



CHO Newsletter

Serving DUNN LORING, MERRIFIELD, OAKTON & VIENNA areas

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

May 2018

Thoughts from the Chairman

My work with CHO and other organizations lets me see the tremendous efforts of so many folks who give back to the community. One project that has inspired me is an event led by Sue Hamblen from Vienna Presbyterian Church that took place this May 12 at VPC. Its purpose was to prepare packets of food ingredients for cooking 15,000 meals. These packets will be distributed over the next year to needy children in our area through local schools, other churches, and CHO. About one in six children in our area don't have enough food to eat.

Generosity Feeds, a national organization that conducts these events, provides the ingredients, trains volunteers to compile each packet, and generally oversees the project. Each packet costs \$1, so the total amount needed is \$15,000.

So, how did do? At the event we had over 300 volunteers and we raised a little over \$15,000.

The success of this program is due to Sue Hamblen's leadership, and the hard work of Barbara Benoit of VPC, Judy Campbell and Debbie Naraghi of Vienna Baptist Church, Rachel Kraft of the Vienna Assembly of God, Corky Eddins (Assistant Pastor) and Susan Christ of Christ Church of Vienna, and Joni Langevoort and Kathie Rawson of Holy Comforter. The donations came from many churches, namely VPC, VBC, Christ Church of Vienna, the Vienna Assembly of God, and St. Francis Episcopal Church in Great Falls.

We could not have had the results we saw without the volunteers and financial support of so many churches. I've always believed that you will achieve maximum success when you involve a variety of dedicated people and organizations. That certainly is what happened here. God's Grace was shining over us the whole time, and we're all blessed for it.

On a related and important note, I'd like to make a special pitch for our own CHO food pantry whose shelves are low due to very high demand in our area. So, if you can find it in your heart to conduct a food drive to help our cause, we'd appreciate it. The items most needed can be found in another section of this newsletter.

Have a great summer! *Ollie*

IN THIS ISSUE

- Thoughts from the Chairman
- Mark Your Calendars:
 - Viva Vienna
 - CROP Walk
 - NFCU 5K Run/Walk
- Special thank yous !
- Needs
- Our Members: Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish
- CHO Activities
- Stuff the Bus Event
- Volunteers Wanted
- Christmas Program Report
- Notices
- Semi-Annual Treasurer's Report

Contact CHO:

Website:

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Email:

cho@cho-va.com

Phone:

202-681-5279 (Furniture)
703-679-8966 (Clothes)
703-281-7614 (All Other
Services)

May-October 2018 - Mark Your Calendars

Viva! Vienna! - May 26-28. The Rotary Club of Vienna provides CHO with considerable financial support, most of which is from their annual fundraiser, the **Viva! Vienna! Festival**. The festival occurs every year on Memorial Day Weekend, which this year is from Saturday through Monday, May 26-28, off Maple Avenue in downtown Vienna. Please stop by and give them your support! For more information on the Festival, which includes rides, food, and entertainment, visit <http://www.vivavienna.org/>.

CROP Walk - October 7. The 2018 Vienna CROP Walk will be held on Sunday, October 7th. 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 for many years. In addition to donors and walkers, volunteers are needed to help organize the event and on the Walk day. For more information, go to www.crophungerwalk.org/viennava, or email Barbara Hechtman at bhechtman@gmail.com to help.

NFCU Run/Walk - September 29th. The Annual Navy Federal Credit Union (NFCU) 5K Run/Walk will take place at 9 am on Saturday September 29th. 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 to participate: www.navyfederal.org/5K



The Rotary Club's Billy Thompson presents a \$4,000 check to CHO Chairman Ollie Fowler.

N E E D S

The CHO Food Closet continues to see heavy demand. Current needs include laundry detergent, shampoo, cooking oil, canned meat, canned fruit, and kids' snacks.

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) currently needs toddler-size boy and girl spring/summer clothes. We request 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. The Clothes Closet is open for donations by appointment only during the summer. Text or call (703) 679-8966 or email cho.clothes.closet@gmail.com. We will resume our Monday hours of 9:30 a.m. to noon on September 10, 2018 (the Monday after Labor Day).

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** is 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.



Getting to Know Our Members

Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish

Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish (OLGC) was established in 1955 with approximately 750 families. Until ground was broken for the chapel in 1957, Masses were held on the second floor of a food locker. **Today, OLGC has over 10,000** parishioners, and includes an elementary school and kindergarten that celebrated its 60th anniversary this year. A preschool is planned for the fall.

