

“HYMNS FOR HOPE” FUNDRAISER INSPIRES COMMUNITY

The first annual “Hymns For Hope” fundraiser event was held on March 19th at the Chuck Mathena Center in Princeton. Eleven area performers volunteered their time to showcase their musical talents, while raising awareness and funds for Catholic Charities West Virginia’s (CCWVa) Southern Region programs and services.

The event was sponsored by the CCWVa Southern Regional Advisory Council. Vice-Chair Lori Bishop remarked, “‘Hymns for Hope’ represents the mission of Catholic Charities, which is to spread hope... Hope to those living in poverty, distress, and suffering injustice.”

No admission was charged for the event. However, donations were accepted to help support the work of Catholic Charities, and to create a better tomorrow for those in our communities who need hope. The program closed with the performers and audience singing God Bless America.

If you would like to make a difference in relieving the most basic needs of your neighbors, please contact Carol Bailey, CCWVa Southern Regional Director, at 304-425-4306 or cbailey@ccwva.org to make a donation.



Spring 2017

POSITIVE ATTITUDE CREATES SUCCESS

After dropping out of high school at age 18, Heather Odum knew that her lack of a high school diploma was preventing her from reaching her goals and living up to her potential. She began attending Catholic Charities West Virginia’s Adult Education classes in Welch in March of 2016.

Heather expressed her desire to set a good example for her three children, all under the age of eight, and obtain a better paying job to support her family. She overcame multiple obstacles to obtain her HSE (High School Equivalency). Having a lack of reliable transportation and being the primary caregiver for her children and ill mother left Heather feeling tired and discouraged. Many days Heather attended class after being up all night tending to her mother’s multiple health issues.

“Her determination and positive attitude are contagious, and she is an encouragement to her fellow students”, remarked Gwenn Mayhew, Adult Education Instructor.

VOLUNTEERS PROVIDING SERVICE

January — March 2017

Volunteers:	27
Service Hours:	184

FAMILIES RECEIVING SERVICE

January — March 2017

Food:	1,203 Individuals
Utilities:	201 Individuals
Other:	48 Individuals
Total	1,452 Individuals

Although she sustained an injury to her eye which has left her vision permanently damaged, Heather persevered and sat for the TASC (Test Assessing Secondary Completion) exam six times before receiving a passing score. She has earned multiple customer service and FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Institute) certificates, along with EMS (Emergency Medical Services) and CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) certifications.

Thanks to the assistance received through the Catholic Charities West Virginia’s Adult Education Program, along with SPOKES (Strategic Planning in Occupational Knowledge for Employment and Success), Heather has reached her goal by securing a position with the WV Citizens Conservation Corp.

Working to reduce poverty in WV Counties of

Fayette, Greenbrier, McDowell, Mercer, Monroe, Nicholas, Raleigh, Summers & Wyoming

Princeton (304) 425-4306 | Welch (304) 436-4796

Hinton (304) 466-2110 | Beckley (304) 425-4306

SOUTHERN REGION
Princeton + Welch + Hinton + Beckley

ADULT ED PROGRAMS PARTNER TO BENEFIT COMMUNITY

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.

Volunteer Opportunities
 Regional Advisory Council
 Parish Social Ministry
 Food pantry volunteer
 Office support
 Mentor

Needed Supplies

Non-perishable food
 Cleaning supplies
 Personal hygiene items
 School supplies
 Mail donations to Southern Region Office
 at
 PO Box 386
 Princeton, WV 24740
 or by credit card online at

CatholicCharitiesWV.org
 1-888-900-2989



Catholic Charities West Virginia partnered with the McDowell County Adult Education Program, McDowell SPOKES (Strategic Planning in Occupational Knowledge for Employment and Success), and the McDowell County Vocational-Technical Center to provide a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Bridge program.

The program's goal was to prepare potential students enrolled in the McDowell Vocational-Technical Center CNA course for success by providing a curriculum consisting of measurement math, CNA terminology, writing for work, work ethics, customer service, communication, setting priorities, and problem solving. Students also participated in a field trip to Tug River Health Clinic in Gary. Thirteen students were jointly enrolled and completed the program.



Students Christopher Compton and Kimberly Blankenship commented, "We want to receive our CNA and LPN certifications, and eventually pursue a Registered Nursing degree. There is an increasing demand for

workers in the healthcare industry and with the competitive salaries offered, we feel our chances of securing long-term employment opportunities are good. This career path will help us realize our dreams of purchasing a home, building a retirement plan and a college savings plan for our children."

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!

SOUTHERN REGION STAFF

Regional Director, Carol Bailey; Program Assistant, Nancy Blankenship; Hinton Outreach Coordinator, Earl "Buck" Dodd; Hinton Outreach Worker, Angela Meadows; Adult Basic Education Instructor, Gwenn Mayhew

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.