

ADDENDUM

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ECHO'S MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS

ECHO's mission is to provide assistance to individuals/families in need within the Burke/Springfield community by offering food, clothing, housewares, and financial assistance for housing/utilities.

The revised Articles of Incorporation of ECHO permit ECHO (Ecumenical Community Helping Others) to engage in six specific areas of service and one general area:

1. Aiding families in emergencies,
2. Providing family guidance and assistance,
3. Supplying transportation to adults and children for needed services,
4. Providing adequate shelter for clients,
5. Educating citizens with regard to social and charitable needs,
6. Operating a day-care center for children, and
7. Other such lawful activities.

These areas provide a menu from which ECHO has selected activities which seem to be most needed at the time, in the geographic area in which ECHO operates. ECHO also cooperates with the Fairfax County Department of Human Services and with other community-based organizations in Fairfax County.

ECHO envisions a community where it partners with religious, civic, commercial, and governmental entities to identify and address unmet human needs, assists clients to access services that ECHO does not routinely provide, and reinforces, rather than duplicates, services provided by other organizations.

Currently, ECHO provides financial assistance in paying bills for essential client needs, including housing, utilities, prescription medicines and other essential needs. We also provide clients with supplies of food, household items, clothing, and school supplies. Our assistance includes providing family guidance and counseling, to help the person or family to overcome their difficulties in the longer term. We sponsor and assist in providing Thanksgiving and Holiday meals to families in our area.

ECHO commits to and embraces our long-standing core values of Service, People, and Innovation:

Service: We endeavor to strengthen our community by assisting all members of the community in achieving an acceptable standard of living.

People: We value our donors, volunteers, and clients, and strive to treat all with respect and grace.

Innovation: We foster efficiency in delivering assistance through innovative solutions that include the assessment of existing processes and integration of new technologies where appropriate.

ECHO has been, from the very beginning, an all-volunteer organization. We have no paid staff. Because we are comprised of persons from many faith communities, and persons who do not belong to any faith community, we serve the needy in the Springfield and Burke area without regard to religious belief or ethnicity; nor do we discriminate in any other way in providing services. ECHO does not engage in any activities which would promote any religious, political, cultural or other point of view. The Virginia relay number is used to assist hearing impaired clients.

ECHO PRESIDENTS

1968-69	Paul Hayes	St. Mark's Lutheran Church
1969-70	Robert Fisher	Grace Presbyterian Church
1971	Gaylord Leonard	Grace Presbyterian Church
1972	Bill Eldridge	
1973-74	Jack Chambliss	Grace Presbyterian Church
1974-75	Carl Kohlmeier	Springfield United Methodist Church
1975-77	Ed Jones	
1977-78	Don Hilkemeier	Messiah United Methodist Church
1979-82	John Russell	
1983-85	Bill Crouch	Springfield Christian Church
1986	Michelle Goodman	Sydenstricker United Methodist Church
1987-90	Don Bettge	Springfield Christian Church
1990-91	Tim O'Brien	
1991-93	Art Davis	Westwood Baptist church
1993-99	James Singsank	St. Bernadette's Catholic Church
2000-10	Anthony Pomilla	St. Bernadette's Catholic Church
2010-18	Robert Diegelman	St. Bernadette's Catholic Church
2019-	Bob Vitter	Abiding Presence Lutheran Church

ECHO EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Pat Gauthier	Headquarters Coordinator 1986 -1993 Executive Director 1994 –2009
Meg Brantley	Executive Director 2009 –2017
Marianne DeHart	Co-Executive Director 2009 –2010
Anita King	Executive Director 2017—2022
Mike Baier	Executive Director 2023--present

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF ECHO SERVICES

1969:

