



# ALIVE! Wire

Alexandrians InVolved Ecumenically

Fall 2008

## The President's Message

### Hey, What's New?

Happy New Year! ... Well, happy new fiscal year, anyway. ALIVE!'s new fiscal year began on July 1, and on that date I stepped up to take my turn in the ALIVE! President's chair. Deep appreciation is due our retiring President, Gerry Hebert, who served in that office for the past three years. Thank you, Gerry, for your leadership – and thank you, also, for agreeing to serve as ALIVE!'s new Publicity Chair this year! Other newly-elected officers and chairs include Cheryl Malloy as Vice President, Deborah Schaffer as Assistant Treasurer, and Beverly Patton as Co-Chair of the Congregational Representatives Committee. Thank you for joining ALIVE!'s leadership team.

So, what else is new? The ALIVE! program chairs report the following new efforts they are initiating during the current fiscal year.

- Jean Moore, ALIVE! Food Chair, is starting several new programs, including (1) registration of eligible Last-Saturday Food clients for Food Stamps, Medicare, and Medicaid and (2) a "backpack program" that will send food home over the weekends with children attending the ALIVE! Child Development Center (CDC).

- Susanne Arnold, ALIVE! House Chair, reports that Home Aid, the Northern Virginia Building Industry Association, has accepted our request for assistance to improve the ALIVE! House shelter -- the heating and air conditioning system, storage areas, kitchens, painting and flooring.

- Ellen Brown, Chair of the ALIVE! CDC, reports that the CDC needs to meet new accreditation standards – and to address a serious problem that occurred early in the summer: a large tree crushed the equipment that had been the centerpiece of the ALIVE! CDC playground. To see the devastation wrought by this unfortunate accident and learn more about ALIVE!'s effort to rebuild the severely damaged playground, please see the facing article on this page.

And special thanks go to our donors... On behalf of the clients served by ALIVE!, thank you to the many ALIVE! donors who have supported ALIVE!'s mission over the years. Your help has improved the quality of life for those in our community who are most in need, by providing food, shelter, emergency financial assistance,

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## Help the ALIVE! CDC Playground Come "ALIVE" Again

Summer 2008 was a tough one for the children of the ALIVE! Child Development Center (CDC). Remember the heavy rain,



President Diana Day on the cleared playground.

wind, and thunder storms that went through the City on June 4? Many homes and some schools were without power for several days due to wind damage. Well, that same wind toppled a tree on our playground, damaging the central piece of equipment beyond repair and making the children's play area unusable. (More photos of the devastation are posted on the ALIVE! web site, [www.alive-inc.org](http://www.alive-inc.org).) Over the course of the summer, a claim was submitted to the insurance company, a search for additional funding began, plans for rebuilding the playground were developed, and damaged equipment and dangerous debris were

removed. In the meantime, the children remained indoors.

The final stage of the clean-up was supervised by Dave Taylor, First Agape Baptist Church congregational representative to ALIVE! and member of ALIVE!'s CDC Committee, with help from Georgetown University School of Medicine students Mfon Okon, Chris Villar, and Ahmad Jabbar. This hard-working crew of volunteers worked for more than five hours on Saturday, August 30<sup>th</sup> to remove debris, cut overgrown botanical growth, remove dangerous roots and rocks, and level the playground surface. Although the area is a bare surface without equipment, thanks to the efforts of this team, the former playground is once again a safe place to play.

However, a bare "play yard" does not compare with a well-equipped playground that entices children to exercise and develop a full range of gross motor, fine motor, social and cognitive skills.

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## Notes from the Executive Director

A little more than thirty years ago, when ALIVE! was still a relatively young organization here in Alexandria, our Board of Directors was led by a very impressive President. Viola Barrett Greenland (later Pope) served in that position in 1977 and 1978. She died recently at the age of ninety six.

