governmental support for Alexandrians most at risk. In addition, ALIVE! created an Affordable Housing Committee to heighten awareness of the effects on our community of rising housing costs and a decreasing supply of housing that is affordable to lower-income families.

At the end of FY 2014, Ken Naser, our Executive Director, announced that he would be retiring. Many thanks to Ken for his significant contributions to ALIVE! and our community, as both Executive Director and a long-time ALIVE! volunteer. We are excited that Diane Charles has become our new Executive Director. Diane has a strong background in the non-profit community, and she is dedicated to helping ALIVE! fulfill its commitment to those in need.

The assistance ALIVE! is able to provide in our community depends entirely on the contributions of our member congregations, volunteers, donors, staff, and community partners. To all who have joined in this effort, thank you for your concern and support.

Sincerely,

Ellen Brown
President
Fiscal Years 2013 and 2014
Building a Better Future …

Without a good education and a stable home, the prospects of becoming a self-reliant member of the community are greatly diminished. ALIVE! provides assistance with these long-term goals by offering early childhood education to children of low-income families and shelter and guidance to women and children in need. Our aim is to help these families build better lives.

Early Childhood Education

The ALIVE! Child Development Center (CDC) offers children of low-income parents in Alexandria high-quality early childhood education at subsidized rates. The CDC operates full day and year round, allowing parents to work and be assured that their children are in a loving and nurturing environment.

Children who attend the CDC learn social and academic skills as they prepare to move on to kindergarten on an equal footing with their peers. CDC mothers and fathers are provided parent education, counseling, and support services. The entire family benefits from the prospect of self-sufficiency and success.

Fiscal Years 2013 and 2014: The CDC served 58 and 54 children and their families, respectively.

Quality Beginnings: The ALIVE! CDC is one of only three preschools in Alexandria accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and rated with 4 stars by the Virginia Star Quality Initiative.

A Parent’s Words of Hope: Since my Sara got a scholarship, we are very happy. We saw so many places, but we chose ALIVE!. Sara is very happy. Her teachers are very loving. Sara is excited about school. We especially appreciate the kindergarten readiness and social skills she is learning. ALIVE! CDC is hope for our kids.
Shelter and Counseling

ALIVE! House offers a home, intensive support, and encouragement to single mothers and their children in need. All of the residents were homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness when they arrived. A majority of the mothers have experienced domestic abuse. Most face significant educational barriers to employment and lack job and other life skills.

The ALIVE! House Director assists each mother with parenting skills, employment issues, personal finances, and preparation for finding and managing a home of her own. The children receive counseling and other needed services. Community volunteers offer regular reading programs and join the children to celebrate special occasions throughout the year.

**FY 2013 and FY 2014:** A total of 13 mothers and 26 children found temporary homes at ALIVE! House.
Addressing Emergency Needs . . .

Vulnerable individuals and families who have trouble making ends meet can find themselves in difficult situations when they encounter unexpected expenses or do not have jobs that allow them to be self-supporting. For over 45 years, ALIVE! has helped meet the basic needs of Alexandrians in emergency situations.

Emergency Financial Assistance

ALIVE!’s Family Emergency Program (FEP) offers financial assistance in emergency situations -- to help clients pay their rent when they may be evicted, meet utility expenses when services are at risk of being discontinued, or pay medical and other vital bills.

Fiscal Year 2013: In response to 1,407 requests, the FEP provided $243,000 in financial assistance. Fiscal Year 2014: Payments increased to $259,000; the number of requests satisfied was 1,338.

Although the financial assistance ALIVE! is able to provide each year varies with available funding, the amount provided in the five-year period ended FY 2014 was 40 percent greater than the amount that was available in the previous five-year period. Despite the increase in FEP payments in recent years, much of the need in the community remains unfulfilled.

A Good Investment:
A young man, a senior at T.C. Williams High School, was living on his own and renting a room in someone’s home. Because he was self-supporting, he was required to work almost full time in a restaurant to make ends meet. It appeared that he would not have enough time to study for his SOLs and final exams and, thus, would not graduate. ALIVE! provided rental assistance for one month so that he could temporarily reduce his work hours and spend time studying. He is now a high school graduate.
On the last Saturday of each month (except November), at three Last Saturday Food Distribution (LSFD) locations, ALIVE!’s Food Program provides groceries to Alexandrians who might otherwise go hungry. Many of the recipients are families with children or senior citizens. Others have lost their jobs, earn very low wages, or have faced extraordinary expenses.

