



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.

Thoughts from the Chairman

May 2019

This year is a milestone for CHO - the 50th anniversary of our charity. We will celebrate this event with a gathering of CHO member and friends on Saturday, October 5 at 2 pm in the Great Hall of Vienna Presbyterian Church. Save the Date! In this column I'll give you a bit of CHO history.

In 1969, three people-Marge Hill, Charlie Payne, and Dan Moreland- decided there was a clear need for a charity in our area. They frequently saw their minister giving cash out of his own pocket to help people with food, housing, transportation, and utility bills. They decided to create a charitable organization to help provide these basic services. CHO was founded as "an ecumenical organization to help others in the name of the Lord without regard to race or religion."

In 1972, our own Peg Boag joined the group as the Director of Emergency Financial Services, and she continues in this capacity 47 years later! Carolyn Mysel, Director of Food Services, has been working with CHO for about 27 years. Our Clothes Closet has been Co-Chaired by Jackie Neidermaier for over 20 years and Karl Wilkerson has served as Co-Chair for almost 20 years. Their dedication, and the hard work of the numerous volunteers that support their efforts, is the reason CHO still exists today.

Over the years, CHO has helped thousands of people. Our volunteers go "above and beyond" providing basic food, clothing, furniture, and financial assistance. In a local newspaper article from 1999, Peg Boag told of an elderly lady living alone. Her trips to the outhouse were getting hard to make, particularly in the winter. Concerned neighbors and Peg helped this lady obtain indoor plumbing. This incident occurred in the 1990's - in the Town of Vienna. In a similar article, Carolyn Mysel told of a family who was in a terrible accident. Neither parent could work, so Carolyn and friends reached out to the County to get this family some needed services. That's our goal - to provide the assistance needed to help people support themselves. We always hope that those we have served do move on to a better life.

50 years after CHO began, we still try to apply Mother Teresa's words to our work: "What the poor need the most is not pity, but love. They need to feel respect for their human dignity, which is neither less nor different from the dignity of any other human being."

We treasure the continued support from all of you and look forward to seeing many of you at our celebration. Have a great summer!

Ollie

IN THIS ISSUE

- Thoughts from the Chairman
- Mark Your Calendars:
 - Viva Vienna
 - Stuff the Bus
 - NFCU 5K Run/Walk
 - CROP Walk
- Save the Date - October 5
- Congratulations!
- Needs
- Our Members: Church of the Holy Comforter
- CHO Activities
- Food Drives & Fundraisers
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Christmas Store Report
- Epiphany United Methodist Church
- Notices

www.cho-va.com

Email:

cho@cho-va.com

Phone:

202-681-5279 (Furniture)

703-679-8966 (Clothes)

703-281-7614 (All Other Services)

Mark Your Calendars for events that support CHO!

Viva! Vienna! - May 25-27. Join your neighbors in downtown Vienna for food, entertainment and other vendors at the various booths that comprise the annual **Viva Vienna! Festival**. Viva Vienna! Is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Vienna, a generous contributor to CHO, and this event is their annual fundraiser. For more information on the Festival, visit <http://www.vivavienna.org>.

Stuff the Bus - Saturday, June 22. A "Stuff the Bus" event to collect needed supplies for the CHO Food Closet will be held on Saturday, June 22, from 10-3 at the Giant on Maple Avenue. Flyers will be distributed indicating needed items that you can purchase right at the store.

NFCU Run/Walk - September 14. The 2019 Annual Navy Federal Credit Union (NFCU) 5K Run/Walk will take place at 9 am on Saturday September 14th. 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.

CROP Walk - October 6. The 2019 Vienna CROP Walk will be held on Sunday, October 6th. The 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.

SAVE THE DATE

CHO's 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Saturday, October 5, 2 pm

Vienna Presbyterian Church



CONGRATULATIONS !

CHO's Karl Wilkerson (center) received a Town of Vienna Volunteer Award from Vienna's Mayor, Laurie DiRocco (on right, above). Karl is a member of the Oakton Church of the Brethren and has volunteered for CHO for almost 20 years.

