

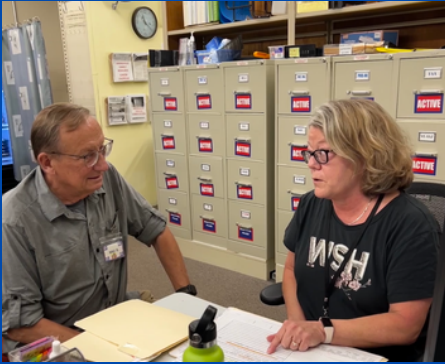


# ECHO UPDATE

QUARTERLY NEWS TO KNOW FOR VOLUNTEERS

## Notes from the Director's Desk

by Mike Baier, Executive Director



Mike Baier with Asst Counselor Shelly Thompson

*The post-pandemic “new normal” is an opportunity to share among ourselves what we now do in the various sections of ECHO to help meet our neighbors’ needs. Over the next several ECHO Updates, we’ll tour those areas. Goal of the tour is to nurture a collective appreciation for what each section does to meet our mission of helping our neighbors in need. The tour will include each section’s major responsibilities/tasks, major challenges, and, what other volunteers need to know about what that area does to help them in the work in their own sections.*

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**ECHO exists to help people in need. Without them, we wouldn't have a mission. We start then with the Counselors whose major role is to engage our neighbors in need. Counselors are the “face” of ECHO for those we help. Counselors set client expectations both for what they can expect in terms of ECHO support and also what we expect from clients in terms of using ECHO services.**

**Engagement entails phone and in-person interviews to determine eligibility for ECHO support and the needs ECHO is able to meet. When the need exceeds our capacity or capability, Counselors help find those partner organizations – nonprofit, government, etc. – that might be able to meet the need.**

### What do ECHO Counselors do?

- Answer incoming phone calls and determine clients' eligibility and needs, make necessary appointments, determine what help ECHO might provide, and complete required paperwork.

continued....

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

- Meet clients who have scheduled appointments. At the initial interview with new clients, review their documentation for eligibility, gather personal/family information, determine with clients the support ECHO can provide, and schedule appointments as appropriate. Complete new client documentation. For returning clients, re-validate client needs, schedule appointments as appropriate, update client documentation and complete required paperwork.
- In conjunction with Assistant Counselors, pull client files for all the next day's appointments and make reminder calls.
- In conjunction with Assistant Counselors, make sure start and end of shift tasks are completed.
- Throughout all these tasks, counselors are recording each client's "history" with ECHO. Each client's history, like a social worker's case file, includes records of individual phone calls, in-person visits, and outcomes – much of which is recorded manually, and eventually entered digitally into a central database. Recording and filing that history consume much of each Counselor's time at ECHO. In the coming months more of this recording will be done electronically as we introduce more automated procedures into our processes.

### What are the major challenges to meeting these tasks?

- Handling all the calls for assistance, and recording the results of all those calls.
- Language barriers, few Spanish-speaking AC's and Counselors
- Volume of paperwork involved to satisfy ECHO record-keeping and governmental requirements for non-profits
- Dealing with all of the above in three-hour shifts that are often hectic and frequently confusing
- Effectively, efficiently communicating information (such as instructions, changes in operations/policies, etc.) between shifts and teammates in other sections.

### What do our Counselors want all volunteers to understand about what Counselors do?

- We appreciate all the support given by the volunteers to help meet the clients' needs. The organization and cooperation from each group allows us to maximize our efficiency and services.
- We try to prevent No Shows as best we can to help other departments do their job, but, unfortunately, it doesn't go smoothly. Effectively communicating across eight shifts is part of the ECHO work environment we all share.
- Every client has different needs and we try to offer as much help as we can. Many times we need to rely on Fairfax County Coordinated Services for their expertise as we are not trained social workers.
- We can decide how much financial support to offer and when to offer clothing and food appointments.

