



ALIVE! Wire

Alexandrians InVolved Ecumenically

Summer 2008

President's Message



Addie and Gerry Hebert

My tenure as President of ALIVE! is coming to a close, but my commitment to the organization I love and am devoted to will continue. The reason for this is so clear to me: by helping those in need in our community, I am able to put my faith into action.

But there's another part of the organization's work that I have not written about in the past that I should definitely mention, and that is our dedicated volunteers and staff. Day in and day out, ALIVE volunteers make a difference. Our Family Emergency Program (FEP) prevents people from becoming homeless each and every day, by helping them pay rent so they aren't evicted. Think about that. An ALIVE volunteer is able to use the resources of our group to prevent a person from becoming homeless. I am amazed at the dedication of FEP chair Linda Coleman and her volunteers who each and every day take calls from social workers, church groups and community organizations, and then rescue people facing eviction, a utility cut off, or who desperately need food.

Our food program chair Jean Moore faces real challenges daily and does a wonderful job meeting the growing food demands of ALIVE!'s clients. We have witnessed an alarming growth in people requesting food in our city, while simultaneously facing an increase in how much that food costs. Jean and her volunteers do an amazing job of meeting these needs. Jean, a good and faithful servant, also oversees the food distribution at Church of the Resurrection on the last Saturday of every month. She is assisted there (and in the food program generally) by another wonderful volunteer, Beth Campbell. Feeding hungry people is a vital part of ALIVE!'s mission.

Our furniture committee is led by long-time volunteer

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LAST SATURDAY FOOD



Cub Scout Troop 801 presents a check for \$100 to Jean Moore (Blessed Sacrament) at the Last Saturday Food Distribution at Church of the Resurrection on April 26th. The troop raised the money to help cover the rising cost of eggs, a great source of protein. Both the Family Emergency Program and Last Saturday put eggs in each order we distribute to those in need. This is a wonderful fund raising idea for any group looking for a service opportunity. Thanks so much to the scouts and their parents for helping us out!



Volunteer, Donald Campbell (Trinity UMC) helps deliver eggs at the Last Saturday Food Distribution in April at Church of the Resurrection using one of the two new wagons donated by Sylvia and Jocelyne Winterling of Downtown Baptist Church. Thanks to Rev. Dale Seley for passing along the need and to Beth and Donald Campbell who donated a third wagon they found on Craig's list!

Notes from the Executive Director

“Faith, Hope and Charity,” the title of an old ‘50s tune sung by The Andrew Sisters, or some such group, represents what I see daily while working at ALIVE! and is reflected in the articles of this issue of the ALIVE! Wire. Outgoing President Gerry Hebert writes of how his work at ALIVE! is driven by his faith and his faith is strengthened by his work.

Hope can be heard in the words of our former volunteer recalling what he saw in the eyes of those to whom he delivered food. Hope again shown by the many walkers participating in the Step ALIVE! Walkathon for the benefit of our Child Development Center and the children there - our hope for the future.

Almost every page contains an example of charity but none so much as the many stories about the tremendous response to the news of the huge theft of food from our pantry. (See related story about the burglary on page 4.) The kids who earned the chance to throw water balloons at their principal by collecting food for ALIVE!, the Cub Scouts, Brownie troops and Alexandria Little League food drives, or the many, many generous individual donations.

Faith, Hope and Charity, indeed. Wish I could remember how it went.

It could be the ALIVE! theme song. *Ken*



*Ken Naser, ALIVE!'s
Executive Director*

NEW Officers Elected

Officers for 2008-09 were elected at the June 3rd Board Meeting. Most positions were unchanged. The new officers elected are: Diana Day as President, Cheryl Malloy as Vice President, Deborah Schaffer as Assistant Treasurer (general fund), Beverly Patton as co-chair Congregational Reps, and Gerry Hebert will handle publicity. Many thanks for a job well done to Pam Goodell who stepped down as chair of the Gala and as co chair for Congregational Reps, Laura Rogers who had served as Assistant Treasurer, David Ingold who had worked on Publicity and Gerry Hebert who has served as President for three years.

Officers & Chairs FY 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 – Downtown 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	Pam Goodell – Fairlington United Methodist Church

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Mike Diffley. He and his cadre of volunteers pick up used furniture from donors every Saturday morning, and deliver it that same day to those who often have nothing and are sleeping on the floor of their empty apartment. You see, when homeless people move from a shelter to an apartment, they often arrive with just the clothes on their backs. ALIVE!, working with information supplied by social workers in Alexandria, brings those in need furniture so they can turn their empty apartment into a home. I started my volunteer work with ALIVE! as a furniture committee volunteer. When I saw how ALIVE! was able to transform an empty apartment into a home, and more importantly how the person being helped was uplifted in such a heavenly way, I was hooked on ALIVE!. Again, for me, it's all about witnessing God's blessings to those in need that motivates me to be involved with ALIVE!

And my own 83-year old mother's role as our housewares program chair is also an inspiration. Day in and day out, Addie Hebert organizes donated housewares (dishes, sheets, towels, etc.) and delivers them to families in need. Often these are the same people who have received furniture from ALIVE! My mother's face lights up as she tells me that they brought someone housewares and how grateful they were to ALIVE! for giving them hope and showing them love.

My mother is pictured here in the Wire with her proud son, walking in the ALIVE! Walkathon this Spring. She walked the five miles with a sprained back just to raise money for ALIVE! and our Child Development Center (CDC). The CDC, our fully-accredited preschool program, gives the working poor a stable and safe place to have their children cared for and educated. ALIVE!'s CDC is affordable because people pay according to their income level. The children who attend the CDC are perhaps ALIVE!'s best long-term investment. You see, children educated in the CDC preschool aren't behind other children from more affluent families when they start school. If a child spends their years in school playing catch up, and the resources or environment at home are not supportive, then that child has less chance of being successful. Ellen Brown, our CDC chair, and Pam Blankenship, our CDC Director, are to be commended for operating a first-class program.

Our four-family transitional shelter, known as ALIVE! House, inspires me every time I visit it. Here families often arrive having experienced violence or isolation. A mother being reunited with her children needs a safe environment with a support system. ALIVE! House provides that and so much more. It enables families, who have often been in desperate and stressful situations, to get grounded in a place they can call home, and provides a platform to stand on so they can move to the next level. Susanne Arnold is our ALIVE! House chairperson. Words alone cannot convey how

much respect and admiration I have for her commitment to the needy in our midst. Listening to her talk about ALIVE! House reminds me of someone talking about the church they grew up in: a reverence for a place where special and sometimes extraordinary things happen.

There are so many more volunteers who day in and day out perform wondrous works for ALIVE! and the needy in our community. Pam Goodell and Deb Patterson distribute food at one of our Last Saturday Food Distribution sites. So does Suzanne Lamb. Pam, of course, oversees our volunteers, serves as our gala chair (our major fundraiser), and is a perfect example of what it means to be a good and faithful servant, to put it in spiritual terms. I have also seen Deb Schaeffer become one of our most reliable and talented volunteers. She knows how much we count on her to be there when we need her and she never disappoints. Our officers (VP Diana Day, Treasurer Rick Glassco, Personnel Committee chair Cathy Thompson, and Secretary Jann Masterson) have all shown great leadership in our organization. I am grateful to them for their support and dedication to ALIVE!. And having an Executive Director like Ken Naser (a former President of ALIVE!) overseeing day-to-day operations has made the job of being President of ALIVE! a relatively easy task for me.

Inspiration comes from volunteers of all ages. I have been inspired by youth groups sorting food at Last Saturday Food Distribution, and children walking to raise money for the CDC and the ALIVE! House Help the Homeless Walkathon. I have been moved, deeply moved, by seeing the steady and important work performed by long-time ALIVE! volunteers Mike and Linda Oliver, Doris and Don Mela, Vivian Webb (who, with great dedication and little fanfare, handles our correspondence with donors and works with Bob Barnett to maintain our database), Maureen Franks, and Alice and Joe Krafft, to name just a few. Their commitment to the cause of making a difference to the needy in our community gives me hope and renews my spirit, time and again.

My tenure as President may be ending, but my work for ALIVE! is really just beginning. There's so much more to do and God's apparently not done with me yet. So until God calls me home, I will work to see that the mission of ALIVE! continues, and the hope that we ALIVE! volunteers bring to those in need in our City lives on. ALIVE! celebrates its 40th birthday next year. Let's use it as an occasion to renew our commitment to each other and our brothers and sisters in the community as we march on. Someday, perhaps long after you and I have left this place, the dream of an Alexandria where people have a place to live and enough food to eat will be fully realized. It can and will happen one day. When it does, history will record that it was due in no small part to the many wonderful people and good deeds performed by ALIVE!

