



ALIVE! *Wire*

www.alive-inc.org

50TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

ALEXANDRIA'S HEART: *ALIVE! is You!*

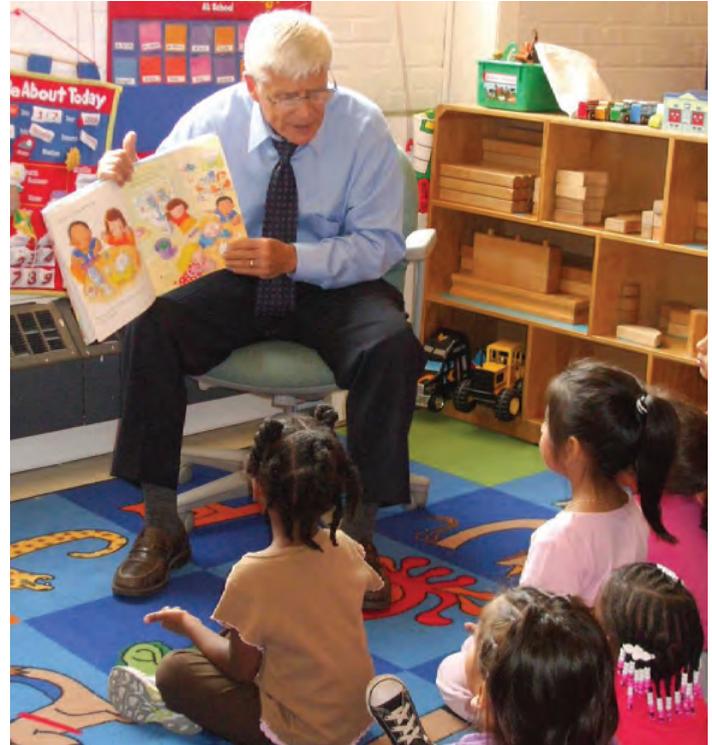
In 1969, in response to growing concerns about poverty and hunger in the City of Alexandria, a coalition of 14 faith-based organizations and community leaders gathered at Fairlington United Methodist Church determined to make a difference. Recognizing the devastating consequences of living without the most basic needs – food, housing, essential services, and educational opportunities – these inspired leaders pushed forward, driven by a vision of a community coming together to share time, treasure and talent to alleviate the suffering of their neighbors in need and ALIVE! was born.

For 50 years, generations of caring community members have passed the torch. Today, as the legacy of service and caring continues to grow, **you are ALIVE!** Together, we have alleviated some of the worst suffering in our city, caused by poverty and hunger. In the past year alone, you recognized someone living on the edge, extended a hand, and touched the lives of over 27,000 Alexandrians.

When ALIVE! started, neighbors experiencing hardship were told to contact city agencies; now the City refers people to ALIVE! **Because we do what no other organization does.**

The lengths that we go to — and the breadth of services offered — demonstrate every day that those in need are not alone. Your presence is felt when:

- Our neighbors living with hunger have access to free, nutritious food.
- Homeless mothers and their children have shelter, services and support as they work towards self-sufficiency.
- Low-Income Alexandrians receive emergency financial assistance to keep roofs over their heads, utilities working, and medical and other emergency needs met; they also receive donated furniture and housewares.
- Children from low-income working families have access to nationally accredited full-day, year-round early education that prepares them for academic success, leveling the playing field for their educational journey, to break the cycle of poverty.



"Mr. Bud" reading to the ALIVE! Child Development Center students.

"ALIVE! brought Alexandria heartfulness together in a way that everyone worked with each other and that's a big deal. People were willing to help people but did not know how to do it. ALIVE! showed the way. In 2019, it is more important than ever to agree and work together as a community to bring love to our city."

~ Bud Hart

ALIVE! Founding Member, Volunteer,
Donor & 50th Anniversary Honorary Co-Chair

As we celebrate ALIVE!'s 50th Anniversary, we are very grateful to Bud Hart, Marian Van Landingham and Deacon William Willis for serving as the honorary co-chairs for the **Greatest Need Campaign**. To learn more about the campaign and how you can create the change you want to see in Alexandria, please visit page 7. ❖

When Neighbors Help Neighbors, *Change Happens...*

FOOD

Already parents to young preschooler, the birth of their second child last summer brought Jose and Amalie great joy. The two are wonderful parents — very dedicated and determined to achieve their goals: Amalie is employed full-time while Jose works part-time and attends school. Receiving food from ALIVE! through their oldest child’s school has been a huge blessing to the family, ensuring that they have healthy and nutritious food items in their home for their young family. This weekly food assistance enables the family to reallocate their limited financial resources to cover rent, utilities and transportation. Jose and Amalie recently told the school’s social worker that they would not use a food program if it “wasn’t as familiar to them as ALIVE!”

