



# ECHO UPDATE

QUARTERLY NEWS TO KNOW FOR VOLUNTEERS



## Notes from the Director's Desk

*by Mike Baier, Executive Director*

### How We Educate Our Donors

Within ECHO we continually learn by doing. We also have individual and collective responsibilities to educate those we support (our clients), those who support us (our congregations and the general public), and, of course, ourselves about what we do and how we do it.

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CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

Educating our donors about our needs is a responsibility we all share. As a common point of departure, we all should be familiar with what we can and cannot accept. For that, our website - [What ECHO Can and Cannot Accept \(www.echo-inc.org\)](http://www.echo-inc.org) - is the place to start. Realize that changes do occur between website updates. Due to space constraints in our building, we also have limits on some acceptable items like baby cribs. When in doubt about the most current information on acceptable items, please check with the Donation Door.

Also, for items we may bring in from a neighbor or another family member, the same rules apply. It's the responsibility of each of us to help adhere to those rules and as needed, to review what our neighbors may be donating and apply those rules.

Other guidance to keep in mind regarding donations:

- Client needs are the primary criteria for what we can accept, and storage space within ECHO is the primary criterion for how much we can accept.

continued....



## Notes from the Director's Desk . . . continued

- We have partnerships with activities like B-Thrifty, primarily to take what we can't store, not to take on what we should not have accepted in the first place.
- We also help other nonprofits like Medical Missionaries with specialty items (in this case medical supplies and equipment), and the MaRiH Center with items for single mothers. However, donors looking for ECHO to pass along items to activities such as Good Will or the Salvation Army should understand the need to donate their items themselves directly to those activities.

When items we do not accept make their way into the building by whatever means, some volunteer(s) will need to take the time to sort through and dispose of those items. Let's all help each other save time to better meet clients' needs. Thanks for all you do!

*Mike Baier*



## ECHO COVID POLICY UPDATE

submitted by Mike Baier

**Effective June 1, 2023, we will make masks optional for our clients coming into our building.**

The following led to this change in our COVID prevention protocol:

- Since January 2023, the CDC and Fairfax County Health Departments assess Fairfax County as LOW for COVID
- In areas assessed as LOW, CDC advises, "People may choose to wear a mask at any time."
- In early April, a sampling of our sister Community Based Organizations' policies on masks for clients indicated: masks optional (at KOINONIA, WFCM); no masks (at LCAC, ACCA).
- During April we canvassed our volunteers who regularly engage clients (Counselors, Food, Clothing, Housewares) about any concerns with the change which was generally accepted.
- On May 12 the national COVID emergency ended.

While masks will be optional for clients, the following COVID prevention protocols remain in effect:

- As with all ECHO volunteers in the building, clients must provide proof of vaccination for entering the building.
- At any time, a volunteer may ask a client to put on a mask.

# ECHO Calendar FY 2024

ECHO's calendar is based on a fiscal year beginning July 1. Here's a heads up on what's coming in our next fiscal year.

## ECHO CALENDAR FY2024

### JULY 2023

3- 4 CLOSED (Independence Day)  
8 (Saturday) OPEN  
19 Executive Com. Mtg.  
Food Drive:  
\*First Baptist Springfield  
\*Westwood Baptist

### AUGUST 2023

5 (Saturday) OPEN  
21-23 Clothing Change Over

### SEPTEMBER 2023

4 CLOSED (Labor Day)  
9 (Saturday) OPEN  
13 Executive Com. Mtg.  
17 Volunteer Appreciation Event  
25 B-O-D Mtg.  
Food Drives:  
\*Burke Presbyterian \*St. Andrew's Episcopal  
\*Rolling Valley LDS (Governor's Day of Service)

### OCTOBER 2023

7 (Saturday) OPEN  
9 CLOSED (Columbus Day)  
TBD Yard Sale at St. Bernadette's Gym  
Food Drives:  
\*St. Mark's Lutheran  
\*Burke UMC

