



CHO Newsletter

Serving DUNN LORING, MERRIFIELD, OAKTON & VIENNA areas

Organized in 1969 and supported by churches, civic organizations, and 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.

November 2016

THOUGHTS FROM THE NEW CHAIRMAN, OLLIE FOWLER:

First, I want to thank George Bergquist for his dedication and hard work while serving as my predecessor as chairman of CHO. We are happy to know that he will continue to work with us and provide his ideas and experience.

Now let me introduce myself to all of you as the new chairman of CHO. My wife (JoAn) and I have lived in Vienna since 1980, and still live in the same house. We have grown to love this area, and truly enjoyed raising our two children here. We now have two grandchildren, 8 and 6, and they are a handful.

We have been members of Vienna Presbyterian Church for 35 years, and have volunteered for numerous activities, committees, etc. at the church. Our "church family" is almost as important to us as our "real family".

This coming year I'm really looking forward to working with the wonderful volunteers at CHO to improve our ability to meet our simple objective, i.e. helping needy people in the Vienna, Oakton, Dunn Loring, and Merrifield communities live a happier life. Our food and clothes closets, emergency financial assistance program, the furniture program, and Meals on Wheels work hard every week to fulfill this goal.

These days I'm thinking a lot about how grateful we all should be. How lucky we are to live where we do. Imagine the suffering the poor people in Haiti are going through now. It wasn't enough they had to live through a terrible earthquake, they now have to recover from an enormous storm that flooded most of the island. We need to keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

I'm thankful that Fairfax County has reduced the number of homeless people by 40%, a terrific achievement by all involved. Other things I'm thankful for are my faith, my family, and my friends. When you think about it, isn't that what makes our lives full -- our relationships, not all the stuff we acquire.

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To 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
1969-2016*

Thoughts from the Chairman, continued

Karl Wilkerson and Bridgette Beach
at the CHO Clothes Closet

I want to extend an invitation to all our members to please email me with the name of a contact to invite them to sit down with me at a convenient time to “catch up” and see how we can help each other in the future. This is important to me, as I want to build a closer rapport with all members and do a better job communicating with you on a regular basis. So, please respond. My email address is otfowler@verizon.net.

I speak for all of us at CHO in sincerely wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving and hope you'll be able to share your holiday with family and friends. Thanks.

Ollie Fowler



We don't need thanks but - it's always nice to hear it.
We recently received the following letter from a client:

Dear CHO,

We wanted to thank you so much for helping me and my family when we needed it. The clothes from your donation room and gift card helped me in getting the kids ready for their first day of school.



N E E D S

The CHO Food Closet needs dishwashing detergent (small bottles as we cannot divide the large ones), toilet paper, toothbrushes and toothpaste, tomato sauce and tuna fish. We can also use diapers, sizes 4 and 5. Please call the main CHO phone number, 703-281-7614, to make an appointment to drop off food and supplies.

The CHO Clothing Closet is in need of winter clothing for men, women and children. Winter jackets in all sizes are our greatest need. If any organizations are sponsoring extended clothing drives, we would appreciate it if you would consider delivering some of your contributions part way through the drive, as the need for clothes is most urgent this month. The Closet is open to receive deliveries at the VPC Condos on Park Street on Monday mornings, or you can make an appointment by calling the CHO clothes closet number, 703-679-8966, or emailing cho.clothes.closet@gmail.com. Because of space limits, we can only accept winter clothing at this time.

The CHO Furniture Program has an ongoing need for beds (all sizes except King), dressers and chests of drawers, sofas and love seats (but no sleep sofas or sectional sofas), dining table/chair sets, microwave ovens, rugs, lamps, baby cribs and mattresses. The Program also collects gently used and new bicycles for the Christmas Store. We do not need coffee tables and end tables, living room chairs, large cabinets, hutches, bookcases, entertainment centers, desks, or desk chairs. We can occasionally use large electric appliances (washers/dryers/refrigerators/stoves) if they are in good working condition. The Program is currently in need of additional help for its weekly pickups and deliveries. The Furniture Program warehouse, provided by the Town of Vienna, is located in the Northside Maintenance Yard on Mill Street in Vienna. The truck used by the Program was a donation from Fairfax County.

E V E N T S

SCOV Thanksgiving Interfaith Service - Nov. 22

Mark Your Calendars. This year's **Thanksgiving Interfaith Service** hosted by the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna (SCOV) will be held on Tuesday, November 22, at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Vienna at 7:30 p.m. CHO will share the offering received at the service with the Lamb Center. Last year CHO received over \$1,200 as its share of the offering. Thank you!

