

## FATHER PERSEVERES TO REACH GOALS

Michael Brooks began the journey to achieve his High School Equivalency (HSE) diploma at age 58. He sought assistance from the Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) McDowell County Adult Education Instructor, as well as the McDowell County Case Manager. Michael had no computer skills, which immediately placed him at a disadvantage, as the class work and the HSE exam are computer-based. He did not have a home computer or internet, and depended on the classroom computers to complete his lessons. With assistance from his Instructors, Michael was able to overcome this obstacle and gain the skills necessary to navigate the computer.

Michael juggled a full-time job, his class work, and being the primary caregiver for his 5-year old daughter while preparing for the HSE exam. He did not possess a driver's license, which was an additional barrier to attend class. Michael was forced to either ride the bus or catch a ride with friends. When Michael became discouraged, his case manager, instructors and classmates were there to support and encourage him.

He was determined to set a good example for his daughter, and secure a job which would provide the income necessary to become self-sufficient. It took a great deal of self-evaluation and motivation for Michael to complete his goal. In doing so, he has proven that with hard work and perseverance, anything is possible.



*Michael Brooks Gives a "Thumbs Up" along with Adult Education Instructors Gwenn Mayhew and Jared Cantrell*

## LONG-TERM FLOOD RECOVERY EFFORTS BEGIN

The June 22nd flooding in West Virginia is being called a 1,000 year flood. Recovery from the devastation is expected to take more than five years.

Catholic Charities West Virginia's (CCWVa) Disaster Recovery Services focus on long-term recovery for individuals and communities, which typically starts 4-5 months after a disaster and can last for years. To prepare for this phase, CCWVa staff have been participating in WV-VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) planning meetings, attending county Long Term Recovery Committee (LTRC) meetings, developing partnerships with local and state organizations, and coordinating resources with parishes and groups providing help.

"We are committed to serving those affected by this tragedy for the long-term and ensuring people affected by the disaster return to a safe, secure, and stable living situation," said Mark Sliter, Executive Director of CCWVa.



*CCWVa Work Camp Volunteers Assist a Victim of the June 2016 Flooding*

### VOLUNTEERS PROVIDING SERVICE

**April 2016 – June 2016**

Volunteers:	24
Service Hours:	143

### FAMILIES RECEIVING SERVICE

**April 2016 – June 2016**

Food:	621 Families
Utilities:	95 Families
Other:	31 Families
<b>Total</b>	<b>747 Families</b>

*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**

**Greenbrier (304) 536-4177 | Beckley (304) 425-4306**

## TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME!

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.

# PRINCETON RAYS

Catholic Charities West Virginia's (CCWVa) Southern Regional staff and Regional Advisory Council members participated in the Princeton Rays' baseball team's "Charities Night."

Several local charitable organizations attended the game in order to increase community awareness about their programs and services. CCWVa staff and council members distributed informational materials as well as promotional items and door prizes to over 150 attendees.



**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



# Rachel's Vineyard

**A Retreat for Post-Abortion Healing**

**Nov. 4-6, 2016**  
Charleston, WV

Beginning Friday  
**6:00 pm**  
Concluding Sunday  
**4:30 pm**



For information visit  
[www.ccwva.org](http://www.ccwva.org)  
or call 304-905-9860, ext. 2022  
or email [rachelvineyardwv@comcast.net](mailto:rachelvineyardwv@comcast.net)

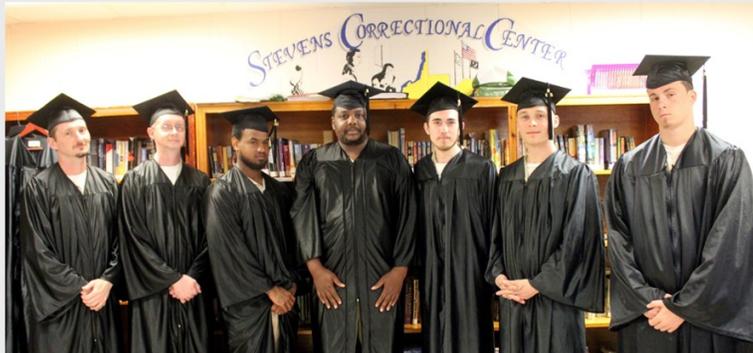


## ADULT EDUCATION GRADUATES HONORED

Seven Adult Education students from Stevens Correctional Center were honored at a graduation ceremony held on June 16, 2016, at Stevens Correctional Center. To celebrate this educational achievement, Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) presented each student with a dictionary, along with their High School Equivalency diploma.

Individual awards for outstanding achievement were presented to David Clarke, Ethan Chic-Colbert, Lewis Dailey, Christopher Mosby, Clinton Myers, John Sill, and Christopher Zimmerman. Rev. Pruitt, Steven's Correctional Center Chaplain, offered the Invocation, and Debra Beebe, Stevens Correctional Center Teacher, welcomed those in attendance. Speakers included Gwenn Mayhew and Virginia Green, ABE Instructors for Stevens Correctional Center, Patrick Murphy, Director of Education, Nancy Shannon, RESA 1, and Carol Bailey, CCWVa Southern Regional Director.

These students proved that hard work and perseverance are critical in overcoming barriers, and were encouraged to continue their education in order to have more options for improved judgment and life-changing decisions.



*2016 Stevens Correctional Center Graduates*

## SOUTHERN REGION STAFF

Regional Director, Carol Bailey; Program Assistant, Nancy Blankenship  
Hinton Outreach Coordinator, Earl "Buck" Dodd; Hinton Outreach Worker, Angela Meadows; Greenbrier Case Manager, Peter Hoeman;  
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.