Viola was a small, distinguished, white-haired woman with a very commanding presence. Some of my first impressions of ALIVE! was that not only was this a very interesting organization with its ecumenical composition and one that was on the front line of local social justice issues. But, it also had strong, knowledgeable leadership. Those who knew Viola came to realize that she was not a person that readily took “no” for an answer. She had a sweet but convincing demeanor that made one want to work with her and be able to say “yes, I can.”

We fondly remember Viola’s personal commitment to ALIVE! and her eagerness to enlist strong support within ALIVE! member congregations and the Alexandria community at large. She will always be regarded as one of the pillars of the ALIVE! family.

Ken



*Ken Naser, ALIVE!'s  
Executive Director*

## Officers and Committee Chairs 2008-2009

President	Diana Day – Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington
Vice President	Cheryl Malloy – Good Shepherd Lutheran
Recording Secretary	Jann Masterson – Convergence: A Creative Community of Faith
Corresponding Secretary	Vivian Webb – Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community
Treasurer	Rick Glassco – Immanuel Church-On-The-Hill
Treasurer (CDC)	Margie Carpenter – Westminster Presbyterian Church
Asst. Treasurer (CDC)	Linda Oliver – St Clement Episcopal Church
Asst. Treasurer (Gen. Fund)	Deborah Schaffer – Beth El Hebrew Congregation
ALIVE! House	Susanne Arnold – St. Rita’s Catholic Church
Child Development Center	Ellen Brown – Community Volunteer
Congregational Reps (Co-Chairs)	Beth McFarland – Fairlington Presbyterian Beverly Patton – Downton Baptist
Family Emergency Program	Linda Coleman – Trinity United Methodist Church
Food	Jean Moore – Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community
Food (Asst. Chair)	Deborah Patterson – Washington Street United Methodist Church
Furniture	Mike Diffley – St Mary’s Catholic Church
Housewares	Addie Hebert – Fairlington United Methodist Church
Personnel	Cathy Thompson – Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community
Publicity	Gerry Hebert – Fairlington United Methodist Church
Volunteers	Lisa Kelly - Community Volunteer

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recycled furniture and house wares, and low-cost, high-quality preschool, child care, and family support services. Your continued support is needed and appreciated. Please use the enclosed envelope to make a contribution in support of ALIVE!'s programs and this year's new initiatives. At this time, support of the CDC playground reconstruction project would be especially appreciated.

Diana Day, President



CDC Playground continued from page 1

We are committed to re-building our playground as a safe, fun, and developmentally appropriate area where CDC children can play, learn, and grow. The plan is to install a new 3-slide fort, playhouse, ride-on toy, sand and water table, swings, fence and entry gate, and to re-surface with fresh mulch. The remodeled CDC Playground will be a safe, vibrant area for learning, with age-appropriate equipment meeting the standards of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

Now comes the expensive part. As it turns out, a new playground that complies with tough new accreditation standards will cost ALIVE! upwards of \$35,000. "So, where's that insurance money?" you might ask. There is good news and bad news about that insurance claim: the insurance company agreed to pay in full...but it turns out that "in full" is less than a third of the cost of a new playground!

We are grateful that additional playground-supporters have come forward. The Make Kids Smile foundation is donating a major piece of playground equipment, fully installed, and the members of Westminster Presbyterian Church are holding a special fundraiser to support the playground-replacement effort. Unfortunately, the playground we would like to have will cost another \$10,000 to \$15,000 more than these efforts can provide. So we are reaching out to those we know are committed to providing equal preschool opportunities for all children in our City.

Can you help? If you would like to help rebuild the playground, please send your tax-deductible donation in the enclosed envelope, with "CDC playground" in the memo line. All gifts are very much appreciated.

Left, Fallen tree covers much of the CDC playground.