To understand OLGC, you need only look at its Mission Statement which reads:

We, as members of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, strive to witness to the good news of Jesus Christ by proclaiming our faith, educating ourselves and our children, sharing our persons, resources, and gifts in the care of one another. We are called to foster an environment of hospitality in accordance with the Spirituality of St. Francis de Sales.

OLGC has been sharing its “persons, resources, and gifts in the care of one another” with CHO for many years. OLGC volunteers serve in CHO’s Food and Clothes Closet, in the furniture program, and on the emergency services committee. OLGC’s St. Vincent DePaul Society often works with our emergency services team to help persons in financial distress. And one of our Board members, Anne Moran, is an OLGC parishioner.

Every year, OLGC donates approximately **\$10,000 in food cards** to be used at the CHO Christmas Store. And CHO has been the recipient of numerous food drives organized by parish committees.

Independent of CHO, OLGC service organizations have prepared hundreds of meals for Food for Others and the Lamb Center, and have organized over 1000 “PowerPaks” to provide meals for school children on weekends.

We are truly blessed to have them as a partner.

Update on CHO Activities

FOOD CLOSET: The Food Closet distributes food 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 2018, 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 2018, we filled 17 requests with about \$1125 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 2018, we provided \$28,325.91 of emergency aid to 104 families. As in the past, the major expenditure for emergency services continues to be rent.

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 Clothes Closet is open for donations by appointment only during the summer (text or call (703) 679-8966 or email cho.clothes.closet@gmail.com.) We will resume our Monday hours of 9:30 a.m. to noon on September 10, 2018 (the Monday after Labor Day). 190 families (791 individuals) were served in the first three months of 2018.

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. 1622 deliveries were made in the first three months of 2018.

Stuff the Bus Event Defies Snow

Despite snow and threats of more bad weather, the Stuff the Bus Event at the Vienna Giant on January 24 helped replenish CHO's dwindling food closet. Volunteers at the event included CHO members, the Girl Scouts and local high school students.

The volunteers handed out flyers to shoppers that listed the most needed items. Shoppers then could add those items to their shopping cart as they did their weekly shopping and purchase them before dropping off the donated items for CHO as they finished. Our volunteers then helped to load the items into a bus provided by MV Transportation.

Many thanks to all who volunteered and to all who came out to shop!



Madison High School Students help to stuff the bus, and CHO volunteers greet shoppers.

Volunteers Wanted

We encourage volunteers, for large or small commitments of time. We can always use volunteers for the Food and Clothes Closets, and for the Furniture program. For the Clothes Closet, the volunteers needed most are those who could commit to help one day each week and partner with a Food Closet volunteer so that a client could come in and receive both food and clothes in a single visit. Those who may only be able to manage a short commitment might consider helping at the Christmas Store in December; see the picture of some of those volunteers opposite and on the next page.

We can also use administrative assistance. Currently we are seeking a volunteer who might in consider serving as a liaison with the various churches and other organizations that support CHO.

For information about volunteer opportunities with CHO, visit the "Volunteer" page at cho-va.org. To volunteer, email us at Volunteer@cho-va.com, or call us at 703-281-7614 and leave a message in box # 2.



2017 Christmas Store

We had a very successful Christmas Store, and were able to spread holiday cheer to many people. Several attendees told our volunteers that they would not have been able to provide gifts for their children without the Store. Many thanks to all of you who helped to collect and organize the bikes and gifts, provided donations, or prayed that any inclement weather would hold off for a day. Here are some of our holiday statistics:

133 families (539 people) came through the Store but we actually helped 279 families for the holidays (749 people). Some families can't come to the Store, so we mail gift cards to them, and other families are "adopted" by families or groups for the holiday. And there are always walk-ins that occur between the day of the Store and Christmas.

We provided for 384 children. This is fewer than the last two years, but we saw more families----more single people and smaller families than before. Specifically,

- ❖ 130 bikes found new homes, which was terrific!!!
- ❖ We distributed a total of \$10,480 in Giant cards for food and \$3,825 in gift cards to families with teens. We also used gift cards for children ages 9-12 where there wasn't an age-appropriate gift available.

