

**Alexandria Region  
2018 Outreach Ministries**  
approved May 23, 2018

**Outreach**

ALIVE! Child Development Center	300.00
Hunger Free Alexandria	200.00
Meade Memorial Bag Lunch Program	2,000.00
Refugee Ministry	200.00
West End Lazarus Emergency Financial Ministry	2,300.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,000.00</b>

**ALIVE! Child Development Center - \$300**

Founded in 1972, ALIVE! Child Development Center's mission is to provide high-quality, affordable early care and education to children in Alexandria's low-income working families. The Center strives to ensure that each child is well-prepared to begin kindergarten. It provides an educational program; enrichment opportunities; health, nutrition and screenings; and family support. The ALIVE! CDC is a full-day, year-round nationally accredited early education and child care program for 3 to 5 year olds. Tuition assistance is provided on a sliding-fee scale based upon family income and size. Parents and/or guardians must be working at least 30 hours per work or attending school full-time to qualify for assistance.

ALIVE! has a number of other programs helping those in need in Alexandria. The Alexandria faith community, including Alexandria Region, is engaged with the organization in a variety of ways.

Many participate in the StepAlive! Walkathon held the first Sunday in May that benefits the CDC. However, due to flood damage, the need this year is great.

**Hunger Free Alexandria - \$200**

The Hunger Free Alexandria (HFA) initiative began as an outcome of an April 2014 report that highlighted an obesity problem due to the lack of food. A number of clergy in Alexandria banded together to see what could be done to address the situation. They drew in the laity and general population. It was evident greater coordination and collaboration is needed among those who care.

In the fall of 2015, a group from Region IV churches met to learn what each of the various churches are doing to address hunger. A broad network of religious institutions in Alexandria and city government officials now meet the second Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Allen Lomax, chair of the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria, has assumed the leadership role. The group continues to bring in other participants and the mission continues. HFA has had \$8-10,000 to disperse in the form of grants.

**Meade Memorial Bag Lunch - \$2,000**

Meade's Bag Lunch program is going well. Last year there was a change in the volunteer leader and the parish administrator which created some disruption in the program. The program is more stable this year. It provides lunch to men and women from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., 6 days a week. About 90% of the recipients are men. The numbers increase during the summer since some of the

recipients bring their children. The norm has been serving 50 people although the numbers are lower this year. Volunteers make the bagged lunches at various churches about every six weeks and take them to Meade for distribution by two volunteers. For some recipients, it's the only warmth they get, and it meets a great need. It has a significant financial impact on the church including utility costs and cleanup.

The concerns expressed last year about certification of a day care center renting the upper floors of the church in close proximity to the lunch program were resolved and both ministries continue to thrive.

### **Refugee Ministry - \$200**

There are now 22 refugee families that are being provided assistance by Alexandria churches. Each family is assigned to a care team, and they now don't have enough volunteers for the number of care teams needed. The families have a special immigrant visa since they had been working for the US government. The government provides 90 days of housing and assistance from case workers including help finding a job. However, after that time period they are not yet ready to be on their own. The refugee ministry helps to bridge that gap. A core team is made up of 2-3 individuals and the assistance is time intensive. One of the major forms of financial assistance is help with rent for another 3-4 months.

Since the program's inception in June 30, 2016; \$95,674 has been received and \$94,235 spent. The average needed per month in 2017 was \$5,487. Assistance has been given to 21 families since inception. The full report is attached.

Although everyone agreed the ministry is worthy of support, it was also recognized the program receives a great deal of financial support from a number of sources.

### **West End Lazarus Emergency Financial Ministry - \$2,300**

The West End Lazarus Ministry, under the leadership of Melanie Gray, opened its doors at Church of the Resurrection September 17, 2015. Julie Duke, Christ Church, and Lynn Rohrs, Grace Church, are Co-Coordinates. It operates every Thursday afternoon from 3:00-6:00 p.m. The ministry has 12 trained financial counselors from 5 churches and Goodwin House. In 2017 a total of \$92,468 was distributed with the average check being \$157. The ministry was open 50 weeks and gave assistance with 590 bills to 500 people. Sixty-five percent of the assistance is for rent, 76% receiving assistance are female and the average age of recipients is 45.