



NEWSLETTER

MAY 2021

Supporting the DUNN LORING, MERRIFIELD, OAKTON & VIENNA Areas

Organized in 1969, 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 that they are unable to provide for themselves or obtain from government sources.

Chairman's Note

According to Wikipedia, "**It takes a village to raise a child**" is an African proverb that means that an entire community of people must interact with children for them to experience and grow in a safe and healthy environment. I have been thinking about that proverb as we are slowly coming out of COVID. My family spent months stuck at home. My children had to transition to virtual schooling and did not see their friends. Fortunately, my wife and I could stay at home with them. But what about the parents in our community that could not work from home? Or those that depended on childcare that was suddenly closed?

Many of our client families have small children. Statistics from Fairfax County Public Schools show 19% of children in the Vienna zip codes are on reduced cost or free meal programs. Anecdotally, the clothes closet is low on toddler size clothing right now. As members of the community, we are called to support these children. Through your generosity and the work of our volunteers, we distributed \$34,000 in food and gift cards at our Christmas Store, and have provided food to 214 families and almost \$90,000 in financial assistance from January-April 2021.

COVID changed my world. But it also showed me the power of a "village" and what we can do together. Thank you for your continued support of CHO and our mission to help those in need.

Todd

Looking for Volunteers!

Recently retired and looking for something to do? Have an empty nest, but still have more care to give? Now that people are venturing "outside" again, perhaps you might consider expanding your horizons and meeting new people while volunteering with CHO.

We especially need a stalwart individual or two to take over as chair of our furniture program. To volunteer for the furniture program, contact Dan Larkins at danlarkins@verizon.net.

And if interested in other volunteer opportunities, 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.

OUR NEW LOGO

You may have noticed our new logo at the top of the Newsletter. Thanks to Shannon Scheels for designing it!



**ACTIVITIES
REPORT**

**JANUARY-
MARCH 2021**

FOOD CLOSET: The Food Closet distributes basic food and household supplies collected from our community. The Food Closet takes referrals from Fairfax County, area churches, and individuals. During the first three months of 2021, we helped 168 families and 653 people. Call 703-281-7614 box # 1 to arrange for food donations.

FURNITURE: The Furniture Program, which collects and distributes gently used furniture, helped about a dozen families with beds, dining room furniture, tables, sofas & mattresses, as well as nine bikes and other furniture items in the first three months of 2021. CHO is looking for a person to head this program. For more information, contact Dan Larkins at danlarkins@verizon.net.

CLOTHES CLOSET: The Clothes Closet, which collects and distributes clothing, is back in operation on Mondays 9:30 - noon and by request. Contributions of in-season clothing are also accepted; call 703-679-8966.

EMERGENCY SERVICES: Emergency Services helps individuals and families meet emergency rent, fuel, utility, dental, medical bills and other miscellaneous costs. For the first three months of 2021, we provided \$40,857 of emergency aid. We also distributed \$50,000 of CARES Funds received from the town of Vienna.

MEALS ON WHEELS (MOW): 1,459 meal deliveries to persons having difficulty preparing their own food were made in the first 3 months of 2021.



Instead of yoga gear, Paula McGinnis and her team at Body Grace on Mill Street in Vienna collected clothes and a supply of coats for our Clothes Closet. We are so grateful to Paula and businesses like hers who thought of others at a time when they themselves were struggling to keep their own businesses afloat during the Pandemic.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
And support local events that benefit CHO

VIVA VIENNA! May 29-31

The Rotary Club's traditional Memorial Day fundraiser is back (with certain capacity restrictions). Check the town of Vienna website www.viennava.gov, for information.

Navy Federal Annual 5K: October 3

The 5K run sponsored by Navy Federal Credit Union is scheduled to be a virtual event with an online sign up. The race will kick off on **Sunday, October 3, 2021**. We will provide more details closer to the date.

CROP Hunger Walk: October 3

This year's CROP Hunger Walk will take place **Sunday October 3**. For more information on the Vienna Walk or to volunteer, contact Lisa Hechtman from Emmaus United Church of Christ, Vienna, at lhechtman@gmail.com.

EMAIL 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!***

DONATION ADDRESS: Please send donations to CHO's Post Office Box - P.O. Box 233, Vienna VA.22183. Do not send donations to any other address provided to you. You can also give online at cho-va.com.

2021 Christmas Store

Like so many others, CHO took a hard pivot this December to conduct a successful Christmas Store despite the pandemic.

This year's Store was a "drive-through" event, and required us to ask for gift cards and food cards instead of the usual array of toys and gifts. Our donors responded, and with their help and the able logistics assistance from volunteers at Vienna Presbyterian, we conducted a safe distribution of food and gift cards to families in 124 cars. In addition, some of our volunteers arranged for deliveries to those who could not attend the drive-through. Bike volunteers received, fixed and delivered 53 bicycles. In total, we were able to distribute over \$16,000 in food cards and \$18,000 in gift cards.

We missed seeing many of our supporters who volunteer their services on this day each year, but appreciate your willingness to adapt in these unusual times. We also appreciate the very generous donations of gift cards (and cash to purchase cards) from individuals, organizations and from institutions that traditionally held toy drives. We will be reviewing procedures for Christmas 2021 in light of the needs of our clients and health and safety issues.



Pictures: Top - Karl Wilkerson, Carolyn Mysel and Santa's helper prepare to greet our Store guests.

Right- Cars line up at Vienna Presbyterian for the Store.

Our Institutional Members: Wesley United Methodist Church

Wesley United Methodist Church had its beginnings in the 1870's when many farm families met in the old Freedom Hill schoolhouse south of Tyson's Corner. A new building on Spring Street and Moore Ave was built in 1956. Worship services are held virtually right now, led by Pastor Kyungsuk Cho, and all look forward to the day when "live" worship and fellowship events can resume.

Many members of Wesley UMC work to achieve their mission with enthusiastic support for CHO. Congregation members who volunteer for CHO include Jan Beatey, who helps run our Food Closet and serves on Wesley's mission committee. Last winter, the church organized food drives for CHO as well as a coat drive that provided much needed coats for our clients. Members also generously responded to our request for gift cards this December. In addition to supporting CHO on a regular basis, the Church's mission director, Emily Wilson, oversees mission opportunities adapted to the pandemic era, offering resources to provide clean water to communities in the U.S. and abroad, and supporting the school system of a small town in Haiti.

Wesley United Methodist Church's vision is "a world where all experience that they are loved." CHO is proud of its association with Wesley UMC, as both organizations strive to make that vision a reality.



**CHO
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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MAY 2021