*“ 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

Burglary

On March 28th when volunteers arrived at our warehouse to load canned goods for the March Last Saturday Food Distribution, they discovered that a large amount of food, mostly canned meat and fish, had been stolen. There was enough food still in stock to take care of those in need that Saturday, but the loss was staggering. The following week, Gerry Hebert contacted some local newspaper reporters about the burglary and a number of news stories were written. An article appeared that Friday, April 4th, on the front page of the The Washington Post's Metro section. That publicity generated television, radio and internet coverage of the crime and our need.

The outpouring of support from the Alexandria City Government and the community, both locally and from around the country, has been truly overwhelming. We have received donations of food and money from people of all ages, from groups of Boy Scouts, baseball and soccer leagues to large and small foundations. And the Mayor and City Staff have worked with us to get a larger, more secure storage space! It has really been an example of a dark cloud's silver lining.

This is just the latest chapter in the continuing story of ALIVE!, which has served as a safety net for Alexandria's poor since 1969. The requests from hungry families have grown substantially over the last year, and with rising food prices we struggle each and every month to find the resources to meet their needs. We continue to succeed with the prayers and support of those who care. Thank you and God bless you.

The following letter was received the week after the warehouse burglary was reported in the Washington media and picked up on the internet. The experiences the Schippereits share are examples of the many ways ALIVE! reaches out to those in need in Alexandria and what this organization is all about. (Reprinted here with permission)

"My wife Marianne and I were stunned today to read online about the food theft from ALIVE!'s warehouse. We have just contributed via PAYPAL to support the pantry's replenishment. We both volunteered during our decade long residence in Alexandria in the 90s through late 2001.

I was the Tuesday Family Emergency Program Food Delivery Man. I remember that our deliveries were always more numerous and grocery bags at their heaviest when the end of the month approached. People's small resources had dwindled to nothing by then.

Here are some of the memories that I was privileged to experience:

- Hungry children following me into housing development stairwells, hoping the food in the bags I was carrying was destined for their apartment. Each time it was.
- Recipients were so hungry that they had their stoves turned on to start immediately cooking what I put on their counters.
- The juxtaposition of abject poverty and desperate lives with million dollar homes and lives of ease, literally across the street from one another.
- Safe house occupants whose faces showed the physical or emotional traumas recently escaped.
- New immigrants, who sometimes weren't quite sure whether my broken Spanish was an INS ruse.
- Parolees, fresh from local or state prisons, who were without fail astonished at the forgiveness and kindness our food symbolized.
- Group home residents and, in particular, these homes' staff volunteers who toll in anonymity in service to these special people's needs.
- ALIVE!'s regular customers, with whom I grew to have more than just a passing relationship.
- A blind man, into whose hands I placed each and every item, verbally identifying it so he could arrange them in his empty kitchen cabinets.
- The proud African American WWII veteran, who regaled me with wartime tales and gave me an impromptu tour of his apartment's walls upon which hung his many personal combat decorations and personal photos of famous military figures.
- The smiles and hugs for food deliveries during the holiday seasons.
- People who were fresh from hospital surgery and incapable of walking. Their hunger was so sharp that it propelled them to hobble down a flight of stairs on their rumps and palms of their hands to unlock and open their front doors.
- Scrupulously clean apartments, starkly empty, save for a kitchen table and two chairs, but filled with the joy and warmth of laughing children.
- The veritable United Nations of languages I heard spoken and the divine smells I savored of ethnic food being prepared.

The most precious of my memories remains these neighbors' grateful responses to our deliveries and their God bless you's as I'd depart.

**God bless all of you.
Stuart Schippereit"**

ALIVE!'s Gala Celebrates New Orleans Jazz and Cuisine

Over 150 people came to The George Washington Masonic National Memorial on April 26 for ALIVE!'s annual fundraising gala. Guests enjoyed jazz music and mouth watering Cajun and Creole cuisine catered by Food Matters. It was a wonderful evening to benefit ALIVE!'s programs.

ALIVE! extends its gracious appreciation for its sponsors, volunteers and auction donors.

Gala Sponsors

French Quarter

CVK Printing
The George Washington Masonic
National Memorial

Bourbon Street

John T. Allen, Jr.
Gerry & Victoria Hebert
Seyfarth Shaw LLP

St. Charles Street

Burke & Hebert Bank & Trust Co.
Sheila & James Hoben
Diana Day & George Lehner
The William D. Euille Foundation
Bill and Betty Livingston
Donald Simpson, Jr.

