

## 13TH ANNUAL COMMUNITIES OF SALT & LIGHT AWARDS

The Central Region Advisory Council is preparing for the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Communities of Salt and Light Awards Dinner. The dinner will be held on April 17<sup>th</sup> with social hour beginning at 5pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Fairmont W.Va. We will honor several people whose lives of charitable and compassionate work, firmly rooted in their faith, inspire us.

The Gospel of Matthew states, “You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good works and glorify your heavenly father.”

2015 honorees are Sister Priscilla Weidenschlager (Preston County), Jim and Shirley Bobela (Taylor County) and The Local Morgantown Magnificat Service Team (Monongalia County).

Also to be recognized that evening are all the 2015 nominees: Janey Jones, Mary Rawlinitis, Mary Ellen Koenn, Edith Jo Foley, Louis Palmieri, Clarence Lafferty, Jason Cooke, Mark Bonamico, Jack Baldini, Tim Schuessler, Anthony “Skip” Delligatti, Enrico Insani, Sister Stella Cronauer and Alice Priester.

The evening will include raffles and a silent auction. Proceeds benefit the programs and services of Catholic Charities WV’s Central Region. Tickets are \$30.00 each. Contact Central Regional Director, Kandi Shafer at [kshafer@ccwva.org](mailto:kshafer@ccwva.org).



Group honoree -Local Morgantown Magnificat Service Team with their pastoral sponsor, Fr. Jim O'Conner



CatholicCharitiesWV.org

Spring 2015

CENTRAL REGION  
Morgantown + Kingwood + Grafton

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Social Ministries Conference  
**FAITH, HOPE, LOVE**  
From Exclusion to Encounter

**May 29-30, 2015**

Saint John XXIII Center, Charleston

Visit [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org)

for more information

### INSTANCES OF SERVICE

January – March 2015

	Families	Dollar value
<b>Morgantown</b>	194	\$10,452
<b>Grafton</b>	57	\$3,343
<b>Kingwood</b>	684	\$52,171

### VITA (VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE)

CCWVa’s Central Region is participating in their third year with the VITA program. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax help to people who generally make \$53,000 or less, persons with disabilities, the elderly and limited English speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns. IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals.

The agency has been fortunate to retain 5 volunteers to help this tax season; Irene Lueckel, John Pigza, Jill Pigza, Gary Marlin and Betty Haas. These volunteers are certified through the IRS to prepare taxes through the VITA program. They spent many hours attending trainings and/or taking trainings on-line. This program could not exist without volunteers.



The volunteers have completed 47 federal tax returns and 50 state tax returns this season resulting in \$60,000 in refunds. The average refunds put over \$1,000 back into the hands of families and into the local economy.

*Working to reduce poverty in* Barbour, Doddridge, Harrison, Marion, Monongalia, Preston & Taylor Counties

Morgantown (304) 292-6597 | Grafton (304) 265-3091 | Kingwood (304) 329-3644

## FOOD INSECURITY IS A YEAR-ROUND CHALLENGE

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.

**Needed Items**  
Canned meats, flour, sugar, peanut butter, jelly, pancake mix & syrup, dried beans, soups, crackers, coffee, tea, canned or dry pasta, mayonnaise, personal and cleaning supplies

**WellnessWorks:**  
Low-sodium products, sugar free products, whole grain pastas, canned fruits in light syrup, fresh produce, breads and frozen meats

Deliver donations to  
827 Fairmont Road,  
Morgantown, WV  
26505  
or by credit card  
online at  
CatholicCharitiesWV.org  
1-888-900-2989

The face of our clients at the food pantry has changed. Our clients have jobs, are going to school, have served our country – they are also seniors and children. **NOTE: Approximately 12 million children throughout the United States turn to food pantry services.**

**"There are people in the world so hungry that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread."  
Mahatma Gandhi.**

Anthony Robbins, a motivational speaker, grew up in a food-insecure home, unsure of his next meal. One year he received a special gift he'll never forget - a Thanksgiving meal. For the past 37 years, Tony has been paying that gift forward. Tony now challenges everyone to provide a meal for a family. He has partnered with Feeding America and is inviting people to help match his gift of 50 million meals to provide 100 million meals for the 49 million Americans who struggle with hunger.



We encourage you to accept Anthony's challenge and make a food or financial donation to help support the food pantries at Catholic Charities Central Region. Donations can be sent to the Central Region office in Morgantown. Call (304)292-6597 for more information.

**"One small act of generosity on the part of one caring person can transform the lives of hundreds." Anthony Robbins**

A poster for Rachel's Vineyard retreat. It features a woman in a colorful shawl looking out over a vineyard. The text reads: "Rachel's Vineyard A Retreat for Post-Abortion Healing May 1-3, 2015 St. Joseph Retreat Center Wheeling, WV Beginning Friday 6:00 pm Concluding Sunday 4:30 pm For information visit www.ccwva.org or call 304-905-9860, ext. 2022 or email rachelvineyardwv@comcast.net". The Catholic Charities West Virginia logo is in the bottom left corner.

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## WELCOMING THE STRANGER

**In** January CCWVa's Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) welcomed two families. One is an Iraqi family of four and the other is a man from Burma who came to be resettled near his girlfriend. Since their arrival MRS has been working with the Refugee Steering Committee from St. Francis DeSales parish, led by Jim Mulhall and Chuck DiSalvo. The Committee has been instrumental in the resettlement of the Iraqi family. Members Debbie Mulhall and Kelly DeLugas along with several other parishioners donated their time and household items which include a television, chairs, beds and a coffee table.

The resettled refugees are regularly taking ESL classes with the Seneca Center and the Literacy Volunteers of Monongalia and Preston Counties. The LVMPC have been supportive and are providing a tutor specifically for these newcomers.

Their resettlement is progressing well in Morgantown. The children are enrolled in school and employment has been secured. The client from Burma is training at Kroger's sushi bar, and the head of household from our Iraqi family has a job offer from Hampton Inn and an interview with WVU.

Support and volunteers from St. Francis DeSales Parish, CCWVa's Parish Social Ministry Coordinator, Kate Kosydar, and the LVMPC are improving the lives of these newcomers as we are called to in the gospel.

## CENTRAL REGION STAFF

Regional Director, Kandi Shafer; Morgantown and Grafton Program Assistant, Mara Skidmore; Raymond Wolfe Center Outreach Worker, Alix Evans; LifeBridge AmeriCorps Members, Justine McCoy (Morgantown) and Don Maleta (Raymond Wolfe Center)

**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.

