

14TH ANNUAL COMMUNITIES OF SALT AND LIGHT AWARDS

Catholic Charities West Virginia's (CCWVa) Central Region celebrated the 14th Annual Communities of Salt and Light Awards Dinner on April 22. On that evening, hundreds gathered to honor two individuals and a group whose lives of charitable and compassionate work, firmly rooted in their faith, are inspirational.

The 2016 award recipients are: Martha Shanabarger of St. Augustine Parish in Grafton; Janey Jones of St. Elizabeth's Mission Parish in Philippi; and Parish Nurse Ministry of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Clarksburg.

The memory of Nancy Davisson, who was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Clarksburg, was also honored. She was an active member of the CCWVa Central Region's Advisory Council, serving as the vice president. Nancy's family was in attendance to accept the memorial award.

"These individuals are part of communities of faith, action and of hope," said Kandi Shafer, CCWVa Central Regional Director. "They have embraced their formation and have been active to renew the earth."



Spring 2016

VITA (VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE)

Catholic Charities West Virginia's (CCWVa) Central Region just completed its fourth year of the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program. Through the efforts of community volunteers, VITA helps low-income individuals and families keep their hard earned money.

The average tax return costs a taxpayer \$200; this is money that could be used to buy groceries or help pay the rent. VITA brings millions of dollars back into the local economy through refunds and valuable tax credits. Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a federal tax credit of up to \$6,044 for low to moderate income workers, and VITA volunteers are trained to recognize when the EITC is available to taxpayers.

Wonderful volunteers worked to prepare tax returns for individuals who could not afford to pay professional fees. These volunteers were as follows: Gary Marlin, Kathy Maier, Allen Adams, John Pigza, Jill Pigza and Alexis Ponist. These individuals prepared and submitted tax returns for 221 people, receiving over \$161,000 in refunds. The CCWVa staff as well as clients are grateful for VITA volunteers who generously shared their time and skills with local residents in need.



INSTANCES OF SERVICE

October 2015 – March 2016

Morgantown

450 Number of People Served
\$13,440.19 Value of Services Provided

Grafton

65 Number of People Served
\$2,822.00 Value of Services Provided

Kingwood

796 Number of People Served
\$39,939.60 Value of Services Provided



CENTRAL REGION
Morgantown + Kingwood + Grafton

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

CARING FOR OUR PETS

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

Cereal, canned meats, flour, sugar, peanut butter, jelly, pancake mix, pancake syrup, dried beans, soups, crackers, coffee, tea, pasta, pasta sauce, dairy products, mayonnaise, personal care items, cleaning supplies

Needed for WellnessWorks

Low-sodium products, sugar free products, gluten-free items, whole grain pastas, canned fruits in light syrup, vegetarian options, fresh produce, frozen meats

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



Pets can provide health benefits in addition to companionship. While pets can bring fun and affection to a person's life, they can also reduce stress, anxiety and depression. Dogs in particular can encourage exercise, thereby improving cardiovascular health in their owners.

Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) is focused on the physical, mental and spiritual well-being of our clients. At food pantries and through interactions with clients, staff members have recognized that some clients make extreme sacrifices to take care of their pets and provide food for them.



Alix Evans, Outreach Coordinator for CCWVa Raymond Wolfe Center, has a special heart for animals. In addition to her regular duties, she has been going working with local community organizations to collect pet food to offer to food pantry clients with pets to help free their limited resources for other necessary purchases.

Recently, the Red Rover Foundation awarded CCWVa a \$2,000 grant for pet food and pet supplies, which will help make this special offering available more consistently.



SNAP OUTREACH PROGRAM

Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) is alleviating poverty in West Virginia through its Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach Program.

After receiving the first USDA SNAP Outreach Grant for West Virginia, CCWVa launched its SNAP Outreach Program in 2015. This free program is designed to help people in applying for SNAP benefits.



"As the nation's first line of defense against hunger, SNAP helps put food on the table for low income families and individuals every month," said Robin Bowman, CCWVa SNAP Outreach Coordinator.

In its first year, the CCWVa SNAP Outreach Program assisted more than 450 low-income West Virginians in applying for this benefit. One of those 450 families was Tina's. Tina is a grandmother who is raising her terminally ill grandson.

With a low income, she struggles with the day-to-day expenses of caring for her grandson, and she didn't know what to do. The CCWVa SNAP Outreach team talked to Tina about SNAP benefits and assisted her in completing an application. Tina is now receiving the SNAP benefit and says she is truly grateful for the help she received from CCWVa.

"We believe that if one person is going hungry, that is one too many," said Bowman.

For more information, call 1.844.292.3217 or visit www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org/SNAP-Outreach.

CENTRAL REGION STAFF

Regional Director, Kandi Shafer; Morgantown and Grafton Program Assistant, Mara Skidmore; Raymond Wolfe Center Outreach Worker, Alix Evans; LifeBridge AmeriCorps Members, Kita Taylor (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.