*Mike Baier with Cheryl Schmidt, Counselor Co-Chair*

# ECHO's Mission, Vision, Values

A new look at ECHO's philosophy for meeting the on-going needs of individuals and families in our community has been crafted and has met the approval of ECHO's Board of Directors. Volunteers can use this as a guide for their commitment to our clients.



## **Mission:**

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

## **Vision:**

A community where ECHO 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.

## **Values:**

We commit to and embrace 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.

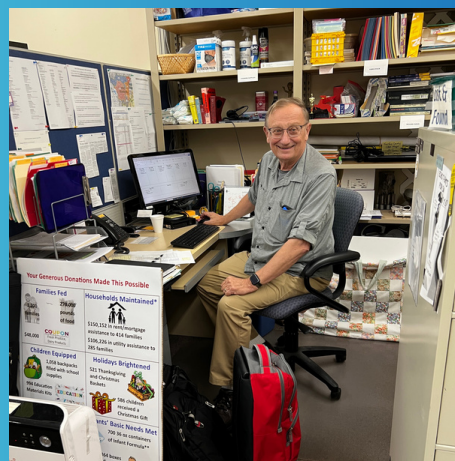
### **Innovation:**

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

## While Our ExDir is away . . .

Business as usual will proceed at ECHO while Mike takes a long-planned family visit overseas. We wish him great adventures and the renewal that visits with family can bring. Meanwhile, this chart will let you know who is overseeing the continuity of our operations.  
Teamwork - as always with ECHO - is the key!

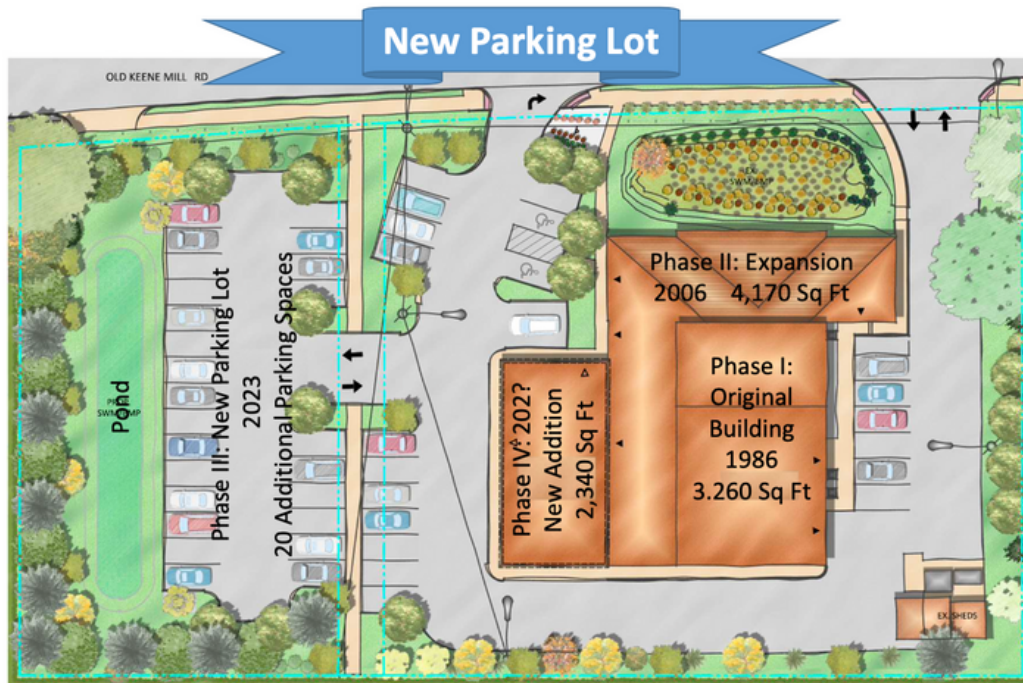
DATE	NAME
Sept 5-8	Bob Vitter
Saturday, Sept 9th	John Fox (OC)
Sept 11 - 15	Joyce Giuliani
Sept 18 - 22	Joan Wheaton
Sept 25 - 29	Debby McElroy
Oct 2-6	Bob Vitter
Oct 10-13	Rick Prosek
Saturday, Oct 14	John Fox
Oct 16 - 20	Joan Wheaton
Oct 23 – 27	Rick Prosek
Oct 30 – Nov 3	Mark Smith
Nov 6	Debby McElroy





# ECHO Parking Lot Update

*by Bob Vitter, ECHO President*



## The New Parking Lot is Coming Soon

After almost 10 years and many, many meetings, calls and plan reviews – we are about to break ground for our new Volunteer parking lot!

