

PARTNERSHIP FORMED WITH AUGUSTA LEVY LEARNING CENTER

Each Wednesday the staff and students of the Augusta Levy Learning Center have been volunteering at the Neighborhood Center to assist with packing food for our meal delivery program. The kids, and their ever present staff, have done an incredible job around the Center and have been a great addition to our team. While we are enjoying the benefits of their hard work, it seems they are benefiting from their interactions with us.

Haley Rush, a behavior specialist with Augusta Levy, said that she and the other staff have noticed some incredible improvements from the kids.

“The way the volunteers and staff interact with our kids has surpassed our expectations,” Rush said. “It has been extraordinarily beneficial for our students’ social development.”

According to their website, augustalevy.org, the Augusta Levy Learning Center “aims to enhance the social, academic, communication, and independent living skills of its students.” From what we can see, they are doing an amazing job!

TASK FORCE FIGHTS HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN WEST VIRGINIA

Catholic Charities West Virginia’s (CCWVa) Migration and Refugee Services is part of a new collaboration of organizations working together in their efforts to combat human trafficking in West Virginia.

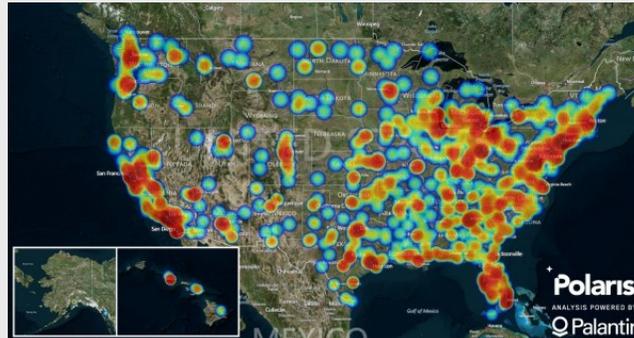
The Human Trafficking/Civil Rights Task Force of the State Police/U.S. Attorneys Offices is a coalition of government and law enforcement agencies, nonprofit organizations, social service providers, and other interested parties. The task force is working to improve the statewide response to human trafficking.

“Our goal is to educate, train and raise awareness of the prevalence of human trafficking in today’s society, and particularly how we are addressing these needs in the state of West Virginia,” said Wuela Heceta, West Virginia Human Trafficking Task Force Coordinator.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, human trafficking involves the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for the purposes of forced labor or sexual exploitation through means of force, fraud, or coercion.

The newly formed West Virginia task force is identifying available services, compiling resources, providing training, and raising awareness of human trafficking. Heceta said the task force is taking a survivor centered approach. She said the group will work together to identify, protect and stabilize trafficking survivors, as well as prepare for the investigation and successful prosecution of these trafficking crimes.

“We want to provide as much help as we can for survivors of human trafficking, which is a growing problem in West Virginia,” said Elizabeth Ramsey, CCWVa Refugee Case Manager/ Outreach Worker. “This task force is forming a broad network of resources, and working to get systems in place to help recognize and support survivors of human trafficking.”



This map by Polaris reflects the location of potential human trafficking cases in the U.S. in 2015, based on calls to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline

HOW WE ASSIST

November 2016 — February 2017

Utility Assistance:	80 Families
Meals On-Site:	12,244 Meals Served
Food Pantry:	Avg. 506 Families per Month
Delivered Meals:	163 Individuals (Daily)

Working to reduce poverty in Marshall, Ohio, Brooke, and Hancock Counties in WV, plus Belmont County, OH

Wheeling [CCNC]: (304) 232-7157

Hancock/Brooke Counties: (304) 830-2410

FACILITATING GREATER SELF-SUFFICIENCY

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

Volunteer Opportunities

Meal Delivery Drivers
Cleaning Crew
Data Entry
Kitchen Crew
Receptionist
Hospitality Ministers
Donation pick-ups

Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator for more information on these and other volunteer opportunities.

Mail donations to:
125 18th Street
Wheeling, WV
26003

or by credit card
online at

CatholicCharitiesWV.org
1-888-900-2989



Families face poverty for multiple reasons, and there is no single solution. Because of this, helping families get out of poverty is complicated. Telling people in poverty to make better decisions, and penalizing them when they don't, is ineffective. At the same time, simply providing money to meet their basic needs is not a long-term solution either.

However, when supportive relationships are enhanced by information, resources and skill development, families have a much greater chance of improving their lives. This is what Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) provides through case management services.

Case management services help families improve their circumstances, become more self-sufficient and obtain financial independence. Case managers meet with individuals to identify strengths and weaknesses; individuals then set goals for themselves and regularly meet with their case manager to work on steps to meet those goals. Individuals' progress is measured on a Goal Attainment Scale, which allows them to rate their level of functioning in a variety of areas, such as income, housing, employment, transportation and education.

Recently, a woman named Georgia arrived at CCWVa after finding herself alone with two children, no place to live, no job and little job experience. At first, she was distraught and felt that there was nothing she could do. One of CCWVa's case managers, Kathie, began working with Georgia to set goals and prioritize action steps. With Kathie's support and guidance, Georgia has been able to obtain two part-time jobs and find housing for her family. She is now better able to handle challenges and work toward solutions. CCWVa case management services enable people to find their strengths and make changes they never thought possible.

HOW TO KEEP CHRIST IN CATHOLIC CHARITIES WEST VIRGINIA

At Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa), we partner with other faith organizations, secular organizations, and the state and federal government. But what does it mean to be "Catholic" when so many of our staff, volunteers, partners and clients do not identify as such? Most importantly, we are guided by the teaching of the Church; we are called to *do* certain things, and *prohibited* from doing others. More generally, and on a day-to-day basis, we use the following values as our measuring stick. We invite you, our supporters, to join us in reflecting on these values.

Dignity	How do I show my family, friends, clients and colleagues that I honor them?
Justice	In what ways do I work for justice within my role in my family and in society?
Compassion	The root of the word compassion means to "suffer with." How do I care for those around me in such a way that shows my acceptance of their suffering as if it was my own?
Hope	What hope am I able to offer? What hope do I receive from others?
Charity	Charity is love. In what ways do I show generous charity to everyone I encounter?
Quality	How do I use and expand my knowledge, skills, and talents to carry out my responsibility to my neighbors?

So often, people involved in the mission of CCWVa are asked whether we serve non-Catholics. The answer is: OF COURSE! At CCWVa, our Catholic identity is *why* we serve, and has no bearing on *who* we serve. The root of the word "Catholic" is "Universal" --- and we strive to live this fully!



Recovery from the June 2016 Flooding Continues
For updates on our efforts, follow us on Facebook or visit our website at CatholicCharitiesWV.org

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.