



CHO Newsletter

Serving DUNN LORING, MERRIFIELD, OAKTON & VIENNA areas

Organized in 1969 and supported by churches, civic organizations, businesses, & individuals, CHO - The Committee for Helping Others -- provides simple, loving charity to persons in need of goods and services which they are unable to provide for themselves or obtain from government services.

May 2014

George's Corner:

THE NEW GUY ON THE BLOCK: When I became Vice Chair of CHO in June 2013, I assumed I would be a utility-infielder - stepping in when Jim Larson could not. But life is unpredictable Jim and Betty are now doing well in Atlanta per their recent correspondence. Thank you Lord. And although I was comfortable as a Meals on Wheels, Shepherd's Center, and furniture-truck driver, stepping out of my comfort zone to be the "team manager" has not been as overwhelming as I expected. Again, thank you, Lord.

After a year, I more fully appreciate and understand the required dedication, sensitivity, time-commitment, and heart and soul of the CHO servants who woman or man the food and clothing closets, furniture-moving, and Emergency Services operations day-in and day-out. CHO lets our clients, who but for the grace of God could be us, know that someone cares. I want to be a part of that and find others to follow in our (aging) footsteps. I hope that I can make a meaningful contribution.

CHO CASH IS DECLINING SIGNIFICANTLY: For the past 5 years, CHO contributions have been essentially level. However, CHO outlays to pay for clients' Emergency Services (primarily rent and utilities) have been increasing each year. Based on the first 6 months of this fiscal year, Emergency Services' annual requirements have increased nearly \$35,000 from 5 years ago. As a result, CHO cash is decreasing at a pace that cannot be sustained much longer. As CHO has neither personnel costs nor rent or mortgage payments, and our only other expenses (insurance, furniture-truck operation and maintenance, and postage) are essentially fixed, Emergency Services is the only variable outlay. If CHO contributions do not increase, Emergency Service payments may have to be rationed or capped. **CHO NEEDS SOME INTENSIVE CARE** (with donations to: CHO, PO Box 233, Vienna, VA, 22183). Thanks.

OUR TRUCK: The Town of Vienna, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and several private companies have been solicited

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Contact CHO:

Website:

www.cho-va.com

Email:

cho@cho-va.com

Phone:

202-681-5279 (Furniture)
703-281-7614 (All Other Services)

*Serving the Community
1969-2014*

Committee for Helping Others

P.O. Box 233 • Vienna, Virginia 22183

George's Corner, continued

to donate a truck to replace our 25 year old GMC diesel. Fairfax County donated our current vehicle to CHO in the late 1990s. We thank Fairfax County for that as well as the Town of Vienna for allowing CHO to use their warehouses in the Vienna Town Yard for furniture storage. If you have or know someone or an organization with a medium box truck (Gross Vehicle Weight of 25,999 pounds or less, to preclude the need for a CDL, with a lift-gate) for donation to CHO, a 501(c)(3) tax-deductible organization, please phone Dan Larkins at 202-681-5279.

OUR TRUCK DRIVERS: Our four truck drivers range in age from 68 to over 90. We are pleased to report that there is a person in the pipeline who is interested in getting his Commercial Drivers License (CDL) to increase the ranks. If you too would like to get your CDL and drive Saturday mornings about once every 8 to 10 weeks, please phone Dan Larkins at 202-681-5279.

(Continued in next column)

George's Corner, continued

PUBLICIZING CHO: The current food, clothing, and furniture needs of CHO are regularly noted in the Vienna Presbyterian Church Sunday Church Bulletin and its Mission Outreach e-blast. A Vienna community organization (with about 300 homes) is also to begin publicizing the existence of CHO's food and clothing closets and furniture pick-up service in its monthly newsletter. If your church, organization, business, or residential community would like to do something similar, I would be glad to provide you with whatever information would suit your need (George Bergquist; gwb0745@gmail.com; 703-727-5846).

NOTICE!! Please send donations ONLY to CHO's post office box (P.O. Box 233, Vienna, VA 22183). DO NOT send donations to any other address that may have been provided to you. Thank you!

