

SMALL STEPS EQUAL BIG CHANGES

Georgia arrived at the Catholic Charities Promise House Family Resource Center after finding herself alone with two children, no place to live, no job and little job experience. At first, she could not stop crying and repeatedly said that she could not work and there was nothing she could do. Kathie Campbell, the Promise House Coordinator, began working with her to set goals and prioritize action steps.

Kathie connected Georgia with community resources and encouraged her to submit employment applications. Georgia submitted 30 applications, and within two weeks she had three job offers. She is now happily working two part-time jobs and is developing concepts for a side business she hopes to start soon.

Georgia has had a tumultuous several months, including a struggle to find appropriate housing, but through the support of the staff and volunteers at Catholic Charities she is now able to process these issues and brainstorm solutions.

The work of the Promise House is not complex; rather, it involves a combination of elements, such as the provision of information, resource referrals, and consistent encouragement. This support enables people to find their strengths and make changes they never thought possible.

VITA 2016

For the fourth year in a row, the offices of the Catholic Charities West Virginia Eastern Region participated in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. During February, March and April, seven community volunteers generated a total of 287 federal and state returns for low and moderate income families.

Volunteers Tom Bibby, Jill Creigh, Tom Deegan, Dana Fogle, Mike McCarthy, Rick Wickman and Ed Wilson prepared taxes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the Martinsburg office. Additionally, Mike and Rich traveled to the Romney Outreach Office twice to help prepare taxes, and, upon request, Mike even did a site visit to Senior Towers in Martinsburg. Additionally, Rita Caufield, Veronica Hall and Annie Brown were volunteer translators.



Ed Wilson, VITA Volunteer; and Veronica Hall, Translator

One of the purposes of the VITA program is to ensure qualifying families receive the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), which was established to help those who work but have very low incomes. When the EITC credit exceeds the amount of taxes owed, qualifying individuals receive the credit in their refund. Tax clients served by Catholic Charities West Virginia Eastern Region received more than \$101,000 in EITC credits.



Save the Date

Catholic Charities West Virginia Eastern Region's

Cuisine With A Cause

Monday, September 12, 2016

Holiday Inn, Martinsburg, WV (New Venue!)

Call 304-267-8837 for additional information

WHO WE HELPED

Emergency Assistance

October 2015 – March 2016

	Martinsburg	Romney
Electricity	112 Families	109 Families
Water	53 Families	16 Families
Heating Fuel	5 Families	9 Families
Housing	4 Families	7 Families
Gas	4 Families	5 Families
Prescriptions	4 Individuals	N/A
Transportation	N/A	14 Families
Identification	4 Individuals	14 Families
	\$8,823.57 for	\$7,080.77 for
Totals	222 Children, 293 Adults and 5 Seniors	180 Children, 242 Adults, and 12 Seniors

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

Martinsburg (304) 267-8837

Romney (304) 822-5414

VOLUNTEERS ARE A WORK OF HEART

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
1-888-900-2989



Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) depends on volunteers in a variety of capacities - from fundraising to office assistance to working with our clients. Volunteers Cheryl Gregory and Pat McMillan are examples of this important role.

Cheryl has been essential to the success of the annual Cuisine with a Cause fundraiser. As a member of the committee, she has gathered donations, donated supplies, volunteered at the event, recruited friends and family to volunteer, and even analyzed data. Furthermore, when the furniture ministry was launched this past winter, Cheryl immediately took on a key role by following up with clients, coordinating deliveries with volunteers and clients, meeting volunteers at the warehouse to ensure the correct items are delivered, assisting with inventory and keeping the warehouse organized, and making deliveries with her husband.



Cheryl Gregory



Pat McMillan

Pat McMillan became involved with Catholic Charities West Virginia when she helped establish the Promise House Family Resource Center. She now sits on the Promise House Advisory Committee and is tasked with helping raise funds for it. She also serves as a FIT (Families in Transitions) mentor. Recently, she worked with a single mother to find affordable housing options and provide ongoing, needed support. Like Cheryl, Pat also volunteers for Cuisine with a Cause by providing guidance and advice, helping secure sponsorships and donations, and volunteering at the event.

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.

Save the Date
Catholic Charities West Virginia

Sixth Annual
Autumn Gathering



October 28, 2016
Embassy Suites in Charleston

EASTERN REGION STAFF

Martinsburg Office:

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

Romney Outreach Office:

Outreach Coordinator, Teresa Reddick; Outreach Worker, 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.