



NEWSLETTER

MAY 2022

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

This week I picked up some donations, and one of the boxes had "donated toys for children" written on it in what looked like child's handwriting. How great is that. It brings joy to my heart that there are children thinking about others and how they can share their toys with those in need. It made me think about a question that I often get after I have spoken to churches and civic organizations over the last year about CHO: "*How can we continue to help?*"

Here is an interesting thought. When I was a child, I loved my toys. From a child's perspective, it seems that toys would be a great thing to share with another child who didn't have anything. "*How can we continue to help?*" Maybe an answer should be something like what I saw this week. Think about what you would like to have in your life, and maybe put some of that in a box labeled "donated x for those in need." If a child can do it, couldn't we? **Todd**

Please support activities that benefit CHO

VIVA VIENNA! May 28-30

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: LIVE this year!

The timing of the Navy Federal Credit Union 5K run is not yet in place, but it is scheduled to be live this year. We'll update our website -- cho-va.com -- and Facebook page when we receive more information.

CROP Hunger Walk: October 2

This year's CROP Hunger Walk will take place **Sunday October 2**. For more information on the Walk or to volunteer, contact Lisa Hechtman from Emmaus United Church of Christ, Vienna, at lhechtman@gmail.com.

CONGRATULATIONS !

to Vienna's Church of the Holy Comforter on their 125th Anniversary!

BIKES FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES



Corky Eddins (assistant pastor, Christ Church Vienna) put us in touch with groups assisting Afghan refugees, and we were able to distribute 20 bikes as basic transportation enabling refugees to get to work, to ESL classes, etc. Our team of mechanics (Charlie Strunk, Rob Pflughardt, Jon Perry, and Jim Burggraff) examined each bike to make sure it was safe and roadworthy, repairing them as necessary. We were able to equip each bike and biker with helmet, lock, and lights at cost, thanks to long-time CHO-supporter Tim Fricker of Bikes at Vienna.

2022 Christmas Store

Like last year, CHO's Christmas Store was a "drive-through" event. Thanks to the very generous donors, we were able to provide gift cards and food cards at the Vienna Presbyterian Parking lot to families in cars. Our volunteers also made deliveries to those who could not attend the drive-through. In total, we were able to distribute over \$16,000 in food cards and \$18,000 in gift cards. Our bike volunteers received, fixed and delivered 56 bicycles.

We will be reviewing procedures for 2022 to determine if we can safely provide a "live" store or whether a drive-through or similar arrangement will be necessary. In any event you will be hearing from us!



Our Christmas Store volunteers

THANKS to Fairfax County and the Scout and high school volunteers who participated in the March Stuff the Bus food drive!



ACTIVITY REPORTS & CURRENT NEEDS



FOOD CLOSET: During the first three months of 2022, we helped 125 families and 437 people.. Current needs are kids' cereal, grape jelly, applesauce, pancake mix & syrup, cookies & snack bars, cooking oil, Spam, canned chicken, dish soap, and laundry detergent. Supplies are low now and we have no food drives scheduled. Call 703-281-7614 box #1 to donate or for help.

FURNITURE: The Furniture Program, which collects and distributes gently used furniture, is back in operation at the sheds on Mill Street on the second and fourth Saturday of the month or clients can call us. We've been helping a number of immigrant families. The most needed items are beds, tables, chairs, mattresses & small dressers. Call 202-681-5279 for help or to donate.

CLOTHES CLOSET: The Clothes Closet, which collects and distributes clothing, is back in operation on Mondays 9:30 - noon and by request. Most needed items are men's trousers, jeans, casual work pants sizes 32/32 and 34, youth and boys' pants and jeans. Call 703-679-8966 to donate or for help.

EMERGENCY SERVICES: In the first three months of 2022, we provided \$58,464 in emergency, rent, fuel, utility, dental, medical and other miscellaneous aid. The bulk of this amount was for rent, but our utility aid has increased lately since many utility companies have ceased their pandemic-imposed moratorium on utility cutoffs. Call 703-281-7614 box #4 for help.

HELP! As noted in the last newsletter, we need new space for our food and clothes closets because the current space is being redeveloped. Please see our website -- <https://cho-va.com> -- for an explanation of our space requirements & let us know if you have suggestions.

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@cho-va.com.

SPOTLIGHT ON: *The Vienna Business Association*

The Vienna Business Association nurtures bonds between Vienna's businesses and citizens through community events and outreach, encouraging all to SHOP LOCAL, SHOP VIENNA.

The VBA is open to businesses, citizens and nonprofits. It provides members opportunities for professional development and marketing in the community. Membership fees are sliding scale based on the size and status of the organization (nonprofit, for-profit). The current chair of its Board of directors is Jeff Bollettino, of the School of Rock.

Monthly meetings and referral-networking groups promote and grow local business and to educate peers on members' products and services. The VBA supplies welcome bags for new residents which include promotional materials from its member business and information about its member organizations.

Along with the town of Vienna, the VBA co-hosts Vienna Oktoberfest (this year on October 1, 2022) and the famous Vienna Halloween Parade down Maple Avenue on the Wednesday before Halloween. It sponsors Liberty Amendments Month in June, the beer pouring for the Taste of Vienna in April and is a sponsor for Viva Vienna on Memorial Day Weekend.

VBA Executive Director Peggy James told us that the VBA serves more than its members. "The VBA tries to be an asset to all organizations in need of help." The VBA website provides information on events and support groups and allows all businesses to post jobs. The Vienna Business Association Green Committee is committed to helping the businesses in Vienna learn and implement sustainable green practices.

CHO is proud to be a member of the Vienna Business Association and is grateful for its efforts. For more information, go to info@viennabusiness.org.



LONGTIME VOLUNTEER PEG BOAG RETIRES TO TENNESSEE

Margaret Boag, or "Peg" to clients and friends (pictured above center receiving a volunteer award from the town of Vienna), spent more than 40 years dedicated to helping people in need in our community. Her first volunteer job with CHO was to schedule transportation for people needing rides to medical appointments. In those days, each week one local church was responsible for providing drivers, and Peg matched those drivers with CHO clients.

Peg next served as CHO Emergency Services Coordinator, an important job she handled by herself for many years. Her early training in psychology prepared her well for this job. Peg listened to clients' problems with compassion like your mother or good friend, and provided monetary assistance or referrals to other community resources when needed. She also acted as a teacher, advisor, or stern taskmaster as appropriate.

While working with CHO, Peg raised her own two children, and later was a proud and supportive grandmother to her four grandchildren. She and her husband Jack enjoyed many years together after he retired. After decades of providing simple, loving charity to people in need, Peg now lives near her daughter in Knoxville, TN.

REMEMBERING BRYAN TROUTMAN...

Bryan Troutman, longtime volunteer at CHO, died this March at his home in Gaithersburg, MD at age 89. Before "retiring" from CHO a few years ago and moving to Gaithersburg, Bryan and his late wife Margaret Fisher were stalwart CHO volunteers. Bryan served as CHO's Treasurer and worked daily with CHO's emergency services committee and as a good friend and adviser. He and Margaret collected and bought coats for the Christmas Store, naming the racks of coats for distribution "Margaret's Corner" after her death.

CHO
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