

Virginia Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc.



VKCCI

Helping Virginians in Need Since 1994



Spring 2018 Newsletter – Volume 5, Issue 3

President's Message – Richie Head

At last weekend's State Council meeting, I stated that if you had any doubts as to the "good that your donation does to help others" then you needed to read this newsletter. In that regard, please read the following article that highlights some of the grants we have awarded just since the beginning of January. **You will see that you do make a difference.**

If you are going to be anywhere near the Fredericksburg area on April 28th, please join us and District 11 at the fundraiser that they are conducting for VKCCI. A flyer is attached with full details.

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

Grant Committee Activities – Cy Alba

Fraternal Year 2017-18 Grant Activity. For the period July 1 through March 1, 2018, your VKCCI Grant Committee has approved 34 grants for a total of \$83,641.17. Thirteen were approved since the last newsletter. Last year at this point we had approved 31 grants for a total of \$73,423.78. These totals attest to the fact that, while the economy continues to improve, there are many Virginians in desperate need of the basic necessities of life – shelter, health, food, and, clothing. Since our founding in 1994, VKCCI has awarded 1,015 grants for a total of \$1.675 million in grants.

Recent Grants. Your contributions help us provide assistance to Virginia residents in need of immediate financial assistance. Here are some examples of people we have helped with your support since the last Newsletter.

- A \$1,275.00 grant to assist a disabled retired diocesan priest who is a Brother Knight and former chaplain of a council obtain a heavy-duty roller walker designed for outdoor use. The priest walks at least five miles a day as part of his rehab from a stroke and a heart attack.
- A \$1,972.00 grant to assist a Brother Knight who suffered two heart attacks last year and is now unable to work. He also lost his wife in December. Funeral expenses left him unable to pay his mortgage. The grant funded two months mortgage in arrears and avoided foreclosure.
- A \$2,167.82 grant to assist a Brother Knight who was unemployed for six months. He is now working but his truck (which he needs for work) broke down and had to be repaired so he could continue working. The truck repair caused him to fall behind on his bills, including his mortgage. The grant would provide funds for two month's mortgage and utilities.
- A \$2,721.50 grant to assist a Brother Knight severely injured in a propane tank explosion and unable to work for several months. His wife does not work, as she takes care of their nine children. He is back to work but has to rebuild his clientele. He fell behind in his monthly bills and his home was in foreclosure. The grant paid two month's mortgage and some utility bills.
- A \$2,495.53 grant to assist a family of three get through a catastrophic year of medical bills and loss of income. The mother had a cancerous tumor removed, which left her blind in one eye. The father, a fireman, was injured fighting a wild fire when a tree fell on him, forcing him to go on disability for a period of

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- time. Both are now working part-time, trying their best to make ends meet. The grant paid outstanding medical bills and a delinquent car payment.
- A \$3,000.00 grant to assist a widow on oxygen, unable to work, and on Social Security. This is her only income. After her husband died, she moved in with her son, but the arrangement did not work out and she moved into a senior apartment. She was then hospitalized. While in the hospital her social security "checks" were rejected by her old bank since she had closed the account when she moved. In the meantime, bills that were to be automatically paid out of her new bank account bounced since her social security "checks" were not being deposited. The grant paid three months back rent, the security deposit, and late fees.
 - A \$1,600.00 grant to assist a single father of a ten-year-old daughter and prevent them from being evicted from their rental home. The father's hours were cut from fulltime to part-time, making it impossible to keep up with his monthly bills. He found a fulltime job and is awaiting his first paychecks. During his underemployment, he fell behind on his bills, including his rent. The landlord has started eviction procedures. The grant will pay two months back rent and late fees.

Grant Preparation and Submission Process. Grand Knights are reminded to perform due diligence in investigating cases for possible VKCCI Grant consideration. Unfortunately, applications are still being submitted with incomplete or missing information. This results in a 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 validate the need and fill out the application. The grantee should not be the person filling out the application.

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

Fundraising Activities - Tom Browne

New Tax Code Implications. Every charity, including VKCCI, is concerned about how the new tax code may affect donations. While it may be true that the new code will impact the ability of some Brother Knights to claim a deduction for their VKCCI contributions, we are hopeful that this concern won't undercut the mission of VKCCI. We rely on the generosity of Brother Knights who, hopefully, will come to the right conclusion when it comes time to donate. Every Knight should ask himself: Do I donate to VKCCI because it's the right thing to do to support those less fortunate, or is it because I might get a tax deduction as a result of our donation?

As Knights of Columbus, we are reminded from the time we join that the first principle of our Order is Charity – helping those less fortunate. While some Brother Knights may lose the ability to take a tax deduction for their contributions to VKCCI, ***we should all remember that we are Knights, and the reason that VKCCI exists, is to help those who are at the point of desperation in their lives.***

Fundraising. Is there some sort of fundraising event that you might be able to organize in support of the Virginia Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc.? For more information on fundraising, or to plan a fundraiser for VKCCI, please contact me at 571-236-6860 or tjbrowne101@gmail.com.

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K of C District #11 Fundraiser

Proceeds to Support VKCCI*

- Saturday, April 28, 2018
- Holy Cross Academy
250 Stafford Lakes Parkway
Fredericksburg, VA 22406
- 6 pm - 10:30 pm
- Tickets - \$30.00 each
- Email Don Carlson to RSVP
carlsondv@comcast.net
- Send checks payable to:
KofC Council 12434
P.O. Box 2508
Spotsylvania, VA 22553
- All proceeds go to VKCCI ☺☺

Events Planned:
Catered dinner
Live DJ & Dancing
Silent Auction - credit
cards accepted!
50/50 Raffle
Cash bar
Fun with friends!
Casual dress - no jeans

Only 300 seats available &
they will go fast!
Buy yours NOW!



*The Virginia Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc. (VKCCI) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation established to provide financial assistance grants to residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia who are unable to provide support for themselves, or their family members living in Virginia, and have exhausted all other avenues of relief. All contributions to VKCCI are fully tax deductible.