

# ALIVE! Wire

Summer 2015



## President's Message



I am filled with gratitude at this moment. The past few weeks have been filled with opportunities not only for service but for giving as well. It touches my heart to see first hand the spirit and generosity of my neighbors.

Many thanks to the ACT for hosting Spring2Action. This one day fund raising event led to \$17,000 from 183 donors! We are grateful to both ACT for Alexandria

and the donors who participated.

The May 3 Step ALIVE! CDC Walkathon: Thank you to all of the walkers and virtual walkers who supported Step ALIVE!. Thank you to the many donors who reached a little deeper into their pockets to make donations to the Walkathon. Double thank you to the scores of volunteers who helped make the day a success doing everything from manning water stations, driving the rescue van, setting up for the picnic, marking out the route and all the other tasks that go into a major city-wide event. Without YOU, the children would lack a wonderful pre-school that sets them on a path for success for the future. Then there are the extra special people who make it happen: Mary Eileen Dixon who works tirelessly all year to ensure that the Walkathon succeeds and that the students have the best opportunities for learning; Pam Blankenship, Director, who works on every aspect of the students' success in school, the wonderful teachers who ensure that the students who graduate from the CDC are prepared when they start kindergarten and the parents who work as hard as they can so their children have a chance for success.

HUGE Thank you to Brian McCormick who led the May 14 US Post Office Food Drive. Brian worked for weeks in advance of the event to make sure that everything would work like clock work on the day of the big event. The Alexandria postal workers who already have a tough job, picked up over 11,000 pounds of food to donate to ALIVE! Special thanks to Charlotte

## Step ALIVE! 2015 A BIG SUCCESS

By any measure, Step ALIVE! 2015, the Child Development Center's main fundraiser, was a tremendous success. It was a beautiful day, record numbers of individuals and businesses supported it, and it culminated in a lively party.

At 2:00 pm, on Sunday, May 3, following introductory remarks by Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille and ALIVE! Executive Director Diane Charles, approximately 150 walkers headed toward Old Town, accompanied by the stirring notes of bag-piper Eric Rice-Johnston. These actual walkers were joined in spirit by another 100 "virtual" walkers who had also signed up to support the CDC.

The walkers made a striking display as they headed out in their bright orange T-shirts. The backs of the T-shirts were crowded with the logos or names of a record number of sponsors, including 37 businesses or large groups and 31 ALIVE! member congregations.

Following their stroll through Old Town, Step ALIVE! participants returned to First Christian Church for a delightful picnic featuring delicious food and sought-after door prizes. Attendees also enjoyed wonderful bluegrass music performed by members of the New Mode/Taste of Bluegrass bands, as well as rousing selections by the 16th Tabernacle A Cappella choir.

Although proceeds from Step ALIVE! are still being finalized, it is expected to realize more than \$65,000, definitely the most successful CDC Walkathon to date.

In addition to the sponsors identified on the next page, the CDC would like to thank the following businesses for their support of Step ALIVE! 2015: Alexandria Cupcake, B&C Jewelers, Five Guys, Giant Food, Hard Times Cafe, Harris Teeter, Jeffrey's Catering Company, Killer E.S.P., MOM's Organic Market, Pacers, Robcyn's, Rocklands Barbecue and Catering Company, Whole Foods Market, and Zoës Kitchen.



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## Notes from the Executive Director - Diane Charles



As summer arrives, so do different kinds of challenges facing families who struggle financially. Meals for children that are provided at school are not available. So, ALIVE!'s safety net is equally as important in July as it is in October. This means our programs and our volunteers will continue to serve our neighbors in need throughout the summer. The financial support to do so is equally as critical.

This year at ALIVE!, summer also represents a time of transition. We have some incredible volunteer leaders stepping down from key program and committee positions that will be felt all around. Linda Coleman and Vivian Webb, the Co-Chairs of the Family Emergency Program, have put their heart and soul into operating a compassionate and efficient program that ensures hundreds of Alexandrians each year can continue to live in their apartments. ALIVE! is grateful for what each of them has brought to ALIVE! over their many years of service. We look forward to them continuing to be involved – in varying capacities.

Cathy Thompson is stepping down as the Chair of the ALIVE! Personnel Committee where she has served for many years. Cathy is someone who can tell a vivid story of ALIVE! just by the evolution of ALIVE!'s improvements in employment practices and benefits offered. She has been the stalwart for all things relating to the way ALIVE! engages its personnel, making sure policies were developed where and when needed and helping to make ALIVE! a desirable place to work.

