

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

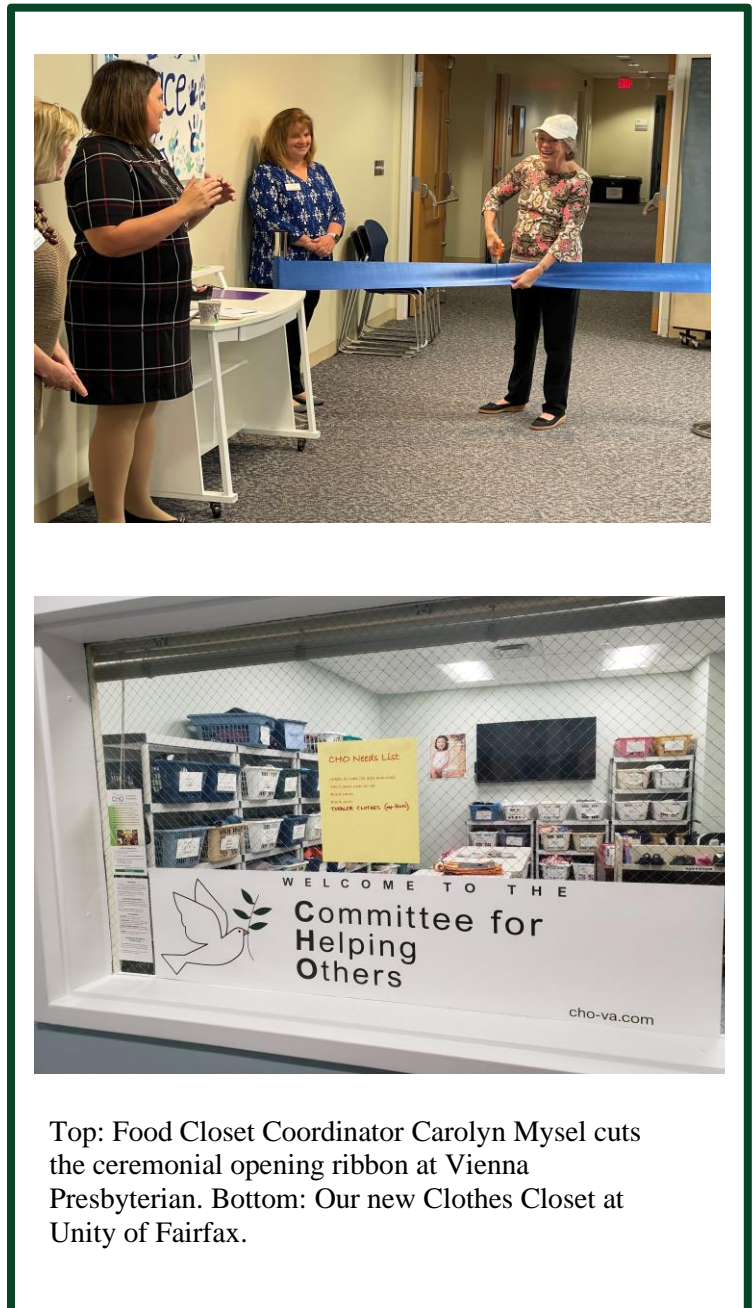
As we enter the holiday season I want to share my gratitude. I'm thankful for many things this year. The Food Closet and Clothes Closet are moved over and running in their new spaces. Our volunteers are enjoying the extra storage area in the Food Closet (which will allow us to reduce our storage space fees) and the bright new space at the Clothes Closet. Thanks to all who helped with the move, especially the Young Men's Service Organization of Vienna/Oakton, who helped move the Food Closet. During the space transition, we took the opportunity to change our phone setup, which has made it easier for our volunteers to communicate with our clients.

We are now getting ready for our Christmas event and there has been a lot of support from the community. I am especially thankful for all the amazing volunteers that make CHO happen. I'm also grateful for organizations like CHO. As we have progressed through this year, we have seen an uptick in requests for help. Aiding CHO and other nonprofits in the area gives those in need somewhere to turn to for assistance.

Finally I'd like to thank all our member organizations and individual contributors that continue to support us and our mission to help those in need in our community.

I hope everyone has a great holiday season.

Todd



Top: Food Closet Coordinator Carolyn Mysel cuts the ceremonial opening ribbon at Vienna Presbyterian. Bottom: Our new Clothes Closet at Unity of Fairfax.

OUR INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS: UNITY OF FAIRFAX



This month we feature Unity of Fairfax, located at 2854 Hunter Mill Road in Oakton. Its website describes its mission as offering a “positive, practical, progressive approach to Christianity based on the teachings of Jesus and the power of prayer.” Unity honors the universal truths in all religions and respects an individual’s right to choose a spiritual path.

Unity of Fairfax is part of the unity movement, which was founded in 1889 in Kansas City, Missouri, by Charles and Myrtle Fillmore. The movement has grown from small prayer circles in living rooms to a worldwide movement. While its origins are rooted in Christianity, the Unity teachings incorporate ancient wisdom from many faith traditions.

CHO supporters know Unity of Fairfax as the new host of our Clothes Closet, for which we are extremely grateful. In addition to their help with the Clothes Closet, another member of Unity serves on our emergency services team. Reverend Russell Heiland, Unity’s Senior Minister, stated that “Unity is grateful to partner with CHO, co-creating a world that works for everyone!”

Sunday services are at 11 a.m., preceded by metaphysical learning sessions from 9:30-10:30 that are also available on zoom. Unity of Fairfax also hosts weekly prayer and meditation, a Chorus Group, and meetings for seniors and the Hispanic community. Unity’s Youth Group “Earth Kids” recently organized a project to recycle broken crayons. Other service projects include food drives, and distributions of backpacks, Thanksgiving meals and Christmas gifts.

CHO looks forward to working with Unity for many years to come.

DECEMBER CHRISTMAS STORE and BIKE DRIVE

The CHO Christmas Store will be open in person on Saturday, December 9. The bike drive continues through the Saturday after Thanksgiving. *You can help.*

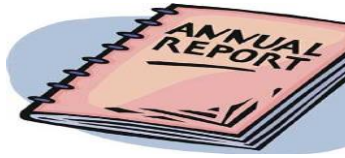
Christmas Store. To help provide food and gifts for needy families, please deliver new toys for kids from infants through 8, gift cards for those 9-18, and food cards, to Vienna Presbyterian Church. Toys and cards can be dropped off in the large green bin stationed at the door of Vienna Presbyterian using the Park Street entrance. You can also deliver them on Friday, December 8, 9:30-noon, where we will be setting up the Store. To view a list of toy suggestions, see our website - cho-va.com - and go to “Services” at the top of the page and then dropdown to Christmas Store.



We also need help on the day of the event. Call 703-281-7614 box # 1 to volunteer to help with the setup or to serve as an escort on the morning of Saturday December 9, or call us to make other arrangements for donations.

Bikes. CHO’s Christmas bike collection has 4 different drop-off locations this year. Before November 25, you can leave your bikes (preferably bikes suitable for teens and adults) in the parking lot of Antioch Christian Church (1860 Beulah Rd), or in the driveway at either 317 Church Street NE, or 218 Elmar Dr. SE, or 9807 Wintercross Ct. *The collection begins October 1 and ends the Saturday after Thanksgiving (November 25), although we can use later donations.* Contact Dan Larkins or Jeffrey Heinz at danlarkins@verizon.net or jheinz_1@yahoo.com with questions.





For FY ending 6/30/2023. Details on CHO’s finances can be found on page 4. Here is a summary.

FOOD CLOSET: The Food Closet distributes basic food and household supplies collected from our community; we take referrals from Fairfax County, area churches, and individuals. During the recent fiscal year, approximately 558 families (about 1780 people) were helped. In addition to nonperishable food and household items, we also provided about \$2,140 of grocery cards.

FURNITURE: The CHO truck is used to pick up donated furniture. Furniture distribution is at the Vienna Town Yard on the second and fourth Saturday of the month, at 8 AM on a first-come, first-served basis. Beds, dressers, sofas/chairs, desks, and tables are the most wanted items. We also provide 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 to approximately 20-40 families a month. The Closet is open by appointment.

EMERGENCY SERVICES: In this fiscal year approximately \$212,000 was spent for emergency relief to over 580 households. About 65% of the funds were for rent relief, 31% for utilities (a large increase from recent years, where companies were more lenient during the pandemic), and the rest for medical and other miscellaneous expenses.

FALL ACTIVITIES

“SOCKTOBER” HELPS CHO ASSIST OTHERS



Van Metre Companies hosted their first annual “Socktober” campaign this October. The community-wide initiative not only collected socks at Van Metre headquarters and residential properties but also received help from industry partners throughout Washington, D.C. CHO was one of the recipients, and will make the socks available through its Clothes Closet, and also plans to provide socks to local hypothermia and wellness centers that operate this winter.

NAVY FEDERAL 5K AND CROP WALK.

November 7 and 8 was a busy weekend for runners and walkers supporting CHO. The Navy Federal 5K, which contributes a portion of its proceeds to CHO, took place on November 7. The CROP Hunger Walk occurred the next day, and raised over \$20,000; one fourth of which will go to CHO and the rest to the international nonprofit Church World Services (CWS).

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Here are examples of the many collective efforts to support CHO. We wish we could report them all.

A group of supporters, led by Shira Enstrom, organized efforts to provide clothes for pregnant teenagers at a local high school.

Bikes@Vienna has again agreed to provide helmets, locks, and lights at cost for our bike drive.

The Westwood Country Club 18-holers donated clothes and cash to CHO.

We received a generous donation to CHO from an individual who had utilized CHO’s Emergency Services assistance in the past.

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.

CHO FINANCIAL REPORT FY 07/01/2022 TO 06/30/2023

Assets	6/30/2022	6/30/2023
Bank Accounts	290,210	203,197
Gift Cards	5,706	9,130
Moreland Fund	84,477	83,415
Peg Boag Fund	4,494	5,097
	384,887	300,839
 Revenue & Expenditures		FY 2023
Revenue		
Donations		
Individuals		150,645
Churches		69,439
Corporations		7,567
Other		44,097
Interest and investment income		3,717
Total Revenue		275,465
Expenditures		
Administrative costs		19,036
Furniture program truck expenses		5,906
Direct Assistance to those in need		
Food		2,998
Utilities		48,393
Medical bills		2,955
Rental Assistance		133,065
Other		27,642
		215,053
Total Expenditures		239,995
Change in net assets		35,470

**CHO
P.O. BOX 233
VIENNA VA 22183**

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Merrifield, 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

NOVEMBER 2023