### NOVEMBER 2023

4 (Saturday) OPEN  
8 Executive Com. Mtg.  
10 CLOSED (Veteran's Day)  
11 Boy Scouts Food Drive  
18-19 Thanksgiving Food Baskets  
20 B-O-D Mtg.  
23 CLOSED for evening hours only  
24-25 CLOSED (Thanksgiving)  
Food Drives:  
\*November 12 Boy Scouts \*Schools

### DECEMBER 2023

2, 3, 5, 7, 9 Holiday Shop  
9 (Saturday) OPEN  
16, 17 Holiday Baskets  
21-31 CLOSED  
Food Drive:

### JANUARY 2024

1 CLOSED (New Year's Day)  
6 (Saturday) OPEN  
15 CLOSED (M.L. King Day)  
Food Drive:  
\*Kirkwood Presbyterian

### FEBRUARY 2024

3 (Saturday) OPEN  
14 Executive Com.  
19 CLOSED (Presidents' Day)  
26 B-O-D Mtg.  
Food Drives:  
\*Abiding Presence Lutheran

### MARCH 2024

2 (Saturday) OPEN  
18-20 Clothing Changeover  
28 CLOSED (EVENING ONLY)  
29 CLOSED (Good Friday)  
Food Drives:  
\*Prince of Peace Lutheran \*Springfield Christian  
\*Springfield UMC

### APRIL 2024

6 (Saturday) OPEN  
27 Yard Sale at St. Bernadette's Gym  
Food Drives:  
\*Adat Reyim

### MAY 2024

4 (Saturday) OPEN  
9 Executive Com. Mtg.  
11 Letter Carriers' Food Drive  
20 B-O-D Mtg.  
27 CLOSED (Memorial Day)  
\*Grace Christian Reformed

### JUNE 2024

1 (Saturday) OPEN  
19 CLOSED (Juneteenth)  
Food Drives:  
\*St. Mark's Lutheran

\*St. Bernadette's brings in food weekly  
\*Church of the Nativity and Grace Presbyterian Church bring in food monthly  
\*Greenspring brings in food regularly

May 25, 2023

ECHO Admin/ECHO Admin/Calendars/FY24Calendars



# ECHO Parking Lot Update

by Bob Vitter, ECHO President



"We are close," reported Bob Vitter at the May Board meeting. The long wait to begin parking lot construction on the vacant lot adjacent to ECHO's current volunteer and donation areas may end this summer. Final Fairfax County approval of the Parking Lot design is expected soon. Chamberlain Construction will manage the project and obtain bids from sub-contractors for major components of the work. Christopher Consultants (IMEG) will oversee the work and assure compliance with County requirements for storm-water management. As plans progress we will keep volunteers informed about parking alternatives, so please check for email notices to stay informed. Funding for this project has been building over time, in part thanks to all the volunteer efforts making our Yard Sale a bi-yearly success. We are excited to finally be in a position to make these plans a reality.

## ECHO Ambassadors Open Doors

by Joyce Giuliani, Dir Communications and Outreach



Ecumenical Community  
Helping Others

neighbors

**HELPING**

those in need

OVER 50 YEARS IN SPRINGFIELD  
AND BURKE, VA

**DONATIONS**

FOOD | CLOTHING |  
HOUSEWARES | ASSISTANCE

ECHO, an all-volunteer, 501(c)  
(3) non-profit, gives food and  
financial help to people with  
short-term emergencies, and  
provides clothes and  
household items to people  
with low incomes.

**NEED HELP?**  
**?NECESITA AYUDA?**  
**703 569-9160**



7205 Old Keene Mill Road  
Springfield, VA 22150  
admin@echo-inc.org

www.echo-inc.org

703 569-7972

The ECHO Speaker's Bureau has been revitalized and now renamed ECHO Ambassadors. This group of volunteers will be the face of ECHO at meetings and events that will give us the opportunity to educate and inform others about the work we do. Headed by ECHO's Outreach Chair, Jane Curtis, these volunteers have attended an orientation to provide them with materials and talking points for community engagement. A new retractable banner, a variety of handouts, a laptop with a PowerPoint show about ECHO, charts, easels, and even ECHO pencils are available to the Ambassadors.

