



CHO

Newsletter

Serving DUNN LORING, MERRIFIELD, OAKTON & VIENNA areas

Organized in 1969 and supported by churches, civic organizations, businesses, & individuals, The Committee for Helping Others (CHO) 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 2017

Thoughts from the Chairman, Ollie Fowler:

A volunteer is defined as "A person who performs or offers a service of his or her own free will". Of course this is true, but in my experience there are volunteers and then, there are VOLUNTEERS, those that who go above and beyond to offer their services.

During the last several months CHO has lost two such VOLUNTEERS-- John Kliewer who died at age 92 on Sept. 22, 2016, and George High, who passed away at age 85 on March 21, 2017. Both helped to grow and sustain the CHO furniture program. Both spent innumerable hours sacrificing time with family and friends for one purpose -- to help their fellow human beings who had fallen on hard times. George High continued with us even after he moved 25 miles from Vienna. Their service will be forever missed by all of us.

CHO is truly blessed to have a wonderful cadre of volunteers who dedicate a lot of their time to help CHO accomplish its tasks. However, a few have become somewhat overburdened with responsibilities, and therefore we are asking for new volunteers to step up and help us spread the work around. We are lucky to have a new volunteer coordinator, Carol Digan, who has moved to our area from Massachusetts. Welcome Carol!

Some of our more pressing needs right now are described on page 4. Please take time to consider whether you or someone you know might be interested in joining our group. And don't forget - if you are not quite sure about volunteering, you can join us for a short project or a limited period of time. And once you start, the odds are great you will want to continue!

If anyone is interested in helping us out, please email me at otfowler@verizon.net, and I will send you a one page volunteer profile form that is very brief and easy to fill out, or you can contact our volunteer coordinator at carolamacura@gmail.com. Or call us at 703-281-7614 and leave a message in box # 2.

Thanks for considering this request and we hope you all have a wonderful summer.

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Contact CHO:

Website:

www.cho-va.com

Email:

cho@cho-va.com

Phone:

202-681-5279 (Furniture)

703-679-8966 (Clothes)

703-281-7614 (All Other Services)

*Serving the Community
1969-2017*

May-October 2017 - Mark Your Calendars

Viva! Vienna! - May 27-29. The Rotary Club of Vienna provides CHO with considerable financial support, which comes primarily from their annual fundraiser, the **Viva! Vienna! Festival**. The Club has donated \$5000 each year to CHO since 2011! Please support this year's Festival which occurs on Memorial Day weekend, Saturday through Monday, May 27-29 off Maple Avenue in downtown Vienna. For more information on the Festival, which includes rides, food, and entertainment, visit <http://www.vivavienna.org/>.

CROP Walk - October 15. The 2017 Vienna Crop Walk will be held on Sunday, October 15, beginning on the Vienna Town Green. The CROP Walk is a Church World Service event designed to fight hunger locally and worldwide. CHO has been one of the recipients of the CROP Walk efforts over the past years. Over the last 10 years, the Vienna Crop Walk has raised over \$300,000, of which almost \$80,000 has gone to CHO. In addition to walkers, volunteers are needed on the Walk day. To have someone from the Walk Committee come to your church for an event, or to volunteer, go to www.crophungerwalk.org.

NFCU Run/Walk - September 30. The 25th Annual Navy Federal Credit Union (NFCU) 5K Run/Walk will take place on Saturday, September 30, 2017. The Credit Union is a strong supporter of CHO; we have received donations of \$20,000 each year over the past few years. See details at the race website: www.navyfederal5K.com.



Our emergency services team was touched to receive a donation from a client whom we helped recently, someone who does not have much to spare. Her note read:

"Dear Kay (Kate?), Thank you for calling me back on the phone. I really appreciate it! Here is a donation for CHO. I hope you can help somebody else as much as you helped me! I am so gratified for your assistance. Hope you are having a nice summer. Good luck with your efforts!"

Thanks to Ledo Pizza, Vienna. On Thursday March 2 the tables at Ledo Pizza, 141 Park Street SE, were busy as CHO Board members and friends arrived to support CHO. The owner of that store, Scott Welch, generously agreed to donate a portion of its profits for that day and CHO received \$325. Thanks to Scott and Ledo Pizza !