Providing food in accessible settings lowers the burden on stressed young parents, helping them provide for and nurture their children. Thank you for your contribution to those struggling in our community.

1969:

ALIVE! volunteers made 230 food deliveries in its first year of operation, growing to 354 the next year. Requests for food were answered by volunteers in their homes where they stored food in their basements and freezers until First Christian Church offered food storage space.

2019:

Today, ALIVE! is the largest food provider for Alexandrians living with food insecurity. **Operating four food assistance programs, last year, ALIVE! distributed over 400,000 pounds of food.**



Last summer, Maria and her four children received a housing voucher to live in Alexandria and access to wrap-around services, including free food through the ALIVE! Food Program. In September, Maria’s oldest child was hospitalized and required considerable care; in order to secure her daughter’s health, Maria could not work so the family received an eviction notice. ALIVE! responded with rent assistance from the ALIVE! Family Assistance Program, steadying the family in its time of need. After her daughter recovered, Maria resumed her search for a higher paying job close to their home.

Ensuring Maria’s ability to care for her child kept the family whole and secure during a terrifying episode in their lives. Without your support, it would have been a tragedy.

1969: In response to a request from the Alexandria Welfare Department – which was precluded from finding shelter for a destitute family with ten children – ALIVE! settled the family into rental housing, signed a lease, and required the father to turn over a certain amount each month to help with rent. People in need of an emergency grant of cash called volunteers at their homes on weekends and at night; in the beginning, about 265 families were assisted annually.

2019: ALIVE! is the largest private provider of financial assistance for Alexandrians facing hardship and emergency situations. Last year, ALIVE! provided over \$220,000 to 777 Alexandrians for rental/housing, utilities, medical and other urgent needs.

1969: Two hundred families received furniture in ALIVE!’s first year. The furniture operation was run out of the First Baptist Church from 1978 -1986. Blessed Sacrament Church donated the use of its truck for 4-5 pick-ups and 5-6 deliveries of beds, bureaus, sofas, tables and chairs each Saturday.

2019: ALIVE! now coordinates volunteers, truck drivers, the routes and the schedules to synchronize the schedules of those who give with those who receive, to deliver furniture 51 Saturdays a year. Today, Furniture Program volunteers also help fight hunger by delivering groceries to neighbors receiving donated furniture. The Housewares Program adds the finishing touches with utensils ready to use with a donated table and sheets to cover the beds. The program, housed by Fairlington United Methodist Church, also provides pots, pans, dishes, towels, and small appliances to make a difference in the lives of those living without these daily necessities. **Last year, ALIVE! provided donated items valued at over \$125,000 to more than 2,200 low-income households.**



EMERGENCY HELP



As ALIVE! celebrates its 50th Anniversary, we recognize that one of the organization's greatest strengths has been the ability to engage our community and its resources to rush to the assistance of our neighbors facing hardships and emergency situations. So much has been accomplished, but ALIVE!'s crucial work continues.

For the more than 15,000 Alexandrians living in poverty and the 30,000 living with food insecurity, we can help to alleviate their suffering. Inspired by the vision of the ALIVE! founders, working together, we can provide **Food, Shelter, Emergency Help and Education** for our neighbors living on the edge.

SHELTER

1971:

ALIVE! House opened with four bedrooms and two bathrooms to shelter homeless women and families. It was the first emergency shelter to operate in Alexandria.

2019:

The oldest continuously-operated shelter for women in the Commonwealth of Virginia, ALIVE! House continues to provide shelter, support and services to homeless mothers and their children as they work to break the cycle of poverty and abuse.

Last year, we served five families (5 mothers and 10 children) with one family transitioning to permanent housing.



Shautrice was no ordinary eight-year-old. A 2017 resident of ALIVE!