Thanks to the following for stepping up for this opportunity to spread the good news about ECHO: Mike Baier, Bob Vitter, Eileen Short, Paula Bowmaster, Tony Pomilla, Joyce Giuliani, Debby McElroy, Debbie Moreau, Rick Prosek, Mark Smith

If you would like to be part of this outreach effort, contact Jane Curtis [djccurtis22@cox.net](mailto:djccurtis22@cox.net)



# In Case of Fire...

*by Randy Robish, Lead Safety and Security*



The ECHO building is equipped with multiple smoke detectors that are monitored continuously by Security Central, our monitoring firm. If a detector goes off you will know it; the fire alarm is loud and unmistakable. In that event, Security Central will immediately call the Fairfax County fire dispatch. Once contacted, the fire department will come regardless of any subsequent calls, so even if you believe the alarm is a false alarm, there is no way to stop them. They will

inspect the building, and declare all clear if that's the case. Here are some Do's and Don'ts when the fire alarm goes off:

## DO:

- **Exit the building immediately via the nearest door. Counselors & others working with clients or non-ECHO volunteers should ensure they, and their children/dependents, exit the building safely and are accounted for.**
- **Proceed to the assembly point at the back of the un-paved parking area and attempt to account for all who were in the building when the alarm sounded. Make note of anyone who is missing and advise the fire department when they arrive.**
- **If you elect to leave ECHO, ensure someone who is staying knows you are out of the building before you depart, so you can be accounted for.**

## DO NOT:

- **Stop to retrieve your purse, keys, coat or other belongings. If there is a fire, that could put you and others in danger. If there is no fire, we will be back in the building shortly.**
- **Go back in to the building after exiting. That could also put you and others in danger.**
- **Remain in the paved parking lot; fire department vehicles will fill that area shortly**

Note that all of the smoke detectors are battery operated; there is also a battery backup in the alarm panel, which is in the utility closet next to the client entrance. If the system detects low voltage in any of these batteries, the alarm panel will beep periodically. If the alarm is for a detector, the panel will display the associated zone number. If you hear the alarm panel beeping, please make note of the zone number. You can then reset the system using the instructions posted next to the panel. Please notify one of the POCs (names and numbers are also posted on the instructions next to the panel) so we can replace the battery. You may need to reset the panel periodically until the battery is replaced.



## Spring Yard Sale Update



Congratulations Volunteers! The Yard Sale was a great success, We are nearly back to the pre-pandemic sales amounts which the Yard Sale Chairs Debbie Moreau and Rachel Hoover were aiming for. Once again, ECHO clients were offered \$20 coupons to spend as they pleased on items at the Yard Sale and \$760 in coupons were redeemed. Sales on Friday (Volunteer Day) and Saturday (Open Sale) were \$11,825.75. Sales since the Fall at ECHO's in-house Yard Sale area were \$6,045. Thanks to Kathy Fruend and her in-house crew. Grand total: \$18,630.75 to go into ECHO's operating funds. Look for more details as the October date is scheduled for the Fall Yard Sale.





# Burke Springfield Clergy Tour ECHO

*by Joyce Giuliani, Dir of Communications and Outreach*



ECHO welcomed a visit from the Burke Springfield Clergy in May to show them our facility and to let them see first-hand the services ECHO can provide to the people they serve. Clergy members and ECHO volunteers present included (left-right) Rev. Will Packard, St. Andrews Episcopal; Bob Vitter, ECHO President; Rev. Jason Snow, Burke United Methodist; Pastor Meredith Keseley, Abiding Presence Lutheran, Senior Pastor; Pastor Kelsey Kresse, Abiding Presence, Associate Pastor; Mike Baier ECHO Executive Director; Ibrahim Anli, Rumi Forum, Interfaith Engagement;

Rev. Evelyn Archer, Burke United Methodist, Associate Pastor; Dave Buckley ECHO Community Resource Coordinator; Pastor Rebecca Messman, Burke Presbyterian; Rev. Carey Connors, St. Christopher's Episcopal.