Much of the food is donated by ALIVE! congregations or collected at food drives conducted throughout the year. In addition, the Capital Area Food Bank supplies food from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, other donated food, and low cost food for purchase.

ALIVE!’s Family Emergency Program organizes the delivery of food from ALIVE!’s food pantry to clients for whom attendance at Last Saturday Food Distributions would be a hardship.

Fiscal Years 2013 and 2014: Food was delivered to an average of 137 individuals (61 households) each month.

Gratitude for Food Delivery: I love ALIVE! because it gives me food, friends, and someone who cares.
In FY 2013 and again in FY 2014, ALIVE!’s Furniture Program volunteers delivered donated furniture nearly every weekend. Donors are pleased to share items they no longer need, and recipients are grateful to have places to sit, eat, and sleep. Frequently the beneficiaries have moved from transitional housing to a house or an apartment with no furniture at all.

_**Fiscal Years 2013 and 2014:** Volunteers devoted over 2500 hours to delivering furniture to approximately 300 families each year._

ALIVE!’s Housewares Program gathers and distributes donated housewares – including linens, dishes, and cookware. Housewares are offered to clients at ALIVE!’s Last Saturday Food Distribution (LSFD) locations or delivered directly to clients’ homes.

_**Fiscal Years 2013 and 2014:** An estimated total of 290 families received delivered housewares. Approximately 300 families selected housewares at each monthly LSFD._
ALIVE! EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND STAFF
FISCAL YEARS 2013 AND 2014

OFFICERS

President  Ellen Brown
Vice President  Deborah Patterson
Recording Secretary  Eric Winakur
Treasurer  Richard Glassco
Assistant Treasurer  Deborah Schaffer
Assistant Treasurer  Tony Tighe

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Affordable Housing  Cheryl Malloy
John Bohm
ALIVE! House  Kevin Heanue
Audit  Alison Utermohlen
Child Development Center  Mary Eileen Dixon
Communications  MaryAnne Beatty (2013)
Vacant (2014)
Congregational Representatives  Ann Marie Hay
Development  Marian Van Ladingham (2013)
Vacant (2014)
Family Emergency Program  Linda Coleman
Vivian Webb (2014)
Food  Jean Moore

Furniture  Mike Diffley (2013)
Housewares  Mike Mackey
Investments  Addie Hebert
Nominating  Larry Thompson
Personnel  Cheryl Malloy
Personnel  Cathy Thompson

STAFF LEADERSHIP

Executive Director  Ken Naser
Administrative Assistant  Kathy Richards (2013)
Joanna Neil (2014)
ALIVE! House Director  Amanda Issac
Child Development Center Director  Pam Blankenship

FY 2013 AND FY 2014 ALIVE! BIENNIAL REPORT

Editor  Ellen Brown
Desktop DTP  Julie Lineberry
Photographer  George Laumann
FY 2013 Revenue $1,787,365

- Cash Contributions $412,487
- Grants and United Way $320,051
- Government Reimbursements $321,808
- Non-cash Contributions $592,646
- Fees, Events, and Other Income $140,373

FY 2013 Expenses $1,720,403

- Emergency Services $946,657
- Child Development Center $517,847
- ALIVE! House House $96,474
- Management and General $111,105
- Fundraising $48,320
FY 2014 Revenue $2,132,869

- Cash Contributions $512,113 (24%)
- Grants and United Way $303,960 (14%)
- Government Reimbursements $342,034 (16%)
- Non-cash Contributions $754,136 (36%)
- Fees, Events, and Other Income $220,626 (10%)

FY 2014 Expenses $2,026,666

- Emergency Services $1,121,915 (55%)
- Child Development Center $608,437 (30%)
- ALIVE! House $94,068 (5%)
- Management and General $166,700 (8%)
- Fundraising $35,546 (2%)

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