# GEARING UP FOR CHRISTMAS IN WEBSTER SPRINGS



By Tina Cogar

The office of Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) in Webster Springs is busy preparing for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Webster Cares Christmas distribution.

Christmas is a joyous time to celebrate friends, family, gifts, and of course the birth of Christ. However, for many families, Christmas becomes so stressful that the true meaning can often be lost in the worries of how to provide Christmas festivities for their family. CCWVa is there to help these families.

Last year approximately 150 families were provided with food to take home and prepare for Christmas dinner.

The dinners included turkey or chicken, mashed potatoes, vegetables, stuffing, macaroni and cheese, cranberries, hot rolls and fresh fruit. Also provided were cookie mixes so the kids could make cookies to set out for Santa.

In addition to the meals, parents were able to pick out 3-4 gifts for their children under the age of 18 and even have them wrapped.

## LONG-TERM FLOOD RECOVERY EFFORTS CONTINUE

West Virginia is continuing long-term flood recovery efforts, and coordination of recovery cases is imperative to reaching every survivor and ensuring resources are available for the duration. There are eight county-wide Long-Term Recovery Committees (LTRCs), which work to ensure that recovery efforts are coordinated and collaborative. CCWVa is a partner agency of several of the LTRCs, and as such, staff sit on the LTRC and help with the coordination of case information and disaster case management. In addition, as the LTRCs are beginning to assign volunteer work teams to cases, CCWVa is providing seed funds to the LTRCs to use for building supplies for the work teams to complete their assigned job.

As long-term recovery advances, more intensive disaster case management is crucial. LTRC partner agencies Disaster Case Managers (DCM) are assigned to cases by the LTRC. The DCMs work with the survivors to develop their plan to recovery. They walk with the survivors throughout the recovery process and help with volunteer labor and funding for building materials, personal property replacements (e.g. appliances), and contractors when projects require more skilled labor.

CCWVa is well-positioned to help people in the long-term and return them to safe, secure, and stable housing as they re-establish their lives.



## **REGIONAL ASSISTANCE**

July – September 2016

**Elkins** 

Food: 1,427 Households/3,531 Individuals

Emergency Assistance: 48 Households

**Webster Springs** 

Food: 533 Households/1,131 Individuals

Emergency Assistance: 16 Households

### **VOLUNTEER SERVICE**

July - September 2016

	Elkins	Webster Springs
Number of Volunteers:	41	37
Service Hours:	611.5	315

Serving Braxton, Gilmer, Lewis, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Randolph, Tucker, Upshur and Webster Counties

Elkins (304) 636-4875

Webster Springs (304) 847-7416

Fall 2016

WESTON REGI

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CatholicCharitiesWV.org

## **ZOMBIES BAND TOGETHER TO FEED 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, socioeconomic background,
marital or family status.

### Volunteer Opportunities

Thrift Store Volunteer (Webster Springs)

Host a Drive for: Food, Personal Hygiene Items, or Cleaning Supplies

#### **Needed Supplies**

Personal Hygiene Items, Laundry Soap. Cleaning Supplies

### **Needed Foods**

Corn, Whole Wheat Pasta, Low Sodium Canned Food

Donations can be delivered to:

1513 Harrison Ave. Suite C10 Elkins, WV 26241 or 113 North Main St. Webster Springs, WV 26288

or made online by credit card at CatholicCharitiesWV.org 1-888-900-2989



By Guest Columnist Marly Hazen McQuillen of Generation Randolph

In the spirit of fright and friendship, Generation Randolph's first annual Zombie Walk for Hunger brought the eerie to Elkins. Randolph Countians dressed to kill as zombies and zombie hunters, lurching from South Elkins to Downtown on the night of October 14.

These undead do-gooders converged upon Big Timber Brewing to share a pint and donate shelf-stable food. The horde later amassed at Brewstel and The Jabberwock before creeping toward Beander's and El Gran Sabor. When the dust settled, the five venues had collected over 300 pounds of food for the Catholic Charities food pantry.

Participant Chelsey Jones had looked forward to the Zombie Walk but was shocked by the enthusiastic

participation of over one hundred people. "It's kind of like the whole town was waiting for someone to whisper, 'Hey, wanna do something crazy?' And the town roared back: 'YEESSSS!!!!!"

The event was hosted by Generation Randolph, a social and philanthropic group of people primarily ages 21-45 dedicated to building our local sense of community.

To learn about joining, like and message Generation Randolph on Facebook.



# UNITED WAY PARTNERSHIPS INTEGRAL TO CCWVA

Catholic Charities West Virginia's (CCWVa) services that aim to alleviate, prevent and reduce poverty in West Virginia rely on many partnerships and collaborations to ensure it is addressing the real and unique issues and needs of a particular local community. CCWVa local outreach staff and United Way agencies throughout the state work in partnership with other community stakeholders to identify broad community needs, develop networks of assistance to improve the lives of the people in each community and look to affect lasting change for the better.

These partnerships create opportunities for CCWVa to build comprehensive service networks that make the most of resources by linking clients to other assistance partners that may be able to address the sometimes complex and varied needs of those seeking assistance. In addition, CCWVa enjoys being a funded partner with eight United Way agencies for 14 counties. These grant funds provide valuable resources for specific and localized CCWVa programs and services. Lastly, annual donor-designated charitable gift payroll deductions that are available to employees of United Way corporate partners offer both localized funding and broad or greatest need funding for CCWVa.

CCWVa sees partnerships as an integral part of ensuring that resources, both human and fiscal, are maximized, and that programs are addressing the complex and specific needs of the people in rural and populated communities throughout the state. CCWVa enjoys great partnerships with United Way agencies in the local communities and with the larger agency to ensure needs are met, and the relationships endure.

### WESTON REGION STAFF

#### Regional Office (Elkins)

Regional Director, Teresa Wymer; Program Assistant, Dee Oldaker; AmeriCorps, Jessica Marsh

#### **Webster Springs Outreach Office**

Outreach Coordinator, Tina Cogar; AmeriCorps, Nora McCourt; Senior Employment Workers, Deb Salgado and Darlene Jordan

**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.