House, along with her mother and two younger brothers, she restlessly pursued a future more than what her then-circumstances appeared to offer. When Pharrah Poliard, ALIVE! House Resident Manager, took Shautrice on a tour of Howard University, she posed for photos, read every sign, commemorated the day by picking out a Howard hat and an inspirational journal at the gift shop — and kept up the “oohs” and “ahhs” throughout the visit. There was even more icing on the cake: the two caught a glimpse of Michelle Obama leaving a gym on Georgia Avenue on the way home.



As an ALIVE! House alumni, Shautrice may be the one providing a college tour, because of your support.

David was a somber child who had witnessed domestic violence against his mother. During his first weeks in preschool, he cried when his mother left and refused to eat. The ALIVE! CDC staff asked David and his mother to choose a toy to David's liking and bring the toy into the classroom. Soon David was asking other children to play with him; the warmth of those encounters led to David asking for breakfast days later. After that his mood steadily brightened. He was ready to grow and learn.

With your caring, you made a difference in the arc of a child's life and his educational journey.



“There was a child who did not speak a word for the first six months at the Center, then in the middle of a nap, burst into song.”

- Ruby Tucker,
ALIVE! CDC Director, 1983

1972:

The ALIVE! Child Development Center (CDC), an early education program for children of low-income working parents, opened. Located in the First Christian Church, thanks to the leadership of Reverend Dr. Chris Hobgood, an ALIVE! founding member, the first class of 45 preschoolers received quality day care and education, enabling their parents to work towards financial independence.

2019:

The ALIVE! CDC is the only accredited, full-day, year-round preschool in Alexandria that offers a sliding-scale fee for tuition so that low-income families can afford quality early childhood education; all families receive some tuition assistance. *Last year, the ALIVE! CDC created brighter futures for 53 children and their families.*



EDUCATION

From the Beginning *to* 2019:

It was faith in action that brought leaders from local Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, and Baha'i congregations to the basement of the Fairlington United Methodist Church in May 1969.

ALIVE! was a dream on the part of a few visionaries committed to make whole those who struggle — by providing food, financial assistance and shelter — and to help break the cycle of poverty and suffering for the generations to follow. With the vision to serve Alexandrians in need of more than

what traditional social services offered, initially, this work was accomplished through volunteers' personal one-on-one contact with those in need.

Today, ALIVE! is the largest and oldest private social safety net for Alexandrians living in poverty and with hunger. Comprised of 45 faith organizations and thousands of volunteers, partners and supporters, ALIVE! serves more than 3,500 individuals each month.

1969

"Why are we discussing this instead of doing something?"

ALIVE! Founders convene and engage the Alexandria community and its resources to establish the ALIVE! Food & Family Emergency Program to provide food and financial assistance to neighbors in crisis. ALIVE!'s Articles of Incorporation are signed by Bud Hart, Charlie McKeon and Bob Young.



1983

Ruby Tucker becomes director of the ALIVE! Child Development Center.

1990

The ALIVE! Housewares Program moves from Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill to its permanent home at Fairlington United Methodist Church.



1971

St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Mary joins with ALIVE! to address Alexandria's emergency housing problem. ALIVE! House, a shelter for homeless mothers and their children, is opened.

1976

ALIVE! Office moves to First Christian Church at 2723 King Street.

1985

Mayor Jim Moran and Jack Taylor of Jack Taylor's Alexandria Toyota help ALIVE! acquire a red Toyota truck for distributing food and furniture.

The Furniture Program is established with Joe and Alice Krafft and Charles and Mae McKeon serving as leaders and co-chairs.



1970

The ALIVE! Child Development Center, an early education program for children from low-income, working families, was established at First Christian Church.

1972

Chaired by Jim and Debbie Olson, the first StepALIVE! Walkathon to benefit the ALIVE! Child Development Center is held; this has become a well-attended, beloved annual event.

1982

The Catholic Diocese of Arlington sells 125 South Payne to ALIVE! on the condition that it continues to be used as a shelter. A campaign kicks off to raise \$110,000 for the purchase and renovations of ALIVE! House.

1988

The organization's role changes from one-on-one ministry helping people in crisis to a vehicle for dispersing food, furniture, and financial aid to those in need.

1980s



Under Ruby Tucker's leadership, the ALIVE! Child Development Center receives accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

1992

50 Years *of* Making a Difference

"It's people—people who care working together to help where help is needed. It's opportunity to do what in justice and love we should do. It's generosity, joining together to better serve the critical needs around us that will not be otherwise be met, a chance to grow and develop in the right direction, loving our neighbor, learning how much better people are than we ever realized before, finding out how much more you can do than you thought you could when it's good that you do..."

