



# NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 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

I write today to ask for help. For the last 10 years, we have housed our food and clothes closets in space graciously provided for free by Vienna Presbyterian Church. Through circumstances out of VPC's control, the complex where the space is located is going to be redeveloped, and we will need to move.

We have about 9-12 months before we must relocate. We are actively working to solve this problem, but I thought I would use this opportunity to reach out to our community and ask for your help in locating new space. Would any organization with extra space be willing to host us? Would you know of any leads in Vienna? Any help in this regard would be greatly appreciated.

I'd like to close with a wonderful story shared with me by one of our emergency services volunteers. On a day when she was making calls and nothing was going right, her next call was to a homeless woman with a small child who needed a few hundred dollars for a deposit to move into a rented room in Vienna. When our volunteer reviewed the case and told her that we could help, the woman burst into tears. "It lifted my heart," our volunteer said. I thought that was a great way to express her and the client's feelings that day. This is the gift you give with your support of CHO. Thank you.

May everyone have a wonderful holiday season.

*Todd*

## *Christmas Store & Bike Drive*

CHO's Christmas Store on December 11 will again be a drive-through event, and our preparations are in full swing. The Store will provide food and gift cards to needy families identified by the school system and other organizations.

It's not too late to donate online, mail gift cards, or put the donation through the mail slot at the Food Closet - 133 Park St. NE. Please consider helping a local family during the holidays !

We will also be handing out refurbished and new bikes to persons who requested or who were identified as needing a bike. The drive itself officially ended November 15 in order to allow our helpers to repair and allocate bikes, but if you do have bikes, please contact Dan Larkins at [danlarkins@verizon.net](mailto:danlarkins@verizon.net). We receive requests throughout the year. For example, just this autumn we provided bikes to 4 students at Madison High School.



## Our Institutional Members: Oakton Church of the Brethren

The Oakton Church of the Brethren is located at 10025 Courthouse Road in Vienna. The Brethren migrated to Northern Virginia from Pennsylvania and the Shenandoah Valley and have served in Fairfax County for over one hundred years. On February 7, 1903, at the Oakton school house, the Brethren decided to organize as a congregation. In 1908, the name was changed to Fairfax Church of the Brethren and became Oakton Church of the Brethren in 1950. The original church building was a small white frame structure built on the site of a Civil War fort and dedicated in 1904. A larger building was built in 1951 and that building, renovated over the years, is used today.

Current pastors Audrey and Tim Hollenberg-Duffey call their work a “harmonized ministry,” an image that represents the ways they complement one another and support a congregation. Worship services are held on Sundays at 11 a.m., preceded by Faith Formation classes. The ministry includes a Love Feast that reenacts the Last Supper, at which Jesus washed his disciples’ feet and offered the bread and cup communion.

Local members participate in ministries such as CHO, OPIL (Oakton Partners in Learning, a tutoring and youth support program), The Oakton High School Pantry, and Brethren Disaster Ministries, whose volunteers rebuild homes and provide emergency relief to communities recovering from disasters.

The Oakton Church of the Brethren are part of over 1000 Church of the Brethren ministries in the United States and other ministries worldwide. Their faith emphasizes compassion, peace-making, simplicity, discipleship, and community. Brethren work locally and worldwide to help victims of war, poverty and natural disasters. They share a long-standing relationship with Church World Service and Heifer Project International. CHO is honored to partner with this faith-affirming organization.

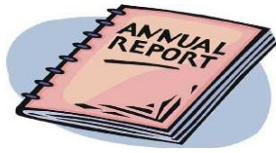
**THANK YOU!**

It takes more than a village to keep CHO going. It takes consistent help from our friends at Navy Federal Credit Union, and food stores like Giant that support our Stuff the Bus efforts. We also appreciate donations from organizations like Rustic Love, civic groups, and athletes like the Golden Girls and Westwood Women golfers, our member churches, and the food drives organized by so many, including the scouts and local schools.

Illustrating these efforts are two photos - Food Closet volunteers Carolyn Mysel and Amy Hansen displaying a large donation from Elizabeth Sughrue (who collected food and supplies from friends) and the volunteers at bell tower of Our Lady of Good Counsel (OLGC), which held a drive to collect gift cards for the Christmas Store.

There was one special donation that touched us all at CHO. We learned that a Madison High school student donated his very first summer paycheck from Giant to CHO this year! We thank you all, and wish we could mention everyone.