N E E D S

The CHO Food Closet continues to see heavy demand. Current needs include 2 pound bags of white rice, elbow macaroni, spaghetti sauce, cooking oil, lentils, canned fruit and snacks, as well as diapers in all sizes.

The Food Closet is located in the Vienna Presbyterian Church (VPC) Condo building at 133 Park Street NE (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 during the Food Closet Hours (Mondays, 11-12, Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30 and Thursdays, 2-3). You can also 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, also at 133 Park Street NE (Vienna Courts) requests donations of clothing that match the current season as storage space for off-season clothing is limited. We are now in the spring/summer season. Current needs are men's jeans and shorts sizes 30, 32 and 34. 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 **Clothes Closet** at (703) 679-8966 or cho.clothes.closet@gmail.com.

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 no longer required! 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/CHOofurniture/> To volunteer for the furniture program, contact Dan Larkins at danlarkins@verizon.net.

New Food Closet Hours. The Food Closet is attempting to standardize its hours for efficiency and safety concerns, as well as to meet the needs of its clients and volunteers. The Food Closet is now open for appointments to deliver food or to accept donations on Mondays from 11-12, Wednesdays from 3:30-4:30 and Thursdays from 2-3. Appointments are still necessary within these hours.

Clothes Closet Summer Hours. The Clothes Closet's last open day for this season will be Monday, May 22. The Closet will reopen on Monday, September 11. In the interim, clothing will be available and donations accepted by appointment by calling (703) 679-8966 or cho.clothes.closet@gmail.com.

Getting to Know Our Members - Vienna Presbyterian Church

VPC and CHO have partnered together to help needy people in our area for many, many years. VPC's Mission Outreach Program, led by Sue Hamblen, supports needy communities all over the world. For example, they raise funds for and conduct numerous trips each year to Haiti to help those people achieve better medical care and a healthier life. They also support numerous missionaries in many countries from India to Africa. About 20% of the church's budget goes toward these missions.

Locally, VPC complements CHO's service in the Vienna area through their Mentoring/Tutoring program at Cunningham Park Elementary School. They meet with students and mentor them once a week on Thursdays and hold periodic pot luck dinners to better acquaint the student's family with the Mentor's family. VPC has also teamed with other local churches to pack nutritious meals for students without adequate food on the weekends. This outreach program has been very successful and well received.

Part of VPC's upcoming Capital Campaign Program is to extend this outreach directly to the people living in the area. The details of this program are still being developed. All of these efforts have a goal of not only aiding needy people in our area, but bringing the gospel message to them as well, so they become regular attendees at church.

CHO is proud to be a partner with VPC, and hopes this relationship will continue for many years.

Update on 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. During the first three months of 2017, we helped 196 families and 731 people.

FURNITURE: The Furniture Program collects 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. For the first three months of 2017, we filled 40 requests with about \$3080 worth of furniture.

EMERGENCY SERVICES: Emergency Services helps individuals and families to meet emergency rent, fuel, utility, dental, and medical bills and other miscellaneous aid. It responds to calls from churches, counties, and others 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. For the first three months of 2017, we provided \$22,549.27 of emergency aid to 93 families. The major expenditures for emergency services continue to be rent (\$15,911.81 in the first three months of 2017), reflecting high rental prices in our community.

CLOTHES CLOSET: The Clothes Closet collects clothing and distributes it to the needy. It is located at 133 Park Street NE, 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 on all except the first Monday of the month. 230 families (568 individuals) were served in the first three months of 2017.

MEALS ON WHEELS (MOW): MOW provides meal deliveries to persons having difficulty preparing their own food. Food for six days a week is provided and deliveries are made three days a week from Vienna Presbyterian Church. 1828 deliveries were made in the first three months of 2017.

Volunteer Opportunities with CHO

Numerous Volunteer Opportunities are available and described below. If you would like to learn more, contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Carol Digan at carolamacura@gmail.com. Or call us at 703-281-7614 and leave a message in box # 2.

CHO Corresponding Secretary and/or Donor Liaison: The CHO Corresponding Secretary (a Board position) picks up mail, assists the Treasurer with accounting for contributions, and communicates with our members and donors. A donor liaison would assist the secretary with donor correspondence, e.g. thank you letters, tax information, etc.