ECHO is excited to be in partnership with this group and is looking forward to a continued exchange of insights and ideas to put into practice in ECHO's outreach to the community.

Here are a few first impressions from Pastor Messman:

*Burke Springfield Clergy met today over at ECHO, the (so much more than a) food pantry. Facts we learned:*

- there is someone there who repairs stuff so clients get refurbished items (batteries are always needed there!)
- they take old computers! They have someone who wipes them and then adds new software. There is a long waiting list to get a refurbished computer. no macs though - womp womp.
- they started about 50 years ago when other clergy got together and decided to work together.
- the least popular canned food: green beans!!





# Volunteer Profile:

## Abiding Presence Lutheran Shares Its College Interns with ECHO

by Jane Curtis, ECHO Outreach Chair

Abiding Presence Lutheran Church in Burke initiated an internship program in 2020 as Covid closures caused college-age members of the congregation to have their school-related summer internships cancelled. The Rev. Meredith Keseley, Senior Pastor, said that, after several of these young men and women contacted the church to see if there were opportunities for summer work experiences there, the idea of the internship program developed. Its success has caused the church to continue it even as Covid closures have ended.

Pastor Keseley and Pastor Kelsey Kresse, Associate Pastor, have designed the program to provide three months of faith formation, vocational discernment and leadership development for this age group. While the internship program constitutes a significant financial investment from the church's operating budget, as well as donations from some members, it represents a commitment to follow the tenets of their faith and to engage young adults in the life of the church at a point in their lives where they are making big decisions.



Ally Tingen and Peyton Davis

Abiding Presence interns are paid a stipend and have a variety of work assignments including planning and leadership for youth day camps, assisting with the church's Food Pantry, even writing a manual on how to set up an internship program. Interns also engage in a daily morning prayer service before their work begins. They have presentations by speakers who talk about their own careers and how faith affects how they pursue their vocations.

This year, Abiding Presence is sharing two of its interns with ECHO. Ally Tingen, a rising junior who is studying Psychology and Neuroscience at Mary Washington College, is working with the counselors. Peyton Davis, a rising senior at James Madison University majoring in Marketing, is working with Joyce Giuliani on the Communications team. Ally and Peyton started their work with extensive tours of ECHO, and have assisted in or observed all of the various aspects of ECHO's operations.

In her work with individual counselors, Ally will spend her time this summer helping to assess client eligibility for assistance and determining which needs ECHO can meet. Her experience will include working in those ECHO areas which directly engage clients, the Food Room and the Clothing area. Peyton is writing articles (see one in this Newsletter). She will give the Communications team feedback on ECHO's website and prepare some Facebook posts. Both Ally and Peyton will work with Dave Buckley to update the library of local services. ECHO counselors use this library as a resource to find help for clients whose needs are beyond the scope of ECHO's assistance.



# ECHO School Partnership Program

*by Eileen Short, School Liaison Co-Chair*

In the past two months, ECHO was represented at three school events. Exec. Dir. Mike Baier attended the Children's Festival at Crestwood Elementary School where important information was given out to current and potential clients as well as potential donors. Eileen Short and Paula Bowmaster attended Mark Twain's Tiger Night. The intent of this event was to encourage teens to volunteer. Many teens were given details on ECHO's volunteer opportunities for teens. The teens also held a clothing drive the week of the event and sorted the clothing at the event. The clothing was donated to ECHO. Lastly, ECHO was invited to Saratoga ES's Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for their Stallion Family Stable. President Bob Vitter and Eileen Short attended this event. ECHO was identified by the school representative as an important partner to the school.

## Food Room News

ECHO's Food Pantry usually has an abundance of breakfast cereal and soup, but there are so many food requests now that even those staples are currently in short supply. In addition, we welcome all kinds of donations, especially **cooking oil, bags of rice or beans, sugar, honey, spaghetti, toothpaste, dish detergent, deodorant, and toilet paper.**

The Letter Carrier food drive in May netted close to 6,000 pounds. This is the amount of food given out in 6 to 7 days. To keep our shelves full and give our clients an adequate enough amount of food, we will need the help of the entire community. Encourage congregants, volunteers and the public to purchase a couple of items for ECHO as they shop for their families.