- Family Emergency Services, including financial aid, food, clothing and household items: Continuous to present day
- Food distributed from St. Mark's Lutheran Church: 1969.
Food distribution transferred to ECHO headquarters at 7309 Old Keene Mill Road: Summer/fall of 1971.
- Household furnishings stored at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church: 1969.
Additional storage in the basement of the committee chairman: 1970.
Storage, both household furnishings and clothing, transferred to Grace Presbyterian Church: Starting early 1971. *On March 16, 1971, "summer clothing collected since last fall was laid out on tables at Grace Presbyterian Church and families were brought in to select needed items; it was estimated that clothing was distributed to over 100 people that day."*
Storage transferred to ECHO's building at 7309 Old Keene Mill Road: Summer/fall of 1971.
- Thanksgiving Food Baskets: Continuous to present day
- Transportation: Discontinued 2008
- Furniture stored and distributed from the ACCA furniture warehouse at Annandale Methodist Church: 1969.
Additional storage in a garage at 6323 Franconia Road, Springfield: 1969-72.
Furniture stored in a warehouse at 7117 Braddock Road, Springfield: 1972.
Additional storage in the garage of an ECHO volunteer: 1973.
Storage transferred to ECHO's building at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road: 1974.
Furniture re-distribution program discontinued: 1995.
- Housing Advocacy for low- and moderate-income housing in Fairfax County: Discontinued 1978

1970:

- Valentine Food Baskets: No mention can be found after 1972
- Mother's Day Out program to improve homemaking skills of client families: Discontinued in 1977
- Home Repairs program organized work parties, obtained materials and made repairs on client houses: Discontinued 1980

1971:

- Adult Basic Education Classes started at Springfield United Methodist Church and St. John's United Methodist Church: ECHO no longer active in this program by 1973
- Owned a home in Alexandria that was rented to a needy family: House sold in 1977

1972:

- Meals on Wheels: Discontinued 2007
- Tutoring at Hunt Valley Elementary School and later at Lynbrook and Lorton Elementary Schools: Discontinued by 1978
- Christmas Toys, Gifts and Food for Families distributed from Springfield Christian Church: Continuous; became Holiday Store and December Holiday Baskets

1973:

- Alma Casa, a group home for girls, opened: Discontinued in 1976

1974:

- School Supplies Program: Continuous to present day

1997:

- Refurbishment program for donated computers and system components with distribution to clients: Continuous to present day

2010:

- Enrichment Program for Children for children ages newborn through age fourteen provides toy packages that include some items that are educational, something soft to cuddle and some that are just fun. Started January 2010
- Rosetta Stone. ECHO purchased 25 licenses for clients to take an on-line English class using Rosetta Stone. Started November 2010. Discontinued in December 2014 since better programs were available elsewhere for clients.

2012:

- Job Assistance Initiative. Partnership with SkillSource for one of their computers providing job search guidance to be located at ECHO. Discontinued in April 2015 due to lack of client interest.
- School Partnership Program to identify new clients, provide weekend food packs for students in the Free and Reduced Lunch program, tutoring and mentoring

2013:

- Fresh Produce Program provides certificates for clients to buy fresh fruits and vegetables at El Grande International Supermarket. Later, clients could also buy milk with the certificates.

2019:

- Money Management Skills taught once a month at ECHO in partnership with Britepaths and the Financial Empowerment

Center

2020:

- Sewing Machines – donated machines were provided to clients

2021:

- Car Repair – partnered with Cardinal Forest Shell to repair client cars
- Infant Formula – partnered with First Baptist Church of Springfield to expand their existing program to give new mothers formula for their infants
- Diapers – began distributing to families a month’s supply of diapers for each child needing them

2022:

- Client Choice Food Room – clients allowed to select their own food items rather than receive pre-packaged bags
- Scholarships – \$500 per semester scholarships for 12 ECHO area residents to attend Northern Virginia Community College

2023:

- Women’s Products – ECHO formed partnership with Bringing Resources to Aid Women’s Shelters (BRAWS) to provide ECHO with feminine hygiene products, bras and women’s/girls’ underwear

- **AWARDS**

1992-93 and 1994-95

*Commonwealth of Virginia
Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services
Northern Virginia Training Center*

Presented to ECHO in recognition of outstanding volunteer service rendered in behalf of residents through active participation in the Volunteer Program of the Northern Virginia Training Center.



April 18, 1993

Governor's Award for Volunteering Excellence

The 1993 Governor's Award for Volunteering Excellence is bestowed upon ECHO (Ecumenical Community for Helping Others) for successfully addressing the concerns and needs of its community. Presented with genuine appreciation by Lawrence Douglas Wilder, Governor.



October 25, 1996

*Commonwealth of Virginia
Office of the Governor*

Dear Fellow Virginians:

On behalf of the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia, it is a privilege for me to present ECHO – The Ecumenical Community Helping Others – with the 1996 Governor's Community Service and Volunteerism Award. This award recognizes the noteworthy volunteer activities of your group and the significant improvements these efforts have made to the quality of life in Virginia.