The contracts have been signed and you will soon see signs of activity on the vacant lot – and an invitation to join us for the Ground Breaking at a date to be determined in early October.

From start to finish the construction is estimated to take 3 months. During that time, you will not be able to park anywhere on that lot – the gravel area at the back or the grassy area towards Old Keene Mill Rd. The paved Volunteer Lot will remain open for parking except for a short period when the driveway connecting the current and new parking areas is constructed.

We are working on a plan to provide parking for the volunteers that currently park on the lot.

The rendering of the new parking lot was prepared early in the process and may vary in small detail from the final parking lot.

**Stay tuned for more details about Ground-Breaking,  
Start Date and Alternate Parking Options**

## 2nd ANNUAL ECHO VOLUNTEER PICNIC



PLEASE COME  
RAIN OR SHINE

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. Please come and enjoy an afternoon with a great team of ECHO volunteers! It's not too late to make plans to come and bring family and friends.

Serving: pulled pork barbeque, friend chicken, bottled water

Bring: a dessert or side dish to share



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

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

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

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

**See you there!**



## ECHO Efforts In Education Outreach

*by Joyce Giuliani, Dir Communications and Outreach*

ECHO's school/client connection is significant to the outreach we provide. This Fall, as schools resume, we have been able to supply the children of our clients with 1,200 backpacks. Look further in this newsletter to learn about ECHO's NOVA Scholarship program which is providing six \$1,000 scholarships. Our School Liason team has been busy at opening school-year events providing families with information about ECHO's services. The liasons have also connected with school counselors and social workers to make sure we reach families who may need our assistance.

The work ECHO volunteers do makes a difference as witnessed by the following message sent to ECHO from a school social worker:

*... I often share ECHO information with families in need. We appreciate all of your support! I've received wonderful feedback from families who benefited from ECHO support. Also, ECHO provided a tour for school social workers last year which was super helpful. Please include me on all communication in the future.  
Thanks so much!*



# ECHO Continues NOVA Scholarships

*by Rick Prosek, Vice President and Bob Vitter, President*

ECHO's scholarship program began with the Fall 2021 semester offering twelve \$500 scholarships. Scholarships have been offered for both Fall and Spring semesters since the inception of the program. Due to rising costs of tuition, books, and supplies, we transitioned from twelve \$500 scholarships to six \$1000 scholarships for the Fall 2023 offering. All of the recipients reside within ECHO's operation area and about half of them are members of current or former ECHO client households.



## Ecumenical Community Helping Others

ECHO announces the continuation of the scholarship program for students attending (or planning to attend) the Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA).

Six \$1,000 scholarships for the **Spring 2024 semester** are available for use in paying for tuition, fees, books and/or supplies for students residing in the ECHO service area (with priority for ECHO clients/family members and students not eligible for FAFSA aid).

Information on available scholarships is available on the web at <https://nvcc.academicworks.com/>

To find the specifics of the ECHO scholarship, click on "Show Filters" box and enter ECHO.

To apply for these scholarships click "Sign Up" to create an account and follow the instructions provided in the [NOVA Scholarship Tutorial](#) to apply during the application window of August 23<sup>th</sup> to September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

If you have any questions or need assistance in applying for a scholarship, contact 703-569-7972.

# Fall Yard Sale Team Needs Your Help

Pumpkin Spice Lattes, changing of the leaves and the coming new season...

Are far and away not the only reason...

To jump for joy and say "Yippee"...