***Please share the Food Room Shopping List on the following page to help meet increased demand.***



# ECHO PANTRY

## THANKS FOR ADDING ECHO TO YOUR SHOPPING LIST



### June 1, 2023

*ECHO continues to see a deficit of several thousand pounds a month between food donated and food given to clients. Since the beginning of the pandemic **ECHO has seen an increase in need and this need has not abated.** Any donation, large or small, is most gratefully welcomed.*

- Choose sizes appropriate for our average family size of four.
- Include an assortment of food to ensure a variety of items for our clients.
- **Because of the wonderful generosity of our community, ECHO is blessed to already have a more than ample supply of canned vegetables and stuffing mix..** However, **we are short on many other items such as personal care products and the items listed below.**
- ECHO cannot give our clients food whose expiration date is long past, open food, or repackaged food (no zip-loc bags).

#### FOOD

- Cooking Oil
- Spaghetti noodles
- Milk products (canned, shelf stable, hot chocolate)
- Sugar
- Box Potatoes
- Cereal
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Box Pasta (especially spaghetti pasta)
- Spices (e.g. cinnamon, garlic or onion salt, salt, pepper)
- Soup (Progresso or Chunky type preferred)
- Coffee (Instant or ground)
- Tea (green or herbal)
- Canned fruit
- Bagged beans (black and red)
- Bag or Box Rice



[www.echo-inc.org](http://www.echo-inc.org)  
for more details

- Pancake Mix
- Pancake Syrup
- Crackers, dates, nuts, dried fruit, healthy snacks
- Lemon/Lime Juice
- Honey or Jelly
- Ketchup or Mayonnaise
- Tortillas
- Masa Flour
- Muffin/Cornbread Mix

#### Hygiene Products

- Toothpaste
- Toilet Paper
- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Dish Soap
- Paper Towels
- Shaving Cream/Razors
- Brown Paper Grocery Bags



# Notes from the Clothing Room

*submitted by Paula Kvartunas, Clothing Co-Chair*



## ECHO Partnership with BRAWS (Bringing Resources to Aid Women's Shelters)

On December 2, 2022 ECHO's Partner Recipient Application was approved by BRAWS, located in Vienna. The organization provides ECHO's clothing area the following: Feminine Hygiene Products, Bras and Women's/Girl's Underwear.

As of January 2023, continuing on a monthly basis a request is submitted to BRAWS by Clothing Chair Paula Kvartunas. The request includes the number needed of the above products based on inventory needs. Then the last full week of the month the products are picked up by either Paula Kvartunas or Carol Ochs.

The following is what BRAWS has donated to ECHO Clothing from January thru May 2023:

370 packages of sanitary pads

338 Bras

401 pairs of Women's Underwear

71 pairs of Girl's Underwear

To date the BRAWS organization has always given ECHO the products requested. This program has been instrumental in ensuring Clothing has the products on hand for our clients.

## Clothing Donations Needed

### Men and Boy's Clothing

- Big Boy Sneakers Sizes 1 thru 5
- Boy's Spring/Summer Tops, Bottoms. Pajamas, Sizes 6 thru 18
- Men's Sneakers Sizes 7 and 8
- Men's Jeans Sizes 30/30, 30/32, 32/30, 32/32
- Men's Underwear Sizes 32/34, 36/38
- Men's Spring/Summer Tops-Small, Medium, Large

### Girl's Clothing

- Big Girl's Sneakers Sizes 1 thru 5
- Girl's Spring/Summer Tops/Bottoms. Pajamas, Sizes 3 thru 18





## 2nd ANNUAL ECHO VOLUNTEER PICNIC



Last year's volunteer picnic was a great success giving ECHO volunteers an occasion to gather with co-workers to relax and celebrate ECHO's work in the community. It was a time to chat with friends and find new friends who put in time at ECHO on a different day. With 365+ volunteers and seven shifts, there are lots of us! Plan to join in the fun this year as we join together at Burke Lake Park. Look for more details this summer.