N E E D S

The CHO Furniture Program's most frequently requested items continue to be beds -- queen and full-size -- followed, more or less in order, by dressers, sofas, and table and chair sets. We are generally not able to accept king-size beds, sofa beds, living room chairs, and any items that are broken, damaged or excessively worn. We can occasionally accept refrigerators and electric washers and dryers if they are in good working condition. To arrange a pickup of items that you would like to donate, please call the Furniture Program phone number: (202) 681-5279.

In addition, the **CHO Furniture Program** continues looking for volunteers to drive its furniture truck. A commercial driver's license (CDL) is required. (If you don't have a CDL, CHO can help you get one.) Volunteers are asked to drive 4 or 5 times a year on a Saturday morning. *Drivers do not need to carry furniture; other volunteers are available to do that.* Learn more about the Furniture Program at <http://tinyurl.com/CHOfurniture> and learn more about CHO at <http://cho-va.com>. To volunteer for the furniture program, contact Dan Larkins at danlarkins@verizon.net.

The CHO Food Closet has been seeing heavy demand. We have a constant need for standard food items such as canned meat, spaghetti pasta noodles, cooking oil, 2 pound bags of white rice, dry lentils, peanut butter and jelly, canned fruit, snacks for kids and cereal. As an "emergency" food source, we give these items to each client we serve. However, currently our needs also include items not covered by the food stamp (SNAP) program like laundry detergent, dish soap, diapers sizes 3 and 5, and toilet paper.

The Food Closet is located in the Vienna Presbyterian Church (VPC) Condo building at 133 Park Street (Vienna Courts), across Park Street from VPC. If you would like to donate, you can call the CHO phone number (703-281-7614) to make an appointment to drop off food or you can drop the food in the special donation box by the library in VPC. (Use the Park Street entrance). Please do not leave any donations outside of 133 Park Street.

The CHO Clothing Closet requests donations of clothing that match the current season as storage space for off-season clothing is limited. There has been an increased demand for clothing because of the economic downturn and so there is a greater need for donations, particularly for men's clothing and children's clothing. The Closet is open for donations every Monday morning during the "season" (see summer hours article elsewhere in this Newsletter), or you can make an appointment by calling the main CHO phone number, (703) 281-7614.

Furniture Program Summer Hours. The Furniture Program will continue its normal schedule throughout the summer. Pickups will be made on the second and fourth Saturday of each month. Please visit our website to see the types of items we can -- and cannot -- accept. We will continue to distribute furniture on our regular schedule and will respond to special needs and emergency requests as we learn of them.

Clothes Closet Summer Hours. The Clothes Closet's last open day for this season will be Monday, June 16, and it will reopen on the Monday after Labor Day, September 8. In the interim, clothing will be available by appointment. Please call the CHO central number at 703-281-7614 and leave a message.

CROP Walk News

The 2014 Vienna Crop Walk will be held on Sunday, November 9, again beginning on the Vienna Town Green. In addition, this year's Walk will be preceded by a Rally at Vienna Presbyterian Church (VPC) on Sunday, September 21. In case of rain on the Walk day, registration and closing will take place inside VPC. In addition to walkers, lots of volunteer helpers are needed on the Walk day. Also, if you would like to serve on the steering committee for the Walk, please contact Betty Rahal (see details below).

The CROP Walk is a Church World Service fundraiser to fight hunger worldwide and in our own community. As in previous years, CHO will receive 25% of the proceeds of the 2014 Walk. Last year's CROP Walk featured about 175 walkers and contributions totaled \$33,762.00 from which CHO received \$8,440.00. **Wonderful!!**

For details and photos about the Walk and the work of Church World Service go to www.viennacropwalk.org. To have someone from the Walk Committee come to your church for an event, or to volunteer contact Betty Rahal at (703) 281-4032 or betty.rah@verizon.net.

Water Floods Food and Clothes Closets

During the "monsoons" of April 29 and 30, CHO's Food and Clothes Closets in the VPC Condo experienced flooding. Thanks to some help from our highly motivated Furniture Program, the Clothes Closet and Food Closet were able to move food and clothing items and the shelves they were on out of the flooded rear rooms and into the dry front rooms. VPC custodial staff helped begin the cleanup. What repairs will be needed and when they will be

completed is unknown as of this writing (early May). It seems likely that the carpet will need to be removed. Until more is known, operations of both closets are suspended except for emergencies.