Because the ECHO yard sale is soon to be...

So mark those calendars and circle the date...

For this exciting event we can hardly wait!

**WHERE:** St. Bernadette Gym

**WHEN:**

**SET UP:** Friday October 27th 9:00 AM

**SALE:** Saturday October 28th 8:00 AM till 12 NOON



Please consider volunteering for this event. It takes a village for this event to be successful. No previous experience necessary! There are many volunteer opportunities-

Set up, cashiers, wrappers, transporting merchandise from ECHO to St. Bernadette's in your large vehicle or pick up truck, clean up after the sale, help back at Echo after the sale and many more.

There will be sign up sheets on the bookcase outside of the office next week or contact the office to place your name on the volunteer sheet (703 569-7972; [admin@echo-inc.org](mailto:admin@echo-inc.org)). Please consider giving an hour or two of your time to make this event a success!

Thank you,

The Yard Sale Team

Cele Frazee, Susan Taylor, Mary Chasteen, Rachel Hoover and Kathy Freund





Debbie McElroy



Marti Maust



Barbara Pencek



Eilen Diamante



Rosemary Porter

# Volunteer Profile: ECHO's Admin Team

by Jane Curtis, ECHO Outreach Chair and Peyton Davis, Intern

As in every organization, there is a vital role that must be filled to manage and coordinate various administrative tasks to help the organization run. For ECHO this role is filled by Debby McElroy, Marti Maust, and Barbara Pencek, known as the Admins, with Rosemary Porter and Eilen Diamante as Assistant Admins. Randy Robish serves as a substitute when any of the regulars must be absent. These volunteers serve as the backbone of our organization, answering phone calls, emails, or volunteer inquiries, assisting with financial records, making sure supplies are stocked, and keeping the files in order. They are essential support, contributing to every day operational efficiency. Debby McElroy, Marti Maust, and Barbara Pencek, known as the Admins, with Rosemary Porter and Eilen Diamante as Assistant Admins. Randy Robish serves as a substitute when any of the regulars must be absent. These volunteers serve as the backbone of our organization, answering phone calls, emails, or volunteer inquiries, assisting with financial records, making sure supplies are stocked, and keeping the files in order. They are essential support, contributing to every day operational efficiency.

Although some of the Admins are relatively new to ECHO, Barabara Pencek has been an active participant in ECHO's efforts for 20 years now. She said that after she retired, she felt a calling to give back and that is how she found ECHO. Her favorite part about ECHO is how congenial every single volunteer is. Considering the fact that ECHO has over 300 volunteers, that is an amazing assessment of how outstanding our volunteers are.

In addition to shared duties, each Admin specializes in certain tasks. For instance, Debby places orders for ECHO's office supplies as well as for essential items like jeans, underwear and comforters when donations run low. Marti oversees the database, makes the monthly schedule and helps prepare donation deposits. Barbara ensures that the counselors have needed forms and folders. Eilen keeps the client files in good order and deposits income from the Yard Sale. Rosemary enters client visit data into the database to record the types and numbers of items distributed to each household.

Marti came to ECHO around 2006 after retiring as a civilian budget analyst at the Pentagon. Debby, who started volunteering in 2019, is still employed part time at a "regular job.". Eilen, who began volunteering here in 2018, had worked at the Philippine Embassy and the World Bank before retirement. Rosemary, the newest member of the team, started in July, 2022, attracted by ECHO's mission as well as the fact of its all-volunteer workforce.

continued...



## Volunteer Profile: ECHO's Admin Team ... continued

Speaking about how she chose ECHO, Debby said, "I was so impressed with ECHO's efficiency and scope of services for the community." Asked about her favorite part of volunteering, Marti noted the enjoyment being a part of a team and building friendships among so many nice people. ECHO is lucky to have these volunteers who bring their skills and commitment to our shared mission every week.



## Leadership Changes in Housewares

*by Mike Baier, Executive Director*



Summer is still with us, and here we are leaning into Fall and the Holidays. We have already done the winter changeover in Clothing. Food Room is gearing up for the Fall Scout Food Drives. Changeover of a different type unfolded in Housewares. Kathy Siner, our exemplary Housewares Co-Chair, is moving on to the next adventure in her life – in Charlottesville. Her legacy is considerable: up-to-date procedures and policy instructions that ease communications across the eight shifts in housewares; an inaugural effort to establish and maintain a basic set of houseware items always in stock to meet clients' needs; established

and sustained open, thoroughly cooperative relationships with the Co-Chairs in Clothing and Food, and with the Counselors. Kathy has put Housewares on a great azimuth.

And, she has a superb successor to continue and refine that trajectory - Barbara Ryan. Barbara's own words of introduction are much better than anything I could provide:

*"I've been a resident of Virginia for 15 years and upon retiring, began volunteering in housewares in January 2020. I am a hard-working individual who is passionate about ECHO's mission. I enjoy the work, supporting our clients, and making a positive difference in our community. I look forward to working with the team to ensure we provide the best support to ECHO and our clients, while learning and growing in this new role."*

We at ECHO are indeed so fortunate to have volunteers of Barbara's generosity and caliber who step forward to embrace more responsibilities in helping to meet our mission for neighbors in need.

# Inaugural College Intern Program Followup

*by Mike Baier, Executive Director*



In June ECHO became the beneficiary of the newly inaugurated College Intern Program sponsored by Abiding Presence Lutheran Church. This program “donated” two college students to ECHO from the parish’s larger summer program. The experience was intended to bond college students with their community. Throughout the summer ECHO benefited from the talents, energy and intelligence of Ally Tingen and Peyton Davis, rising seniors at the University of Mary Washington and James Madison University, respectively.

After spending a few shifts familiarizing themselves with operations in the Food Room and Clothing section, Ally became a Counselor auxiliary, and Peyton supported media outreach. Both contributed their many talents to developing the Community Resources Coordination function focusing on developing partnerships with County and other nonprofits that can meet neighbors needs that are beyond ECHO’s capacity or capability. Their last act was a presentation of their work with our partners in the County’s Coordinated Services Planning partners program on the CSP’s Human Services Resource Guide (HSRG) portal. Ally and Peyton introduced the HSRG to Counselor leads, demonstrated how to navigate this CSP portal (from their desktop computers) that captures County-wide services for helping those in need. Ally and Peyton are back at school, having left a helpful legacy in their very short stay with us.

## Food Room News

The first year anniversary of ECHO's Food Room Market was September 6th. In the past year the Food Room volunteers have helped over 1,500 clients to shop for approximately 225,000 pounds of food. Meeting with the clients and spending about 30 minutes with them has helped us learn about their cultures and the foods they prefer to feed their families. We are working to meet these needs as well as introducing them to food they may not be familiar with. Also, many of us are learning Spanish!

We have noticed an uptick in clients over the past two months. News reports in the newspaper and on television about food insecurity in Northern Virginia bear out the higher number of clients coming to ECHO. We are grateful for the generous grant ECHO recently received from Fairfax County to be used for food. The grant, along with several food drives in the next few months, should help to keep the shelves full.



***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

### Fall 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 generosity of our community, ECHO has an ample supply of canned vegetables (especially green beans), can pumpkin and stuffing. 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 past, open food, or repackaged food (no zip-loc bags).

#### Fall Most Needed List

##### Food:

- Protein Items (can chicken, Spam, sardines, chili with meat, can beef stew)
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Baked Beans
- Ketchup or Mayonnaise
- Milk products (canned, shelf stable, hot chocolate)
- Sugar
- Masa (Corn) Flour
- Flour
- Honey or Jelly
- Cooking Oil
- Can Pasta
- Box Potatoes
- Lentils
- Coffee (Instant)
- Canned fruit
- Bag beans (black, red, or garbanzo)



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

- Bag Rice
- Pancake Mix
- Pancake Syrup
- Crackers
- Spices (garlic, onion, cinnamon, salt, pepper)
- Lemon/Lime Juice
- Juice (Bottles or Box)
- Tortillas
- Muffin/Cornbread Mix

##### Hygiene Products

- Children's Toothbrushes
- Toilet Paper
- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Facial Tissues
- Dish Soap
- Bath Soap
- Paper Towels
- Shaving Cream/Razors
- Laundry Detergent

# Notes from the Clothing Room

*by Paula Kvartunas, Clothing Co-Chair*

## Clothing Donations Needed

The following are the needs for Fall/Winter. Clothing change over was 8/21-8/23 so we are eager to keep our clothing supply stocked.

### Men and Boy's Clothing

- Boy's Sneakers Sizes 1 thru 6
- Boy's Long Sleeve T-Shirts/Knit Tops, Sizes 4 thru 18
- Boy's Pants, Jeans, Sweatpants Sizes 4 thru 18
- Boy's New Underwear Sizes 4 thru 20
- Boy's New Socks Sizes Medium thru Extra Large
- Men's Sneakers Sizes 7 and 8
- Men's Jeans Sizes 30/30, 30/32, 32/32, 36/30, 36/32
- Men's Pants, Sweatpants
- Men's Underwear Sizes 28/30, 32/34, 36/38
- Men's New Athletic Socks Sizes 9-12
- Men's Long Sleeve T-Shirt/Knit Tops Sizes Small/Medium/Large

### Women and Girl's Clothing

- Girl's Sneakers Sizes 1 thru 6
- Girl's Pants, Jeans, Sweatpants Sizes 5 thru 18
- Girl's Long Sleeve T-Shirt/Knit Tops Sizes 5 thru 18
- Women's Sneakers Sizes 5 and 6



Don't forget to check out ECHO's Amazon Wishlist for needed items delivered to ECHO via D. McElroy.  
[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1NPONMD7U0IS2?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1NPONMD7U0IS2?ref_=wl_share)



**Meet Sophie**, perhaps ECHO's cutest clothing volunteer. Sophie is a 14-year-old Maltese pup who hangs out at ECHO with her companion Camille Reilly working in the clothing area Monday, Wednesday and Friday each week. While Camille sorts clothing, Sophie is responsible for making other volunteers smile and she does it without barking! Sadly, when Camille lost her husband, Sophie lost a dear friend as well and showed signs of loss that troubled Camille. When coming home from her ECHO duties, Camille found a downhearted dog instead of the happy pup of former days. So, she asked if anyone minded her bringing Sophie along to ECHO. We're so glad she did to everyone's delight. Sophie loves all the attention, especially from our male volunteers who help fill a gap in her life. She gives lots of smiles and no sneezes – her breed is hypoallergenic!



## ECHO Facilities News

by Joan Wheaton Facilities Director

Please welcome Rob Ambrosio as the new lead for Facilities. You may have seen Rob working around the building on Friday mornings helping to build up ECHO's defenses against pesky mice that have been enjoying the flour in the food room! Rob will be working with the several other volunteers to make sure ECHO's facility is functioning at it's best. If you have a suggestion for a project or improvement to the ECHO building, please send him an email to [facilities@echo-inc.org](mailto:facilities@echo-inc.org).



Another building update -

The ECHO building is now operating with 100% non-ballasted LED lights. Since LED lights are up to 80% more efficient compared to the fluorescent bulbs previously used at ECHO, and removing the ballast from all the fixtures reduces maintenance costs, the investment of retrofitting all the ceiling fixtures in the building should pay for itself in energy savings within 5 years!