ALIVE! is grateful for each of these key people and all they have done to ensure that ALIVE! continues its mission of serving our Alexandria neighbors in need.

Summer at ALIVE! also means a step towards increased efficiency for our emergency food programs! Thanks to the City of Alexandria, the future will bring expanded warehouse space and the needed renovations to make the space safe for all Alexandria's food providers and pantries. As a result, emergency food operations in Alexandria will see significant improvements in collaboration, storage and distribution. ALIVE! and all Alexandria food pantries are thrilled that the Alexandria City Council included funding in the FY2016 budget to cover required renovation costs.

With the increased warehouse space, ALIVE! will coordinate the access and storage of all Alexandria's food providers, enabling collaboration for refrigeration, cleaning and storing of emergency food. Food and fresh produce that often could not be used by emergency food providers in Alexandria will now be put to use. The renovations will get underway this summer and we foresee the expanded space use by the fall.

## Fighting Hunger at an Early Age

When five-year-old Campbell Reid asked his parents about people who are hungry and whether he could share his breakfast with them, the Reid family began a journey that they had not envisioned. After learning about food needs at his school, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes, kindergartener Campbell asked many questions. He was so impacted by what he learned that he asked his parents if he could setup a stand to help get food available to those who need it. Soon, with the help of mom and dad (Mike & Lauren Reid), Campbell's "More Than Soup" food drive was born. He also got help from his teachers and friends who assisted in making flyers and spreading the word in the community, as well as through the school's newsletters and on social media.

Throughout the month of April, Campbell was at Safeway after school and on Saturdays collecting food for ALIVE! He also collected money (\$247) for ALIVE! when it was explained to him that funds were needed to purchase eggs and milk. Over a hundred boxes of cereal and several hundred pounds of peanut butter, tuna, soups, and other much needed canned food were the results of five-year-old Campbell's efforts! Campbell's parents and schoolmates delivered the collected food to the ALIVE! warehouse and even came to visit one of the ALIVE! Last Saturday Food Distributions - so that Campbell got the complete picture of what his actions meant to those in the community who were in need of food.



*Campbell Reid delivers his collected food to the ALIVE! warehouse*

## ALIVE! OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS FOR FY 2016

Officers and Committee Chairs were elected by the Board of Directors during their June 2nd meeting.

### OFFICERS

President - Deborah Patterson, Washington Street United Methodist Church  
 Vice President - Patrick Anderson, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
 Recording Secretary - Eric Winakur, Agudas Achim Congregation  
 Treasurer - Rick Glassco, Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill  
 Assistant Treasurer (General Fund) - Deborah Schaffer, Beth El Hebrew Congregation  
 Assistant Treasurer (Payroll) - Tony Tighe, Community Volunteer

### PROGRAMS

ALIVE! House - Ron Jerdonek, St. Joseph's Catholic Church  
 Child Development Center - Mary Eileen Dixon, Community Volunteer  
 Family Emergency Program - Tom Fulham, Community Volunteer

Food - Charlotte Martinsson, Community Volunteer  
 Furniture - Mike Mackey, Community Volunteer  
 Housewares - Addie Hebert, Fairlington United Methodist Church  
 Mary Lange, Fairlington United Methodist Church

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

Affordable Housing - John Bohm, St. Joseph's Catholic Church  
 Cheryl Malloy, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
 Audit Committee - Alison Utermohlen, Community Volunteer  
 Communications Committee - Pam Goodell, Fairlington United Methodist Church  
 Congregational Representatives - Ann Marie Hay, Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington  
 Development Council - Geof Caldwell, Community Volunteer  
 Diana Day, Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington  
 Investment Committee - Larry Thompson, Grace Episcopal Church  
 Nominating Committee - Ellen Brown, Community Volunteer  
 Personnel - Craig Stevens, Fairlington United Methodist Church

### President's letter continued from page 1

Martinson, Jon Perlman and Suzanne Pollock and all of the volunteers who helped load and unload the food on Saturday and the volunteers who toiled on Mother's Day sorting the food in the warehouse.

Only a week later, an army of volunteers led by Susanne Arnold spent countless hours aiding in the success of the ALIVE! House Sidewalk Sale. Thank you to all who volunteered and to all who shopped at the sidewalk sale. It was a busy few weeks.... but we cannot rest. In spite of the generosity of the community, we are still struggling to meet the need. We must continue to work as hard as we can to help our neighbors in need as the working poor face ever higher costs and fewer job opportunities. We need your help if we are to continue to meet the needs of our neighbors. Please help us make Alexandria a City of Opportunity for all of its citizens.

