



# VKCCI

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



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July 2019

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## President's Message – Richie Head

Wow, what a year we just completed. This past fraternal year, VKCCI hit an all time high helping people in Virginia who depend on us. We awarded 54 grants totaling \$150,219.40, an increase of over 31% from the previous year.

Just as our grant recipients depend on us to help them, we depend on you to support that assistance through your generous donations to VKCCI.

Please read the following articles which provide more information on our fundraising opportunities and how we used your donations to award grants.

## HELPING THOSE WHO NEED OUR HELP -- Tom Browne, Vice President - Fundraising

As we close out the 2018-19 Columbian Year and on behalf of the VKCCI Board and all grant recipients, I want to thank every one of the thousands of Brother Knights who have contributed great and small, to the Label Campaign. This year (through May) we received \$125,881 from the Campaign, which is the biggest source of income (e.g., grant funds) for your charity.

Second to the label campaign are Council Contributions. As we close out the Columbian Year, we have received \$21,238 from 78 Councils – just \$1,000 shy of last year total contributions, from 12 fewer Councils! A huge thank you to every contributing Council.

As reported elsewhere in this newsletter, grant requests and approvals are way up. This underscores the need for every Brother Knight and every Council to consider contributing – through the Label Campaign, the Council Contribution program, the Neary Award program, through special fundraising events, or simply a donation from your heart. The reason you donate doesn't matter – what matters is that you know that your contributions are helping needy families (some Knights, others not) all around the Commonwealth of Virginia, through your charity.

If you need more information on making a donation, please visit our website or drop a note to me at [tjbrowne101@gmail.com](mailto:tjbrowne101@gmail.com).

**Don't forget the Neary Award Program!** This program, established in 1998 allows Councils to provide special recognition to an individual Council or Assembly member, or an individual or organization, that has performed above and beyond (in service, charity, or elsewhere), never seeking recognition in return. Nomination information can be found at [www.vkcci.org/neary-award/](http://www.vkcci.org/neary-award/)

## Grant Committee Activities - Cy Alba, Vice President - Grants

The 2018-2019 VKCCI Grant Program shattered the all-time record for money awarded – \$150,219.40, nearly \$36,000 more than last year. The previous record was \$120,903.69 during the 2010-2011 fiscal year. A close runner-up was \$120,000.89 during the 2013-2014 fiscal year.



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During the 2018 – 2019 Fraternal Year and our Fiscal Year, ending June 30, 2019, your VKCCI Grant Committee approved 54 grants for a total of \$150,219.40. Twenty-three grants went to the Arlington Diocese and 31 to the Richmond Diocese. Three grants were disapproved, and one was withdrawn. Fourteen additional requests had to be closed for lack of sufficient information from the Grand Knight or withdrawn because they did not meet full VKCCI criteria for committee consideration. Twenty grants were for Brother Knights and four were funded by KOVAR.

During the 2017 – 2018 Fraternal Year, ending June 30, 2018, the grant committee approved 49 grants for a total of \$114,296.51.

To continue this level of assistance, it is critical that individual Brother Knights **respond generously** to the label program mailings and that all Councils **contribute faithfully** 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. The Grand Knight 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. Be sure the application is complete, especially income vs. expenses information. VKCCI Grants are intended to be emergency assistance of last resort.

Anyone with questions about grants or the grant process can contact me at [albai@cox.net](mailto:albai@cox.net) or 571-215-1233.

### **Grants Issued since last Newsletter**

Here are some examples of who we have helped with your support since the last Newsletter. For a full list, please visit the Grant History section of our website at <https://vkcci.org/grant-history/>

- A \$2,400 grant to assist a single mother with four children who had lost her home and her job. The house was rented from relatives, who had to foreclose. She starts a new job soon but needs the grant to carry her to her first paycheck. The grant provides rent and car payments for three months.
- A \$740 grant to repair the furnace of woman with adult ADD who had lost her job and her mother and went into deep depression. She lost all consciousness of her financial plight and fell behind on a number of bills and did not have the cash for the furnace repair. The grant would pay for parts as the labor was donated.
- A \$1,595.52 grant to assist a single mother of two teenage girls pay her back rent. She fell behind because she chose instead to purchase medications and medical equipment and supplies for her youngest daughter, who was recently diagnosed with severe diabetes. The medications and supplies are now covered by a Medicaid program.
- A \$2,950 grant to assist a single mother with two teenage children catch up with her rent and utilities. She had fallen behind because she had to pay for her husband's funeral expenses. The grant paid for her overdue rent and utilities and gave her a fresh start in life.
- A \$2,207.48 grant to assist a family of six whose father is on disability replace a broken water well pump and accompanying huge electric bill as the broken pump ran 24/7 without providing any water.
- A \$2,800 grant to repair/replace furnace of a parish secretary. Labor was provided at no cost by parish maintenance man.



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- A \$2,524.66 grant to assist a Brother Knight who had some extraordinary medical (surgery) expenses for his young daughter. He is currently on unemployment and works part-time as a delivery man for AMAZON. He has primary custody over his two young children and has had to move in with his parents to make ends meet.
- A \$2,000 grant to assist single Brother Knight who contracted a rare viral infection that affected digestive system. The constant vomiting caused exceptional damage to his teeth. He is also in need of an eye exam and glasses. He is on Social Security Disability and Medicaid covers little, if any, eye and dental care. The grant will provide funds for eye and dental care, as well as some new clothing, since the infection caused him to lose over a hundred pounds.
- A \$4,000 grant to assist a recently arrived refugee family of 7 from Africa. They had been in refugee camp for 16 years. The father started work in February packing and sealing boxes for \$9.50 an hour, just enough to cover rent and utilities. In April, the mother started doing the same work (different shift) to cover other household expenses. A month later, she was severely injured in a car accident. The grant would replace her income until she can get back to work.
- A \$1,600 grant to pay for the cremation and burial of the wife of a deceased Brother Knight who died without life insurance. Council members had paid for similar expenses for the Brother Knight when he died, less than a year ago. The wife also died without life insurance. The grant paid for the cremation and burial of the wife.
- A \$4,000 grant to assist a young grandmother with custody of two granddaughters, ages 3 and 5. The mother of the children was killed by a hit and run driver. The grandmother has been diagnosed with advanced colon cancer. The effect of cancer treatments and the added expense of the grandchildren caused her to fall behind on her rent and utilities. She had her power turned off and was evicted. The grant would pay for her temporary home of a hotel room for the duration of her chemo treatments. The council will provide food and clothing.
- A \$1,683.37 grant to assist a Brother Knight and his wife save their home from foreclosure. He had suffered two strokes and medical expenses had driven them into bankruptcy. They were a month behind on their mortgage when the bankruptcy was approved. They needed to be current on their mortgage or it would fall outside the bankruptcy agreement. The grant saved their home.
- A \$2,986 grant to assist a disabled Brother Knight, a fulltime Uber driver, get back on the road after a car accident. Driving the Uber is his only source of income. The grant paid the deductible and car repair, as well as one month's bills, including rent, utilities, food, insurance, etc.