



## COMMITTEE FOR HELPING OTHERS

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'd like to say a few words about a couple of retirements that are occurring this summer.



I'd first like to mention Sue Hamblin and Susan Kenny from Vienna Presbyterian Church. These ladies run the missions team at VPC and are retiring this summer. In my mind, they are two of the biggest supporters of CHO we have had over the last decade. They have been instrumental in helping us get space for the Food Closet and previously the Clothes Closet, and they have helped with the logistics for the Christmas Store and for food collection at the bin at the entrance to the church. They and through VPC have been one of our biggest financial supporters. Over the last five years I have gotten to know both of them and they are terrific compassionate folks who have put a lot of time and care into their mission partners. To Sue and Susan, thank you for all your support and may you find as much compassion and support in retirement as you gave in your mission work!

I also want to thank Amy Hanson, who has worked with CHO for ten years serving at the Food Closet, coordinating food cards, and providing invaluable assistance at the Christmas Store. Amy will be leaving her scheduled duties at the Food Closet but we hope to see her back at CHO events around town.

-Todd

### CHRISTMAS STORE & BIKE DRIVE REPORT

Over 485 people were helped through our Christmas Store program, including the 103 attendees at the Store itself, plus 83 other families - young mothers at New Generations, and seniors living at Tysons Towers. 204 bikes were collected, repaired, and distributed, to schools, to individuals, and to OLCG for its bike distribution program. 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.

We had over 80 volunteers helping with setup and on the day of the Store. Thanks to all volunteers for their great work. This year's Store is on Saturday, December 5. Volunteers are needed on Friday, December 4 for set-up and on December 5 as escorts; contact volunteer@cho-va or call 703-281-7614 # 5.



CHRISTMAS STORE 2025



## SHEPHERD CENTER THANKSGIVING SERVICE - NOVEMBER 15

The Shepherd Center's Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be on Sunday, November 15, place and time to be determined.

## OLGC GIFT CARD COLLECTION SEPTEMBER 26 AND 27

Grocery and gift cards for Giant, Walmart, Target, Lidl, and as well as donations, will be collected for the Christmas Store Sept. 26 & 27 outside Our Lady of Good Counsel Church (OLGC) before and after all Masses.

## CROP HUNGER WALK - AUTUMN 2026

This year's CROP Hunger Walk will take place on either the last Sunday of September or the first Sunday of October. Part of an effort of Church World Service to support international and local hunger relief, the Walk moves through part of downtown Vienna, lasting about 1-1 ½ hours. CHO receives part of the proceeds. You can register to join the Walk or make a donation on the Vienna CROP Hunger Walk Website, which will be open later this year.

## Activity reports

### FOOD CLOSET:

- During the first three months of 2026, the Food Closet at Vienna Presbyterian helped 117 families (about 418 people) and gave out \$1,100 in food cards. We need cereal, canned peaches, cookies, canned corned beef, 2 lb bags of WHITE rice, pancake mix, shampoo, bars of soap, baby wipes, and adult toothbrushes. Call 703-281-7614 box # 1 to arrange for donations.

### FURNITURE:

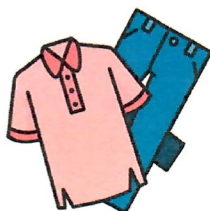
- The Furniture Program collects and distributes gently-used furniture at the sheds on Mill Street on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month. Over the first three months of 2026, about \$1,330 of furniture has been distributed to 13 clients. Needed items are beds, tables, and chairs.

### CLOTHES CLOSET:

- The Clothes Closet at Unity of Fairfax in Oakton collects and distributes clothing on Mondays, 9:30 – noon. Call 703-679-8966 to make an appointment or to donate. About 122 individuals came to the Closet in the first three months of 2026. Pillows, towels, sheets, and blankets are needed.

### EMERGENCY SERVICES:

- Provides rent, fuel, utility, dental, medical, and other emergency costs. Our main costs are rents and utilities, For the first three months of 2026, we provided \$46,315 in-area emergency aid, and \$1,247 out-of-area aid, to 115 in-area households and 22 out-of-area households.



## Calling all volunteers !

Volunteering is a great way to join others to help our community. You can pick a task that fits your schedule. Opportunities at CHO include:

- provide emergency financial help (remote)
- holiday store event (a few hours on one or two days)
- serve at food or clothing closet, or with furniture (a few hours on scheduled days)
- help with communications or administrative tasks (remote)

Our volunteer coordinator, Erinn Connor, can find a project suited to your time and talents. Call her at 703-281-7614 and leave a voice message in box # 5, or send an email to [volunteer@cho-va.com](mailto:volunteer@cho-va.com).

# Our Thanks to All

We appreciate all the assistance that we receive from many organizations in the area. Even children get into the action. About 25 teens from Hope UMC, Pastor Samuel, and other teens from their Woodbridge church, hosted a sleepover at the church and donations to the Food Closet. We were the recipients of a day of service sixth grade project from Marshall Road Elementary School – all items were boxed, labeled, weighed and delivered by the Principal! We also received a large donation of Meals in a Bag from Oakton Elementary School, and snack packs from Green Hedges School.

We often rely on help from the Young Men's Service League, which pairs parents and their teenage boys with service projects throughout the area. We have been so pleased to have strong arms to help deliver and unpack donations from food drives, help with the Christmas Store, and more.

And not to be outdone, a group of adults hosted this year's first Vienna Robert Burns Ball held at the Vienna Moose Lodge on Jan 24, 2026. The Ball included a silent auction, and they presented a check to CHO for \$2,849. As Scotland's national poet himself said, *"The heart benevolent and kind most resembles God."*



ORGANIZERS OF ROBERT BURNS BALL PRESENT CHECK TO TODD FOR CHO



TEENS FROM HOPE UMC WITH THEIR FOOD DONATIONS

## SUMMERTIME NEEDS!



***When school is out, extra food & support provided by the schools and community is often reduced. Please consider making a donation to the Food Closet during this summer, so we can keep our children and their families well-fed! Donations can be placed in the bin at Vienna Presbyterian Church.***

***With this in mind, we'd like to share part of a letter we received from a young girl which arrived with a collection of canned goods. "[My family and I] had a mini food drive and this is what we collected! I hope that our corn, ravioli, and soup can help some families. Thanks you so much for creating a food shelter. ...To be able to help ... really warms my heart..."***

**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).