Deborah Patterson



ALIVE! donors did something extraordinary on April 22! Through Spring2ACTion, Alexandria's day of giving, they gave more than \$17,000 for emergency assistance for families in need. Because of those donations, ALIVE! is there with a safety net for people who are sick, elderly, unemployed and struggling to pay their bills. Thank you to everyone who gave and helped to spread the word that day...you are the reason that a neighbor's burden is eased and hope is restored.

THANK YOU!

STEP ALIVE! 2015 SPONSORS

Benefactors



THE MCNEIL FAMILY FOUNDATION

Pacesetters



Leaders



OLIFF PLC



Patrons

Becker Electric
Burke & Herbert Bank & Trust
Clarke and Sampson, Inc.
Fiske Law Group

Halt Buzas and Powell, LTD
Hermitage Residents Association
Krafft A/C Service Corp.
McEneaney Associates Realtors

McLaughlin Ryder Investments, Inc.
Speck-Caudron Investment Group of Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC
The Stafford Foundation
Wiygul Automotive Clinic

Friends

Allan Garnaas Associates
www.autogrip.com
BLT Shirt Printers
Beyer Subaru
Carla's Copy Cat
EnviroSolutions, Inc.

John Marshall Bank
Judith D. Willard Graphic Design
Keller Williams Realty
Alexandria Old Town
Kositzka, Wicks and Company

Meridian Imaging Solutions
New Mode Grass / Taste of Bluegrass Bands
PIES Fitness Yoga Studio
Reunions

The Sherwin-Williams Company
16th Tabernacle A Cappella
Chris Umbel State Farm Agency
Stone Wood Team in Affiliation with Keller Williams Realty

Congregations

Agudas Achim Congregation
Alfred Street Baptist Church
Baha'is of Alexandria
Beth El Hebrew Congregation
Beverly Hills Community United Methodist Church
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church
Christ Episcopal Church
Church of God and Saints of Christ Sixteenth Tabernacle
Church of the Resurrection
Church of Saint Clement

Commonwealth Baptist Church
Day Alliance of the Unitarian
Universalist Church of Arlington
Del Ray United Methodist Church
Downtown Baptist Church
Emmanuel Episcopal Church
Fairlington Presbyterian Women
First Christian Church of Alexandria
First Agape Baptist Community of Faith
First Church of Christ, Scientist
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Ebenezer Baptist Church
Grace Episcopal Church Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill
St. Joseph Catholic Church
St. Mary Catholic Church
Saint Paul's Episcopal Church
St. Rita Catholic Church
Third Baptist Church
Trinity United Methodist Church
Washington Street United Methodist Church
Westminster Presbyterian Church

## ALIVE! House *Amanda Isaac, ALIVE! House Director*



### INCREMENTAL CHANGES!

At ALIVE! House, it is important to know that there are always life changing incremental steps that happen daily. Often when a family is ready to move out, it is easier to look back at the entire progress of their time at ALIVE! House and see how much they have overcome to be self-sufficient. During that time, each week brings a new challenge and a new small success. A small step may seem minor, but it is actually something to be celebrated. Even a step back can be celebrated if the resident can learn from it, as challenges bring the greatest growth.

This month, a resident learned to use her voice when she needed to, another resident found a better job with her constant determination, and another resident chose to be assertive instead of passive aggressive. Best of all, one of our residents was able to see her potential. These are huge victories wrapped up in small steps that are so important because their children see these steps too. The growth that our residents make gets passed onto their kids, and they move forward, closer to reaching the goals they have set at the beginning of their stay. By learning this process of small steps forward and how to cope with challenges, our residents can continue to be successful throughout their time here and when they leave ALIVE! House.



### SIDEWALK SALE

Rain was in the forecast for days before the sale, but everyone held out hope that it would change. Change it

did! We were blessed with a hot, sunny day perfect for shopping! On Friday, ACT for Alexandria volunteers loaded the donations into the ALIVE! trucks while other volunteers cleaned up around ALIVE! House. The trucks were parked overnight on S. Payne Street, ready for the volunteers who arrived at 6 am on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> to set-up the tables and unload the donations. Even before set-up was completed, the volunteers were selling! Everyone's spirits were up, and many shoppers stopped by to learn more about ALIVE! House. Some former residents were involved as well as neighbors, social workers, ALIVE! Board members and friends. Current residents took part and helped with clean-up - a great opportunity to learn about community and giving back. On an even more positive note, we raised nearly \$5000 for ALIVE! House. Thanks to all the volunteers who made the sale a success. One new volunteer had this to say, "I was a first time volunteer and I was really impressed with the event. It was well organized. The volunteers each did a lot of heavy lifting, but all were cheerful as we knew we were helping with a worthy cause. You can expect me back next year." A very special thanks to Susanne Arnold and Ann Matikan for their tireless effort to organize this event!



