

United Way Day of Caring Helps Raymond Wolfe Center Serve Client's Unique Needs.



On May 3, 2017 Catholic Charities WV's Raymond Wolfe Center in Kingwood held its second annual Day of Caring pet food distribution. Alix Evans, Outreach Coordinator at the Raymond Wolfe Center organized the project to assist those in need who care for a pet.

The event was part of the United Way of Monongalia and Preston Counties' Day of

Caring. Volunteers bagged pet food that was either donated or purchased with a grant from the Red Rover Foundation. Donations were collected at the Dollar Tree and Walmart in Kingwood. The Preston County Humane Society was on site to speak to pet owners about animal care, and provide applications for spay/neuter financial assistance which pays the full cost of the procedure for pets in income eligible households.

According to Evans, "Clients tell us all the time they will go without food themselves to feed their pets". She went on to say, "This was truly a community effort bringing together agencies, businesses, and community members throughout Preston County. Many people shared stories about their pets during the event which provided a connection between volunteers and those in need." Participants heard about Barney, an eight year old basset hound, whose owner stated, "He's all I have". They also heard about Rusty, a Husky-Pomeranian mix rescued from the local dog pound, whose owner described him as "my soulmate".

Research shows pet ownership to have a positive impact on physical well-being and mental health. According to Erika Friedman, Associate Professor of Health Science, Brooklyn College of City University of New York, "Pets play a variety of health promoting roles which are particularly important for individuals lacking support from family members or close friends." Pet owners have also been found to report lower levels of stress, anxiety, and depression.

Alissa Wilmoth, CCWVa Central Regional Director, and former therapist stated, "The act of caring for another being gives a person purpose and promotes a stable routine. This provides a significant increase in feelings of self-worth, and makes a positive impact on one's mental health in general. I would routinely suggest pet ownership to many of my clients who were capable of caring for a pet."

Nominations sought for Communities of Salt and Light Awards



Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) is accepting nominations for its 16th Annual Communities of Salt and Light Awards. This event is held in partnership with Catholic parishes in the seven counties served by CCWVa's central region (Barbour, Doddridge, Harrison, Marion, Monongalia, Preston, and Taylor) and raises critical funds for programs and services. The awards dinner will be Friday, April 13, 2018.

Nominees for the Communities of Salt and Light Award are those whose past or current gifts of time, talent and treasure exemplify social ministry in action. Individuals, couples, families, business leaders or groups who attend or are a ministry of one of the partner Catholic parishes.

The nomination form is available at partner parishes, or online at www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org/Regions/Central-Region. For more information, contact Alissa Wilmoth, Central Regional Director, at (304) 292-6597 or awilmoth@ccwva.org.

Utility Assistance is Available for Taylor and Barbour County Residents in Grafton

As many of the costs associated with running a household continue to increase, a number of our fellow West Virginians are struggling to pay their rising utility bills. Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) Outreach office in Grafton houses one of the agencies eleven food pantries, and more recently is able to provide financial assistance to clients who have received a utility termination notice. Clients must have documentation of the termination and meet program criteria to be eligible for assistance.

Often it is difficult for clients to ask for assistance. Many have simply found themselves in a tight spot financially due to unforeseen circumstances such as an illness or emergency car repair, and cannot

keep up with utility payments. Many clients are also on fixed incomes. One client stated, “When the rates keep going up, and social security doesn’t, how am I supposed to pay for everything? I never thought I would be in this situation.” Some in our communities have been forced to choose between paying a utility bill and paying for prescriptions.

“I never thought I would be in this situation.” — CCWVa client

CCWVa’s outreach office in Grafton is located inside St. Augustine Parish at 17 West Washington Street and is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Utility assistance is offered 9:00 am - 4:00 pm and food pantry hours are 9:00 am - 2:30 pm; the office is closed from noon to 1:00 pm for lunch. Those with questions or in need of assistance may call (304) 265-3091.



Join Pope Francis and Caritas to come together with migrants and refugees around the world on 27th September 2017.

“The future is made of you, it is made of encounters”
POPE FRANCIS



Share the Journey
#sharejourney

journey.caritas.org

Regional Advisory Councils Prove Invaluable

Regional Advisory Councils (RAC) provide an invaluable service to their communities as advisors to Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) regional staff. Their advice, guidance and support from the voice of the local community is an important component of the overall structure of CCWVa and crucial to furthering the agency’s mission. This local network may provide insight into the unique needs of the community, access to partner organizations and help with local fundraising and awareness. Clarksburg resident, Bill Suttle, has served as Chair of CCWVa Central Regional Advisory Council since 2008. Bill, who is a parishioner at Immaculate Conception - Clarksburg concluded his chairmanship on August 21st, but continue to serve for one more year on the council. Alissa Wilmoth, Central Regional Director said, “we offer Bill a heartfelt thank you for his leadership and years of service to Catholic Charities and the region.” Assuming the chairmanship on August 21st was Chris Sharps. He is a resident of Fairmont, parishioner of Immaculate Conception - Fairmont and a member of the RAC since 2013. Sharps also serves on CCWVa’s statewide Board of Directors.

Current members of the central RAC are: Carmen DeMasters, Morgantown; Deborah Westbrook, Preston County; Denise Roncone, Monongah; Judy Dolan, Stonewood; Judy Retton, Fairmont; Kathryn Beverly, Bridgeport; Linda Findley, Grafton; Matthew Kosydar, Clarksburg; Nathan Harold, Shinnston; Paula Taylor, Stonewood; Bill Suttle, Clarksburg; and Jeff & Jennifer Sizer, Morgantown. RAC membership is open to all people as are all volunteer opportunities with CCWVa. In the central region, contact Alissa Wilmoth at (304) 292-6597 or awilmoth@ccwva.org to find our more.

Morgantown: 304-292-6597 ● Grafton: 304-265-3091 ● Kingwood: 304-329-3644

Working To Reduce Poverty in West Virginia

Our mission is to alleviate poverty, distress, and injustice by providing comprehensive social services to the poor and vulnerable, advocating for social justice, and calling all people of good will, especially those of the Church, to service.

www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org

Newsletters printed and distributed courtesy of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston