



# NEWSLETTER

MAY 2024

## 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:

### CONSIDER JOINING OUR BOARD

Every year in June, CHO elects the board members for next year's term. We started the process this month of putting the slate together for 2024-25. I am happy to report that most of the Board is continuing, as they have for many years. We have folks that have served over 25 years and some that are finishing their first year. I've said this before, but I can't say enough about the people who volunteer here at CHO. To each of them, and those that support us, thank you.

I have a challenge for our supporters - maybe if you're just retired, getting close, or maybe not: get involved with CHO at the Board level. Bring your experience and expertise to a diverse and active team that is trying to make a difference in our community. Our Board members consist of officers and committee chairs, but there are at-large positions available. Help us to continue providing simple loving charity to those in need. We could use you, and based on my experience, I bet you'll find it a rewarding adventure.

*Todd*

*Note:* Anyone interested in learning more about Board service can contact volunteer@cho-va.com.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR EVENTS THAT SUPPORT CHO!

#### VIVA!VIENNA! May 25-27:

Join the Rotary Club's traditional Memorial Day fundraiser in downtown Vienna, with rides, games, food and more. Read about *Viva!Vienna!* on page 3 of this Newsletter. CHO supporters can find us there – you can visit our CHO booth on Sunday May 26 from 10-12, and also volunteer to help at the event at <https://vivavienna.org/volunteer/>.

#### CROP Hunger Walk: October 6

This year's CROP Hunger Walk takes place **Sunday October 6**, in the early afternoon. Part of an international effort of Church World Services to fight hunger, the Vienna Walk starts at one of the sponsoring churches and moves throughout part of downtown Vienna, lasting about 1-1 ½ hours. The Walk supports international and local hunger relief efforts, and CHO receives part of the proceeds.

Please help by registering to join the walk on October 6 or making a donation at [Vienna CROP Hunger Walk](#). For more information on the Vienna Walk or to volunteer, contact Lisa Hechtman from Emmaus United Church of Christ, Vienna, at [lhechtman@gmail.com](mailto:lhechtman@gmail.com).

## Christmas Store

Toys, clothes, and food & gift cards were distributed to the 104 families (503 family members) who came through the Christmas Store last December. Over 65 additional people, including those living on Social Security and disability, were helped as well, and over 90 bikes were collected, repaired, and distributed.

Thanks to Vienna Presbyterian Church for use of their space, to Antioch Christian Church and Bikes@Vienna for help with the bike drive, to the churches and others that collected gift cards during the year, and to those organizations that have contributed toys for many years. The photo at right shows our toy setup. Thanks to all volunteers, especially Social4good, who staffed a large portion of the Store.

We are already planning the next Christmas Store, on December 7. Volunteers are needed on Friday, December 6 for set-up and on the 7<sup>th</sup> as escorts; contact volunteer@cho-va or call 703-281-7614 # 1. A gift card collection is already scheduled for September 21-22 after all Masses at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Vienna.

## EMERGENCY SERVICES VOLUNTEERS REACH OUT

Our Emergency Services team uses a number of resources to serve clients with difficulty communicating in English. A Cloudbreak Foundation grant helped us to provide information in Spanish and Arabic. We also use our email system's translation features.

In this effort, we rely on the unflagging and sympathetic help of our webmaster, Mike Croghan, who receives, translates, and sends messages to our volunteers and clients and who has become part of our emergency services team. When personal communication is needed, we rely on two caring volunteer translators, Becky Feltman and Shauna Abbassi. Without Mike, Becky and Shauna, relief for many of our clients would fall through the cracks.



## ACTIVITY REPORTS

**FOOD CLOSET:** During the first three months of 2024, we helped 140 families (approximately 501 people) and gave out \$840 in food cards. Call 703-281-7614 box # 1 to arrange for food donations. Current needs are cereal, cooking oil, Velveeta cheese, Mac-N-Cheese, snack bars, & cookies.

**FURNITURE:** The Furniture Program, which collects and distributes gently used furniture, operates at the sheds on Mill Street on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month. Over the first three months of 2024, about \$2000 of furniture has been distributed to over 20 clients. Needed items are beds, tables, and chairs.

**CLOTHES CLOSET:** The Clothes Closet, which collects and distributes clothing, operates on Mondays, 9:30 – noon. Call 703-679-8966 to make an appointment or to donate. About 78 individuals came to the Closet in the first three months of 2024, shopping for themselves and family members. Most needed items are men's and women's shorts, and men's jeans sizes 30, 32 and 34.

**EMERGENCY SERVICES:** Provides emergency rent, fuel, utility, dental, medical, and other emergency costs. Our main costs are rents; utility requests are also high. For the first three months of 2024, we provided \$56,529 in-area emergency aid, and \$1,214 out of area aid, to 125 in-area families and 26 out of area families.

## SPOTLIGHT: VIENNA ROTARY CLUB

Founded in 1965, the Rotary Club of Vienna has sponsored events in Vienna and contributed to local, national, and global philanthropic activities. The Vienna Club has approximately 76 members. They include local business owners and professionals, Vienna's mayor, workers at local nonprofits, and retirees. CHO has received annual donations from the Club for many years. Vienna Rotary is part of the International Rotary, which has over 35,000 clubs. Rotary's charitable arm, the Rotary Foundation, has existed for over 100 years, and has spent over \$4 billion on life-changing projects.

Vienna Rotary's defining event for many is *ViVa! Vienna!*, which is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. In addition to providing a weekend of rides, entertainment, and food tastings, *Viva!Vienna!* generates substantial funds. Last year, the Club was able to donate \$180,000 to sponsored nonprofits and charities thanks to *Viva!Vienna!* The Club also helps to run a separate event, the **Brewfest**, on the same weekend, where a number of CHO members have volunteered.

The Club hosts a party for children facing financial challenges organized by Billy Thompson. Held in December, 137 persons attended last year. The party gives the children opportunities to create presents for their families, and to receive gifts from Santa. Finally, the Vienna Rotary sponsors the Jane Seeman Service Above Self Awards, which honor outstanding Town of Vienna staff and Vienna police and fire department personnel.

You can find out more about the Vienna Rotary Club at <https://viennarotary.org>.

### HELP FROM BALL PLAYERS OF ALL AGES



Springtime beckons with the thwack of softball and baseball bats. As we again "PLAY BALL," CHO wants to recognize help it has received from two sets of athletes.

**Golden Girls:** This year is the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Golden Girls, a softball organization for senior women over age 40 with over 180 members. All skill levels are welcome. This Northern Virginia intramural league plays on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and has tournament teams that participate in national tournaments. Marilyn Mallery, the organization's membership chair, emphasized that the Golden Girls believe it important to contribute to the community to reflect the support they have received from the town of Vienna and others. CHO has been a consistent and grateful recipient of these collections for at least 20 years; there are usually 2 drives for CHO; one in spring and one during the holidays. Those interested can visit their website at [www.goldengirls.org](http://www.goldengirls.org).

**Vienna Little League:** This year CHO was also a recipient of cartons of food collected by Vienna Little League in conjunction with their pre-owned baseball equipment swap. CHO was proud and grateful to be a part of this environmentally conscious activity and the food donations were put to good use.

**Good luck to both organizations this season !**

**EMAIL NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION:** *Email copies help save printing and postage costs and are in **color!*** If you wish to receive a copy of the newsletter by email rather than paper, email us at [cho@cho-va.com](mailto:cho@cho-va.com).

**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).

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**MAY 2024**

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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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Send to CHO, PO Box 233, Vienna VA 22183

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