CHO Activities:

FOOD CLOSET: The Food Closet distributes food and certificates primarily to persons and families requiring immediate assistance. It provides basic food items collected from our community and stored at the Condominium across Park Street from Vienna Presbyterian Church. In addition, Christmas food certificates are distributed and a Christmas "store" is organized to provide gifts for clients' children and clothing for the family. The Food Closet takes referrals from Fairfax County, area churches, and individuals.

FURNITURE: The Furniture Program picks up donations of gently used furniture, stores the items, and distributes them to families in need. For pickups and deliveries, volunteer drivers and helpers use their own vehicles and a truck donated by Fairfax County. The Town of Vienna provides us with a small storage facility at its Northside Property Yard.

EMERGENCY SERVICES: Emergency Services supplies aid to individuals and families in meeting emergency rent, fuel, utility, dental, and medical bills and other miscellaneous aid. It takes calls from churches, counties, and other referrers and takes immediate action, including coordination with adjacent helper organizations, working with our treasurer to pay bills directly, and/or arranging help from other CHO Programs

CLOTHES CLOSET: The Clothes Closet collects clothing and distributes it to the needy. It is located at 133 Park Street, across from Vienna Presbyterian Church. The Closet is open Monday mornings from 9:30 to noon during the school year. Donations are accepted every Monday. Clothing is distributed to clients on all except the first Monday of the month.

TRANSPORTATION: CHO's Transportation Program, which provides rides to clients for medical appointments, is currently suspended. We are referring all requests for rides to the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna (SCOV). SCOV provides rides only to clients over age 50.

MEALS ON WHEELS (MOW): MOW provides meal deliveries to persons having difficulty preparing their own food. Food deliveries are made five days a week from Vienna Presbyterian Church.

Donations:

Interim Chair George Bergquist attended a presentation at **Navy Federal Credit Union (NFCU)** where CHO was presented a check for \$20,000.00! The money represented proceeds from **NFCU's annual 5K Run/Walk** on October 5, 2013, plus a corporate gift from NFCU. **THANK YOU!!** 2013's race turnout was good as always with a field of nearly 700 runners. The 22nd Annual NFCU 5K Run/Walk Event will take place on Saturday, September 13, 2014. You can find details at the race website: www.navyfederal5K.com.

Viva! Vienna! The **Rotary Club of Vienna** provides CHO with considerable financial support. The funds come primarily from their annual fundraiser, the **Viva! Vienna! Festival**. CHO has been the recipient of \$5000.00 each year from the 2011, 2012, and 2013 Festivals. Please support this year's Festival which will take place on Memorial Day weekend, Saturday through Monday, May 24-26, 2014 on Church Street in Vienna. For more information on the Festival, please visit their website at <http://www.vivavienna.org/>. **Thank you to Rotary for their support!**

CHO annually receives donations totaling \$4,000.00 from the **ExxonMobil** Foundation's Volunteer Involvement Program (VIP). The VIP encourages volunteerism by ExxonMobil employees, retirees, and their family members by contributing to the organizations where they volunteer. In addition, CHO receives pledges directly from ExxonMobil employees through their ExxonMobil Employees' Favorite Charities campaign plus a donation from Exxon Mobil Corporation proportionate to those pledges. The income from these employee pledges is received throughout the year. **Thank you!**

The **Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna's** annual Thanksgiving Interfaith Service took place on Tuesday, November 26, 2013, at OLGC. CHO receives half of the offering from the service. This year that amounted to over \$800.00! **Thank you!**

Other Donors:

CHO receives financial support from a myriad of other churches, organizations, and private donors. While we never publicize information on private donors, we would like to recognize our ongoing loyal supporters who are not mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter. And a huge thank you to all!