**For FY ending 6/30/2021. Details on pages 4-5.**

**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 fiscal year, we helped 679 families (about 3,005 people). Because of safety measures during the pandemic, for a few months we mailed food cards (a total of \$6885) to our clients (including some purchased with and authorized by CARES Act funds) instead of providing actual food.

**FURNITURE:** The Furniture Program, which collects and distributes gently used furniture, helped families with beds, tables, sofas, mattresses, and other furniture items. We also distributed a number of bikes when available and needed.

**CLOTHES CLOSET:** Over a dozen regular and numerous additional volunteers at the Clothes Closet collect and distribute clothing and other small items. The Closet was closed for part of the FY20-21 fiscal year but is back in operation.

**EMERGENCY SERVICES:** Emergency Services helps individuals and families meet emergency rent, fuel, utility, dental, medical bills and other miscellaneous costs. For the fiscal year, 547 bills were paid (398 rent, 119 utility, 30 others) totaling over \$420,000. These included distributions of CARES and ERA Act funds.

**MEALS ON WHEELS (MOW):** Meals on Wheels now recruits volunteers or staff directly and does not rely on CHO volunteers.

## 2021 CROP WALK

Starting at CHO's Food & Clothes Closet, this year's CROP Walk took to the streets of Vienna on a beautiful October Sunday, and raised approximately \$11,000 for local and international hunger relief efforts. The lead organizer was Lisa Hechtman of Emmaus UCC, who dedicated this year's Walk in memory of her mother Barbara. One-fourth of the amount raised will be spent locally via CHO and the rest is for Church World Services (CWS), an international nonprofit that provides food security and education. CWS also participated in a number of efforts to help Afghan refugees this year.



Virginia Delegate Mark Keam, Board of Supervisors member Walter Alcorn, and Lisa Hechtman at the start of the CROP Walk.

### FURNITURE PROGRAM: MUSICAL CHAIRS

Dan Larkins will step down as furniture chair after years of energetic service. He will be succeeded by Jeff Heinz, who can be reached at the furniture number: 202-681-5279. Many thanks, Dan, and welcome Jeff !



**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](mailto: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](http://cho-va.com).

**CHO ASSET CHANGES**

	<b>6/30/2020</b>	<b>6/30/2021</b>	<b>Change</b>
Bank Accounts	\$231,745	\$290,210	58,466
Gift Cards	\$2,015	\$5,706	3,691
Investments			
Moreland Fund (Schwab)	\$85,285	\$84,477	(809)
Peg Boag Fund	\$3,694	\$4,494	800
Total	\$322,739	\$384,887	62,148

**RECEIPTS & DISBURSEMENTS****RECEIPTS**

## Donations

Individuals	\$142,323
Fairfax County CARES & ERA funds	\$254,927
Churches	\$ 70,135
Grants and Other Donations	\$ 56,998

Total Donations \$524,383

Interest \$ 184

**TOTAL RECEIPTS \$524,567**

**EXPENDITURES**

## Administration

CHO Telephone	\$ 988
PO Box Rental Fee	\$ 216
Bank Fees (incl VANCO)	\$1,947
Brochures and Newsletters	\$1,697
Chamber of Commerce Dues	\$ 150

Insurance	\$4,037
Postage	\$ 571
Supplies	<u>\$ 234</u>
Total Administration	\$9,840
Storage	\$6,183
Furniture Program truck expenses	\$ 595
Direct Assistance	
Food	\$25,562
Utility Assistance	
Electric	\$18,327
Gas	\$ 1,351
Water	<u>\$ 4,526</u>
Total Utility Assistance	\$24,184
Medical bills	\$ 9,126
Home repairs	\$ 1,116
Rental Assistance	\$366,164
Other	<u>\$19,650</u>
Total Direct Assistance	\$445,801
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<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b><u>\$462,419</u></b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b><u><u>\$62,148</u></u></b>

NOTE: CHO received \$200,000 in CARES funds in FY 2020 and an additional \$254,926 in CARES and ERA funds from Fairfax County in 2021. It was used to provide economic relief to those in need. As of June 30, 2021, \$17,612 had not yet been distributed.

**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:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Send to CHO, PO Box 233, Vienna VA 22183

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**NOVEMBER 2021**