## KIWANIS VOLUNTEER, BUD HART

"Mr. Bud" Hart, a long time resident of Alexandria and a member of the Kiwanis club, has been a volunteer in ALIVE!'s Child Development Center for over 25 years. He usually comes in on Thursday afternoons to spend time with the children and read stories to them. Mr. Bud has also worked with Kiwanis to collect money to support the CDC's Step Alive Walkathon. This year the Kiwanis club, whose mission is "to serve children of the world," raised \$1300 to support the CDC



*" 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'S Child Development Center - Wish List

Resting cot \$40.00	One 12" child's pedal trike \$125.00
1 dozen cot sheets \$95.00	One "big Book" \$25.00
Round classroom table \$186.00	One lockable storage cabinet \$575.00
Rectangular classroom table \$230.00	One cooking activity for a class \$25.00
Resting cot \$40.00	One floor puzzle \$15.00
Doll care center \$220.00	Child-sized soft vinyl sofa \$170.00
One picture book with "library binding" \$25.00	Child-sized soft vinyl chair \$125.00
Bus rental for one field trip \$350.00	"Clean up" center for housekeeping area \$150.00
Classroom pet and supplies \$125.00	One 3-lb tub of playdough \$11.00
Non-poisonous classroom plants \$25.00	20-lb of "moon sand" \$60.00
One teacher's apron \$18.00	One locking wall-mount cabinet \$150.00
"Gift of Literacy" bag \$50.00	One week's tuition for one child \$200.00
Craft activities for family Christmas party \$25.00	One nine-month scholarship for one 4-year old "VPI" child \$5,300.00
Set of picture books for home visits \$50.00	One week's nutritious meals/snack for one child \$16.00
Extra children's underwear \$25.00	A Playground :)
One month of laundry services for Children's bedding \$150.00	

### Food Program Needs:

Canned Soup  
Canned Fruit  
Jelly  
Canned Tuna and Meat  
Cereal  
1 lb. bags of Rice

## 33rd Annual Turkey Trot!

Thanksgiving morning, November, 27th from 10 to 11:30 at the Cora Kelly Recreation Center, 25 West Reed (at Commonwealth Ave), in Alexandria, ALIVE! continues a great family tradition. Runners support ALIVE! by bringing non-perishable food to donate. Volunteers who aren't running are needed to help pack and sort the donations for our food pantry. On-site registration for the five mile race starts at 8:30 and advanced registration details are available from the D. C. Road Runners Club. For more information or to volunteer, please call the ALIVE! office at (703) 837-9321.



### The ALIVE! Wire News!

The Wire is available electronically by going on our web site ([alive-inc.org](http://alive-inc.org)) and clicking on the newsletter tab. Editions of the Wire from 2002 to the most recent are available there. If you prefer to receive the wire at your email address, please send your request to [alivetoo@aol.com](mailto:alivetoo@aol.com).

Sponsorships available- See your name in print!

If you would like to be a sponsor for all or part of the WIRE, please call Kathy Richards at 703 837-9321.

## A Heart-Felt Thanks to Those Who “Fail”

from Mike Diffley, Chairman of the Furniture Committee

Finding volunteers to move furniture on Saturday mornings is a tough assignment under the best of circumstances. The task is even more difficult during the summer when many members of the ALIVE!’s congregations are on family vacations.

This year has been no exception. So, despite heroic efforts by Congregational Representatives, there have been a few weekends when the congregations have been unable to provide volunteers. For those Congregational Representatives who have tried, but “failed”, I reserve an especially warm place in my heart. I have been there and I thank you for being there. We on the furniture committee cannot survive without you.

Consider this:

- All of the twenty members of the Furniture Committee who arrange the schedules and drive on Saturdays started by responding to appeals for volunteers. In fact, today I filled a vacant driver position with a young man who volunteered last Saturday when the congregation “failed” to provide more than one volunteer. He came; he liked what he did; and he wants to do more. But, most importantly, he would not have come unless a Congregational Representative asked him to.
- The Furniture Committee wouldn’t have the courage to put together a schedule if the congregations didn’t have the courage to commit to doing their best to provide volunteers. Volunteers donated over 2400 hours in support of furniture operations last year. Half of those hours were donated by members of the furniture committee; but those hours would have accomplished nothing without the hours donated by the congregations.
- At one time or another, every congregation on the roster has “failed”. At one time or another, every player in Major League Baseball has struck out. Major League Baseball can’t exist without “imperfect” players. The furniture committee can’t exist without “imperfect” congregations.
- Most importantly, God provides. It is August 13th as I write this article. Despite our “failures”, ALIVE! has sent out trucks every Saturday since Memorial Day. We have a winning average that would be the envy of any team in sports. How does this happen? God provides.

