

## CCWVA ASSISTS WITH FOOD PANTRY OPENING IN RICHWOOD

The disastrous flooding of 2016 devastated the small town of Richwood, WV. Father Quay Dang of Holy Family Catholic Parish in Richwood immediately began reaching out to establish a food pantry through their church. The only food pantry in the area was destroyed by the flood and the need was immediate.

Through a collaborative effort of Father Quay, the parish members of the Holy Family Parish, St. James Catholic Church of Charles Town, Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) and the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, the pantry was able to officially open its doors just before Thanksgiving. The shelves had been stocked with nonperishable items through many flood donation collections, and St. James was able to provide turkeys for the families coming in November.



The pantry is now open on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. Volunteers from the church have been able to serve the clients needing assistance.

“We are currently working on getting the church set up with the Mountaineer Food Bank to help ease the burden of expense,” said Tina Cogar, CCWVa Outreach Coordinator. Cogar expects the paperwork to be completed in the near future.

The pantry allows individuals to choose or “shop” for their own food choices. A volunteer directs the family through the pantry, telling them how many items they can choose from each section. Anyone wishing to make a donation to help support the pantry is encouraged to send a check payable to Holy Family Catholic Church at 4 Maple Street, Richwood WV 26261.



## RACE FOR HOPE TO BE HELD

Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) will have our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Race for Hope Half Marathon and 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> this year. The race has been an annual fundraiser for the Elkins office of CCWVa for the past 7 years. One of the main goals for starting this race was to encourage healthy living in our community.

The race takes place on the Allegheny Highlands Bike Trail north of Elkins, WV. It starts at the Leading Creek Fire Department in Kerens, WV, with the half marathon runners following the bike trail north towards Parsons and the 5K runners/walkers following the bike trail south towards Elkins. The course consists of smooth finely crushed stone surface. The race will start and finish at the Leading Creek Fire Department.

All racers who have pre-registered by May 5<sup>th</sup> will receive a free t-shirt. Children 12 and under are free of charge and will also receive a free t-shirt if registered by May 5<sup>th</sup>. All proceeds benefit CCWVa's Elkins Outreach Office. On-site registration will be from 8:30 am - 9:30 am at the Leading Creek Fire Department. Participants can also register online at [www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org) or pick up a registration form at the Catholic Charities Elkins Office. Those who are unable to attend the race may participate in the Virtual Race for Hope. Registration for the virtual race is available online as well.



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

**Elkins (304) 636-4875**

**Webster Springs (304) 847-7416**

## 40 CANS FOR 40 DAYS

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

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



The Elkins Council of the Knights of Columbus held their “40 Cans for Lent” food drive in cooperation with the local Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) office. The Knights invited all knights, their families, parishioners and community members to join in this charitable giving activity during the Lenten season.

Although the Lenten food drive is one of the Council’s largest food drives, the Knights’ “Food for Families” charitable giving program continues year-round. The member knights assist in keeping the shelves of the food pantry stocked throughout the year. A group of Brother Knights led by Jerry Carter help monthly in the unloading of the food truck from the Mountaineer Food Bank. Member knights also pick up and haul food weekly throughout the year. During the Thanksgiving season, knights have provided funds for turkeys and other items for Thanksgiving baskets. And when CCWVa needed some extra items for the flood victims of the Mountain State, the knights were there with assistance and donations. They have also annually sponsored and assisted with the Race for Hope fundraiser.

The Knights of Columbus is the largest Catholic men’s fraternal family organization in the world. The Elkins Council said they are pleased to be assisting CCWVa in helping those in our community through the principle of Catholic charity.

## DIAPER GIVEAWAY

Nora McCourt is an AmeriCorps volunteer at the Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) Webster Springs Office. Through her Martin Luther King, Jr. Day AmeriCorps service project, she provided baby supplies to those in need in the Webster Springs area.

“I believe this was a good project and service to the community because we were able to help different families in the community,” said McCourt.

The project was open to anyone who had young children – no income guidelines required. The project provided diapers and baby wipes to 42 families, totaling 50 packs of diapers and wipes provided in all.



### 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)

### 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.