~ Former ALIVE! President Earll Nikkel



1997

The Last Saturday Food Distribution (LSFD) program begins with the first site at Beverley Hills United Methodist Church. The site is now located at "Chick" Armstrong Rec Center.



2002

Samuel Tucker Elementary School is opened as the LSFD West End location. The site later moved to Church of the Resurrection and is now located at John Adams Elementary School.

2005

Ken Naser, a former ALIVE! president, becomes the organization's first executive director.

2010

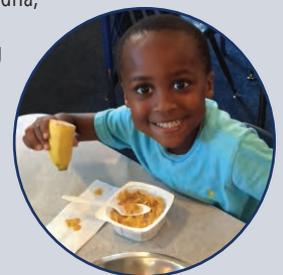
ALIVE! receives a major bequest of \$600,000 from the late Helen King Omer and establishes the ALIVE! Legacy Society.

2011

The ALIVE! Child Development Center receives a Four Start Quality Rating from the Virginia Star Quality Initiative.

2015

With the inspired leadership of Diane Charles, then ALIVE! Executive Director, and past president Joan Moser, the first Empty Bowls Alexandria, a cherished annual sold-out fundraising event, is held at the Durant Arts Center.



2017

In response to community needs, ALIVE! expands its weekly food distributions with the establishment of the Community Partners Program.

ALIVE! receives a grant for a new box truck for the food and furniture programs.

2004

Over \$295,000 in financial assistance is provided to 9/11 economic victims.

2001



ALIVE! is recognized by the Catalogue For Philanthropy as "one of the best small charities in the Greater Washington Region" and has continued to receive this recognition with the most recent inclusion as a 2019-2020 charity.

2006

ALIVE! celebrates its 50th Anniversary with 45 member congregations. The **Greatest Need Campaign** is launched with the goal of raising \$500,000 by December 2020.

2019

FULFILLING OUR MISSION
The **Greatest Need Campaign**
Food. Shelter. Emergency Help. Education.

The City of Alexandria donates warehouse space at 801 S. Payne Street for the ALIVE! Food Program.

2015



To read more from the dedicated, selfless volunteers who make ALIVE! programs happen every week of every year, please visit our website and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

 www.alive-inc.org

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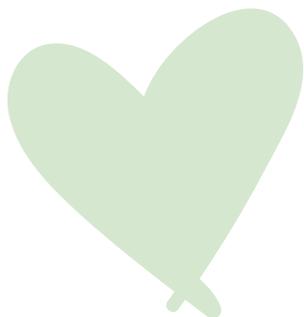
 [@alive4alexVA](https://twitter.com/alive4alexVA)

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,

"Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"

And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

ISAIAH 6:8



VOLUNTEERS ARE ALIVE!:

Reflections and Stories from our Hearts

"Many years ago, Will Willis, a deacon at Alfred Street Baptist Church, and I were out delivering furniture. At one stop, I was tying down a load of furniture in ALIVE!'s little red pickup truck when I felt a tap on my shoulder. I turned to find a homeless couple: much the "worse for wear". I felt myself recoil and I'm sure the couple sensed how uncomfortable I was. Just then, Will came around the truck, and began speaking to the couple. All they wanted was information on how to contact social services in the city.

As I watched Will talk to the couple, I was impressed by how comfortable he was and how comfortable he made the couple feel. I also made a mental note: someday I want to be as comfortable with people of all backgrounds as Will Willis. Perhaps today I am. But, if so, credit goes to my mentor at ALIVE!: Will Willis. Thanks, my friend."

~ **Mike Diffley**, former Furniture Program Chair

"A few short days before Christmas in 2018, a young woman moved into an empty apartment. She was a victim of domestic violence. She and her three children, referred to ALIVE! by the Department of Community & Human Services, had nothing but blow-up mattresses provided by the city and a tiny Christmas tree. That was the environment in which they celebrated Christmas. Despite it being the busy holiday season, Mike Mackey and the dedicated team of Furniture Program volunteers departed from the First Christian Church parking lot, a full day of picking up and delivering donations before the ringing in of the New Year ahead of them. One of the first stops was the apartment of this young mother and her children. Because of the particular items that donors gave us that day, and undoubtedly because the Good Lord had His eye on that family, they were able to completely furnished the apartment. The family's days of sleeping on blow-up mattresses were a thing of the past."