## ECHO History Updated for FY23

by Joyce Giuliani, Director of Communications and Outreach

**Kudos to Jan Auerbach ECHO's volunteer Historian for updating our collected history. Her efforts have followed the work of John Gauthier who compiled ECHO's early history through 2010. Jan went back in time to bring this important history up-to-date. It makes for very interesting reading and confirms that ECHO's work to help the community has been an on-going effort. Find it on the ECHO website [www.echo-inc.org](http://www.echo-inc.org) under the About ECHO tab.**

Pictured from FY 23 ECHO History: Executive Directors Meg Brantley, Anita King, Pat Gauthier and Mike Baier





## Holiday Gifts for Children

*by Eileen Short, Holiday Gift Co-Chair*



### Holiday Gift Ideas:

Skate Boards w/Helmets  
 Scooters w/Helmets  
 Soccer Ball and Net  
 Headphones/Ear Phones  
 Transformers  
 Art Supplies  
 Remote Control Toys (all ages)  
 Cars and Track Sets  
 Nerf Game Activities  
 Riding Toys (all ages)  
 Books (Grades 3 and above)  
 Large Stuffed Animals  
 Family board Games  
 Teen Pajama Bottoms  
 Teen Wallets (Boys)

It is that time of year again to prepare for ECHO's Holiday Gift Shop! ECHO collects new toys for children aged 0 to 15 and displays them in a cheerfully decorated, store-like setting. ECHO clients who participate in this program come in by appointment to choose appropriate gifts for their children from our "store." The Holiday Gift Committee will be looking for volunteers to help with this wonderful event.

Donors can help with this happy program by donating new childrens' toys or teen gifts (not gift-wrapped, please) no later than MONDAY, DECEMBER 4th. Donations can be delivered to our donation door (door #6) weekdays between 9:30 am and 12:30 pm, or Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings between 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm. We are making available once again the Wishlist on Amazon.com. This wishlist may also be accessed from our web page ([www.echo-inc.org](http://www.echo-inc.org)). It will be active beginning on October 15th. You can shop from this list, or select from the adjacent list of popular items we hope to make available for the children. Any questions, please contact the Holiday Shop Co-Chairs at [ECHOHOLIDAYSHOP@gmail.com](mailto:ECHOHOLIDAYSHOP@gmail.com).

## Holiday Meals for Families

*From the ECHO website*



The Holiday Meal Program provides groceries or gift cards suitable for making a festive meal for Thanksgiving and Christmas. 300 or more local families for each holiday are invited to receive this opportunity. To achieve this, ECHO connects willing donors directly with needy families. There are two options for donating, either shopping and delivering food in person, or buying and mailing a gift card. Visit the ECHO website for more details ([www.echo-inc.org](http://www.echo-inc.org)) or contact Fran Eck, co-chair ([holidayfoodprograms@echo-inc.org](mailto:holidayfoodprograms@echo-inc.org)).

# 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).

**Clothing** – 1 Spanish speaking volunteer Wednesday mornings

**Clothing Support** – 1 volunteer Thursday mornings

**Counselors** –1 Spanish speaking counselor Tuesday mornings or Friday mornings; 1 Assistant Counselor Tuesday evenings and Thursday evenings

**Food room** –2 volunteers needed. One would be a floater who can fill in mornings when volunteers are unable to work on their given day. This could become a permanent slot as openings arise.

The second volunteer is on Friday mornings. This is a more physical day as the Food Room rotates stock on this day. Volunteer must be able to lift boxes weighing 20-40 pounds for 2-3 hours. Comfortable working on ladder and moving boxes weighing about 20 pounds. Other tasks could include working with clients as they shop, and sorting food.

**Housewares** – 1 volunteer Thursday evenings, 1 volunteer Saturday mornings

**Stuffed Animals Sorter.** 1 volunteer to sort through the donated stuffed animals. Depending on their condition, they are either saved for the yard sale or the holiday shop, set aside for the Enrichment Bags, or put out for clients to take. The saved stuffed animals are bagged, and labeled (“yard sale” or “holiday shop”), and priced for the yard sale, prior to storing at ECHO. Time commitment is flexible, usually one hour/week.

continued...

## SPECIAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### ...continued

#### Data Analytics Volunteer

#### PLEASE CONSIDER USING YOUR SPECIAL SKILLS FOR THIS POSITION

As ECHO has grown and evolved over more than 50 years, we have developed applications to support client services, volunteer management and donor recognition. These applications collect extensive data that are retained in a database and, in some cases go back more than 15 years.