From the bottom of my heart, to all those Congregational Representatives who try but “fail”, thank you. You are why we are.



*Volunteers pick up and deliver donated furniture to those in need almost every weekend.*

### FURNITURE PROGRAM

If you live in the City of Alexandria and have mattresses, beds, tables, chairs, chests and other furniture in good condition that you would like to donate, please call 703 837-9300 and chose option 3 to leave your name, address and phone number so that a volunteer can call you back to schedule a weekend pick up.

If you would like to volunteer to help pick up and deliver furniture to those in need in Alexandria, please call 703 837 9300 and chose option 2 or email [volunteers@alive.org](mailto:volunteers@alive.org). If you are a part of one of ALIVE!’s member congregations, please talk to your congregational representatives about how to get involved!

## ALIVE! House Happenings . . .

### Spotlight on Our Graduates!

Five o'clock a.m. and it was a cold winter morning. The Shelter Director called, "School is closed today. It's snowing outside. Be careful if you go anywhere." It was ALIVE! House. Domestic violence happened, and I had to leave my house with my 4-year-old son. I didn't have a job. I didn't have any savings. I was just floating. I found ALIVE! House! I found a place to live. Every week I met with the Director for case management. I was limited by not having a computer, so she used her computer to search for jobs with me. I found a job. I got my pay check. I saved 70%. I made a budget. It was a wonderful feeling. I had always been dependent upon my husband. I started thinking – maybe I can stand on my own feet, and ALIVE! House made me confident. Time, discipline, positive thinking, and if you have a guide, then you can take all challenges. Now I have a house. I moved from ALIVE! House, but all of my life I will remember ALIVE! House. It was a shelter that made me brave. I remember my son's experience on his very first bicycle, a going away gift from ALIVE! House. At first I had to push him. He didn't know how to peddle. Little by little he's learning to ride on his own. I think I am the peddler for me and my son now. Little by little my wheels will go faster and faster. *Reshma*

Reshma arrived in Alexandria with her husband and son from their native Bangladesh in October 2007. Within 38 days of her arrival in the U.S., her life was turned upside down and her hopes of the "American Dream" for her family all but destroyed when she found herself fleeing with her son from brutal violence at the hand of her husband. After a month and a half stay at the Alexandria Domestic Violence Shelter, Reshma came to ALIVE! House frightened, timid and very unsure of herself and what the future would hold for her and Aryan.

During her four-month stay she proved herself to be capable, determined and resilient beyond knowledge. During her 100-day stay, Reshma secured full-time employment, saved \$1,162 and was accepted into a transitional housing program where she now resides in a beautifully renovated apartment in Fairfax County, the first home she's had of her "very own." As she moves along, well on her way toward self-sufficiency, ALIVE! House will provide a minimum of 6-months follow-up and remain a resource of encouragement and support.



### ALIVE! House WISH LIST

Refrigerator for  
Resident Manager's Apartment  
Tabletop Multi-Page Copy Machine  
Scanner  
Laundry Detergent - small & medium sizes  
**Metro Cards & Bus Tokens**

### A special note of thanks

to the Church of the Resurrection for hosting a lovely "Old Fashioned" tea and fashion show on September 20th that benefited ALIVE! House. A great time was had by all!

## Support ALIVE! House

Support our shelter in the 21st Fannie Mae Help the Homeless program. Encourage your congregation and or/your group to be a Partner, and then sign yourself up for the Walkathon. Join us on the National Mall on Saturday, November 22nd. The Metro opens at 6; Registration is at 7; the Program starts at 8:30; and the Walk begins at 9. Meet at the letter "A" for a leisurely three mile stroll, conversation and comradeship.

Register on line at [www.helpthehomelessdc.org](http://www.helpthehomelessdc.org). Then go to Virginia Beneficiaries to find ALIVE! House. Registration is \$15 for ages 25 and younger and \$25 for adults (\$30 on the day of the Walk). If you can't do the walk yourself, please consider sponsoring a House resident or student by writing a check made out to Help the Homeless and mailing it to ALIVE! House, 125 S. Payne Street Alexandria, VA 22314. This is the only time during the year that ALIVE! House asks for your financial help. These funds provide over one fourth of the House's budget. For further information call Susanne Arnold 703 683-5138 or email [a.tsarnold@verizon.net](mailto:a.tsarnold@verizon.net). See you there!



Executive Director, Ken Naser is pictured here with Ms. Mandi Rumble, Program Development Officer/Assistant Director, Finance and Scholarship, and VADM Norbert R. Ryan, Jr. USN (Ret), President, of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), as they present a check for \$5,272 to ALIVE! For over ten years, MOAA has held a campaign during the summer months dedicated exclusively to ALIVE! and its mission to serve our community. Thanks to all who helped!

## Development Council

In June Gerry Hebert and Diana Day, as ALIVE!'s President and President-elect, together appointed a new Development Council, to oversee the work of a development professional retained through a grant from the Alexandria Community Trust.

The Development Council is chaired by Marian van Landingham, and its members include Patrick Anderson, Lesli Creedon, Rosette Graham, Gerry Hebert, and George Pera. The Council has been asked to review the consultant's reports and approve them for consideration by the ALIVE! Executive Committee and/or Board of Directors. The Development Council members may also take on a leadership role in implementing the consultant's recommendations.



*President Diana Day greets Marian Van Landingham, chair of the Development Council, prior to the council's September meeting.*

ALIVE! Wine

**ALIVE!**  
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*ALIVE!, founded in 1969, is a nonprofit organization devoted to helping Alexandrians facing emergency situations become self-sufficient members of the community. ALIVE! has grown from a handful of organizations and volunteers to a vigorous organization of 41 congregations and many volunteers. ALIVE! offers Alexandrians in need help through ALIVE! House Shelter, Furniture, Housewares, Food Pantry, Family Emergency, Child Development Center and Last Saturday Food Distribution Programs.*

Contact ALIVE! at  
703- 837-9300  
E-mail : alivetoo@aol.com  
www.alive-inc.org

## OCTOBER

- 7th Board Meeting: Church of the Resurrection, 2280 North Beauregard Street  
25th Last Saturday Food Distribution: Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center and Ladrey Senior High Rise  
**Food Collection:** Alexandria Church of the Nazarene, Beth El, Del Ray UMC, Downtown Baptist, Fairlington Presbyterian, First Christian, Meade Memorial Episcopal, St. James UMC, and St Mary's Catholic  
**Furniture Program:** Fairlington UMC, St. Joseph's Catholic Church

## NOVEMBER

- 18th Annual Recommitment and Volunteer Recognition Potluck Dinner at St Paul's Episcopal, 228 South Pitt Street  
27th 33rd Annual Turkey Trot, Thanksgiving morning, 10 to 11:30, Cora Kelly Recreation Center  
**Food Collection:** Blessed Sacrament, Christ Church, Church of the Resurrection, Convergence, Good Shepherd, Grace Episcopal, St Joseph's Catholic, St. Paul's Episcopal, Trinity UMC, and Westminster Presbyterian  
**Furniture Program:** Christ Church, Church of St. Clement

## DECEMBER

- 2nd Board Meeting: Westminster Presbyterian, 2701 Cameron Mills Road  
13th Last Saturday Food Distribution: Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center, and Ladrey Senior High Rise  
**Food Collection:** All donations gratefully accepted  
**Furniture Program:** First Christian and Good Shepherd Lutheran