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, toothpaste, and size 4 and 5 diapers.

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 or arrange to drop off food on Mondays from 9:30-11. 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 spring/summer clothes. Specific items of greatest need are listed on our website <https://cho-va.com/join-us/needs>. We request donations of clothing that match the current season as storage space for off-season clothing is limited. The Clothes Closet is open for donations by appointment only during the summer (after May 20). 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 9, 2019.

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 you would like to donate, call the **Furniture Program phone number: (202) 681-5279**.

The Furniture Program is also 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.* To volunteer for the program, contact Dan Larkins at danlarkins@verizon.net.



GETTING TO KNOW OUR MEMBERS

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER

The Diocese of Virginia, of which Holy Comforter is part, has a mission statement that partly reads as follows: “The Church of the Holy Comforter exists to help our community and world know the transforming love of God in Jesus Christ.” Most churches in our area have similar mission statements and it’s a wonderful objective for all of us.

Holy Comforter is led by the Reverend Jon C. Strand, Rector and the Reverend Jacqueline C. Thomson, Interim Associate Rector, and is located at 543 Beulah Road in Vienna.

Their local history is documented in their Mission Statement page on their website. In 1895, Vienna was a small farming community. Episcopalians had to travel on dirt roads to The Falls Church or to Zion (Truro) Church. On May 6, 1895, Vienna Episcopalians organized themselves and began services in Bouton Hall (where Pennywise Thrift Shop is now). Today, Pennywise Thrift Shop contributes over \$50,000 each year to their budget. In 1899, they began building a permanent church on West Maple Avenue and consecrated the building in 1903.

The congregation grew, and needed more space. In the early 1950’s they purchased 14 acres on Beulah Road, and began to build a larger church. In 1958, enough construction was completed so that they could sell the old church on Maple Ave. Work continued on Beulah Rd. and the first services were held on April 4, 1965. Renovations occurred after that and even today, construction is ongoing for a new Ministry Center Building.

The heart of Holy Comforter is not the buildings, however; instead, it is intended to be a welcoming and caring church for anyone who believes Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior. As such, relationships are very important to this church and welcoming ALL people, no matter their preferences, is a core belief.

Their website invites all to “connect with others in making the world a better place.” Its 2018 Annual Report is full of pictures of events and activities, highlighting their belief that community and worship are very important to the life of their church.

Holy Comforter has long been a supporter of CHO. We’re very grateful for their generosity, and look forward to continuing to work together in the future.

Update on CHO Activities

FOOD CLOSET: The Food Closet 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 2019, we helped 161 families and 577 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. For the first three months of 2019, we filled 21 requests with about \$1,800 worth of furniture. The furniture program has been using a small facility offered by the town of Vienna, but it is now necessary to move to another location. At this time, CHO has identified an engineering and a construction company to help us with the design of the site and construction of the facility. We hope to begin work on the property shortly.

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 2019, we provided \$33,949.93 of emergency aid to 113 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 (after May 20). Text or call (703) 679-8966 or email cho.clothes.closet@gmail.com. We resume regular Monday hours of 9:30 a.m. to noon on September 9, 2019 (the Monday after Labor Day).

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. 1643 deliveries were made in the first 3 months of 2019.



Boy Scouts at Wal-Mart Stuff the Bus



Staff & volunteers serve crowds at Ben & Jerry's

Food Drives and Fundraisers

The generosity of our friends and neighbors continues to aid our efforts. This year, special events designed to provide food or funds for CHO have ranged from a wine tasting event conducted by one individual for friends, to an 8-hour marathon “free cone day” hosted by Ben & Jerry’s of Vienna. The wine tasting event raised \$2,050. Ben & Jerry’s Ice Cream sponsors a worldwide annual “Free Cone Day,” where the stores provide free cones to customers to thank them for their support. Many stores allow a charity to collect donations on site (and scoop ice cream). This year CHO was the invited charity in Vienna and our volunteers spent 8 hours on April 9 scooping ice cream, talking to people about CHO, and raising \$1,611.

