

SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER

As lockers were cleaned and that last school bell rang, most children were excited that the school year was over and the summer fun-filled vacations could begin. But for some children, the thoughts of hunger insecurity set in. During the school year, most children know they will get a warm breakfast and lunch, but in the summer this is not guaranteed. Proper nutrition is vital to the growth of children. 62 percent of households with children under 18 participate in the National School Lunch Program, but only 14 percent participate in summer feeding programs.

Our pantries have seen a steady growth over the years in the number of families we serve in the summer months. Families who were only preparing one meal per day during the week will now need to provide three meals per day in their homes for their children.

We understand that people have worked hard and saved for summer vacations. We only ask that each person consider donating one extra food item or sending a few extra dollars to help our pantries support these families with children this summer.

At our Morgantown outreach office, we have created a picnic basket of needed items. This basket will be placed in the local parishes. Each parishioner is asked to take one item from the picnic basket and bring the selected item back with them to church the following Sunday. This idea encourages each person to give one item.



WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER- COLLABORATIONS

In February, Catholic Charities Central Region entered into a collaboration with The Connecting Link to provide services/support to families in Marion, Monongalia and Harrison counties in regards to utility assistance. Due to limited resources, we have been unable to have an outreach worker based in Marion and Harrison counties. Through this collaboration with The Connecting Link, we are reaching out to families in these counties, extending our reach through the Clarksburg Vicariate. With a poverty matching grant opportunity provided by Bishop Michael J. Bransfield, we secured funding to assist families in our region with utility assistance once faced with a disconnect notification. We chose to designate these grant funds for Marion, Harrison and Monongalia counties. Jone Webb, Director for The Connecting Link, had her staff complete all applications with families seeking utility assistance. The collaboration agreement allowed Jone to divide the funds into the areas that were in the most need of assistance. Once the applications were completed, The Connecting Link forwarded them to Kandi Shafer, Central Region Director, who then provided funds to the utility companies. During this period, we were able to help approximately 53 families keep the light and heat on. The grant dollars were expended by the end of June, but we hope to seek out future funding and be able to offer this assistance again.



The Raymond Wolfe Center will also be entering into a partnership with Eleanor's Quilts and Fabrics to create and distribute recycled pet food bags to visitors of the Raymond Wolfe Center. The center will be collecting empty pet food bags. Eleanor's Quilts and Fabrics will be cutting and sewing the bags into tote bags that can be used to carry groceries, store pet food/toys or store sewing materials etc. The Raymond Wolfe Center will then fill the bags with pet food to distribute to low income individuals. Eleanor's owner, Sandy Slemboski, has a love of quilting and animals so this was a natural fit for a collaboration.

*Eleanor's
Quilts & Fabrics*

NUMBER OF FAMILIES SERVED

March, April, May 2014

Food Assistance: 1,056

Utility Assistance: 56

VOLUNTEER SERVICE

March, April, May 2014

Volunteers: 44

Service Hours: 1,752

Serving Barbour, Preston, Taylor, Marion, Monongalia, Harrison, & Doddridge counties
Morgantown (304) 292-6597 Taylor(304)265-3091 Kingwood (304) 329-3644

HOW CAN I HELP?

Catholic Charities West Virginia honors the dignity of the human person and embraces society with our doors open to all regardless of religious, ethnic or social background. We work together and offer our compassion while standing for justice and peace.

Your contribution is essential to our efforts to reduce poverty in the Mountain State; whether you serve in diocesan parish ministries, as a community volunteer, as a donor to Catholic Charities WV, or in prayer for the poor and vulnerable in our midst.

Needed Items for Food Pantries

Canned meats, flour, sugar, peanut butter, jelly, pancake mix, pancake syrup, dried beans, soups, crackers, coffee, tea, canned ravioli, pasta, mayonnaise, personal and cleaning supplies

WellnessWorks: Low sodium soups, sugar free products, whole grain pastas, canned fruits in light syrup, low sodium vegetables, fresh produce, breads and frozen meats

Donations can be made to the Central Region Office at:

827 Fairmont Rd, Suite 203
Morgantown, WV 26501
or by credit card online at www.catholiccharitieswv.org
or call 1-888-900-2989



or join us on
Facebook

FRUITS OF OUR LABOR

Salt and Light—The 12th Annual Communities of Salt and Light Awards Dinner was a successful event and was enjoyed by all in attendance. We were able to bring in \$13,007.00 to help pay for the dinner and venue at the Knights of Columbus and other items needed to make the event very nice for our wonderful award recipients and nominees. Any remaining funds from the evening help support continued outreach efforts in the Central Region. Thank you to all those who came to enjoy the evening, made a monetary donation, donated a silent auction item or just said a prayer for the event. We hope to see you again at the 13th Annual Awards Dinner on April 17, 2015. Take the time to nominate someone who deserves to be recognized. Nomination forms will be available in October. Pictured right is Fr. Mark Ward, Vicar Forane of the Clarksburg Vicariate presenting the Salt and Light award to Lester Filicky.



VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance)—The 2013 tax season officially ended on April 15. Out of our Morgantown outreach office we were able to complete taxes for 59 people. An additional 14 people were able to use our URL to complete their taxes at home using our tax software. The final numbers we helped collect for individuals were: \$79,399.00 in Federal tax dollars; \$10,174.00 in child tax credit; \$7,216.00 in additional child tax credit; \$29,956.00 in Earned Income Credit; and an estimated savings of \$13,600.00 in filing fees. Thank you to all our volunteers!!!

Feinstein Challenge—During the months of March and April, Catholic Charities West Virginia Central Region participated in the Feinstein Challenge. All food and financial donations collected during these times will remain in the Central Region at the designated outreach center. Through your assistance, we were able to collect \$10,941.37 in monetary donations and 9883.5 pounds of food. This was about a 6% increase from last year. The total collection will provide 250 families with a 3-5 day food supply. Thank you to all who participated in the challenge.



LIFT YOUR SPIRITS



The Raymond Wolfe Center is planning their 3rd Annual Lift Your Spirits Event for October 2014 in Kingwood. However, the staff have decided to do something different from previous years. We will be hosting a dinner to recognize people in the Preston County community who have gone 'above and beyond' to care for their poor and vulnerable neighbors. The center's advisory team will be selecting a business, a community member and an employee of a service agency (non-profit) to be recognized at the dinner from nominations submitted by community members. Applications to nominate someone will be available at the Raymond Wolfe Center or contact Kandi Shafer at kshafer@ccwva.org or 304-292-6597 ext. 3. Stay tuned for more details in the near future.

CENTRAL REGION STAFF

Regional Office - 827 Fairmont Road, Suite 203 **Morgantown, WV 26501** (304) 292-6597

Kandi Shafer, Central Region Director

Mara Skidmore, Outreach Coordinator for Grafton and Morgantown

Irene Lueckel, LifeBridge AmeriCorps

Jessica King, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach Coordinator

Raymond Wolfe Center - Price Street **Kingwood, WV 26537** (304) 329-3644

Alix Evans, Outreach Coordinator

Carol Wilson, Lifebridge AmeriCorps

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.