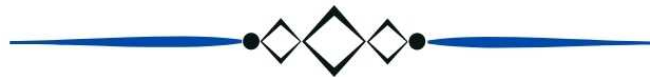
**What: 2nd Annual ECHO Volunteer Picnic**

**When: Sunday September 17th at 1 pm**

**Where: Burke Lake Park, Pavilion A**

**Who: ECHO Volunteers, Spouses/Friends**

**See you there!**



## Caught Wearing the Stylish ECHO T-Shirts

T-shirts are still available in many sizes and only \$10. Wear yours when you come to volunteer at ECHO or show your colors at the Annual Picnic. Even when you're out and about you can let the world know about our work in the community. Stop by the office and get yours soon. Sizes M, L, XL, XXL. All proceeds go to ECHO's new **PARKING LOT!!!**

Pictured: Shelly Thompson, Asst. Counselor, Terre Mathieu, Counselor, Debby McElroy, ECHO Admin





# Donation Drives Needed

## Donate Goods

Why Donate to ECHO?

Requested Donations

Needed Right Now

Amazon Wishlist

What ECHO Can and Cannot Accept

Places to Donate  
Items ECHO Cannot  
Accept

Holiday Programs

School Supplies

ECHO Donation Drive  
Guidelines

**Volunteers know that ECHO depends on the generosity of the community to keep the services we offer to clients available. Food, clothing and financial assistance is extended to our clients as long as ECHO has the means to offer help. Donations are the life-blood of our operation. Here are some ways you can keep them coming.**

### **Hold a drive for things that ECHO needs:**

- Organize a drive at a swim meet, 4th of July neighborhood gathering, or other group event
- Challenge your co-workers to contribute specific items with a goal in mind
- Use this opportunity to help as a teaching moment with children or grandchildren including a stop at our Donation Door to see what happens next to donations.
- Tell others about ECHO and the work we do so others know how to help.

### **How to get started:**

Click on “Donate Goods,” and choose “ECHO Donation Drive Guidelines” on the ECHO website [www.echo-inc.org](http://www.echo-inc.org). You will also see a current list of items including food, hygiene items, clothing, housewares, computers, and school supplies needed now.

If time is a challenge, you can help with a visit to the ECHO Amazon Wishlist. Select the delivery location ECHO c/o D. McElroy and the item will come to ECHO.

Visit the Donate Goods Tab on the  
ECHO website  
[www.echo-inc.org](http://www.echo-inc.org)

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1NPONMD7UOIS2?ref=wl\\_sha](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1NPONMD7UOIS2?ref=wl_sha)

**Sharing these donation opportunities with others is appreciated.**





## Backpack Program Back in Full Force

*by Sandy Milam, Backpack Co-Chair*



Come help pack 1300 grade specific backpacks for ECHO clients. We will meet from 2 - 5 on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons in July and August at ECHO, 7205 Old Keene Mill Rd. Plan to stay for the entire packing session.

Volunteers must be at least 13 years old, and all volunteers under 18 must return an information form signed by them and a parent before they can help. This form will be emailed to you after you sign up. We MUST have an emergency contact number for EVERY volunteer. These hours cannot fulfill court ordered service hours. Please sign up using the Sign Up Genius link below or in the ECHO website.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4dafac2faaf4c16-2023#/>

**Can't volunteer? Consider sponsoring a donation drive  
in your congregation, workplace or neighborhood.**



### 2023 ECHO Backpacks Most needed School Supplies NEW ITEMS ONLY



- High School Backpacks (17 to 19 inches)
- #2 Yellow Pencils (Ticonderoga Brand preferred)
- Elmers Brand Glue Stick regular size
- Wide Rule ONLY Composition books
- College Rule ONLY Spiral notebooks
- College Rule ONLY Loose leaf paper
- Paper folders with pockets
- Crayola Brand Colored Pencils 12 pack
- Crayola Brand Broad Markers
- Crayola Brand Crayons 24 pack
- Blunt scissors
- DRY ERASE Broad tip Markers
- 2 inch Binders
- Plastic Pencil Boxes
- Primary Writing paper pads
- Small packs Construction paper