We also helped the following:

- ❖ 34 seniors at Tysons Towers, who were given food cards and some fresh fruit
- ❖ 12 adults with disabilities living in a group home in Vienna
- ❖ 7 girls in a County program called New Generations where the girls, all mothers, get a second chance to straighten out their lives so they can take care of their children.

We look forward to your support next December!

NOTICES

DONATION ADDRESS: Please send donations only to CHO's Post Office Box - P.O. Box 233, Vienna VA. Do not send donations to any other address provided to you. Thank you!

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION: If you wish to receive a copy of the newsletter by email rather than paper, let us know by emailing us at cho@cho-va.com. Email copies help save us printing and postage costs and are in **color**!



Top: Children's bikes that were donated to the Christmas store wait for their new owners.

Bottom: CHO Volunteers at the Christmas Store with toys and new jackets.

CHO TREASURER'S REPORT

SIX MONTHS: JUL2017-DEC2017

INCREASE
OR
DECREASE

BANK ACCOUNTS	30 Jun	31 Dec	
Checking	\$94,457.45	\$118,438.39	\$23,980.94
EMERGENCY FUND	\$21,185.97	\$21,190.94	\$4.97
MORELAND 2	\$84,885.02	\$83,922.63	-\$962.39
TOTAL Bank Accounts	\$200,528.44	\$223,551.96	\$23,023.52

RECEIPTS

CHURCHES

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS	\$500.00
EMMANUEL	
LUTHERAN	\$1,250.00
VIENNA PRESBYTERIAN	\$13,590.00
PROVIDENCE BAPTIST	\$1,548.00
VIENNA BAPTIST	\$273.61
CHRIST CHURCH OF VIENNA	\$5,000.00
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER	\$1,500.00
ANTIOCH CHRISTIAN	\$500.00
TOTAL CHURCHES	\$24,161.61

INDIVIDUALS \$14,798.00

INTEREST CHECKING	\$3.72
INTEREST EMERGENCY FUND	\$4.94
INTEREST MORELAND	\$40.75
TOTAL INTEREST	\$49.91

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

AT&T EMPLOYEE GIVING	\$120.00
OPTIMIST CLUB	\$375.00
ROTARY CLUB OF VIENNA	\$5,000.00
AMAZONSMILE	\$6.90
EXXON-MOBIL CORPORATION	\$500.00
TOWN OF VIENNA	\$1,500.00
NAVY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION	\$20,000.00
CLOUDBREAK FOUNDATION	\$6,500.00
NORTHERN VA MODEL RR	
BB&T CREDIT	
VIENNA DRUG	
CENTER	
VANCO CREDIT	
TOTAL OTHER ORGANIZATIONS	\$34,001.90

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$82,806.22

CHO TREASURER'S REPORT (con't)

DISBURSEMENTS

ADMINISTRATION

ADMINISTRATION BANK FEE

ADMINISTRATION: CHO TELEPHONE

BROCHURES AND NEWSKETTERS

ADMINISTRATION:POSTAGE

ADMINISTRATIVE FEE

TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	\$1,671.83
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FURNITURE PROGRAM

PROPERTY TAX

AUTO SERVICE

TOTAL FURNITURE PROGRAM	\$3,175.34
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CHRISTMAS

PROGRAM	/BIKE PROGRAM	\$1,017.00
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FOOD

FOOD:SUPPLIES	\$269.92
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CLOTHING	\$93.23
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MEDICAL	\$2,338.28
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MISCELLANEOUS ASS'T

DENTAL BILL

LOAN PAYMENT

TAXI VOUCHERS /TRANSPORTATION

GASOLINE

REIMBURSEMENT

TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS ASS'T	\$2,400.00
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HOUSING ASS'T

MORTGAGE PAYMENT

RENTAL ASS'T

TOTAL HOUSING ASS'T	\$41,188.50
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UTILITY ASS'T

UTILITY ASS'T; ELECTRIC

UTILITY ASS'T;FUEL OIL

UTILITY ASS'T; GAS

UTILITY ASS'T: WATER

UTILITY ASS'T; TELEPHONE

TOTAL UTILITY ASS'T	\$16,478.36
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TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$68,632.46
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RECEIPTS – DISBURSEMENTS	\$14,173.76
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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:

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

*Serving the Community
1969-2018*

CHO
May 2018



Serving Vienna, Oakton,
Merrifield, and Dunn Loring