Are you eager to use your time and talents to help families in our community who are struggling with basic needs? ECHO has a few key volunteer positions opening, and we want to fill them with people who are friendly, kind and have positive attitudes. To find out more about the important positions described below, e-mail Volunteercoordinator@echo-inc.org.

There is a vital need for volunteers who speak Spanish and could commit one morning a week to interview people who request assistance. New volunteers in this position will work with experienced volunteers until they are confident in the process.

If you enjoy working with teens and are available many Wednesday evenings during the school year from 7:00 to 9:00, please consider helping with our Teen Program. You would work with another adult volunteer to supervise a team of teens as they tackle various tasks related to organizing donated items.

A person, or team of several people with good organizational and decision making skills will be needed to chair ECHO's clothing operation as the current co-chairs retire. Transitional training will be provided. The chair(s) will work with the many, many wonderful ECHO volunteers who assess and organize clothing donations and assist clients in finding the clothing they need for their families.

As ECHO begins to accept donations of adult clothing and household goods, it might be helpful to inform our community of the things we cannot accept. Sometimes donors are annoyed because we turn away some things they bring to us; but donors should understand that there are limitations of space and our ability to use particular items. The complete lists of things that ECHO cannot accept and that ECHO can accept is on our website, www.echo-inc.org, under the tab "Donate Goods." There is also a list of charitable organizations that might be able to use what we cannot. Among the things we ask donors not to bring to ECHO are: yard sale leftovers; broken or dirty items; adult books, magazines or encyclopedias; adult furniture or major appliances; CPAP machines; exercise equipment; typewriters; printers, routers, scanners, and computer CRT monitors. Also, in order to insure the safety of our clients, our Food Room must discard food donations that have been opened or re-packaged from the original, sealed packaging. While ECHO needs common over-the-counter medicines such as aspirin, we cannot use vitamins, herbal remedies, protein supplements, etc.

The Fairfax County government is once again supporting Stuff the Bus events on September 11 and October 9 to collect non-perishable food donations at various locations that will be announced later. One or two of these locations will be bringing the food to ECHO. Please look for more information on the Fairfax County government website, searching " Stuff the Bus." In the meantime, ECHO needs donations of canned tomatoes, canned meats, cooking oil and tortillas. ECHO's Clothing Department needs polar fleece outerwear and sweatshirts in children's sizes 8 to 18 as well as athletic shoes in men's sizes 7 and 8. ECHO is open to accept donations Monday through Friday, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm and Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 7:00 to 9:00. Please drive to the west side of the building and stop at the Donation Door where volunteers will assist with your donation and offer written receipts.

Upcoming Dates to Note

September 2-3 - Clothing changeover to Fall/Winter
September 6 - Closed for Labor Day
September 20 - Bd of Directors Meet
October 11- Closed for Columbus Day
October 18 - Executive Comm Mtg

Congregational Food Drives

September - Burke Presbyterian, St. Andrews Episcopal, Rolling Valley LDS
October - First Baptist Springfield, St. Mark's Lutheran