We currently extract selected data to support decision making on an ad hoc basis, but we are at the point where we need more robust Data Analytics to support decision making for many areas including client assistance, donor recognition, enhanced communications, and volunteer coordination. The Data Analytics volunteer will work with the Executive Director, Executive Committee and Team Chairs to analyze existing data to identify trends and areas of concern, present the analysis in graphical form to facilitate understanding of trends and relationships, and work with the Data Team to enhance/modify operational data collection to assist in identifying trends and exceptions in order to help inform decision making.

The Data Analytics volunteer would work with operational/historical data extracted from the database into Excel spreadsheets. Volunteers with Access/SQL Server experience may extract the data directly.

The Data Analytics volunteer should have experience with Excel and extracting trends from historical/operational data. Experience with other statistical analysis and graphical presentation tools would be helpful. Time commitment is project-based but probably no more than 5 hours/week. Can be done from home.



**DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO COULD HELP? - PLEASE NETWORK FOR US!**



## BOD FAITH COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

### Grace Presbyterian Church - Partnership for Ministry

*by Judy Riekse, Congregation Member and ECHO Finance Volunteer*

Through the years Grace has developed a variety of partnerships locally and internationally. Our longest-running partnership is with ECHO, as Grace was one of the founding congregations over 50 years ago. Through these years Grace has faithfully supported the work of ECHO with resources of time, money and goods. Grace currently supports ECHO's food program by focusing on a single food and/or hygiene item each month – an approach that has proven more successful than sharing the complete needs list. Cash donations send off a team of food shoppers who are each given \$100 a month to buy from ECHO's most-needed list.



A monthly collection of laundry detergent and cereal



A Grace shopper making a delivery to ECHO



Lunch kit pickup and delivery by Grace volunteers

During the past year Grace and Messiah Methodist collaborated to prepare and distribute 144 lunch kits weekly to families at Crestwood Elementary. This summer Grace provided 600 additional lunch kits, assembled by Grace members, to the Springfield Family Resource Center, representing our goal to continue hands-on support in the local community outside of the school year.

Grace has participated in the Burke CROP Walk each year since 2003. Church World Service, the sponsor of CROP Walks around the US, returns 25% of donations to non-profits in the locale where the funds were raised. ECHO receives a large portion of the funds raised by the Burke CROP Walk. Grace's partnership and support of this Church World Service hunger-related fundraiser includes a summer "CROP Table." Church members donate garden produce, baked goods and craft items which are then "sold" for donations to CROP, raising between \$3,000 - \$5,000 each summer

continued . . .



Summer CROP Table



## Grace Presbyterian Church - Partnership for Ministry ...continued



Help the Homeless volunteers – a partnership with the wider community

Then there's Help the Homeless! Grace continues its multi-year program, hosting monthly MeetUp.com events where church and community members gather to socialize and load 100 backpacks with freshly made lunches, assembled hygiene kits, and Bibles. We sort donated clothing and then deliver the backpacks and clothing to grateful unhoused friends in Washington, DC.

In addition to these hunger-related ministries, Grace is developing youth group partnerships with two neighboring churches (St. Christopher's and Springfield UMC), which started with a joint service project at ECHO last year. We partner with the Fairfax County Department of Family Services, hosting their Parenting Education Program, and providing Baby Boxes to new mothers, assembled with the help of students from Key Middle School. And we are resuming our longstanding partnerships with Crestwood and Garfield Elementary Schools for a Monday evening tutoring program.

Looking beyond the local community, The Voices from the Holy Land Film Series begun at Grace in 2015 has grown to include national and international partners. Grace's own international partners include Honduras Outreach (HOI, Inc.), which has hosted two decades of Grace mission trips, and the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, through which we partner and exchange visits with two congregations in Nablus, West Bank, Palestine. Grace is blessed with these varied partnerships and the opportunities they provide to learn, grow and serve.



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