



ECHO, Inc.
Ecumenical Community Helping Others
7205 Old Keene Mill Road
Springfield, VA 22150-3527
Phone: (703) 569-9160
Fax: (703) 455-2763
www.echo-inc.org
echoadmin@verizon.net



#74224



January 1, 2012

Dear Congregation Representative,

ECHO was bustling with activity throughout December. Volunteers worked tirelessly to coordinate the Christmas food basket program, to set up a spectacular Holiday Shop and assist clients in choosing gifts for their children, and to receive and process many, many donations of winter coats, toys, food, household items, clothing and monetary donations in the form of cash, checks and gift cards. The spirit of giving was very evident in every corner of ECHO. We are very grateful to everyone who has given of themselves and their resources to make the holiday season more special for so many of our clients.

Thanks to many kindhearted donors, a record number of ECHO families received Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets and/or grocery store gift cards that provided them with special holiday meals.

Once again this year, ECHO's Holiday Shop was a truly magical place that was well stocked with an abundance of new toys, games, books and more, thanks to amazing donations from congregations, groups and individuals. During the three days of operation, clients were assisted in choosing toys for their children. Each child received a large toy plus books, activity books, stuffed animals, toothbrush and toothpaste, and a special pillow case. In addition, there was a game for each family. The volunteer "elves" assisted 18 clients per hour in selecting toys and games for approximately 500 children.

Drives to collect winter coats and other outerwear were organized by many groups and individuals. The result was an incredible response from our community bringing warm coats, hats, gloves, socks and underwear for our clients in need.

Thanks to the many schools, businesses, congregations, individuals and organizations that generously donated food over the holidays. Your generosity has greatly increased our food stocks to help tide us through the coming winter months.

Many monetary donations to assist victims of the November Springfield Gardens Apartments fire have been received. Money has come from individuals and congregations, as well as a substantial amount from another community based organization. At this time, all of the displaced persons have been relocated; some are in temporary situations waiting to get back

into their renovated apartments. Most of these people have remained in ECHO's service area, and we continue to provide assistance to them as needed.

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We were notified by the Burke CROP Walk Coordinator that the donation from Whole Foods brought the total amount of money raised this year to a record \$24,800. It will be some time before ECHO receives a share of these funds, so we do not know that exact amount yet. Thanks to everyone who walked, sponsored a walker or shopped at Whole Foods on the CROP Walk day.

We thank you for every act of kindness and generosity, and we wish you a very blessed new year.



Meg Brantley, Executive Director

Important dates coming up:

January 7, February 4, and March 3	Saturday openings
January 16	Closed for Martin Luther King Day
End of January	Rolling Valley/Springfield LDS will clean the building
End of February	Westwood Baptist will clean the building

ECHO CLEANING SCHEDULE

www.echo-inc.org

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Please refer to this two-year cleaning schedule to know when your congregation is scheduled to clean the ECHO building. Except for congregations that volunteer to clean more often, your congregation should clean less than once every two years.

Your group should clean the last week of the month you are scheduled. You can clean anytime clients are not in the building. Monday and Wednesday evenings are good, also anytime Saturday when ECHO is not open. Supervised teens are welcome, and can earn community service credit. A crew of 5 or 6 people should be able to finish in a few hours. Arrange to get a key from the office if you need one.

The list of cleaning tasks is in a marked folder in the office. All cleaning tools and products are on site.

If the month you are scheduled to clean is inconvenient, you can switch with another congregation. Call the office if you need contact information for the representative of the congregation you want to switch with. If you do switch with another congregation, please tell Gloria Loew (glorialoew@gmail.com) so that we can keep the published list accurate for you.

2012	January	Rolling Valley/Springfield LDS
	February	Westwood Baptist
	March	South Run Baptist
	April	Rolling Valley/Springfield LDS
	May	Grace Christian Reformed
	June	St. Mark's Lutheran
	July	St. Bernadette's Catholic
	August	Prince of Peace Lutheran
	September	St. John's United Methodist
	October	Rolling Valley/Springfield LDS
	November	Abiding Presence Lutheran
	December	Burke Presbyterian
2013	January	Rolling Valley/Springfield LDS
	February	Burke Presbyterian
	March	St. Andrew's Episcopal
	April	Rolling Valley/Springfield LDS
	May	Springfield United Methodist
	June	St. Christopher's Episcopal
	July	Adat Reyim
	August	Springfield Christian
	September	Grace Presbyterian
	October	Rolling Valley/Springfield LDS
	November	First Baptist Springfield
	December	Messiah United Methodist