## Help with the Holiday Meal Program

*Submitted by Fran Eck, Holiday Meals Co-Chair*



Thanksgiving and Christmas may seem a long way off – but plans for the holiday meal project are already underway. We are looking for someone to help match families with donors. This can be done from home – with a computer and an Excel file. The time frame would be November 1 through December 22. If you are interested in helping with this project, contact Fran Eck at [franalaneck@msn.com](mailto:franalaneck@msn.com).



# HELP WANTED: SPECIAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



*Submitted by Beth Clark, Volunteer Coordinator*

***There are so many ways to help at ECHO.  
See if your skills match a need***



Check the ECHO website to see new opportunities as they come available. Go to [www.echo-inc.org](http://www.echo-inc.org) and click the Volunteer tab and go to Adult Volunteer Positions Needed Right Now, or email [Volunteercoordinator@echo-inc.org](mailto:Volunteercoordinator@echo-inc.org).

## **Volunteer Needs – June 2023**

**Clothing support** – 1 volunteer Mondays

**Housewares** – 1 volunteer Thursday evening

**Counselors** – Tuesday evening -- assistant counselor; Thursday evening -- assistant counselor or counselor

**Volunteer to help with the Holiday Meals program.** For many years, this program has provided festive meals at Thanksgiving or Christmas for families experiencing financial hardship. Your time would mostly be needed in October, November and the first part of December. Most of the tasks include making phone calls and keeping a list on the computer. The process is already well organized by past volunteers.

**Fix-it Desk** - Tuesday and Thursday. The volunteer in this position tests non-clothing donations to ensure they're safe and operational. If something appears not to work properly, the volunteer attempts to determine the cause and fix it. If something needs to be repaired, the volunteer attempts to fix it. In addition, the volunteer performs a range of maintenance, supply and support operations to include:

- Ordering supplies (toilet paper, paper towel, facial tissues, cups, coffee, garbage/storage bags, and batteries on-hand).
- Coordinating with partner organizations for pick-up of items ECHO passes along to partners.
- Coordinating and perform HVAC maintenance (schedule semi-annual HVAC maintenance service; change furnace filters quarterly, etc.).
- Maintaining Fire Extinguishers (Schedule annual inspection; Perform a visual monthly inspection)





## BOD FAITH COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

### Nativity Catholic Church Celebrates 50 Years

*by Peyton Davis, ECHO Intern*



Nativity Catholic Church, Burke VA

Nativity marked their 50th anniversary this year, with a special celebration on June 11. The celebration extended from the morning to the early afternoon with a donut reception in the morning as well as a lunch reception following the 11:00 mass. Bishop Michael Frances Burbage, bishop of the Diocese of Arlington, celebrated the 11:00 am Mass.

On July 1, 1973, Nativity Parish became a reality. Until a worship center had been completed, Father Frank Ready, Nativity's founding pastor, led the congregation at Hunt Valley Elementary School as their house of worship. Since then, the congregation has built its own beautiful worship space located in Burke on Old Keene Mill Road. Over the years, constant improvements have been made to Nativity including this past March when the sanctuary was renovated under the care of current pastor, Rev. Bob Cilinski. The highlight of this renovation was a new altar which was said to "bring unity to the church".



New Altar and Seven Corporal Works of Mercy Mosaic

Nativity Catholic Church is one of ECHO's member congregations and Linda Rookard is their representative on ECHO's Board of Directors. It is home to many of ECHO's volunteers and active participants who generously donate goods to ECHO. Nativity holds monthly food drives and donates all of this food directly to ECHO. Parishioners donate bags of food in designated places in the church narthex. Bulletin articles highlight the specific needs of ECHO at the time of collection. Church parishioners and volunteers bring the donations to ECHO monthly.



Reception to celebrat 50 years