

Virginia Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc.



VKCCI

Helping Virginians in Need Since 1994



Fall 2017 Newsletter – Volume 5, Issue 1

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President’s Message – Richie Head

This past month, VKCCI passed a new milestone. Our total grants to help those in need in Virginia topped **\$1.6 million**. Within the next month or so, we will also issue our **1000th grant**.

One might ask how it is possible. To find the answer, one only has to look in the mirror. Our donations come from **you**, the individuals and Councils that make up the Virginia Knights of Columbus. So please take a moment and congratulate yourself.

You may have questions about how VKCCI works. If so, please contact one of the Board members to get more information or to have them come to a District or Council meeting.

Please continue to help us -- help those -- that need our help. Thank you.

Fundraising Activities – Tom Browne

THANK YOU! The Council Contribution Program reached two historical highs in the 2016-2017 Columbian Year. Over \$28,000 was donated this year, which averages out to about \$315 per participating Council (both of these are records). 93 Councils made donations, representing 64 percent of the Councils.

Sadly, due to unforeseen circumstances both the Fr. Cilinski Golf Tournament and the VKCCI Ball Drop were postponed this year. We are looking for a Council or Assembly to take on the Golf Tournament, and are planning on bringing the Ball Drop back, potentially as a separate event. Please keep your eyes open for news on both of these events.

Finally, Brother Joe Cronin’s fundraising bike ride resulted in an awesome fundraiser for VKCCI. Through the generous pledges of Brother Knights and friends of the Cronin family, VKCCI benefitted to the tune of **over \$5,500**. Many thanks to Joe, his support team crew, and all who made contributions.

Grant Committee Activities - Cy Alba

For the 2016-2017 Grant Year, ending June 30, the Grant Committee approved 44 grants totaling \$102,400. This is the fifth year in a row your donations have allowed us to top \$100,000 in grants. In fact, in the past five years, we have awarded \$545,500 in grants, for an average of \$109,000 per year going to the neediest of the neediest residents of Virginia. Thank you for your past generosity, which has made this program possible.

Since July 1, the Grant Committee has approved 11 grants for a total of \$27,371.28. This means that the 2017-2018 grant year has started at **double** the rate as last year. This fact clearly demonstrates that, while the economy continues to improve, there are many Virginians in desperate need of the basic necessities of life – shelter, health, food and,

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clothing. To continue this level of assistance, it is critical that individual Brother Knights **respond generously** to the label program mailings and that Councils **contribute faithfully** to the annual Council Contribution program. Your donations help us provide assistance to Brother Knights and Virginia residents in need of immediate financial assistance. Here are some examples of who we have helped with your support since July 1:

- A \$2,980 grant to assist an elderly Past Grand Knight who lives alone and recently suffered a heart attack and removal of part of his colon.
- A \$3,000 grant to assist a single mother with two children.
- A \$2,385 grant to assist a middle-aged couple from being evicted from their rented home.
- A \$2,215 grant to assist a young family who had fallen into a number of difficult circumstances, including uncovered Emergency Room charges following a miscarriage, loss of the wife's job, and the loss and replacement of their only car.
- \$621 grant to assist a blind Brother Knight who relies on a seeing-eye dog, with veterinarian and laboratory bills, and upon the death of the dog, with cremation and other final expenses.
- A \$3,000 grant to assist an elderly widow who lives alone replace an HVAC system which had failed.
- A \$2,570 grant to assist a couple who had run into a series of tough times and events, including unemployment, uncovered medical bills, neglected home maintenance, and depleting their 401(K) accounts to make ends meet.
- A \$2,800 grant to assist a single mother of four, who had left her abusive husband on the advice of county domestic abuse counselors.
- A \$1,800 grant to assist the mother of two children after her boyfriend and father of her children left her and stopped providing support of his children.
- A \$3,000 grant to assist a widow on Social Security pay bills resulting from her loss of supplemental income earned as a part-time beautician.
- A \$3,000 grant to assist a PGK with mortgage payments to avoid foreclosure and the loss of his home.

Grand Knights are reminded to perform due diligence in investigating cases for possible VKCCI Grant consideration. Applications are being filed with incomplete or missing information. The result is delay in processing the grant application while I have to contact the Grand Knight to ask questions to properly fill out the application. These are questions the Grand Knight should be asking as they fill out the application.

Anyone with questions about grants or the grant process can contact me at albai@cox.net or 571-215-1233.