NFCU 5K Run/Walk

The Navy Federal Credit Union (NFCU) 5K Run/Walk was held on Saturday morning, October 1. CHO Chair Ollie Fowler was introduced and described CHO's activities. Jean Reese, daughter of Peg Boag of our emergency services team, took third place in her age division. Congratulations! Other CHO volunteers and their families participated in the race. Many, many thanks to NFCU and its large numbers of volunteers who organize, publicize and run in the race. Proceeds from the race, plus a corporate donation from NFCU, significantly assist our work every year. Last year we received \$20,000 from NFCU.

CROP Walk

The **Vienna Crop Walk**, a fundraiser to fight hunger worldwide and locally, took place on Sunday, October 16. The activities began with a concert at Vienna Presbyterian Church, followed by the Walk through parts of Vienna, and ended back at VPC for refreshments and a silent auction. CHO will receive 25% of the proceeds of the 2016 Walk. CHO has received over \$8,000 annually in the past few years from the CROP Walk, and since the inception of the Walk in Vienna, CROP has provided over \$65,000 to CHO! Local businesses, including Vienna's **Chipotle**, **Ledo Pizza**, and **Zoe's Kitchen**, held special CROP days in which they donated a portion of their proceeds to raise additional funds. Other local businesses and organizations that supported CROP in various ways this year included **CEXEC**, **Vienna Presbyterian Church** and **Presbyterian Women of VPC**, **Vienna Rotary Club**, **Evergreene Homes**, **Bueana Dillas**, **Merrifield Dental (J. Kim)**, **Orthodontics by Crutchfield**, **Ronnie Elias Salon**, **Commonwealth Home Design**, **American Window Systems, Inc.**, and many others. CROP funds also support Church World Service's (CWS) efforts for emergencies such as earthquakes and floods. For further details about CROP, contact Betty Rahal at (703) 281-4032.

Day to Serve

CHO was among the beneficiaries of the **Day to Serve** events on September 17. Our Food Closet was blessed with a tremendous contribution of diapers and other needed goods. Many thanks to all who participated, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Oakton United Methodist Church, and Oakton Church of the Brethren who hosted the event. If interested in next year's event, please email cho.clothes.closet@gmail.com.

Ollie Fowler Speaks Before the Race at the Navy Federal Credit Union 5K



Crop Walk Leaves Vienna Presbyterian



Annual Committee Reports

The reports for each of the Committee for Helping Others (CHO) subcommittees for the July 2015 through June 2016 fiscal year follow. CHO's Annual Report is at the end of this Newsletter. The purpose of CHO is to provide charity to needy persons in the community. CHO's primary geographic area of charitable work includes Vienna, Oakton, Merrifield, and Dunn Loring, Virginia. The aid provided includes, but is not limited to:

EMERGENCY SERVICES: Supplies aid to individuals and families in meeting emergency rent, fuel, utility, dental, and medical bills and other miscellaneous aid.

- During the last fiscal year, 156 utility bills, 191 rent and mortgage bills, 23 medical bills, and 25 miscellaneous bills were paid, resulting in 453 bills paid totaling \$107,066.11.

FOOD CLOSET: Distributes food and food certificates primarily to persons and families requiring immediate assistance. In addition, Christmas food certificates are distributed.

- In this reporting period, 891 families (3,064 people) were helped, including those families helped as part of CHO's annual Christmas program.

FURNITURE: Provides pick up of donated furniture and distribution to families in need.

- During this reporting period, we distributed approximately \$11,400 worth of household furnishings and appliances in response to 88 requests.

CLOTHES CLOSET: Collects and distributes clothing to the needy.

- During the 2015 - 2016 fiscal year, the CHO Clothes Closet served 643 families (2,144 individuals). A conservative estimate is that we provided three tons of clothing to clients this season. Volunteers spent 433 hours serving clients. Note that estimates do not include clients served or hours volunteered outside of normal operational hours.

MEALS ON WHEELS: Provides meal deliveries from Vienna Presbyterian Church to persons having difficulty preparing their own food.

- During this reporting period, 5,789 meals were delivered. Deliveries were made for meals for six days a week, including Saturdays.

TRANSPORTATION: The CHO Transportation Program has been suspended. Ride requests are referred to the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna.



December 10 Christmas Program HELP Wanted !

The **2016 Christmas Program** distribution day will be Saturday, December 10, at Vienna Presbyterian Church. We need volunteers on either or both program days -- Friday, December 9, starting at 9:30 a.m. to help set up and Saturday, December 10, starting at 8:30 a.m. to help take clients through the store. Please join us this year to help the less fortunate in our community.

