



VKCCI

Virginia Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc.
Helping Virginians in Need Since 1994



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President's Message – Richie Head

Welcome to the 2018-2019 Fraternal Year. As the new leaders of your Councils and Districts, we encourage you to become familiar with your Virginia Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc.

We are the organization that is here to help those in severe financial distress who have no other place to turn. Your charity can make grants of up to **\$4,000.00** to help individuals and families in financial need who, through no fault of their own, are unable to pay their bills. These can be medical bills, mortgage or rent payments, insurance bills, car repair bills, etc. **Please note that the \$4,000 amount is newly approved by the Board of Directors and takes effect this month.**

We pay out over \$100,000.00 every year in grants, but we can only do it through the generosity of you and your Councils. Whether it be the annual Address Label campaign, the Annual Council Contribution program, the Neary Award program, or other fundraisers that may come up, it is you that makes the difference.

We are unveiling a new website this month that is much more user friendly and will have a donation link that will allow for both credit card and e-check donations. The Board wishes to thank Brother Knight Patrick Hornby of Council 11172, who has dedicated his time and effort to make this happen, as well as my personal thanks to Board members Ron Gorman and Tom Browne who tirelessly worked the new donation platform issue.

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.

So, please continue to help us -- help those -- that need our help. Thank you.

Fundraising Activities – Tom Browne

As mentioned in the President's Column, the success of your VKCCI's charitable works is dependent on the generous donations from both Councils (through the Council Contributions program) and individual Brother Knights (via the Label Program). Those donations (and the efforts of Councils and Assemblies that hold special fundraisers) help us meet the demand for grants – over \$114,000 in this last Columbian Year. Our donation patterns have held fairly stable over the years. In a typical year, about fifty percent of Councils contribute somewhere in the range of \$20,000. This year's Council Contributions program netted just under \$21,000 from 84 Councils. About 18% of Brother Knights have donated to the Label Program to date this year -- receiving about \$85,000 in net Label Program donations from about 5,000 Brother Knights.

While those numbers are impressive, we can do better.

So, we are asking each Brother Knight to consider increasing his donation by \$5.00. If you've given in the past, please consider giving \$5.00 more with your next donation. And if you haven't participated at all, please consider donating at least \$5.00. With that kind of support, we can do so much more.



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As we begin this new Columbian Year, we ask that every Council include a donation to VKCCI in your budget; and ask each Grand Knight to remember to promote donations from Brother Knights to VKCCI through the Label Program. With your support and generosity, Virginia Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc. – YOUR Charity - can continue to Help Those Who Need Our Help.

Grant Committee Activities - Cy Alba

For the Fraternal Year ending June 30, 2018, your VKCCI Grant Committee approved 49 grants for a total of \$114,296.51. Two grants were disapproved and eight had to be closed for lack of sufficient information from the Grand Knight. Twenty-one grants were for Brother Knights and two were funded by KOVAR. This compares with the 2016 – 2017 fraternal year, ending June 30, 2017 when 44 grants were approved for a total of \$102,430.01. Two grants were disapproved and ten grants had to be closed for lack of sufficient information from the Grand Knight. Sixteen were for Brother Knights and two were funded by KOVAR. These totals are remarkably close and 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 1,029 grants for a total of \$1,699,902.61.** To continue this level of assistance without tapping into our reserves, it is critical that individual Brother Knights **respond generously** to the label program mailings and that Councils **contribute faithfully and generously** to the annual Council contribution program. Your contributions help us provide assistance to Virginia residents in need of immediate financial assistance.

Grand Knights are reminded to perform due diligence in investigating cases for possible VKCCI Grant consideration. Grand Knights should be asking tough questions 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.

Report of Grants Issued since the last Newsletter:

- A \$3,000 grant to assist a widow repair the foundation of her home and prevent condemnation of her home by the city because of code violations.
- A \$3,000 grant to assist a Brother Knight get through his monthly bills, following his injuries as a landscaper and tree trimmer. He fell out of a tree and broke his hip and other bones. The grant paid his monthly bills until he could get back to work.
- A \$2,550 grant to assist the widow of a Brother Knight repair the leaking roof of her house before ceiling and wall damage could occur.
- A \$3,000 grant to assist the mother of a deceased Brother Knight pay for her mortgage arrearages and prevent foreclosure and eviction.



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- A \$1,275 grant to assist a disabled retired priest and Brother Knight procure a heavy-duty walker required for his extensive rehab after a stroke and heart attack. He is a former Council Chaplain and Assembly Friar.
- A \$1,240 grant to assist a young man with spina bifida and a heart defect. The grant would provide funding for materials for a wheel chair ramp. The Council would provide the labor and expertise to build the ramp.
- A \$3,000 grant to assist a single mother struggling to keep a roof over her head and her two children following a separation and divorce settlement. The grant would provide rent and utilities for two months while her financial situation stabilizes.
- A \$2,300 grant to assist an elderly woman with two sons serving in the U.S. military abroad. She underwent breast cancer surgery and was unable to work during her recovery. She fell behind on her rent, utilities, etc. The grant would pay for her overdue rent and other bills.
- A \$1,900 grant to assist a single mother with a 7-year old son. The mother is disabled, in a wheelchair, and is fighting for custody of her son. The grant would pay for a large overdue electric bill to prevent cut-off of service. It would also pay for two months of subsidized rent.
- A \$3,000 grant to assist a single middle-age woman, working minimum wage as a live-in health care provider. Upon the death of her client, she was provided with a “storage” house for her use. The council will provide the labor to make the “house” inhabitable. The grant would provide the building materials.
- A \$1,000 grant to assist a Past Grand Knight whose house suffered catastrophic water damage due to a broken water pipes in the attic. The grant would pay the remainder of the insurance deductible so the insurance company could arrange for the repair of the damage.
- A \$2,116 grant to assist a family of four whose principal wage earner (the mother) lost her job following a short maternity leave and then had to have emergency surgery which required an additional eight weeks off from work. The father is blind in one eye and is disabled. Without income, the family fell behind on their mortgage and faced eviction. They are also behind on some utility bills. The grant would prevent eviction and utility cut off.