The efforts of the volunteers of the churches and synagogues of ECHO to provide for the needs of the citizens of the Springfield and Burke areas of Fairfax County are an outstanding example of this year's theme of community building. The citizens of Virginia's communities are better able to independently care for themselves and their families because of your many hours of selfless work.

Thank you for your countless efforts to improve the lives of others. It is my sincere hope that you will continue to work toward improving our communities and your good example will encourage others to help build a better Virginia for all our citizens.

With warm regards, I remain,
Sincerely, George Allen



October 24, 1996

*House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
James P. Moran, 8th District of Virginia*

Dear Ms. Gauthier:

I would like to offer you and your organization my congratulations on being selected for the 1996 Governor's Community Service and Volunteerism Award for the Commonwealth of Virginia. ECHO's receipt of this prestigious award properly recognizes all the fine contributions made by volunteers and staff who comprise this service community.

It is my hope this well deserved recognition will inspire other individuals and organizations to become more involved in their communities and share resources to help those less fortunate.

Please pass on to all those who made this award possible, my appreciation for their efforts. Sharing of their time and talent serves to make our communities better places to live.

Congratulations again on such a wonderful achievement.

Sincerely, James P. Moran
Member of Congress



December 9, 1996

County of Fairfax, Virginia

Certificate of Recognition presented to Ecumenical Community Helping Others for being selected to receive the Governor's Award for Service and Volunteerism for the Commonwealth of Virginia, and for outstanding community service to the Springfield and Burke communities.

Katherine K. Hanley, Chairman
Board of Supervisors



April 1998

Fairfax County Volunteer Service Award granted to ECHO in recognition of outstanding volunteer service.

Katherine K. Hanley, Chairman
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Jane S. Kornblut, Executive Director
Volunteer Center of Fairfax County, Inc.



2000

The Bob Westmoreland Community Service Award

Presented to ECHO (Ecumenical Community for Helping Others) in grateful recognition of your outstanding and dedicated service to the people of our community.

The Inter-Service Club Council of Springfield



July 9, 2007

The County of Fairfax, Virginia presents this certificate of Recognition to Ecumenical Community Helping Others for selection by a review committee of experienced grant writers and members of local nonprofit organizations for its excellence, innovation, cost effectiveness and diversity of field to be included in the 2006-2007 Catalogue for Philanthropy.

Gerald E. Connolly, Chairman
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors



May 24, 2012

Fairfax County Distinguished Partner Award

Provided by the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services for ECHO's assistance to 76 displaced residents due to a Springfield Gardens apartment fire which destroyed 11 units in November 2011



April 27, 2018

Fairfax County Volunteer Program Award

Presented by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in recognition of the significant contribution of volunteers in the community



February 5, 2019

Recognition

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors recognized ECHO for “50 years of noteworthy and outstanding service in the Greater Springfield community”



February 25, 2019

Citation by the Virginia General Assembly

Vivian Watts and Kathy Tran presented the citation as “an expression of the House of Delegates’ admiration for the organization’s noble work to help low-income families and individuals”



April 24, 2019

Fairfax County Volunteer Program Award

Presented by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for the second year in a row in recognition of the significant contribution of volunteers in the community

YARD SALE PROCEEDS

Spring 1998	\$848.00	Fall 1998	\$1,019.60
Spring 1999	\$2,136.45	Fall 1999	\$2,695.25
Spring 2000	\$2,683.79	Fall 2000	\$3,883.03
Spring 2001	\$5,136.00	Fall 2001	\$4,116.90
Spring 2002	\$4,562.65	Fall 2002	\$3,848.20
Spring 2003	\$3,826.00	Fall 2003	\$7,501.35*
Spring 2004	\$11,885.00	Fall 2004	\$13,605.00
Spring 2005	\$12,300.00	Fall 2005	\$14,000.00
Spring 2006	\$11,174.00	Fall 2006	\$12,000.00
Spring 2007	\$12,561.50	Fall 2007	\$17,700.00
Spring 2008	\$20,784.00	Fall 2008	\$22,330.13
Spring 2009	\$20,040.01	Fall 2009	\$24,415.03
Spring 2010	\$17,755.00	Fall 2010	\$22,094.60
Spring 2011	\$20,788	Fall 2011	\$21,980
Spring 2012	\$23,836	Fall 2012	\$23,947
Spring 2013	\$22,445	Fall 2013	\$23,715
Spring 2014	\$23,449	Fall 2014	\$23,462
Spring 2015	\$22,656	Fall 2015	\$27,589