Publicity Assistant: Volunteers needed to assist the Publicity Chairman in preparation of the bi-annual newsletter, promotion of various CHO fundraisers and events, and creation and maintenance of CHO publicity materials (card, brochures). These tasks can be done by more than one person.

Treasurer: The Treasurer maintains a record of donations and expenditures and reconciles monthly bank records; a key aspect of this role is partnering with our Emergency Services Volunteers to ensure that critical needs are met in a timely basis (this includes daily emails with volunteers and frequent distribution of checks on behalf of individuals we serve). If you are good with numbers and details and can respond to time sensitive needs, please consider sharing your talents. The Treasurer is a Board position. Estimated time commitment – 6 hours a week for ongoing work; 20 hours to prepare the IRS report.

Grant Writer: Use your writing skills to help us maintain existing resources and gain new funding that is so critical to delivering support to those in need. Write and follow up on grant proposals, including annual updating of existing grants and writing new requests, as needed. Estimated time commitment: approximately 15- 20 hours per year.

Community Services Volunteers: Volunteers are needed to assist in the CHO Food Closet, Clothes Closet, receive/deliver furniture, and in the Christmas Store. Time commitments are flexible, depending on your interest in volunteering on a regular basis or for specific events throughout the year. Please consider sharing some time with us.

Arabic & Spanish Translators: We occasionally need Arabic or Spanish language skills to assist our Emergency Services and other teams.

Volunteer Award to Bryan Troutman

CHO Treasurer Bryan Troutman was honored for his volunteer service by Laurie DiRocco, the Mayor of Vienna, at the Mayor's Annual Volunteer Awards Ceremony. Bryan has worked tirelessly as the Treasurer of CHO for many years, a job that includes not only "keeping the books" but mailing and, on more than one occasion, delivering on short notice, checks to help our neighbors with emergency financial needs. He also has driven the furniture truck for CHO, and with his deceased wife, Margaret, drove for Meals on Wheels. His volunteer activities have extended also to Vienna Presbyterian Church, where he (and Margaret) for many years headed up the annual Blood Drive. They also led the SWATT (Seniors With Available Time and Talent) group at church, and together grew this group into a vibrant activity. Bryan continues working one day a week at INOVA hospital in Fairfax. A well deserved honor for this busy person.



Karl Wilkerson, Bryan Troutman & Ollie Fowler

Christmas Program

As always, the CHO Christmas Program, held last year on December 10 at Vienna Presbyterian Church (VPC), was a joyful event, made possible by generous donors and many volunteers - over 130 - who gave of their time over a two-day period. The basement of VPC overflowed with new jackets, quilts and toys and gifts for children. Clothing and other goods, including pottery from local artists, were also available in the church's Great Hall.

We served 241 families - a total of 899 people, including 469 children- 12 more families and 60 more people than the prior year. \$10,200 in Giant food cards was distributed as well as gift cards for teens. Outside the church, 100 bikes were given away. They were collected, cleaned and repaired under the leadership of Ed Porter and his volunteers. Thanks to Green Hedges School, which bought two new bikes, to bikes@Vienna, which repairs bikes throughout the year for this event, and to Antioch Christian Church and Vienna Presbyterian Church, which served as bike collection points.

Program Chair Carolyn Mysel and all of us at CHO who work on this effort wish to thank all who contributed (including those donors that always wish to remain anonymous). Sometimes those of us who live in the shadow of Tysons Corner Center forget that there are families in our area whose children might not receive gifts during the holidays without our help. Now PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, for our Christmas Store 2017. Setup will take place on Friday, December 8.

Our Clients Teach Us

Just as we are often in awe of our clients' steadfastness in light of difficulties, we are often touched by their individual acts of kindness and generosity. For example, our furniture chair, Dan Larkins, received a phone call last fall and heard a familiar Middle-Eastern accent. It was "Victor" (not his real name). "Mr. Dan," he began, "you remember you brought me some furniture a week ago? Well, I found a wallet in the loveseat, and there are credit cards, a driver's license and cash. I will bring it to you."