As one of the recipients of the raffle and donations provided from the 9th Annual Charity Tennis tournament founded and run by Nancy Schmelter and held at Cardinal Hill Swim & Racquet Club on April 29, CHO received \$860. We obtained needed food supplies and \$300 in donations at the Stuff the Bus event held at the Tysons Wal-Mart and supported by Fairfax County, Fast Tran and its bus drivers, with additional help from Scout Troop 979. CHO will also be receiving food and personal products as part of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish’s annual food drive for CHO and Brightpaths.

CHO appreciates those individuals and organizations that make CHO the recipient of their generosity every year. Thanks to all who think of CHO when planning their charity events !

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR STUFF THE BUS AND CROP WALK

One way you can help CHO is to volunteer to work with the people who are organizing food drives and fundraisers that benefit CHO. It’s a great way to meet new people and help CHO at the same time ! Two events that need volunteers are described below. To volunteer, email us at Volunteer@cho-va.com, or call us at 703-281-7614 and leave a message in box # 2.

Stuff the Bus - June 22: This Stuff the Bus event will be held on Saturday, June 22, from 10-3 at the Vienna Giant on Maple Avenue. We need volunteers to hand out flyers at the Giant that day. This is a great opportunity for students to earn service hours!

Vienna CROP Hunger Walk - October 6 (Committee meetings begin in May, volunteers welcome anytime): This annual fundraiser relies on volunteers to coordinate teams to participate in a one-day walk to raise funds for hunger relief and promote awareness of global and local hunger. The Walk Committee is forming now and needs volunteers to help with publicity and coordinating teams.

2018 Christmas Store

Once again, CHO's Christmas Store spread holiday cheer to our community. Many attendees would not have been able to provide the special gifts and treats for their children that were made available at the store without your help. Many thanks to all of you who helped to collect and organize the bikes and gifts and provided donations.

This year, 116 families came through the store, and we also helped families who could not attend that day. Three families were "adopted" by groups of individuals or organizations. In total, we helped 201 families or 694 people, including 385 children. Special thanks to Santa and Mrs. Claus who arrived with their extra special Christmas spirit !

140 bikes were distributed through our Bike program.

We received over \$14,500 in gift cards from Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, and over \$4,000 in gift cards from other sources, including small employers, bridge clubs and bowling teams, as well as generous donations of new coats, clothes, and bikes.

And our hearts always burst with joy when we arrive to set up the store and see the array of toys and presents donated by numerous employers and other organizations, many of which prefer to remain anonymous.



The 2018 Christmas Store

A Very Special Thank You to Epiphany United Methodist Church

Last year, facing a shrinking congregation and tighter budgets, Epiphany United Methodist Church made the painful decision to close after over 50 years of service to the community. In the words of its Pastor Brett Isernhagen, believing that "God had more in mind [for us] than just scraping by," the Congregation voted "to take our gifts, passions and love to join in ministry with neighboring congregations and continue our work of revitalization with them."

In so doing, the congregation donated the entire proceeds of its final annual Christmas bazaar (which had been used in the past for its operations) to CHO. They presented CHO's Rebecca Huffman with a check for \$10,000 at one of its worship services. See the photo on the left.

CHO was so honored to receive this gift. Our Board and all of our volunteers express both their gratitude and best wishes to the members of the congregation as they continue to witness to the Lord.



NOTICES

OUR FINANCIAL REPORT: To save printing costs, we have decided not to provide the Financial Report for the last six months (October through March) as we have previously done in the May Newsletter. We will continue to provide 12-month annual numbers in the November Newsletter. If anyone has questions about our finances, feel free to send us an email or contact our Chairman, Ollie Fowler.

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**!

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

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 519
Dulles, VA

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
1969-2019*

CHO
May 2019



Serving Vienna, Oakton,
Merrifield, and Dunn Loring