DONATIONS: We are still looking for donations of food cards for adults, gift cards for teens, new toys for children ages 0 to 12, and new or like new jackets and coats. Please donate clothes as soon as possible so they can be sorted before the Christmas Store. Clothing donations can be dropped at the Clothes Closet any Monday morning or by appointment.

BIKES: We need volunteers to accept donations and to help clean and repair the donated bikes. Bikes can be dropped off between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday November 12 and November 26, at both Vienna Presbyterian Church (Mill Street entrance) and Antioch Christian Church (1860 Beulah Road). They will be cleaned/repared on Saturday, November 19 and December 3, at Antioch Christian Church. If you have questions about bike collections, please contact edjporter8@gmail.com.

If you have questions or to let us know that you will be helping with donations or can volunteer for a few hours, please call Carolyn Mysel at [703-281-7614](tel:703-281-7614); [leave a message in Box # 1.](#)

MANY THANKS ! To Sarah and Alan Munro for their generous donation to support bike helmets and repairs for this year's bike program, and to those who helped in prior years!



John Kliewer, Former CHO Furniture Volunteer, Remembers the Furniture Program

John Kliewer, warmly remembered as an energetic volunteer for CHO's furniture program, died on September 22, 2016. In the process of collecting donated furniture and making deliveries, John drove several trucks - his own battered red GMC pickup, and later, surplus 20 and 22-foot box trucks supplied by Fairfax County. He collected, transported and carried untold numbers of mattresses, beds, sofas and washing machines up and down thousands of stairs. John received an outstanding Volunteer Award from the mayor of Vienna in 2006 for his work.

John described his work with CHO in an essay, "Days in the Life of the CHO Furniture Program." He mentions thinking that a Fairfax County caseworker's description of a family as one that "had nothing and were sleeping on the floor," was probably exaggerated, but "[o]n arrival, a couple of days later, we find that there is literally no furniture in their small apartment and that these two people are sleeping on shelving paper." He recounted one of his furniture colleagues saying that "it was amazing how the load suddenly became lighter as the beds, tables/chairs etc., were carried to their upstairs apartment." John also described the reaction of a different recipient, an elderly Vietnamese woman. "To [her], it was almost unbelievable that someone would be giving her these items with no strings attached."

John was a fair historian, and recounted frustrations and mistakes that inevitably occurred. He recalled delivering a washing machine that appeared to be in good condition, but which later leaked and soaked the upstairs carpet. "With apologies, we put [the recipient's] name at the top of the list for the next 'good' washing machine." In another instance he described a frantic and unsuccessful search for a lost telephone number the day after a donation of beds arrived - beds that might have helped a woman with a 2 year old daughter whom he had assisted a few days earlier. "I feel terrible," he wrote.

John concluded, however, that "[w]hile the CHO Furniture Program affords an array of different experiences, the service we provide is almost always to people in genuine need and genuinely appreciated. In many cases the situation is touching and poignant for those of us associated with the program. While we sometimes misjudge a situation or miss the target, we sometimes do it right and when we do, the feeling of satisfaction for being a part of the Committee for Helping Others and having helped someone in need, makes it all worthwhile."



Pictured above with the "old" CHO truck are three CHO drivers - Louis Levesque, John Kliewer, and Chet Phillips

Notices:

DONATION ADDRESS: 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!

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION: If you no longer wish to receive a paper copy of the CHO Newsletter by regular 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 and letting us know if you'd like an email copy (in color!) instead. 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.

CHO TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT 06302016

BANK <u>ACCOUNTS</u>	BALANCE <u>7/1/2015</u>	BALANCE <u>6/30/2016</u>	INCREASE OR <u>DECREASE</u>
Checking	\$49,928.93	\$87,866.22	\$37,937.29
EMERGENCY FUND	\$21,166.53	\$21,177.12	\$10.59
<u>MORELAND FUND**</u>	<u>\$88,402.01</u>	<u>\$87,445.73</u>	<u>\$956.28</u>
TOTAL BANK ACCOUNTS	\$159,497.47	\$196,489.07	\$36,991.60

CONTRIBUTIONS

CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

EPIPHANY WOMEN	\$1,000.00	
VIENNA PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN	<u>\$500.00</u>	
TOTAL CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS		\$1,500.00