Churches: Antioch Christian, Church of the Holy Cross, Emmanuel Lutheran, Emmaus United Church of Christ, Epiphany United Methodist, First Baptist Church of Vienna, Mennonite Church, Primitive Baptist, Providence Baptist, Vienna Baptist, Vienna Presbyterian Church, Oakton Church of the Brethren, Church of the Holy Comforter, Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, Christ Church Vienna, St. Mark Catholic Church, and Wesley Methodist. **Church Sub-organizations:** Vienna Baptist Children's Center, Presbyterian Women of VPC, Episcopal Church Women of Holy Comforter, United Methodist Women of Wesley UMC, and Presbyterian Women Circle 4 of VPC. **Other Organizations:** America's Favorite Charities, AARP Vienna Chapter #754, Vintage Ladies-Lady Fairfax, Small Business, Town of Vienna, Vienna Arts Society, Northern Va. Model Railroaders, AIDP DC Metro Chapter, NEVCA, Wardrobe Rescue, and Vienna Host Lions Club.

In addition to financial support, CHO receives regular donations of food and clothing from many organizations including: Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, Club Phoenix, NEVCA, the Golden Girls softball team, Green Hedges School, Wolf Trap Elementary School, Wesley United Methodist, Holy Cross, OLGC, Vienna Baptist, Emmaus United Church of Christ, the Mennonite Church, Jammin' Java, Epiphany United Methodist, Louise Archer Elementary School, the Town of Vienna employees, Cornerstone, Old Creek Elementary School, Supervisor Hudgins' coat drive, Vienna Presbyterian, Marshall Road Elementary School, and St. Mark Catholic Church.

Stuff the Bus

Thank you to everyone who donated food to CHO at the Stuff the Bus event held at the **Oakton Giant** on Saturday, January 18. Organized by the Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships, Stuff the Bus encourages shoppers to purchase extra grocery items for local food closets and place them in a **Fastran Bus** parked in the Giant parking lot. As a result of this event, CHO's Food Closet received 40 boxes of food. Each carton weighted 35 to 40 pounds for a total of 1,456 pounds of food! The food was a big help in feeding CHO's clients this winter. Folks who weren't interested in buying food donated an additional \$241.13 in cash for CHO to use to buy whatever is needed. Special thanks to the Oakton Giant for all of their support and to the Fastran folks who donated their time to staff the bus and load the food for us. Carolyn and Rebecca worked there all day along with several CHO Board members and ten intermediate school kids who needed service hours. Thank you to all.

Christmas Program Results

The 2013 CHO Christmas Program on December 14 at Vienna Presbyterian Church (VPC) was, as always, a huge success. Program Chair Carolyn Myzel wants to give special thanks to the 125 volunteers who helped over the two-day period, both for the toy area set up in VPC's basement and the clothing area set up in the Great Hall. To quote Carolyn, this year "we got through the Store with fewer volunteers. I hope next year the number will go up as we needed a few more in the rooms and a few more escorts." We had 254 families to help this year (1072 people including 425 children). We had 21 adoptions and gave away about 80 bikes and over \$9,000.00 in food cards. We had 60 donations (not including the bikes). OLGC donated \$8,775.00 in Giant food cards for this event. Many thanks to Ed Porter of OLGC who ran the bike program this year, Sean McCall who promoted the bike drive at area schools, and Tim Fricker and his crew at Bikes@Vienna who helped get the bikes in safe working order. The youth group at Antioch Christian Church also collected bikes for us again this year. Now PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR DECEMBER 13 for our Christmas Store 2014.

NOTICE:

If you no longer want a copy of the CHO Newsletter by mail, please let us know by email at cho@cho-va.com or by leaving a message on the CHO phone line 703-281-7614. The Newsletter is issued twice a year, usually in May and November. Shortly after going into the mail, a PDF version is available at our website www.cho-va.com.



