

## SUCCESSFUL RENTERS PROGRAM

The Eastern Panhandle Successful Renters Program is being developed by a coalition of nonprofit agencies and private businesses that recognize that evictions and homelessness often result from a lack of knowledge of tenant responsibilities and rights.

CCWVa Promise House Family Resource Center initiated the program and Eastern Panhandle Health and Human Services Collaborative and other organizations participated in its development. These include the WV Housing Development Fund, Community Networks, Telamon, Legal Aid of West Virginia, WV Coalition to End Homelessness, the Partnership for Affordable Housing and two property management companies (Valley Properties and The Phenix Group).

The Eviction Prevention Program, developed in 2008 was a similar program and the coalition committee is reviewing that manual and updating the information to make it current for 2015. Topics include *What to do Before You Rent, How to Read and Understand your Lease, Causes for Eviction, How to Manage your Money to Assure your Bills are Paid, Renter's Rights and Responsibilities, Community Resources.*

Classes will be taught by committee members and trained volunteers.

The three-session series will be offered in Berkeley County in late spring 2015. There will be no charge for the classes, and participants who attend all three sessions will receive a gift. For more information, contact Kathie Campbell at 304-267-8835 or [kcampbell@cccwva.org](mailto:kcampbell@cccwva.org).

- *What to do Before You Rent*
- *How to Read and Understand your Lease*
- *Causes for Eviction*
- *How to Manage your Money to Assure your Bills are Paid*
- *Renter's Rights and Responsibilities*
- *Community Resources*



Spring 2015

**M**ark your Calendar! The 4th Annual Cuisine With A Cause is scheduled for the evening of **Monday, September 14, 2015** at the Purple Iris in Martinsburg. The event, which features food samples from some of the Eastern Panhandle's finest restaurants, also includes a live and silent auction. Attendance is limited to 250, and all dollars raised will stay in the Eastern Panhandle to serve low-income individuals and families.



## VITA SEASON

This past February and March, CCWVa Martinsburg and Romney offices again offered the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program in conjunction with the Internal Revenue Service.

The tax preparation service is offered free to low-income families and students so their refunds are maximized.

This year, volunteers in Martinsburg completed 145 federal returns with total refunds of \$236,122 and 127 state returns with total refunds of \$34,209. In Romney, 31 federal and 26 state returns were completed with total refunds of \$24,362 federal and \$5,607 state.



VITA Volunteer Ed Wilson helps prepare taxes at the Martinsburg office with the assistance of volunteer interpreter Veronica Hall.

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

## EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

October 2014 – March 2015

	Martinsburg	Romney
Utilities	141 Families	115 Families
Other	10 Families	14 Families
	\$ 7,378.85	\$ 5,825.84

*Working to reduce poverty in* Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral, and Morgan Counties

**Martinsburg (304) 267-8837**

**Romney (304) 822-5414**

EASTERN REGION  
Martinsburg + Romney

## FINANCIALLY FIT PARTNERSHIP

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 Supplies

#### Household Supplies:

- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Bleach
- Laundry Detergent
- Dish Detergent
- Clorox Wipes

#### Personal supplies:

- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Soap
- Lotion
- Toothpaste
- Razors

### Volunteer Opportunities

Contact the local office near you or your Parish.

Deliver donations to  
224 S Queen Street  
Martinsburg, WV  
25401  
or  
260 School Street  
Romney, WV 26757  
or by credit card  
online at

[CatholicCharitiesWV.org](http://CatholicCharitiesWV.org)  
1-888-900-2989



The Eastern Region of Catholic Charities West Virginia is partnering with the West Virginia Alliance for Sustainable Families (WVASF) to provide consumer financial education. In March, both the Martinsburg office and the Romney Outreach office hosted Train the Trainer workshops. On March 26, 55 individuals attended the training at the WVU Health Sciences Center in Martinsburg, and on March 27, 18 individuals attended the training at the Bank of Romney Community Building. Participants were provided with information and tools to use in both a classroom setting or when meeting one-on-one with individuals.

Jennifer Thacker, Executive Director of the WVASF, said “This partnership with Catholic Charities WV is critical to expanding our outreach and ability to reach unbanked/underbanked individuals. It will also help more families achieve financial stability.”

The WVASF has a long-term vision of “increasing consumer financial literacy so the West Virginia families are economically secured and empowered to ensure brighter futures for the next generation.”



## BRIEFS

CWVa Eastern Region thanks Dawn Renae’s Salon in Martinsburg, St. Agnes Parish in Shepherdstown, St. Leo’s Parish in Inwood, The August Church of Christ, Our Lady of Grace in Romney, and all of the individuals that continue to keep our personal care closets stocked.

From October 2014 thru March 2015, the Martinsburg office distributed 646.5 pounds of personal care and cleaning supplies with a value of approximately \$1,075. The Romney office distributed 198.5 pounds of personal care items for a value of approximately \$330.

For the fifth year, the Romney outreach office and the Hampshire County Committee on Aging collaborated to provide a Christmas gift for elderly residents. Catholic Charities purchased and distributed food bags of non-perishable and easy-to-prepare food items to clients of the Committee on Aging. This year, six volunteers packed 65 food baskets (bags), which the Romney Senior Center delivered to home-bound seniors.

This project provides a vital service to the elderly, as it ensures they have food when hot meal delivery is canceled due to winter weather. The elderly are also reassured that they are valuable members of the community.

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

## EASTERN REGION STAFF

### Martinsburg Office:

Regional Director, Trina Bartlett; Promise House Coordinator, Kathie Campbell; Program Assistant, Siobhán Bertone; Outreach Worker, Susan King; Office Assistant, LaJuan Hill

### Romney Outreach Office :

Outreach Coordinator, Teresa Reddick; Outreach Assistant, Connie Shanholtz; Office Assistant, Phyllis Fultz; AmeriCorps VISTA: Sonia Hill

**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.