Like most of our clients, Victor does not have lots of spare cash. We can all wonder whether we would have had the strength of character to behave like Victor. But when Dan met him the next day and expressed admiration and appreciation, Victor answered simply "I won't take something that belongs to someone else." Dan offered him some cash of his own, saying that he was sure the person who lost the wallet would want to have a reward, but Victor wouldn't hear of it. "You guys help us." Dan tried to reason with him, but he only budged a little when he agreed we could give the reward to a church.



Christmas store volunteers with toys and bikes

CHO TREASURER'S 6 MONTH REPORT**JULY-DECEMBER****2016**

	BALANCE <u>7/1/2106</u>	BALANCE <u>12/31/2016</u>	INCREASE OR <u>DECREASE</u>
<u>BANK ACCOUNTS</u>			
CHECKING	\$87,862.56	\$106,580.17	\$18,717.61
EMERGENCY FUND	\$21,177.12	\$21,181.74	\$4.62
MORELAND 2	<u>\$87,446.46</u>	<u>\$85,658.33</u>	<u>\$1,788.13</u>
	\$196,486.14	\$213,420.24	\$16,934.10

RECEIPTS

CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS			
VIENNA PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN	\$500.00		
VPC SWATT TEAM	\$683.33		
WOMEN OF HOLY COMFORTER			
CHURCH	<u>\$1,500.00</u>		
TOTAL CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS		\$2,683.33	
CHURCHES			
ANTIOCH CHRISTIAN	\$500.00		
CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS	\$500.00		
EMMANUEL LUTHERAN	\$1,080.00		
EMMAUS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST	\$500.00		
EPIPHANY METHODIST	\$400.00		
PROVIDENCE BAPTIST	\$645.00		
VIENNA BAPTIST CHURCH	\$2,800.00		
VIENNA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	<u>\$16,818.00</u>		
TOTAL CHURCHES		\$23,243.00	
INDIVIDUALS		\$32,906.93	
INTEREST CHECKING		\$3.09	
INTEREST EMERGENCY FUND		\$5.16	
INTEREST MORELAND		\$4.34	
OTHER ORGANIZATIONS	\$400.00		
AMAZONSMILE	\$8.69		
BUYCHIMES	\$500.00		
EXXON-MOBIL CORPORATION	\$500.00		
GOLDEN GIRLS	\$1,080.00		
NAVY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION	\$20,000.00		
NE VIENNA CITIZENS ASSOC	\$300.00		
SHEPHERDS CENTER OF OAKTON	\$1,127.00		
TOWN OF VIENNA	<u>\$1,500.00</u>		
TOTAL OTHER ORGANIZATIONS		<u>\$25,415.69</u>	
TOTAL RECEIPTS			\$84,261.54

DISBURSEMENTS**ADMINISTRATION**

BANK FEE	\$381.59
BROCHURES	\$248.21
BROCHURES AND NEWSLETTERS	\$581.72
CHO Telephone	\$387.65
INSURANCE	\$225.00
POSTAGE	<u>\$200.00</u>

TOTAL ADMINISTRATION \$2,024.17

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM \$2,076.86

CLOTHES CLOSET \$628.68

FOOD

SUPPLIES	<u>\$87.55</u>
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TOTAL FOOD \$87.55

FURNITURE PROGRAM \$66.76

PROP. TAX	\$578.98
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TRUCK REPAIR	<u>\$154.21</u>
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TOTAL FURNITURE PROGRAM \$799.95

MEDICAL \$1,698.04

MISCELLANEOUS ASS'T

DENTAL BILL	\$800.00
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GASOLINE	\$25.00
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LOAN PAYMENT	\$600.00
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TAXI VOUCHERS	<u>\$170.00</u>
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TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS ASS'T \$1,595.00

RENTAL ASS'T \$42,336.39

UTILITY ASS'T

ELECTRIC	\$12,421.33
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FUEL OIL	\$1,969.97
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GAS	\$437.11
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Water	<u>\$1,252.39</u>
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TOTAL UTILITY ASS'T \$16,080.80

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$67,327.44

OVERALL TOTAL

\$16,934.10

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

I'd like to volunteer for:

My name and address are:

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CHO

May 2017

The Committee for
Helping Others



Serving Vienna, Oakton,
Merrifield, and Dunn Loring