

## ANOTHER CATHOLIC CHARITIES SUCCESS STORY

The work we do at the Promise House Family Resource Center isn't that complicated. We provide ongoing support, resources and encouragement to families who want to improve their lives. This simple strategy has proven to be the catalyst for change for people who are motivated to change.

A year ago, a young, newly separated woman with three children came to Promise House. At the time, her work hours were dwindling, and she was frantic about her finances. Her car was ready to die; within a few weeks, it did. When she found a job, her work hours were cut due to slow business and she was not able to support her family.

At what she describes as "her lowest point," she decided to put up a *Go Fund Me* page and opened up to friends and family about her situation. This resulted in donations of enough cash to purchase another inexpensive car. She was then able to get a job that has regular daytime hours with a career potential. Now, she has been paying her rent on time and is in the process of paying off credit debt.

Throughout the year, the Promise House staff was there to listen, support, offer ideas and resources, and help her process difficult decisions. We also occasionally helped her financially and gave her gift cards for gas when she was having trouble making ends meet.

This young woman is in a different place today than she was 12 months ago. She is more confident and is looking forward to a bright future. She acknowledges she doesn't know where she would be without us. "Promise House made me believe in myself," she recalls. "Knowing I had someone to call for help made a huge difference and got me through this difficult past year."

## IMMIGRATION CONSULTATION WORKSHOP

On Saturday, March 4, Catholic Charities West Virginia Migration and Refugee Services hosted an Immigration Consultation Workshop at Trinity United Methodist Church in Martinsburg. More than 40 families came seeking information and help, and approximately 15 volunteers gave their time and talent to support their neighbors.

After volunteers conducted intakes, families had the opportunity to sit down with an immigration attorney to ask questions about their situation and get general legal advice. While they waited to be seen, the ACLU of West Virginia also provided a "Know Your Rights" presentation and answered questions.

Case Manager and Immigration attorney Brittany Young organized the workshop as part of Catholic Charities' mission to serve vulnerable populations. The goal of the workshop was to provide information and support to families living in fear while also fulfilling our call to welcome the stranger "with heartfelt hospitality, openness, and eagerness both to help and to learn from our brothers and sisters of whatever religion, ethnicity, or background" as stated in *Welcoming the Stranger Among Us: Unity in Diversity, A Statement of the U.S. Catholic Bishops*.



*Recovery from the June 2016 Flooding Continues*

*For updates on our efforts, follow us on Facebook or visit our website at [CatholicCharitiesWV.org](http://CatholicCharitiesWV.org)*

**Working to reduce poverty in** Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral, and Morgan Counties

**Martinsburg (304) 267-8837**

**Romney (304) 822-5414**

## FOOD LION SUPPORTS ROMNEY CHRISTMAS PROJECT

Catholic Charities West Virginia is open to all people regardless of their race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, socio-economic background, marital or family status.



For the past six years, the Romney Outreach Office has partnered with the Hampshire County Committee on Aging to deliver food bags to homebound senior citizens as a Christmas present.

The bags include easy-to-prepare items for times when inclement weather makes their usual meal delivery impossible. This year, a grant from Food Lion helped cover the cost of food for 74 seniors.

### Needed Supplies

#### Household Supplies:

- Toilet paper
- Bleach
- Laundry Detergent
- Dish Detergent
- Clorox Wipes

#### Personal supplies:

- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Soap
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Razors

### Volunteer Opportunities

Call the regional office at  
(304) 267-8837

Deliver donations to  
224 S Queen Street  
Martinsburg, WV  
25401  
or  
260 School Street  
Romney, WV 26757  
or by credit card  
online at

CatholicCharitiesWV.org  
1-888-900-2989



## SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS

The Martinsburg office has had the privilege of hosting three social work students during the 2016-2017 school year.

Sue Callahan, an MSW student at West Virginia University, said, "I've been given the opportunity to have experiential learning in diversity, social justice issues, research informed practice, human behavior, and engagement with individuals and groups... and that was just Monday! I cannot overstate how fortunate I feel to be a part of this organization and its mission."



Susan Clark, also an MSW student, described her experience by saying, "In addition to working with Catholic Charities clients who face daily obstacles as they work to become more self-reliant, I've also worked with the Faith Community Coalition for the Homeless to connect our homeless neighbors with emergency shelter, case management, employment training, and job referrals."

Susan Shingleton is a BSW student from Shepherd University. Susan said, "My experience at Catholic Charities has been very challenging, educational, and inspiring. I have learned about many resources that I can share with friends, acquaintances, and people in general in the community. I have been pushed to be a better person for myself and others. I credit Kathie Campbell as a very knowledgeable mentor."



## EASTERN REGION STAFF

#### Martinsburg Office:

Regional Director, Trina Bartlett; Promise House Coordinator, Kathie Campbell; Program Assistant, Siobhán Bertone; Outreach Worker, Susan King; Office Assistant, Roxanne Sharp

#### Romney Outreach Office:

Outreach Coordinator, Teresa Reddick; Outreach Worker, Phyllis Fultz; Office Assistant, Patricia Viscuso

**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.