CHURCHES

ANTIOCH CHRISTIAN	\$500.00	
CHRIST CHURCH OF VIENNA	\$10,000.00	
CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER	\$2,500.00	
CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS	\$1,100.00	
EMMANUEL LUTHERAN	\$4,318.33	
EMMAUS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST	\$372.00	
EPIPHANY METHODIST	\$534.00	
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VIENNA	\$2,000.00	
HOLY COMFORTOR	\$500.00	
NO. VA PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH	\$600.00	
OAKTON CHURCH OF TH BRETHREN	\$767.50	
OAKTON METHODIST	\$500.00	
OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL	\$200.00	
PROVIDENCE BAPTIST	\$1,977.50	
ST. MARK'S	\$4,000.00	
VIENNA BAPTIST CHURCH	\$2,526.27	
VIENNA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	\$17,112.00	
WESLEY METHODIST	<u>\$379.00</u>	
TOTAL CHURCHES		<u>\$49,886.60</u>

GIFTS RECEIVED

INDIVIDUALS	\$50.00	
INTEREST CHECKING	\$44,398.24	
INTEREST EMERGENCY FUND	\$5.31	
INTEREST MORELAND	\$11.19	
	\$8.13	

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

AMAZONSMILE	\$19.95	
AMERICA'S CHARITIES	\$1,325.34	
AT&T EMPLOYEE GIVING	\$20.00	
BUYCHIMES	\$500.00	
COLDWELL BANKER RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE	\$5,620.00	
CROP WALK	\$16,310.58	
D3	\$1,500.00	
EXXON-MOBIL CORPORATION	\$2,000.00	
GOLDEN GIRLS	\$808.00	
ICK INTL	\$60.00	
JUD TILE	\$150.00	
NAVY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION	\$20,000.00	
NORTHERN VA. MODEL RAILROADERS	\$200.00	
OPTIMIST CLUB	\$375.00	
ROTARY CLUB OF VIENNA	\$5,000.00	
SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS	\$533.07	
SHEPHERDS CENTER OF OAKTON	\$1,250.00	
TOWN OF VIENNA	\$1,500.00	
UNITED WAY	\$271.50	
VERIZON FOUNDATION	\$50.00	
VIENNA DRUG CENTER	\$150.00	
VIENNA QUILTERS UNLIMITED	\$50.00	
VPC SWATT	\$593.00	
WHOLE FOODS -SHEPHERD'S CENTER	<u>\$2,213.00</u>	
TOTAL OTHER ORGANIZATIONS		<u>\$60,499.44</u>
<u>TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS</u>		<u>\$156,358.91</u>

DISBURSEMENTS

ADMINISTRATION		
BANK FEE	\$313.29	
BROCHURES AND NEWSLETTERS	\$1,029.54	
CHECK PRINTING	\$237.56	
CHO TELEPHONE	\$721.85	
INSURANCE	\$1,778.00	
POSTAGE	\$196.00	
VIENNA BUSINESS ASSOC.	<u>\$150.00</u>	
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION		\$4,426.24
APPLICATION FEE, VIENNA BUSINESS ASSOC.		\$150.00
AUDIT PROCEDURES		\$2,000.00
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM		\$2,658.18
CLOTHES CLOSET		\$364.78
FOOD	\$65.88	
FOOD:SUPPLIES	<u>\$233.50</u>	
TOTAL FOOD		\$299.38
FURNITURE PROGRAM	\$33.00	
DIESEL FUEL	\$72.17	
PROP. TAX	\$348.23	
TRUCK INSURANCE	\$1,312.00	
TRUCK REPAIR	<u>\$637.22</u>	
TOTAL FURNITURE PROGRAM		\$2,402.62
MEDICAL		\$5,861.98
MISCELLANEOUS ASS'T		
AUTO REPAIR	\$2,961.78	
DENTAL BILL	\$540.00	
GASOLINE	\$78.00	
INSURANCE	\$200.82	
LOAN PAYMENT	\$500.00	
MOVING EXPENSES	\$50.00	
TAXI VOUCHERS	<u>\$240.00</u>	
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS ASS'T		\$4,570.60
PERSONAL CARE		\$155.13
RENTAL ASS'T		\$56,410.74
UTILITY ASS'T		
ELECTRIC	\$28,434.26	
FUEL OIL	\$864.84	
GAS	\$6,703.85	
WATER	<u>\$4,064.71</u>	
TOTAL UTILITY ASS'T		<u>\$40,067.66</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		<u>\$119,367.31</u>

****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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STANDARD
U.S. Postage
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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:

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

CHO

November 2016

The Committee for



Serving Vienna, Oakton,
Merrifield, and Dunn Loring