Royal Street

Agudas Achim Congregation
Linda & Steve App
Mr. & Mrs. Melvin L. Bergheim
Stacy Carlson
Michael & Courtney Diffley
Fairlington United Methodist Church
Margaret J. Howe
Mary & Neil Newhouse
Mary Riley & George McDonald
Ken and Cris Naser
Patrice & Anthony Tighe
Lawrence and Catherine Thompson

Maureen Franks (Fairlington UMC) and other guests found treasures at the auction tables.

Magazine Level

Susanne D. Arnold
Lawrence & Sharon Beeman
Laurence Bory
Ellen Brown
Linda Coleman
Edwards & Associates
Gail Evans & Thomas O'Connor
Gregory Ewell
Pamela Goodell
Ralph and Janice Goodell
David & Marianne Ingold
Fr. Dennis W. Kleinmann
Diane La Versa
Bill & Jann Masterson
Laura Rogers & Jeffery Clark
Morgan Stanley
Anne Murphy
Peter & Kathryn Murphy
Deborah Patterson & Randy Stein

Contributors

Brenda Hatton
Rob Krupicka
William O'Neill
Denise Taylor
Kathleen Sullivan
Eleanor L. Wilson

Cathy Thompson (Blessed Sacrament), Ken Naser (ALIVE! ED), Don and Doris Mela (Beth El) enjoy the ambiance at the ALIVE! Gala, "Night on the Bayou: An Evening of New Orleans Food and Music." The Gala, which was held Saturday, April 26th at The George Washington Masonic National Memorial was a great success, enjoyed by all.



Guest Auctioneer Kerry Donley discusses the special auction items with Gerry Hebert and Pam Goodell (Fairlington UMC)

House Happenings!

Good Neighbors Make Good Profits! The annual ALIVE! House Sidewalk Sale was bigger and better than ever! Neighbors near and far worked hard to realize almost \$5000 for our shelter! Our thanks to: Nancy Rowe, Ann Matigan, Suzanne Lamb, Sandra Jorgenson, Cynthia McCay, Becky Morris, Dee Viehman, Cathy Thompson, Mary Riley, Dimitri Warren, Drake Simpson, Susanne Arnold, Daniel Buzzby, and TJ McLaughlin and Charlie Verderame, students at Bishop Ireton. Boyd Walker donated use of the Ice House for storage - a great help. First Christian Church loaned us the tables. Krispy Kreme gave us donuts and Starbucks provided the coffee. It was a beautiful day and a beautiful result.

Schools Out! The end of the school year brings the end of the TC Williams Keyettes tutoring program. ALIVE! House is grateful for these young people who, despite very busy schedules, come each week to help our children do well in school. Even the babies have fun as they are taught readiness for learning games. We thank Atlee Webber, Eva Baker, Jennifer Lee, Abby Marcus, Alex Bijak, Rebecca Newsham, Marisa Vinson, and Denise Maye Obama for their year of service.

Sunday Suppers Our friends continue to provide a Moms night out at home by bringing in a Sunday Supper. In April it was the turn of the Youth Group from the Old Presbyterian Meeting House, and in May, the IAA, International Association of Administrative Personnel, Old Town Chapter. These delicious meals are greatly enjoyed by the residents. If you and your friends would like to do the same, please call the House to make arrangements 703-684-1430.

We get by with much help from our friends!

Right: Suzanne Lamb holds a sign advertising this year's very successful sidewalk sale benefiting ALIVE! House.

ALIVE! House WISH LIST

Refrigerator for Resident Manager's
apartment

Two toaster ovens

Desk Top Copier (multiple copy-maker)

Scanner

Metro Cards & Bus Tokens



Above: Following the burglary, a number of schools held food drives. Here, Principal Sarah Schmitt bats at water balloons thrown by students at Holy Spirit School. Students who donated food items were allowed to toss a water balloon to Ms Schmitt. In addition to getting wet, she delivered over 25 boxes of food to help replenish our food pantry! Thanks so much to all those who helped out.

Volleyball Tournament Benefits ALIVE! Food Program

"Spring Madness" a volleyball tournament for Middle School girls from the tri-state area was held on March 29th at TC Williams High School. The tournament was organized by the Alexandria Volleyball Club and the Titans 14 team coach Ripley Forbes and Stephanie Murphy. The eleven teams, each made up of 10 to 12 girls accompanied by their parents, were asked to donate items for local food pantries. On Monday, March 30th, Stephanie Murphy delivered a van load of groceries to help restock our shelves. Thanks so much to Stephanie, Coach Forbes and all the participants for supporting ALIVE! They demonstrated a great way to have fun and help others at the same time.

Stepping Out for the CDC

The 27th annual Walkathon to benefit the Alive Child Development Center – Step Alive! -- was held on May 4, 2008. Members of Alive congregations and other friends of Alive ambled through Old Town, past a number of Alive member congregations, on what turned out to be a lovely Spring afternoon. The walk began and ended at First Christian Church. Children, octogenarians, and those in between (as well as quite a few dogs) met the challenge of the hill at the end of the five mile tour and were rewarded with a community picnic.

Marsha Bell, of The Church of St. Clements, properly attired in her kilt, began the walk playing her bagpipe. Thirty-five congregations, organizations, businesses, and individuals sponsored the Walkathon. Our newly designed T-shirts were given to each walker, list the sponsors' names for all to see.

Jill Robinson, supported by many friends and fellow parishioners of Trinity United Methodist Church, collected \$4,250! Jill is our record fundraiser for the fifth year in a row. Jill is well known for her work with children, and the students at the Child Development Center are fortunate to be the beneficiaries of her commitment in this area.

"Mr. Bud" Hart, of Blessed Sacrament, a long-time CDC volunteer and favorite story reader of the CDC children, gathered approximately \$1,300 from Rotary Club members. The Rotary Club has supported the CDC over the years in many ways, and the CDC is grateful for this ongoing assistance.

The Alive CDC offers quality full-day preschool/day care, on an income-based sliding fee scale, to Alexandria families who otherwise might not be able to provide such an experience for their children. As part of the effort to continually improve the service we offer, this year the CDC is seeking reaccreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), emphasizing staff training, and working to upgrade our facilities. One hundred percent of the Walkathon funds raised will go to these and similar efforts. Last year the Walkathon raised over \$21,000. We are hoping to do at least as well this year.

Thanks to all who participated in this year's Walkathon. Each contribution, no matter how small or large, is important to us, and we appreciate every CDC supporter. We hope to see you and your friends in May 2009 for the 28th annual Step Alive Walkathon.

Step Alive! Sponsors 2008

Agudas Achim Congregation
 Alexandria NARFE 232
 Alexandria Podiatry Associates
 Alexandria Toyota
 American Physical Therapy Association
 Becker Electric
 BLT Shirt Printers, Inc.
 Beth El Hebrew Congregation
 Beverley Hills Community UMC
 Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community
 Christ Episcopal Church
 Church of St. Clement
 Church of the Resurrection
 Downtown Baptist Church
 Ebenezer Baptist Church
 Fairlington Presbyterian Church
 First Agape Church
 First Christian Church
 Food Matters
 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
 Grace Episcopal Church
 Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill
 Johnny and Kim Brown
 Meade Memorial Episcopal Church
 Minute Man Press
 Richard T. Stone, DDS
 Safeway of Alexandria
 St. Joseph's Catholic Church
 St. Mary's Catholic Church
 St. Rita's Catholic Church
 Pollard Construction Company
 Thomas J. Fannon & Sons
 Trinity UMC
 Universal Systems & Technology
 Washington St UMC

Don Mela (Temple Beth El) on the accordion and Rick Glassco (Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill) on the Irish Harp were playing during our traditional "picnic" to entertain those returning from this year's walkathon.



Below: Rev. Lowell Schuetze and Joe and Cheryl Malloy (Good Shepherd Lutheran Church) return to First Christian Church in good spirits following the 2008 Step Alive Walkathon.



ALIVE! Wine

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



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

Summer 2008 Calendar

JULY

26 **Last Saturday Food Distribution:** Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center and Ladrey Senior High Rise
Food Collection: Meade Memorial, Roberts Memorial, St. Andrews, St Rita, Westminster Presbyterian.
Furniture Collection: St. Mary's Catholic Church and Trinity United Methodist

AUGUST

30 **Last Saturday Food Distribution:** Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center and Ladrey Senior High Rise
Food Collection: Baptist Temple, Ebenezer Baptist, St Paul's Episcopal, Third Baptist, Washington Street, Zion Baptist
Furniture Collection: Alfred Street Baptist and Downtown Baptist

SEPTEMBER

2 **Board Meeting:** First Agape Church, 2423 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria
27 **Last Saturday Food Distribution:** Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center and Ladrey Senior High Rise
Food Collection: Alfred Street Baptist, Beverly Hills Community, Church of St. Clement, Fairlington UMC, Spiritual Assembly of Baha'is
Furniture Collection: Agudas Achim, Beth El, and Immanuel Church on the Hill