Flooding at the Food Closet



Thank You to NFCU

CHO, INC
6 Month Report
7/1/2013 thru 12/31/2013

	<u>7/1/2013</u> <u>Balance</u>	<u>12/31/2013</u> <u>Balance</u>	<u>Increase or</u> <u>(Decrease)</u>
<u>Bank Accounts</u>			
Checking	\$52,255.59	40958.74	(11296.85)
EMERGENCY FUND	<u>\$21,145.36</u>	<u>21150.63</u>	<u>5.27</u>
TOTAL Bank Accounts	\$73,400.95	62109.37	(11291.58)

CASH FLOW

RECEIPTS

CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS			
VIENNA PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN	\$815.00		
WOMEN OF HOLY COMFORTER CHURCH	\$1,500.00		
WOMEN OF WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH	<u>\$100.00</u>		
TOTAL CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS		\$2,415.00	
CHURCHES			
ANTIOCH CHRISTIAN	\$500.00		
CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS	\$500.00		
EMMANUEL LUTHERAN	\$2,137.25		
EMMAUS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST	\$416.67		
EPIPHANY METHODIST	\$257.00		
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VIENNA	\$1,000.00		
MENNONITE	\$500.00		
PRIMITIVE BAPTIST	\$240.00		
PROVIDENCE BAPTIST	\$774.00		
VIENNA BAPTIST CHURCH	\$742.75		
VIENNA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	\$8,500.00		
WESLEY METHODIST	<u>\$2,100.00</u>		
TOTAL CHURCHES		\$17,667.67	
EXXON MOBIL CORP		\$1,000.00	
INDIVIDUALS		\$26,714.00	
INTEREST CHECKING		\$1.95	
OTHER ORGANIZATIONS			
AMERICA'S FAVORITE CHARITIES	\$740.91		
Aarp VIENNA CHAPTER #754	\$100.00		
CROP WALK	\$8,349.09		
EXXON-MOBIL CORPORATION	\$1,294.86		
VINTAGE LADIES-LADY FAIRFAX	\$100.00		
SHEPHERDS CENTER OF OAKTON	\$820.05		
SMALL BUSINESS	\$200.00		
TOWN OF VIENNA	\$1,500.00		
VIENNA ARTS SOCIETY	<u>\$375.00</u>		
TOTAL OTHER ORGANIZATIONS		\$13,479.91	
TOTAL RECEIPTS			61278.53

DISBURSEMENTS

ADMINISTRATION			
BANK FEE	\$30.00		
BROCHURES	\$778.08		
CHECK PRINTING	\$251.19		
CHO Telephone	\$251.83		
INSURANCE	\$225.00		
POSTAGE	<u>\$278.00</u>		
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION		\$1,814.10	
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM		\$1,953.00	
CLOTHES CLOSET	\$37.82		
FOOD	\$59.96		
FOOD:SUPPLIES	<u>\$34.03</u>		
TOTAL FOOD		\$93.99	
FURNITURE PROGRAM			

DIESEL FUEL	\$107.95		
PROP. TAX	<u>\$185.16</u>		
TOTAL FURNITURE PROGRAM		\$293.11	
MEDICAL		\$3,051.07	
MISCELLANEOUS ASS'T			
AUTO REPAIR	\$899.46		
DENTAL BILL	\$410.00		
FUNERAL	\$400.00		
FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT	\$156.00		
GASOLINE	\$300.00		
HEATER	\$94.79		
TAXI VOUCHERS	<u>\$180.00</u>		
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS ASS'T		\$2,440.25	
RENTAL ASS'T		\$37,461.49	
UTILITY ASS'T			
ELECTRIC	\$18,053.95		
FUEL OIL	\$889.90		
GAS	\$2,427.59		
Water	<u>\$4,059.11</u>		
TOTAL UTILITY ASS'T		\$25,430.55	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		<u>72575.38</u>	
OVERALL TOTAL		(11296.85)	

	BALANCE	BALANCE	
	<u>7/1/2013</u>	<u>12/31/2013</u>	
MORELAND FUND	\$88,995.02	88997.18	2.16

The amount described as "Moreland Fund" was left to CHO as an endowment by one of our co-founders, Dan Moreland. Mr. Moreland was very specific as to the use of these funds. For that reason, this endowment cannot be and is not considered part of CHO's day to day or emergency operations account.

C.H.O.
P.O. BOX 233
VIENNA, VA
22183

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C H O

May 2014

The Committee for
Helping Others



Yes, I'd like to support CHO. Enclosed is
my check for \$ _____

I'd like to volunteer for:

My name and address are:

Send to CHO, PO Box 233, Vienna, VA 22183

Serving Vienna, Oakton,
Merrifield, and Dunn Loring