

Companions (Compañeros) – A Story of Partnership

My name is Jeff Hornbeck, and as a member Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church, I want to tell you a story about God's love when a local family of six experienced tragedy. After 14 years of steady work with a major firm, ICE arrested the father for overstaying his visa. That's when Catholic Charities got involved.

While he was detained, the family's mobile home burned, and they had let their insurance expire due to lack of income. The family received critical financial support from the Church of Latter Day Saints of Jesus Christ, where they are members. But more help was needed. The staff at Catholic Charities called me, as they do periodically because I speak Spanish and spent my life working in and on Latin America. They needed help cleaning up and assessing the fire damage, so I put together a group of men all over the age of sixty. We suspected the trailer was a complete loss, but there was still a tremendous amount of cleanup and recovery work. The family had no tools, no idea what to do and no way to communicate and determine next steps. We were not going to rebuild the trailer or drastically alter the reality of the day, but we stayed, listened, cleaned, and offered solace.

My companions had the wisdom and compassion to listen and proceed gently, particularly with the difficult mission of conveying an absolute truth. This trailer was not going to be rebuilt by good intentions.

We all suffered as the whole family gazed with us at the burnt remains of home, furniture, appliances, electronics, toys and clothes. Convincing someone facing tragedy to move on is not easy. Helping the family face the truth that not only necessary to move on but to also begin the healing process. But not all was lost, because where two or three were gathered, even more showed up. From Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church, Chris Madeo put the Refugee and Immigration Committee to work. He and I delivered items and food from Catholic Charities and helped the family with clothes shopping. The father is back to work at his old job, and the family has a roof over its head, food to eat, new clothes and hope.

We are now exploring a more structured relationship with Catholic Charities for future endeavors, which we expect will grow given current attitudes and policies about and toward immigrants.

Patience and love poured out to change a tragic situation. It poured out at Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church, Catholic Charities and the LDS Church. In this case, where two or three groups of faith with very different faith traditions, were gathered in Jesus' name, common ground was found without hesitation and small miracles occurred.

Paying It Forward



Photo: Doug and Sandra Pyles presented Teresa Reddick with the check.

On August 31, a surprise arrived at the Romney Outreach Office. Outreach Coordinator Teresa Reddick was presented with a wonderfully generous donation from the members of the West Sunrise Landowners Association, Inc.

The association, which had been inactive since 2001, was subsequently dissolved.

After some discussion at their final meeting, the members decided by unanimous vote to donate all of the money left in the association's account to Catholic Charities West Virginia's Romney Outreach Office. The decision was made after one of the members gave testimony about how Catholic Charities WV had once helped their family when they were going through a financially difficult time. The money is to be used to help local families in need.

Doug and Sandra Pyles presented the check for \$15,746.64. The staff at Catholic Charities thanks all of the members of the West Sunrise Landowners Association for their kindness and generosity.

A United Partnership



Photo: Kira Kackley and Amelia Jenkins clean toys in the play area.

Ten Martinsburg high school students spent Tuesday, September 12, volunteering at the Catholic Charities WV's Martinsburg office as part of the United Way of the Eastern Panhandle's annual Day of Caring.

Emily Rudy, Grace Aulabaugh, Jordan Bohrer, Amelia Jenkins, Melanie Kamer, Brandon Mason, Kira Kackley, Paige Porter and Sam Slayden cleaned the kitchen, dusted cobwebs and swept bugs off the porch ceiling, washed walls, cleaned baseboards and

windows, mopped floors, vacuumed carpets, cleaned the bathrooms, and pulled weeds. They also inspected, sorted, cleaned and moved toys for the children's play area and helped with wrapping up from the annual regional fund raiser the previous night.

Not only did the students help out the staff, they also learned about what Catholic Charities does. As one student said, "I go by this building every day, but I never knew what happens there. Now I do."

Fundraising and Friend-Raising for Catholic Charities WV's Eastern Region

Thanks to a great committee chaired by Ed Wilson, the sixth annual Cuisine With a Cause (CWC) held on September 11, raised more than \$28,000. Guests enjoyed food from ten local restaurants while WEPM News Director Hans Fogle kept the evening running smoothly as the emcee and Mike Stoneberger entertained as the auctioneer.

For seven years, our Romney Outreach office has been holding its book sale during the second week of October. Catholic Charities is grateful to our Lady of Grace Church for hosting this year's event (October 12 – October 14) and to St. Vincent de Paul in Berkeley Springs for not only donating books, but for continuing to run the drive. Dollars raised at the Cuisine With a Cause will be used for programs throughout the Eastern Region. And, proceeds from the book sale will be used for programs in Grant, Hardy, Hampshire and Mineral Counties.



Guests enjoy the Sixth Annual Cuisine with a Cause.



Share the Journey ✨
#sharejourney

Bringing migrants, refugees and communities closer together

[LEARN MORE](#)

journey.caritas.org

Martinsburg: 304-267-8837 • Romney: 304-822-5414

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