### ALIVE! House Wish List

- Paper towels
- Laundry detergent
- Child Safety stove knobs
- Storage/organizing Bins
- Body Wash
- Lotion
- Microwave



Once again, ALIVE! has been recognized as "one of the best" by The Catalogue for Philanthropy. The Catalogue for Philanthropy aims to take the guesswork out of giving by identifying the best community-based charities in Washington D.C. and suburban Maryland and Virginia. ALIVE! is honored that they see what we see: an organization that gives real help to Alexandrians who are struggling to break the cycle of poverty. Thank you to all of ALIVE!'s wonderful volunteers and donors who make us a powerful force for good!

*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

**ALIVE! Food Program** *Charlotte Martinsson, Food Program Chair*

This winter when the cold wind was blowing and we were all thinking about the warm weather that spring would bring, Letter Carrier Brian McCormick was thinking spring for another reason. He was preparing for the USPS *Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive*, which brings a much needed supply of food to families in need during the summer months when need is highest and supplies are dwindling.

This year the men and women of the U.S. Postal Service distributed thousands of bags to households throughout the region. Alexandria responded with donations of nearly 12,000 pounds of food which will help feed about 1,000 needy Alexandria families each month through the ALIVE! Last Saturday Food Distributions this summer and fall.

Some bags had four or five items, some weighed many, many pounds, and some were attached to even larger bags with arm loads of food. And even though the day was warm, and the carriers not only hauled the mail but walked weighted down with the extra load, they returned with ear-to-ear grins. “We’re glad to do it,” said one as she unloaded her truck. Another returned with bins and bins of food. “We want to help,” said another. And on it went, truck after truck, carrier after carrier, bag after bag, until around 6 p.m. when ALIVE! volunteers loaded the mail bags onto trucks and wheeled them into the ALIVE! food warehouse.

The next day, fueled by pizza supplied at half price by Domino’s North Henry Street location, ALIVE! volunteers sorted all 12,000 pounds in less than three hours. Nothing could have happened without wonderful volunteers: Samantha Fontenelle and about 10 folks from the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps; Zita Abaiweh from Mark Twain Middle School; two young ladies from Bishop Ireton High School; students and a chaperone from Episcopal High School; Shaheed Patterson and recruits from the Capital Youth Empowerment program; students from New Beginnings and Sheltercare; Isabel Pollack, LaVonne Williams and members of the Alexandria Labor Coop; and Deborah Patterson, Beth and Donald Campbell, Charlotte Martinsson, Susan Pollack, and John Perlman.



*City Proclamation for “Stamp Out Hunger”*



*Mr. Nimmons and Mr. Ho of Trade Center Post Office*



*Mr. Houg and Mr. Sison of Parkfairfax Post Office*



*Don Campbell and other ALIVE! Volunteers with Parkfairfax letter carriers*



ALIVE! is grateful to the City of Alexandria’s Fund for Human Services for a multiyear investment in our Food and Family Emergency Programs. This grant will allow ALIVE! to respond to the needs of many in our City who are not able to make ends meet. We appreciate the opportunity to put the City’s concern for others into action, and we look forward to a continued partnership. Thanks, Alexandria!



ALIVE! was thrilled to learn that their nominee and long-time partner, the Del Ray Business Association, was selected to receive the **Alexandria 2015 Business Philanthropist of the Year** award at the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Volunteer Alexandria Business Philanthropy Summit on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

The Del Ray Business Association (DRBA) exemplifies the philosophy that when the entire community is improved, everyone benefits. DRBA enables collected food and financial support to come to ALIVE! from the proceeds of their annual Turkey Trot. Numerous other events that promote the Del Ray business community and steer community support to many of Alexandria’s nonprofit organizations are also a part of DRBA’s repertoire of good deeds. ALIVE! congratulates DRBA and thanks them for their support!

## Last Saturday Food Distribution Program and Special Services



### Food Program Wish List

Canned Meat  
Tuna  
Canned Spaghetti Sauce  
Dry Pasta Noodles  
Canned Fruit  
Peanut Butter  
Jelly  
Soup  
Canned Vegetables  
Cereal  
Rice  
Canned or Dried Beans  
Baby Food  
Crackers

\$ Money to buy fresh eggs and meat \$

### Alexandrians Receiving Food from ALIVE! Between March 1, 2015 and May 31, 2015

	Households	Individuals
<b>March</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>2368</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>2261</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>2181</b>

## VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE SPRING “SPRUCE UP” TO CDC

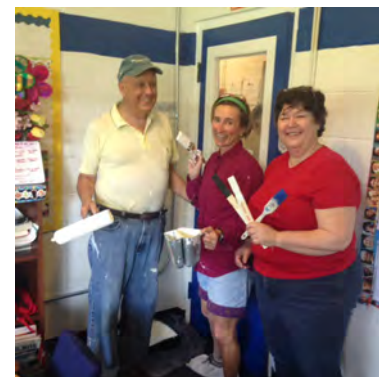
Thanks to the efforts of several volunteer groups, ALIVE! Child Development Center (CDC) students, parents, and staff are enjoying a greatly “spruced up” facility.

On Friday, April 24th, 14 students from T. C. Williams High School’s International Academy arrived at the CDC ready to work. Accompanied by faculty adviser Christal Jackson and speaking a variety of languages, these young people weeded, mulched, and added new plants to landscaped areas adjacent to the CDC entrance, as well as cleaned up the CDC playground.

The next day, Saturday, April 25, volunteers with Rebuilding Together Alexandria, including a number of members of the Community Praise Center, an ALIVE! member congregation, came together to repaint CDC entryways and the boys’ and girls’ bathrooms. The CDC was one of 38 Alexandria nonprofits and private residences to benefit from the work of RTA on that day.

On Sunday, May 31, a work group from the Old Presbyterian Meeting House gathered at the CDC to repaint the Blue Room, one of the CDC’s three classrooms. This project was part of a day of service organized by OPMH for members of its congregation. Eight other local agencies also benefitted from their efforts on that day.

ALIVE! and the CDC are very grateful for each of these “Spruce Up” efforts which will stand the CDC in good stead when it is visited twice this spring and summer by site inspectors as part of two different accreditation and quality evaluation processes.



## Amanda is Running .. for ALIVE! House!

ALIVE! House Director, Amanda Isaac, is putting her running passion to work for what she says is “near and dear to my heart”: ALIVE! House. Registered and underway in her training regimen, Amanda will run this year’s Marine Corps Marathon on October 25th to raise funds for ALIVE!’s shelter for women with children who are seeking self-sufficiency. Go to [www.razoo.com/alivehouse](http://www.razoo.com/alivehouse) to learn how you can support Amanda (and ALIVE! House) in her journey to raise funds for this extremely valuable program. Watch for more information on other ways the ALIVE! community can help Amanda raise funds and provide support as she trains for this marathon!



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www.alive-inc.org  
E-mail: info@alive-inc.org

ALIVE! Wine



*ALIVE!, founded in 1969, is a non-profit 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 43 congregations and hundreds of volunteers.*

*ALIVE! offers Alexandrians in need help through its 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: info@alive-inc.org  
www.alive-inc.org

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
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## Summer 2015 Calendar

### JULY

**25 Last Saturday Food Distribution:** Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center, and Ladrey Senior High Rise

**Food Collection:** First Agape, Meade Memorial, Roberts Memorial UMC, St. Andrews UMC, St. Rita, and Westminster Presbyterian

**Furniture Collection:** First Baptist Church, Emmanuel Church, Trinity United Methodist Church

### AUGUST

**29 Last Saturday Food Distribution:** Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center, and Ladrey Senior High Rise

**Food Collection:** Commonwealth Baptist, Ebenezer Baptist, St. Paul's, Third Baptist, Washington Street UMC, Zion Baptist

**Furniture Collection:** Alfred St. Baptist, Downtown Baptist, Agudas Achim

### SEPTEMBER

**2 ALIVE! Board Meeting:** 7:00 PM, The Spiritual Assembly of Baha'is of Alexandria, 5400-B Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304

**27 Last Saturday Food Distribution:** Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center, and Ladrey Senior High Rise

**Food Collection:** Agudas Achim, Alfred Street Baptist, Beverly Hills UMC, Emmanuel Episcopal, Fairlington UMC, Old Presbyterian Meeting House, St. Clement, Spiritual Assembly of Baha'is, Unitarian Universalist Church

**Furniture Collection:** Fairlington UMC, Immanuel Church-On-The-Hill