~ **Linda Coleman**, Family Assistance and Furniture Program Volunteer

"The first call was asking ALIVE! to help feed about 50 families in a building on the City's West End. Sure, ALIVE! could do it, and we did do it. Fifty the first month, 50 the second, 50 the third. And then she called again. "We're up to 60 families each month. Can you help them?" Of course we could. And ALIVE! did. Sixty families the next month, and the next, and the next. Then on the fourth month of 60 families, she called and asked, "Can you feed 75 families?" Yes, ALIVE! did. Then 90 families, and ALIVE! did that too. Even as the need there grew, and grew, and grew, and even as ALIVE! without question met that need, other people living on pennies found us, sometimes in the most unlikely way."

~ **John Perlman**, former Food Program Volunteer Warehouse Manager

The **Greatest Need** Campaign

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Bud Hart, Marian Van Landingham & Deacon William Willis
50th Anniversary Honorary Co-Chairs

To continue to turn around lives, the *Greatest Need Fund* was established in honor of ALIVE!'s 50th Anniversary, with a goal of raising \$500,000 by December 2020. As we celebrate ALIVE!'s 50th anniversary, what will your legacy be? How many lives would you like to touch in 2020? You can create the change you want to see in Alexandria.

Five Ways You Can Make A Difference:

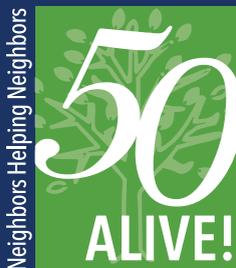
Join your neighbors by pledging to help an Alexandrian with their greatest need. For our most vulnerable neighbors, any emergency or unexpected expense – for example, an illness, the loss of a job, inadequate childcare, lack of transportation – could also be the tipping point for crises, such as eviction, and even homelessness. Daily, ALIVE! receives requests for assistance. Together, we can make a difference.

- 1. Contribute to the 50th Anniversary *Greatest Need Fund*:** Your donations can be made as a one-time gift, multi-year pledge or even a recurring donation. Your gift will have an immediate impact:
 - \$100 provides 1,000 meals for Alexandrians facing hunger.
 - \$500 provides financial assistance for housing, utilities, medical or other urgent needs.
 - \$1,000 provides a month of early education for a child from a low-income, working family.
 - \$5,000 provides one year of shelter and case management for a homeless family.
 - \$10,000 provides one year of weekend food bags for 75 children.
- 2. Make a tax-free IRA contribution:** If you are 70 ½ years of age or older, you can direct some or all of your IRA's Required Minimum Distribution to ALIVE! tax-free. If you have any questions, contact Allison Coles at 703-837-9321 or acoles@alive-inc.org.
- 3. Bring a smile to the faces of children by volunteering** at the ALIVE! Child Development Center or ALIVE! House: inspire them during their impressionable years, they will hang on your every word.
- 4. Feed a food insecure neighbor by distributing food each week** or monthly or by hosting a food drive: Nothing compares to the feeling that you are making a heartfelt difference in the life of a soul, or a family of young, hungry children.
- 5. Provide comfort by delivering furniture or housewares twice a month or monthly.** Volunteers transform spaces into homes where children, families and individuals can thrive.

On behalf of all at ALIVE!, thank you for being part of the solution, for showing concern for your neighbors' welfare and for unselfishly putting the common good first. It is inspired neighbors, like you, who ensure that the greatest needs in our community are met.

For more information about the **Greatest Need Campaign**, please email info@alive-inc.org or call (703) 837-9321.

ALIVE! *Wire*



The oldest and largest private safety net for Alexandrians living in poverty and with hunger, ALIVE! serves more than 3,500 individuals each month by providing **Food, Shelter, Emergency Help** and **Education**.

Founded In 1969, ALIVE! is comprised of **45 faith organizations** and thousands of volunteers, partners and supporters.

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FULFILLING OUR MISSION

The **Greatest Need** Campaign

Food. Shelter. Emergency Help. Education.

How many lives would you like to touch in 2020?

Your gift will have an immediate impact in addressing the greatest needs of our community and help create the change you want to see in Alexandria.



To make a donation, visit
www.alive-inc.org
or call (703) 837-9321.