Spring 2016	\$23,389	Fall 2016	\$25,000
Spring/Fall 2017	\$51,879		
Spring 2018	>\$19,000	Fall 2018	\$25,208
Spring 2019		Fall 2019	
Spring 2020	No sale	Fall 2020	No sale
Spring 2021	No sales	Fall 2021	\$20,318
Spring 2022	\$14,306	Fall 2022	\$16,746
Spring 2023	\$18,631		

*First sale at St. Bernadette's Catholic Church

**RESULTS FROM ANNUAL FOOD DRIVES BY THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS and
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**

	LETTER CARRIERS' "STAMP OUT HUNGER" FOOD DRIVE	"SCOUTING FOR FOOD" DRIVE
Year	Total Pounds of Food Collected	Total Pounds of Food Collected
1997	N/A	12,700
1998	11,700	18,172
1999	16,196	19,936
2000	19,414	20,890
2001	16,330	19,249
2002	12,699	21,400
2003	13,155	21,415
2004	21,793	21,531
2005	21,416	19,258
2006	16,465	21,299
2007	13,504	20,650
2008	11,883	18,414

2009	19,000	18,524
2010	17,000	22,600
2011	8,700	23,000
2012	10,943	25,625
2013	9,000	23,641
2014	21,000	25,000
2015	26,356	24,182
2016	21,857	25,000
2017	18,332	23,401
2018	20,720	25,480
2019	21,740	21,000
2020	Canceled	>18,000
2021	Canceled	25,000
2022		
2023	5,800	

ECHO by the Numbers FY 2011 - FY 2023

	No. of Families Served	Cash Financial Assistance	Pounds or Value of Food	Bags or Value of Clothing	Value of Fresh Produce Certificates	Value of Housewares	Families Receiving Thanksgiving Meals	Families Receiving Christmas Meals	Children Receiving Holiday Shop Gifts	Enrichment Packages	Backpacks	Refur-bished Computers
2011	1,472	\$251,000	181,000	4,181		\$136,391	240	241	500	-----	997	52
2012	1,391	\$223,614	181,965	3,151		\$140,119	257	251	495	212	1,000	65
2013	1,435	\$230,902	205,499	4,403	\$880	\$162,451	474		500	1,737	1,138	74
2014	1,534	\$259,991	211,666	4,532	\$8,220	\$154,020	440		550	1,693	1,131	50
2015	1,536	\$245,000	208,352	4,660	\$13,640	\$182,675	565		598	1,475	1,258	64
2016	1,542	\$242,740	226,151	4,778	\$18,040	\$181,839	316	289	594	1,845	1,244	70
2017	1,492	\$223,327	215,642	4,551	\$19,700	\$183,542	374	236	544	1,872	1,230	72
2018	1,433	\$217,576	\$322,000	\$346,000	\$17,600	\$190,000	350	197	625	1,259	1,252	38
2019	1,400	\$205,000	\$322,000	\$347,000	\$15,800	\$190,000	325	184	605	1,247	1,226	48
2020	1,496	\$248,000	\$475,062	\$262,287	\$35,400	\$163,750	220	271	667	1,279	1,175	45
2021	1,456	\$174,500	390,000	2,236	\$57,000	\$113,336	292	358	585	1,223	1,100	14

	No. of Families Served	Cash Financial Assistance	Pounds or Value of Food	Bags or Value of Clothing	Value of Fresh Produce Certificates	Value of Housewares	Families Receiving Thanksgiving Meals	Families Receiving Christmas Meals	Children Receiving Holiday Shop Gifts	Enrichment Packages	Backpacks	Refur-bished Computers
2022	1,487	\$255,578	266,999	3,386	\$48,180	\$178,909	271	260	260	1,662	1,077	27
2023	1,345	\$313,452	237,916	3,957	\$51,100	\$185,393	230	230	565	1,688	1,059	15