

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, 2019 marks the 50th anniversary of ALIVE!, the oldest and largest private safety net for Alexandrians living in poverty and with food insecurity; and

WHEREAS, ALIVE! was founded in 1969 by a coalition of 14 faith-based organizations and community leaders to provide emergency and basic needs services, including food assistance, financial assistance, furniture and other essential services to their neighbors in need; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, ALIVE! House, a shelter and transitional housing program for homeless mothers and their children, was opened; and the next year the ALIVE! Child Development Center, a full-day, year-round early education program for children from low-income, working families was established; and

WHEREAS, for the past 50 years, ALIVE! has remained dedicated to improving the lives of Alexandrians, serving as catalyst for community engagement by convening the community and its resources to rush to the assistance of our neighbors facing hardships and emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, since its inception ALIVE! has remained dedicated to alleviating the suffering of our neighbors living in poverty and with hunger, serving as a convener for volunteerism and community partnerships to maximize resources and support for low-income Alexandrians; and

WHEREAS, the vision of the ALIVE! founders has brought so much to our community by ensuring that our neighbors living with hunger have access to free, nutritious food; that low-income Alexandrians receive emergency financial assistance to keep roofs over their head and utilities on, and help to meet medical and other emergency needs; and that our neighbors in need receive donated furniture and housewares; and

WHEREAS, ALIVE!'s concerted efforts ensure that homeless mothers and their children have shelter, services and support as they work towards self-sufficiency, and children from low-income working families have access to nationally accredited full-day, year-round early education to prepare them for academic success, thereby leveling the playing field for their educational journey; and

WHEREAS, ALIVE!'s valued community role is well-established and well-respected, relied upon by City of Alexandria Department of Social Services, Alexandria City Public Schools, and partner social service agencies; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, ALIVE! remains rooted in community, comprised of 45 faith organization and thousands of volunteers, partners and supporters; serving more than 3,500 Alexandrians each month by providing food, shelter, emergency help and early education.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby recognize and acknowledge:

“THE 50th ANNIVERSARY of ALIVE!”

In the City of Alexandria and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 12th day of November, 2019.

MAYOR JUSTIN M. WILSON

*On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia*

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk